

## IPOS Federation Committee Annual Report 2023

### 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, stating compellingly, in a unified voice, that all cancer patients and their families 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 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 **38** psycho-oncology societies in the Federation, representing **37** countries (India is represented by 1 affiliate member society and 1 associate member society). In addition, the Latin American Society of Palliative Care is an associate member society. The 37 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 – 23 (Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, 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 2023 the Federation expanded its country membership base, and individuals from federated national societies were active in various IPOS committees and special interest groups.

In 2023, the national societies of the Federation were welcomed, for the first time, to present an IPOS Webinar in the language of their home country.

In 2022, the IPOS President began offering to deliver opening remarks or a keynote presentation at the annual conferences of IPOS Federation national societies. In 2023, Spain, Israel, Jamaica, Brazil, and Nepal accepted this service. Georgia and China requested this service in the prior year.

At the World Congress of Psycho-Oncology in Toronto, Canada in August, 2022, the national societies of the IPOS Federation were invited to participate in the President's Plenary by submitting questions to the panel pertaining to the IPOS Standard of Quality Cancer Care. National Society presidents were asked to submit a video of them asking a question to the panel. These submissions were played during the Plenary, and the questions were answered by panel members. At the World Congress of Psycho-Oncology in Milan, Italy in September, 2023, the tradition of the President's Plenary continued, and was very well attended and received. There was a meeting of the Federation at this year's World Congress, chaired by Tom Hack, and attended by approximately 75 members.

A goal for 2023 was to administer a revised Federation Survey, alongside an intensive effort to improve the response rate of the 2021 survey. Efforts to update the contact information of the national societies in the Federation proved difficult, as there was a low response rate to our request for updated contact information. Our database holds email addresses for Presidents of the national societies at the time of their entry into the Federation. Over the years, many of the email addresses of the original national society presidents have become inactive. In other cases, we did not receive a response to our request for updated contact information. After considering these challenges to our efforts to update the Federation registry, it was decided to postpone the survey.

### 4. GOALS AND STRATEGIES

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

- To implement networks in 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);
- To continue to review the IPOS Federation webpage for accuracy in its listing of national societies and the contact information for each society;
- At the Federation meeting in Milan in September, there was discussion of the possibility of planning an International Psycho-Oncology Awareness Day. Tom Hack agreed to take the lead in this initiative, supported by Ozan Bahcivan and Wendy Lam;
- To continue to offer the service of the IPOS President to present opening remarks or a keynote address (on the history of psycho-oncology and IPOS) at the annual conferences of the national societies in the IPOS Federation;
- To continue to invite Federation members to host IPOS webinars in their home language.

5. COORDINATION WITH RELATED COMMITTEES (IF APPLICABLE)

The Federation committee has the aim to coordinate with the Research committee for research projects with the federated societies; and 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.

6. FUNDRAISING STRATEGIES (IF APPLICABLE).

None at the moment in regards to 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 in September, 2023 at the IPOS World Congress in Milan, Italy. There were approximately 75 attendees. 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

Wendy Lam: Co-Chair [wwtlam@hku.hk](mailto:wwtlam@hku.hk)

Tom Hack: Co-Chair [thack@sbrc.ca](mailto:thack@sbrc.ca)

Respectfully submitted by Tom Hack and Wendy Lam