Network Name

SIOP Pediatric Psycho-Oncology (PPO) Network

Purpose

Pediatric psychosocial clinicians (e.g., psychologists, social workers) are vital members of healthcare and research teams, adding specialist knowledge to clinical care and research of children with chronic or life-threatening diseases. In pediatric oncology, psychosocial research focuses on understanding the impact of cancer on patient and family well-being and developing evidence-based interventions to improve their health and adjustment across the care continuum. In recognition of this work, the SIOP Board of Directors approved the establishment of a Pediatric Psycho-Oncology (PPO) Network in January 2007. The PPO Network is dedicated to showcasing high quality research, facilitating international research collaborations, and promoting integration of psychosocial care in cancer treatment and rehabilitation.

Goals & Objectives

The SIOP PPO Network's main objective is to incorporate psychological and psychosocial knowledge into clinical pediatric oncology practice and thereby improve care for children/adolescents with cancer. Specifically, the PPO Network aims to:

1. Facilitate the broad exchange of PPO research among oncology colleagues across the globe
2. Promote professional education and collaboration among psycho-oncology professionals
3. Improve the care of children/adolescents with cancer and their families by promoting translation of psychosocial research into pediatric oncology practice

The PPO Structure

The membership of the PPO consists of SIOP members in good standing, with membership fees for the current calendar year paid, who have expressed an interest in PPO and psychosocial issues as they relate to paediatric oncology. The PPO Network is led by two Co-Chairs, supported by a Steering Group (SG). The total number of PPO SG members, inclusive of the 2 Co-Chairs, is nine.

Network Co-Chairs' Selection

- PPO Network members may self-nominate or nominate another Network member for consideration to fill an open Co-Chair seat when a call for nominations is issued by the SIOP Secretariat. The Steering Group will review all nominees and approve a slate of no more than 3 candidates to be presented to the SIOP PPO Network membership for voting through the SIOP Secretariat election procedures. Having at least 2 nominees is strongly encouraged to be shortlisted for elections for the Co-Chair positions. The Network Co-Chairs serve for a three-year term. They may be re-

elected to serve a second (and final) consecutive three-year term. One person on one role may not serve more than 2 terms or 6 (six) years in total.

Steering Group Membership

- The Steering Group consists of two Co-Chairs and seven members who must be all SIOP members and PPO Network members in good standing. A member of good standing is considered to be a person who has paid his/her membership dues for the current calendar year. Positions are open to both HIC and LMIC and best efforts should be made to have a good geographic balance on the SG. At least two of the SG positions are expected to be members from LMIC.
- PPO Network members may self-nominate to fill an open Steering Group seat when a call for nominations is issued by the SIOP Secretariat. The Steering Group will review all nominees and approve a slate of no more than 3 candidates (per open seat) to be presented to the SIOP PPO Network membership for voting through the SIOP Secretariat election procedures. At a minimum, having at least 2 nominees for each seat is strongly encouraged in order to give a choice of candidates to the PPO members to vote for.
- Steering Group terms: Newly elected Steering Group members serve a three-year term. They may be re-elected to serve a second (and final) consecutive three-year term.
- For the period until March 2027, one additional Steering Group member is added, thus making the total SG number, inclusive of 2 Co-Chairs, ten people. This position is reserved for the current GHN Psychosocial Wellbeing WG Co-Chair. After March 2027, this temporary position will be discontinued. After March 2027, the SG total number will revert back to nine people.
- Each year, a psychosocial clinician/researcher from the local organizing committee (LOC) of the SIOP Annual Meeting is appointed to the PPO Network Steering Group for a one-year term .

Roles & Responsibilities

Specific responsibilities of the PPO Co-Chairs involve, but are not limited to:

1. Leading the Steering Group and chairing the Steering Group meetings as well as ensuring the Steering Group agenda supports the PPO Network aims. The Steering Group is led by the Network Co-Chairs.
2. Coordinating with Working Group (WG) Chairs to support their efforts to contribute to the PPO Network aims, including supporting them to develop and update WG Terms of Reference.
3. Overseeing the communication strategy of the PPO Network to ensure regular and timely sharing of information to the PPO Network members.
4. Ensuring regular liaison with the SIOP Secretariat and the Board of Directors as appropriate.
5. Representing the PPO Network and its interests within SIOP.
6. Ensuring that SG members and WG Leaders are all SIOP members for each year that they serve.

