



Pediatric Psycho-Oncology Special Interest Group

Co-Chairs: Professor Claire Wakefield and Fiona Schulte

1. Goals, objectives, and results for 2022

a) Meetings of the Pediatric SIG

The Pediatrics SIG met as part of the global congress in Toronto, Canada in August 2022 to reconnect, build collaborations and discuss opportunities for new projects focused on the psychosocial aspects of childhood cancer. We discussed common areas of interest, upcoming special issues in journals of relevance to our work. In addition, the Peds SIG Chairs met three times over the course of the year (2 virtual, 1 face-to-face) to discuss goals, objectives and progress within the SIG.

b) WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer under the Sponsorship of the American Childhood Cancer Organization (ACCO)

The project focuses on the Lived Experience of People affected by cancer, including cancer survivors (both of adult and childhood cancer), their caregivers, and families. The WHO-ACCO project aims to evaluate the psychosocial and financial impact of cancer on children and adults who have finished treatment, through the dissemination of a Global Survey available in a variety of languages. This will allow us to identify ways in which professionals and governments may support people facing a cancer diagnosis, and their families. WHO is currently developing a Framework to better engage with the Lived Experience of People living with non-communicable diseases and we are conducting this project in the context of this new approach.

Dr. Julie Cayrol is responsible for leading this initiative alongside chief investigators, Dr. Claire Wakefield, Dr. Lori Wiener and Dr. Clarissa Schilstra, among many other contributors. Dr. Schulte has been invited to participate as part of the study Advisory Panel. The Advisory Panel is comprised up to 50 stakeholders including people with Lived Experience of cancer, representatives from relevant cancer community organisations around the world, WHO staff in regional offices, members of the Global Childhood Cancer Initiative, and other individuals as relevant.

c) Continued IPOS Pediatrics SIG representation in major global projects

Prof Wakefield continues to serve on multiple additional committees and projects for the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC). Prof Wakefield most recently represented IPOS on projects to support families of children with cancer evacuated from



Ukraine, focusing on developing professional education resources for staff caring for displaced families, establishing a staff peer support program, and developing family resources. She also represented IPOS at the first SAFER Conversations webinar, co-hosted by St Jude and the International Pediatric Oncology Society (SIOP), which focused on meeting the psychosocial needs of displaced children with cancer and their families.

d) Pediatric SIG Collaboration with the Survivorship SIG

The Peds SIG collaborated with the Survivorship SIG to review pediatric specific survivorship abstracts presented at the IPOS conference over the past 4 years. Results of this work were shared as part of a symposium at the IPOS World Congress in August 2022.

e) COVID and Childhood Cancer Research Project

Prof Fiona Schulte led a global research team investigating “*COVID-19 and childhood cancer survivorship: Investigating the health beliefs and psychosocial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on survivors of childhood cancer*” out of the University of Calgary. The study explored the health beliefs and perceived psychological impact of COVID-19 among survivors of childhood cancer amid the pandemic. This initiative has resulted in three publications:

- Hou, S., Forbes, C., Cho, S., Tran, A., Forster, V., Wakefield, C. E., Heathcote, L. C., Wiener, L., Michel, G., Patterson, P., Stokoe, M., Reynolds, K., Schulte, F. (Submitted). Understanding the mental health and health behaviours of parents of survivors of childhood cancer in early COVID-19 pandemic: Exploring the role of intolerance of uncertainty. *Journal of Psychosocial Oncology Research and Practice*.
- Tran, A., Hou, S., Forbes, C., Cho, S., Forster, V. J., Wakefield, C. E., Wiener, L., Heathcote, L. C., Michel, G., Patterson, P., Reynolds, K., Schulte, F. (2023). The impact of the early COVID-19 global pandemic on children undergoing active cancer treatment and their parents. *Current Oncology*.
- Hou, S. H. J., Tran, A., Cho, S., Forbes, C., Forster, V. J., Stokoe, M., Alptan, Wakefield, C. E., Wiener, L., Heathcote, L. C., Michel, G., Patterson, P., Reynolds, K., Schulte, F. (2022). The perceived impact of COVID-19 on the mental health status of adolescent and young adult survivors of childhood cancer and the development of a knowledge translation tool to support their information needs. *Frontiers in Psychology*.



