

Report from the president

The last six months have been a tense and worrying time for the world. Now the war in Iraq is over and we have a real possibility of peace in the whole of the Middle East. Throughout all of this our planning for the Cairo meeting has continued and as you will read in Kathy Pritchard-Jones' column we have an excellent meeting waiting for you. The social programme too promises to be memorable. The ancient history of Egypt is right there for us to sample and I can assure you that it will linger long in your memory. When I was last there the highlight was climbing the outside of the great pyramid of Ghiza with Sverre Lie and his family. I am not sure if we will be able to repeat that as you need special permission from the government but just to be next to the pyramids and the Sphinx is amazing.

Since our last newsletter I have visited Hong Kong and Detroit. The visit out to the Far East was to examine their undergraduate medical students but it happened to be right at the height of the SARS epidemic. Before travelling we had heard that there might be a problem but there were no warnings not to travel. We were met off the plane by people wearing masks and realised that there was a serious problem. At that stage the cause of the problem had not been identified and the fear of the unknown was



"Your President not running or climbing a pyramid for a change, but reading a book instead. Or is he thinking about why he has ended up doing what he is doing".

causing real panic among both the public and health care staff. It really was very frightening because many of the early cases occurred in doctors, nurses and even medical students who had been in contact with the index case who had come down from China. When we arrived the virologist at the Hong Kong University, Professor Malik Peiris, an old colleague from Newcastle, had just identified what he thought was the

cause - a corona-virus. By the end of the week he had sequenced the genome and produced a diagnostic PCR based test - truly phenomenal. The next week there was a paper in The Lancet. I saw him just before leaving Hong Kong and he looked exhausted but rather pleased with himself. Science and Technology are moving so fast that it is incredible. The exam itself was difficult because parents were reluctant to bring their healthy children ➤

ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL MEMBERS

HAPPY SUMMER HOLIDAYS!!

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in to hospital. At the same time they were trying to maintain their service including that for paediatric oncology. To be there at such a historic time was interesting, but somewhat frightening. However, I came away with a feeling of utmost admiration for the way the doctors were handling the crisis and for the amazement of Malik Peiris's efforts.

Detroit was much more sedate. Ravi asked me to give the Melissa Krinsky Memorial lecture, endowed by her parents to commemorate a daughter who had fought long and hard against leukaemia. It was given as their Friday morning grand round and I talked about the evolution of the treatment of bone tumours, my personal odyssey over 25 years. As part of this I thought about why I have ended up doing what I am doing. My career was never planned and I have just followed opportunities. I took up paediatrics because of inspirational teachers and an opportunity to do one of my first jobs after qualification in paediatrics. Oncology

was chosen for me when our senior resident who had been looking after the children with leukaemia, went off to have a baby and I was asked by our haematologist if I would help him look after the leukaemia's while she was away. This was in the early 1970's when paediatric oncology did not exist as a specialty. A small group from around the UK met together in 1977 to form the United Kingdom Children's Cancer Study Group (UKCCSG) and we were all asked to take on a disease type and to review where we might undertake studies. No one wanted bone tumours so I volunteered. I have then spent the last 25 years with this as my special interest. It has enabled me to work with some wonderful people all over the world and led me into SIOp and eventually into writing this newsletter. None of it was planned! My message to the residents in Detroit was to seize opportunities and "follow your nose".

I had another interesting encounter this week when I had supper with Stephen

Spielberg. Not the film producer but still a remarkable man. He is a paediatric clinical pharmacologist, currently medical director of Johnson and Johnson but soon to move to be Dean of Dartmouth College Medical School. He worked for Norman Jaffe in Boston in the early days of the development of paediatric oncology. As I am sure you all know Teddy Kennedy junior, son of the US senator, is probably the most famous osteogenic sarcoma patient in the world. He had an amputation followed by chemotherapy. I often use a picture of him playing baseball to illustrate my bone tumour lectures and to reassure patients heading for amputation that an active life is still possible. It was fascinating to hear the story first hand from the person who gave the chemotherapy.