Specific responsibilities of the PPO Network's Steering Group involve, but are not limited to:

1. Organizing the relevant sessions/tracks on psycho-oncology as part of the SIOP Annual Congress, including the PPO Education Day.
2. Facilitating professional development and educational opportunities for SIOP members interested in the psychosocial care of pediatric patients and their families. This may include webinars, online lectures, and sharing of PPO relevant opportunities through SIOP/PPO communications and social media channels.
3. Responding to requests from the Scientific Committee to nominate members of the Scientific Programme Advisory Working Group.
4. Coordinating regular communication between PPO Network members utilizing email, teleconference, SIOP Weekly Bulletins, and SIOP CONNECT as appropriate.
5. Responding to requests for information/assistance from the SIOP Board of Directors with respect to psycho-oncology matters.
6. Interacting with other SIOP Networks, such as Nursing, Nutrition, Supportive Care, Young SIOP and Global Health Networks.
7. Selecting PPO Network members to represent the Network interests on SIOP Networks and WGs, as relevant.
8. Fostering collaborations with relevant external organizations e.g., American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS), International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS).

Steering Group Meetings

The Steering Group meets regularly in person at the SIOP Annual Congress or online via video conference at least 8 times per year. Meeting minutes are taken and distributed to the SG members in a timely manner. Attendance of the SG meetings is expected. If a SG member continuously misses SG meetings, this constitutes grounds for the PPO Co-Chairs to ask the SG member to step down and to replace him/her.

Working Groups (WGs)

The SIOP PPO Network may form sub-groups by interest, called WGs, in order to develop and implement activities of interest to PPO members. All WGs should have a TOR in place, which is reviewed by the PPO Co-Chairs periodically to evaluate its relevance. The SIOP Secretariat is charged with record-keeping of the latest TOR. TORs should detail a minimum of 3 (three online engagement activities per year (presentations, webinars, lectures etc.) that the WGs will develop and deliver for the benefit of networking and education of PPO WG members.

WGs are led by a WG Chair (or co-chairs) who must be PPO Network member(s) and a SIOP member(s) in good standing. The PPO Co-Chairs, upon discussion with the PPO Steering Group, may close down a WG if it is no longer relevant or has not delivered any activities for its WG members in the prior year. Similarly, the SIOP Governance Committee may close down a PPO WG for the same reasons in situations when the PPO Co-Chairs are unable to close down the WG.

Deliverables

The PPO Network organizes and delivers activities for its members on topics and issues related to paediatric psycho-oncology. The Network offers a minimum of three non-Congress activities for its members each year. These could be educational webinars, learning sessions, case discussions, research outcomes sharing, collaborative research initiatives, collaborations with internal and/or external partners, surveys, Journal studies, presentation of recent research findings etc. Network activities are advertised via email to all Network members and added to the SIOP website and SIOP weeekly bulletin. For any activities that require SIOP Secretariat support, please contact programs@siop-online.org.

Any Network activities or sessions offered during the SIOP Annual Congress would need to be organized according to the processes, timelines and approvals led by the SIOP Scientific Committee. Please contact the Scientific Chair or CEO for questions and support.

All Network activities are in line with the five goals of the SIOP Strategy (2026-2030):

- Goal 1: Advocating Globally for Children and Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer
- Goal 2: Promoting Research to Improve Outcomes for Patients
- Goal 3: Providing Education and Training
- Goal 4: Increasing Membership and Engagement
- Goal 5: Strengthen and Expand Strategic Partnerships

In particular, the Network will develop and offer activities for its members in the following areas:

1. Promoting global awareness on psycho-oncology
2. Conducting webinars and other educational initiatives on the practical aspects of psychooncology
3. Fostering psychooncology research across all resource settings.
4. Collaborating with partners within and outside SIOP
5. Increasing the representation of psycho-oncology research in the SIOP Annual Congress

Review

This TOR is reviewed by the PPO Co-Chairs and Steering Group periodically. In addition, SIOP Senior Leaders may review this periodically as well.