- f) The IPOS Pediatrics SIG participation as part of the President's Plenary at the 2022 World Congress.*

The Pediatrics SIG was thrilled to have been invited to speak as part of the President's Plenary at the 2022 World Congress. Our talk was titled: "The IPOS International Standard of Quality Cancer Care: How are we doing?" and was well received by IPOS members.

- g) POPPI - Pediatric Psycho-Oncology Professionals and Providers International*

The POPPI newsletter, distributed by the chairs of the SIOP Pediatric Psycho-Oncology Group, the IPOS Pediatric SIG and the American Psycho-Oncology Society Pediatrics SIG, continues to receive overwhelming support and is now at its' fourth issue. The main goals of this newsletter are to stimulate international, interorganizational communication among professionals with a diversity of clinical and research backgrounds in order to foster collaboration in clinical care, research and education that relate to pediatric psycho-oncology, and to share resources, training opportunities, ongoing research, and upcoming events in the field of pediatric psycho-oncology.

2. Description of issues/challenges experienced in 2022

a) COVID-19 Pandemic

The SIG continues to feel the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptions to our face-to-face meetings. The 2022 World Congress was hybrid and many of our members were not able to attend in person. Virtual meetings have been challenging due to time zones.

b) Change in Leadership

Dr. Wakefield is stepping down as Chair of the IPOS-SIG. This is a huge loss to the SIG. Dr. Wakefield has a long history of leading this SIG. The transition of leadership to Dr. Schulte has resulted in some delays to the progress of the SIG but may present new opportunities for the SIG.

3. Goals for the Next 12 Months (2023)

- a) Review and revise Peds SIG Terms of Reference
- b) Seek Deputy Chair for Peds SIG
- c) Continue to meet as a SIG to identify opportunities for collaboration



- d) Continue to ensure IPOS Pediatrics SIG representation on major global projects, including those led by WHO, the International Society for Pediatric Oncology (SIOP) and St Jude.
- e) Continue to promote pediatric psycho-oncology as a discipline on social media.
- f) Continue to promote the IPOS Pediatrics SIG to IPOS members, particularly through the POPPI newsletter.

4. Any special requests/needs for the next 12 months

None.

5. List of current committee members

1. Alina Khain Russia
2. Alisa Kamalyan Armenia
3. Amanda Thompson US
4. Amanda Wurz Canada
5. Benedict Akimana Uganda
6. Brindha Sitaram India
7. Brittany McGill Australia
8. Brooke Russell Canada
9. Caitlin Forbes Canada
10. Caridad R. Moreno US
11. Christina Signorelli Australia
12. Claire Wakefield Australia
13. Eden Robertson Australia
14. Ekaterina Shutkova Russia
15. Elisa Maria Perina Brasil
16. Elizabeth Akin-Odanye Nigeria
17. Fiona Schulte Canada
18. Hailey Zwicker Canada
19. Hanan El Malla Egypt
20. Hanin Salem Denmark
21. Heather Chambliss US
22. Jenny Hoag US
23. Joanna Breyer US
24. Juanita Rojas Restrepo Columbia
25. Kristin Bingen US
26. Lauren Heathcote US
27. Lauren Kelada Australia



28. Lori Wiener US
29. Malin Ander Sweden
30. Martha Grootenhuis The Netherlands
31. Maru Barrera Canada
32. Mary Jo Kupst US
33. Mehak Sandhu Canada
34. Michaela Patton Canada
35. Michelle Peate Australia
36. Nadine Kasparian US
37. Natalia Klipinina Russia
38. Natalia Nikolskaya Russia
39. Nicole Englebert US
40. Nele Loecher US
41. Pamela Mosher Canada
42. Perri Tutelman Canada
43. Pernille Envold Bidstrup Denmark
44. Raphaele van Litsenburg The Netherlands
45. Sasha Schejpers The Netherlands
46. Sokhna Ndiaye Canada
47. Tatiane Riabova Russia
48. Ursula Sansom-Daly Australia
49. Valerie Crabtree US
50. Zeynep Yazici Turkey