

IPOS Federation Committee Annual Report 2021

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](#).

There were 28 national societies in the IPOS Federation when the Federation was formed in 2008. Today, there are currently **37** psycho-oncology societies in the Federation, representing **35** countries (India is represented by 1 affiliate member society and 1 associate member society; The Latin American Society of Palliative Care is an associate member society). The 35 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 – 21 (Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, 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

In 2021 the Federation expanded its country membership base, and individuals from federated national societies were active in various IPOS committees and special interest groups.

This year the Federation Committee Co-Chairs decided to consider administering a new Federation survey to the membership, as it had been a few 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 was to learn about the recent activities of the national society, to obtain an accurate count of its membership base, and to discover the strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats facing the national society. To this end, the survey was developed, revised with input from the IPOS Board of Directors, and administered in the spring, 2021. The response rate to the survey was low relative to prior administrations of the survey. Only 14 national societies completed the current 2021 survey. This compares to response rates of 26 in 2014 and 29 in 2009. The results of the current survey were presented and discussed during the annual meeting of the IPOS Federation during the 2021 IPOS World Congress. The low response rate for the 2021 survey is attributed largely to the COVID pandemic which has severely challenged psychosocial oncology delivery systems worldwide.

In 2021, efforts were made by the Federation Co-Chairs to continue 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 asked each national society to kindly provide three items (if available) for posting on the Federation webpage: 1. Constitution and Bylaws of the national society; 2. Clinical Practice Standards and Guidelines; 3. Annual Report of the national society.

This past year we reviewed the membership categories of the IPOS Federation, to be sure the current membership structure was suited to the needs of IPOS.

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 administer a revised Federation Survey in 2023, alongside an intensive effort to improve the response rate of the 2021 survey. The plan is to present the results of the survey at the 2023 World Congress, and subsequently publish a summary and discussion of the findings, in the *Journal of Psychosocial Oncology Research and Practice*.
- To continue to review the IPOS Federation webpage for accuracy in its listing of national societies and the contact information for each 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 (the annual meeting of the IPOS Federation was held on May 28th, 2021 during the IPOS World Congress held in Kyoto, Japan and delivered virtually. This meeting served as a forum during which Tom Hack presented the results of the 2021 Federation Survey, and the survey findings were discussed. No formal minutes were recorded.)
- 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

Jane Turner: Co-Chair jane.turner@uq.edu.au

Tom Hack: Co-Chair thack@sbrc.ca

Respectfully submitted

Jane Turner,

Tom Hack