Finally can I once again encourage you all to come to Cairo and I look forward to welcoming you there! ■

Alan W. Craft
President of SIOp

Report from the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Programme for the 2003 Congress in Cairo is now finalised and available on the SIOp website. I would urge you to check it before making your travel plans. There is an excellent and diverse programme stretching from the Wednesday morning, October 8th right through to Saturday lunchtime October 11th where we will finish our Congress with an exciting session on 'Progress in treatment of febrile neutropenia', including a keynote lecture by Professor Viscoli, an expert from the EORTC. This year, the Scientific Committee reviewed 655 submitted abstracts and were pleased to note a sustained improvement in the quality of research being submitted from so many countries

around the world. In addition to 15 keynote lectures, there are over 60 symposium lectures and a further 200 oral presentations. There is an exciting programme encompassing all aspects of the main theme of 'Comprehensive supportive care'. A whole session is devoted to 'Approaches to care of the dying child around the world', including a keynote lecture from Professor Art Ablin on 'Transition to palliative care'. A new initiative, that is planned to continue, is a keynote nursing lecture, to be delivered this year by Dr Karin Enskar, Sweden. Important new data in the field of renal tumours will be presented for the first time at SIOp 2003 in a joint session with IPSO, organised by the principal

investigators for the SIOp (Jan de Kraker) and NWTSG (Paul Grundy) trials. These will include comparison of surgical complications following either group's approach and outcome of Stage IV disease, including the role of radiotherapy. The other theme of the Congress, 'Cancer in the immunocompromised child', is covered by symposia on HIV in cancer and on lymphoproliferative disorders. We are delighted that our colleagues from Africa are able to lead in the discussion of this important topic. This year we are reintroducing the poster discussions session having selected 86 of the best posters for short oral presentations and discussion. The success of these sessions relies on active participation, ►

so please do attend to make the most of the excellent quality of the material available. Many of the poster discussion abstracts merit oral presentation but due to limited time in the Congress, this is just not possible.

For the first time the SIOF Award session has been divided into three categories, Clinical Trials, Basic Science and Paediatric Oncology in Developing Countries. Two abstracts have been selected for presentation in each category. The Scientific Committee had a long discussion about the selection criteria for the Clinical Trials category. In the end, it was decided that clinical trials designed and executed by national groups should be eligible, to recognise that it is often one or two individuals who provide the driving force ensuring successful completion of a trial addressing a specific question.

The final format of the 'Meet the Expert' breakfast sessions is that four topics will be discussed in parallel, neuroblastoma, renal tumours, lymphomas and difficult leukaemias. Delegates already registered for these sessions are invited to submit challenging cases for discussion with an international panel of experts. Delegates

who did not register in time are still welcome to attend to hear the discussions.

This year's Schweisguth Prize has been awarded to Dr A Narendran for work performed while he was a Research Fellow at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada, on 'Molecular changes in bone marrow stroma as a supportive mechanism for the proliferation of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia'. We extend him our congratulations.

The above is only a flavour of what awaits you in Cairo. There truly is something for everyone on this year's programme as well as an excellent social programme savouring the delights of Egypt, both ancient and modern.

The Scientific Committee has also been discussing other more general issues on behalf of the membership. These include your wishes regarding the format of the meeting but more importantly, the representation and the responsibility of the Scientific Committee, particularly in relation to clinical trials. We are delighted that the SIOF Board has agreed to our suggestion that there

should be two 'translational research' representatives on the Scientific Committee, reflecting the increasing importance of biological mechanisms in clinical research. All of these issues will be discussed in detail at the SIOF AGM in Cairo. I would urge you to read in detail the report from the Secretary General, Dr Daniel Green and to attend the AGM to express your views.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Dr Giorgio Perilongo has been nominated as the next Chairman of the Scientific Committee, to take over this role at the 2004 Congress in Oslo. I look forward to a fruitful year working together and trust that the outcome of this year's AGM will see the Scientific Committee with a clearer remit and recognition of the important role it contributes on behalf of the Society's members.

