

## IPOS Federation Committee Annual Report 2020

### 1. BACKGROUND AND MISSION OF THE IPOS FEDERATION

In September 2007, the IPOS Board of Directors and participants in the meeting of national societies agreed to establish an IPOS Federation of Psycho-Oncology Societies. By unanimous approval of the IPOS Board of Directors on 15 May 2008 and by subsequent approval of the membership on 11 June 2008, the IPOS Federation Board was created as a Standing Committee of IPOS, pursuant to Article VI, Section 1 of the Constitution (revised 19 September 2007).

The objective of the IPOS Federation is to represent psycho-oncology, world-wide, speaking compellingly in a unified voice the message that all cancer patients and their families throughout the world should receive optimal psychosocial care at all stages of disease and survivorship.

The IPOS Board of Directors recognizes that it can be most effective in promoting psycho-oncology on a global basis if IPOS reaches and serves the several thousand members of national psycho-oncology societies that are already established, and supports the development of national societies where they do not yet exist. It has been agreed that the most effective way to reach all of these individuals is to create an IPOS Federation of national or regional psycho-oncology societies, to be called the IPOS Federation.

### 2. MEMBERSHIP IN THE FEDERATION

The President (or a designed representative) of each qualified national society is provided a seat on the Federation Committee. Eligibility and criteria for membership is set forth in the [Federation Policy Statement](#), which may be amended from time to time. View the [2009 Policy Addendum](#). At the moment, the Federation Committee is represented by all the Presidents (or designates) of the national societies of psycho-oncology which have completed the application process to be part of the Federation, and continue to be active within the Federation by maintaining a relationship with IPOS.

National psychosocial oncology societies around the world may apply to join the Federation by completing the [IPOS Federation Membership Application](#). Membership benefits are summarized in the following document: [Federated Society Member Benefits](#).

New Federation Members since September, 2019 are **Georgia, Ghana and Ukraine**. There are currently **34** psycho-oncology societies in the Federation, representing **33** countries. India is represented by 1 affiliate member society and 1 associate member society. The 33 countries represented in the Federation are the following:

Asia – 5 (India, China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan)  
Australasia – 2 (Australia, New Zealand)  
Africa – 2 (Ghana, Nigeria)  
Europe – 19 (Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom)  
Middle East – 1 (Israel)  
North America – 2 (Canada, USA)  
South America - 2 (Brazil, Peru)

### 3. FEDERATION ACTIVITIES ARISING IN THE PAST YEAR

The Federation saw limited activity in the past year, hindered in its efforts by the COVID pandemic, which led to the cancellation of the IPOS World Congress in Japan and the annual Federation meeting that would have been held there. However, the Federation did expand its country membership base, and individuals from federated national societies were active in various IPOS committees and special interest groups.

The Federation Committee Co-Chairs decided it is time to consider administering a new Federation survey to the membership, as it has been several years since the last survey was conducted (at the time the Federation was formed, the plan was to administer a survey to the national societies on a bi-annual basis). The purpose of the survey, in part, is to learn about the recent activities of the national society, to obtain an accurate count of its membership base, and discover the strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats facing the national society. The plan is to draft a survey, and send it to each Federated national society for comment/revision prior to being distributed to the same national societies for completion. In the past, the surveys were developed by the IPOS board, but the Federation co-chairs want to engage the national societies earlier in the survey process, i.e., at the time the survey is being developed, to gain their valuable insights. Timeline for survey administration completion: February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (to allow sufficient time to analyze the results of the survey prior to presenting the survey findings at the 2021 IPOS World Congress).

It was decided this year to follow-up with all national societies in the Federation to ask for copies of their national society constitutions to post on the IPOS Federation webpage. Timeline for completion: November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Federation Committee Co-Chairs decided to improve the look of the IPOS Federation webpage by adding logos of country flags for each country represented by a national society in the Federation. Time for completion: Completed.

#### 4. GOALS AND STRATEGIES

The main goals and strategies identified for the future of the Federation include:

- To implement networks in the several parts of the world (based on geographical proximity or language) in order to disseminate activities and help other countries to develop psychosocial oncology societies (especially in lower- and middle-income countries). Some members of the Federation have acted on this, specifically the Brazilian society for South America, the Nigerian society (with the help of the in-progress developing group in Kenya) for Africa, and the APPON (Asia-Pacific Psycho-Oncology Network) in Asia.
- To review the membership categories of the IPOS Federation, to be sure the current membership structure is suitable for the needs of IPOS.
- To review the IPOS Federation webpage for accuracy in its listing of national societies and the contact information for each society. In addition, as part of the IPOS Federation survey, we will ask each national society to kindly provide three items (if available) for posting on the webpage: 1. Constitution and Bylaws of the national society; 2. Clinical Practice Standards and Guidelines; 3. Annual Report of the national society.

#### 5. COORDINATION WITH RELATED COMMITTEES (IF APPLICABLE)

The Federation committee has the aim to coordinate with the Research committee for research projects within the federated members; the Human Rights task force and WHO committee for monitoring psychosocial care in oncology and palliative care in countries represented within the Federation and possibly in countries where a psycho-oncology society does not exist; and the Liaison Committee for the need to make stronger the relationships with national societies of allied areas (e.g. oncology, palliative care, psychosomatic medicine, C-L Psychiatry etc.).

#### 6. FUNDRAISING STRATEGIES (IF APPLICABLE).

None at the moment in terms of Federation fundraising.

#### 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS -- None

#### 8. PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WHEN SUBMITTING YOUR REPORT, IF AVAILABLE:

- a. MEETING MINUTES (none, no meeting because the IPOS World Congress was cancelled)
- b. TERMS OF REFERENCE AS THEY STAND (links to the founding Federation policy statement and 2009 Policy addendum are provided above).
- c. MEMBER ROSTER INCLUDING CONTACT INFORMATION (listed above).

9. PLEASE INDICATE THE CURRENT CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

Maria Die Trill: Co-Chair

Tom Hack: Co-Chair

Respectfully submitted

Maria Die Trill,

Tom Hack