I look forward to seeing you all in Cairo. ■

Kathy Pritchard-Jones
Chair of the SIOF Scientific Committee

Before... during... and after...!

The 'Marathon Meeting' at the Congrex offices, Amsterdam, where the Scientific Committee select the programme for the 2003 Congress.



"Meeting room before we began the 'marathon meeting'"



"Meeting room halfway through the day"



"Members of the Scientific Committee celebrating the selection of the final programme"



"Members of the Scientific Committee getting in the mood for Cairo at the Pharaonic restaurant in Amsterdam"

Report from the Secretary General

The SIOB Board met on January 17, 2003 and April 17, 2003 in Amsterdam. Major issues discussed at these meetings included amendments to the SIOB Constitution, the Society journal, Medical and Pediatric Oncology, and the logistical and scientific organization of our annual meeting.

A draft of the revised Constitution and By-Laws was presented at the Annual General meeting of SIOB in Porto, Portugal, and was made available to those who attended the meeting. Important considerations were brought up by the members, and have been incorporated into a new draft of the Constitution and By-Laws. Our current Constitution and By-Laws mandate that amendments be circulated to the entire membership at least two months prior to the Annual General meeting of SIOB and that, for adoption, the amendments to the constitution must be approved by two-thirds of a "quorum" of those attending the Annual General meeting, and that amendments to the By-laws must be approved by a simple majority of a "quorum" of those attending the Annual General meeting.

The Board has previously discussed those amendments to the SIOB Constitution that would be necessary if SIOB were to modify its aims. SIOB has characteristics

of a research presentation organization, a clinical trials organization and an advocacy organization. The guidelines published by the International Conference on Harmonization (Document E6, available at <http://www.ich.org>) specify several activities that must be guaranteed and/or monitored by the trial sponsor (in this case SIOB for any SIOB trial). The activities include informed consent which must be documented by the presence of a written, signed and dated consent form, timely reporting of serious adverse events to the sponsor (SIOB), document review of the clinical trial protocol by the IRB at each treating institution, select appropriately qualified trial monitors, ensure that trials are adequately monitored which in general requires on-site monitoring before, during and after the trial, conduct audits to evaluate trial compliance and compliance with the protocol, standard operating procedures, good clinical practice and applicable regulatory requirements.

The SIOB Board has felt that, given these requirements, SIOB cannot be a trial sponsor, as it does not have the financial resources to support these functions. However many have expressed concern that abandoning a Society goal pertaining to clinical trials would weaken SIOB.

The Board therefore suggests that SIOB remove from the SIOB Constitution those aims and other duties that pertain to sponsorship of clinical trials ("To promote and assist in joint projects, including co-operative clinical trials..."), but that the Scientific Committee be available to provide peer review for proposed clinical trials. The Board is investigating the legal implications of either calling a trial a SIOB trial if SIOB is not the sponsor or of allowing a phrase, such as, "Reviewed by the SIOB Scientific Committee" to be added to the front page of a clinical trial.

SIOB was approached by the American Society of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology in late October, 2002 regarding the possibility of joining SIOB in the utilization of MPO as its official journal. Such a change would give a larger membership subscription base and potentially attract a larger amount of advertising revenue. Concern was expressed regarding the loss of a platform for articles regarding clinical pediatric oncology, with the possible shift in emphasis to laboratory investigations and greater emphasis on pediatric hematology. The agreement among Wiley-Liss, Inc., ASPHO and SIOB ensures equal representation of SIOB and ASPHO on the Publications Committee that will oversee the operation of the journal, including the selection ►

of the journal Editor-in-Chief. The new journal will be called Pediatric Blood and Cancer. The first issue will be published in January, 2004. This journal, with our support, has the potential to become the premier journal for pediatric hematology and oncology. The Board thanks Dan D'Angio for his tireless efforts as the editor of MPO.

Dr. D'Angio, perhaps unknown to you, has rewritten many submitted articles to improve their readability, and has been a champion for authors who are junior and/or from developing countries.

The venue for the SIOOP annual meeting has been determined in the past by an

open vote of the membership. The Board has considered possible alternatives to the current method of venue selection. The continental presidents would be more aware than others of individuals or groups interested in hosting the annual meeting, and of the different costs that would be incurred as the result of the various possibilities. A bid process would continue, but the bids would have to include draft budget proposals provided by one or more local PCOs. The venue would be chosen by the Board after consultation with the proposed organizing committee chairperson. In addition, to support SIOOP members in developing countries,

the SIOOP Board suggests that the annual meeting be rotated among four regions on an equal basis – a) United States and Canada, b) Africa, Mexico, Central and South America, c) Europe, and d) Asia and Oceania/Australia.

I hope that everyone has a relaxing summer. Please send me your comments regarding the proposed amendments to the SIOOP Constitution and By-Laws (daniel.green@roswellpark.org). I look forward to seeing all of you in Cairo in October. ■

Daniel M. Green
Secretary General of SIOOP

Welcome to the 35th SIOOP meeting in Cairo 2003



Dear guests and friends,

The Greek geographer, Herodotus, in his earlier writings, described Egypt as follows: "Nowhere are there so many marvelous things, nor in the whole world beside are there to be seen so many things of unspeakable greatness." It's a statement that still holds true today—Egypt, where visitors have been marveling at the country's wonders for more than three millennia.

As Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 35th International Meeting of SIOOP to be held on October 8-11, 2003 in Cairo, Egypt. This year, for the first time ever, Africa and in particular, Egypt, has been selected to host a SIOOP meeting. We are particularly happy because we consider this a very good opportunity for many African physicians, as well as physicians from the Middle East region working on paediatric cancer to meet with experts from all over the world and exchange new ideas, experience and knowledge which will undoubtedly benefit us all.

To further showcase the congress, the first paediatric oncology hospital in Egypt, Africa and the Middle East is to open in April 2004. This state of the art hospital will be available to any child with cancer, regardless of creed, race or ability to pay. This unique hospital is being built completely by donations. This year, Cairo 2003 will address a subject that touches everyone: the child with cancer. Specifically, "Comprehensive Supportive Care of the Child with Cancer, Renal Tumors and Cancer in the Immunocompromised Child". The First Lady of Egypt, Madame Mubarak, has been formally invited to bring under her auspices this congress and to attend its sessions. Madame Mubarak's work is devoted to the needs of children in Egypt and paediatric oncology is a very important cause to her.

The Scientific Committee, under the superb guidance of Kathy Pritchard, has pulled together an impressive programme featuring the best clinical papers, best of scientific research and keynote speakers on an array of different topics relating to children with cancer. The submitted abstracts exceeded 650 of high quality papers, therefore it will be a large and fruitful meeting, in a big and beautiful city.

The venue of the congress is located at the heart of Cairo. The Royal Nile Tower is located on the banks of the Nile River and offers an impressive view. This location offers an appropriate atmosphere for a successful scientific meeting. This also offers the possibilities to visit cultural sites, such as the Pyramids, the Sphinx, the Cairo Museum; the Citadel etc.. Perhaps shopping will attract those who are interested in spices and perfume essences that come in small decorated glass vials.

Special attention has been given to the requirements of the accompanying persons and interesting and stimulating social ►

programme will give all participants a feeling of Egyptian hospitality and warmth. Some of you could prolong their stay in Egypt and visit sleepy-Nile Luxor or, if the sun, white sand and turquoise waters is what you crave, then Egypt's Red Sea is a diver's paradise for you.

To start the congress, you are cordially invited to attend the Opening Ceremony to take place at the Opera House-Egypt's premier venue for classical western and classical Arabic music. There will be a cocktail party and you will be entertained by the soothing sounds of a harpist and folklore dancing. The Annual Dinner Party is to take place in the atmosphere of the Thousand and One Night-theme under an authentic Bedouin tent with a splendid view of the Pyramids. Typical Egyptian

cuisine and drinks will complete this most special evening. It is our sincere hopes that you enjoy these events as they have been planned with the outmost care so your stay is as pleasant and memorable.

Above all, let me remind you that Egypt is renowned for its friendliness to all people. We welcome you to experience Egypt, the land of the pharaohs and the lands of the pyramids. Join us then on October 8-11, 2003 here in Cairo and experience the true Egypt. ■

Professor Elhamy Rifky A.Khalek
Chairperson of the local organizing committee

PODC Announcement

**PODC COMMITTEE MEETING IN CAIRO,
EGYPT AT SIOP 2003**

**At the CAIRO ROYAL NILE TOWER HOTEL
(the congress venue)
Gallery Auditorium**

On Wednesday, October 8, 09.00 - 10.30

To all Members, Consultants, Continental Presidents and Congress Participants

This year the format of the PODC Committee Meeting will be different. Practically all PODC abstracts received have been inserted as oral presentations, posters or publications into the main program. This permits us to shorten considerably the PODC Committee Meeting:

09.00-09.30: PODC Committee Business Meeting (open)
09.30-10.30: Special Reports and Issues (open)

We invite you to send proposals for the meeting agenda or for special reports and issues to the Chairman:

HP Wagner
Schneiderstrasse 45
3084 Wabern, Switzerland,
Tel and Fax: +41 31 961 2588
e-mail: hpwagner@bluewin.ch

Not later than August 15, 2003.

Members, Consultants and the Continental Presidents as well as people interested to participate indicating their address, will get the Agenda before the meeting.

We hope to see you in Cairo!

HansPeter Wagner, M.D.
Chairman PODC Committee

News from the Nurses Group

The last six months has been quite a busy time for the nurses group. Preparations for Cairo are well underway and we have made some headway with the activities we referred to in an early newsletter, to:

- Increase the nurse membership;
- Increase the number of nursing abstracts;
- Introduce more joint sessions at future conferences;
- Encourage discussion and opportunities for collaborative working at the conference;
- Identify approaches to collaborative working outside of the conference;
- Enhance collaboration with other nursing groups, e.g. EONS;
- Influence research and developments in practice;
- Influence the care of children and families.

Firstly, Cairo. We had 42 abstracts submitted from which we have designed an exciting and slightly different programme. We have responded to comments from previous meetings to include more joint sessions with our medical colleagues and more sessions where nurses can engage in discussion around topics of interest. We have re-introduced round table discussions and the poster discussion. For the first

time, I think, we have joint sessions that encompass nursing and medical co-chairing and presentations. We aim to have 'skills labs' running throughout the conference which focus on the practical aspects of managing the care of children with cancer. And, once again we will be running our pre-conference education event specifically for nurses from the developing countries. We aim to be able to have a translation service available for the nurses' programme.

Secondly, membership issues and increasing the outputs from the nurses group. A small number of members met in April this year for a strategy meeting. We were pleased to have joining us at the meeting the current chair of EONS (Giel Vassen). EONS has undertaken similar work in the past which has led them to be an active and influential nurses group in the field of cancer nursing: their experience will be extremely useful to us. This meeting provided the opportunity for some creative thinking about the future and the way we see the nurses group developing. This included looking at how we communicate out to the membership, collaborate with other nursing organisations, how to raise the profile of the group, as well as thinking about a major focus of action around the

education of nurses. We plan to share this work at our business meeting in Cairo and summarise that meeting for those who are unable to attend in the next newsletter. So if you are attending the conference please do come along on Friday 10 October 11.30-13.00. If readers of this newsletter know of nurses who will be attending the conference then please inform them of this meeting in advance so that they can come prepared with ideas about what direction they would like to see the SIOP nurses group taking.

If you are unable to attend the conference, and we know that this is just not possible for many nurses, and you have anything that you would like to share with us then please feel free to contact me on the email or fax address below.

We look forward to seeing some of you in Cairo, and for others we look forward to sharing the meeting with you in the next newsletter. ■

Faith Gibson
Lecturer in Children's Nursing
Research London UK
Chair of SIOP Nurses Group
Email: Gibsof@gosh.nhs.uk
Fax: UK 0207 829 8602

REPORT FROM SIOP ASIA

SIOP Asia - Welcome to Bangladesh!

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Email : parul@bom5.vsnl.net.in

3rd SIOP Asia Conference

After the great success of the 2nd SIOP Asia Conference at New Delhi, we are slowly inching towards our next meeting to be held at Dhaka, Bangladesh. Prof. Mannan who is the organizing chairperson is burning midnight oil to make this meeting equally successful. Registrations are open to all (registration fee structure is enclosed in Appendix-I). The conference will be held from 26th to 28th February 2004.

There will be a comprehensive scientific programme which will include symposium, CME programme, plenary session, free paper session, video and poster presentation etc. The faculty members who have already confirmed their participation include - O.B. Eden, UK, D.M. Green, USA, Peter Hesselting, South Africa, Tadashi Sawada, Japan, Y. Tushida, Japan, HansPeter Wagner, Switzerland, Keith Waters, Australia, L.S. Arya India. Besides them many other faculty members from Asia are expected to participate. A parent's programme is on ►

the anvil too! I earnestly request all SIOP Asia members to consider sending abstracts for the meeting before 1st November 2003.

Bangladesh, the eastern portion of the historic region of Bengal (the western portion is now the Indian state of West Bengal), is a land of diverse beauties. Although it is primarily a deltaic region, the southern portion is hilly and covered by beautiful forests and lakes. The world's longest natural sea beach of Cox's Bazar (120 kms), the mangrove forest of Sundarbans-home of the Royal Bengal Tiger and the beautiful spotted deer, thousand year old archeological sites at Mahasthanagar, at Paharpur, Maintamoti, Sonargaon, the old capital of Bengal and the Buddhist temple of Ramu are worthy of visit in Bangladesh.

Dhaka is a mixture of old archeological structures and modern sky scrapers. Ancient mosques, Mandirs, Buddhist temples, Royal palace (Ahsan Manjil), Fort of the Moghul Period, Parliament Building, National Memorial Complex of Martyr, Zoological and Botanical Gardens are few of the many tourist attractions of the city itself. Last but not the least the colourful "Rickshaw" (tricycle) is of special interest for those who never had a ride on it. The country is crisscrossed by rivers and a cruise along them can be a memorable experience. The weather in February is pleasant, the temperature varies from 15-25 C with virtually no rain and plenty of sun shine.

Prof. M.A. Mannan, the chairman and Dr. Mohammad Saiful Islam, organizing secretary have already released the first announcement for this conference. The theme of the conference is "Childhood Cancer – A Silver Lining in Malignancies". To obtain further information about this meeting you can reach Prof. M. A. Mannan at : paed@bangla.net or mahmood@agni.com. Suggestions from members regarding topics, faculty, arrangements, and registrations are invited. You may either write to Prof. Mannan or to me (parul@bom5.vsnl.net.in). Let us try to make this event also as successful as our first two SIOP Asia conferences.

SIOP Asia General Assembly 2003

The SIOP Asia General Assembly this year will be held on Saturday 11 October 2003 from 13-14:00 hrs pm at Farhati Ball Room of the Congress Hotel at Cairo, Egypt.

I request you to send me items for the agenda to be discussed at the above meeting. After receiving your suggestions, the final agenda will be shortly prepared and circulated to all the SIOP-Asia members. I look forward to meet you all at Cairo.

SIOP Asia Conferences 2006 and 2008

For the year 2006, we had bids from three countries : China, Thailand and Oman. We seem to have generated a lot of energy and enthusiasm for 2006. We had presentations from China and Oman at the SIOP Asia General Assembly held in November 2002 at New Delhi. It was indeed a difficult choice

for the members since both the venues were very attractive. It was finally decided by the consensus that the 4th SIOP Asia conference will be held at Shanghai, China in the year 2006. The 5th SIOP Asia conference will be held in the year 2008 at Muscat, Oman. The contact details of the concerned persons are : Prof. Wang Yao-Ping, Chairman, Organizing Committee, 4th SIOP-Asia Conference, Dept. of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, Shanghai Children's Medical Center, Shanghai, China, Telephone : +86-021-58732020, Fax : +86-021-58393915, Email : SCMCmud@online.sh.cn AND Prof. Zakia Al Lamki or Prof. Mathew Zachariah, 5th SIOP-Asia Conference, Associate Professor & Head, Child Health Department, Sultan Qaboos University, College of Medicine, P.O. Box 35, Al-Khod, Sultanate of Oman, Postal Code 123, Telex : 5602 SQU ON Cable: Jami'ah, Telephone : +968-51537, Telefax : +968-513419 or +968-515136, Email : zakiya@squ.edu.om OR mathewz@omantel.net.om

Annual SIOP International Meeting: 2007

As you are aware the annual meeting of SIOP will be held this year at Cairo, in 2004 at Oslo, 2005 at Vancouver and 2006 at Geneva. The options for 2007 are open. As per the new directives of SIOP Board, the Asian continent will have a chance to host the prestigious Annual Meeting of SIOP in the year 2007. According to the constitutional changes of SIOP International, the meeting of 2007, is scheduled to be held in the Asian continent, hence it is an opportunity for one of the Asian nation to make a successful bid for this SIOP Annual Meeting. We are looking for applicants from host country and organizations that are willing to take this responsibility. The requirements for such hosts are listed on the SIOP website (www.siop.nl)

Please let me know immediately through your national pediatric oncology association / organization about your country's willingness to host SIOP 2007. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any information or assistance in this regard. From amongst the proposals received by end of June / July, we will prepare a short list for the SIOP Board for their consideration. The final verdict will of course come from SIOP Board and the worldwide SIOP members. (STOP PRESS: Hongkong and India have shown interest to contest this bid. But this should not discourage others. We would be happy to consider more options!). Looking forward to hear from you in this regard.

SIOP Asia Newsletter

You will soon receive the next issue of our newsletter "SIOP ASIA NEWS". To popularize this publication, we would like to have your suggestions, inputs, and criticisms. Articles, reports, announcements and other information from members are invited for inclusion in future publications. Please communicate with our editor Dr.M.R.Lokeshwar (email : mrl123@roltanet.com). We need your utmost support to promote the success of this initiative. Let this be your mouthpiece and communication link with SIOP Asia.



Database of professionals

I would like to inform the members once again about our effort to collect the names and contact details of all professionals serving children with cancer in the Asian continent. Even if they are not members of SIOP, we would like to reach out to them and compliment their efforts in pediatric oncology. I request you to send me the details of national organizations, their office bearers, members address list especially with emails that are active in the field of pediatric hematology-oncology. This will enable us to build and consolidate a good database of information that would be readily available and useful to our members.

SIOP Asia Elections for the term 2005 - 2007

As per the statues of SIOP Asia, the current post of the SIOP Asia Executive Board including the President will expire in

September / October 2004. The SIOP Asia Board would like to invite nominations for the following posts for the above term: President (1), Secretary General (1), Editor of Newsletter (1), Executive Board Members (6) (one each from India, China, and Japan) and 3 from other Asian countries. The Past President and the Organizing Chairman of the SIOP Asia Conference would continue as ex-officio SIOP Asia Executive Board members.

Finally,

I would like to place on record my gratitude for the tremendous support received from SIOP Board for the initiatives of SIOP Asia. I would also like to thank the membership of SIOP Asia for their active participation in the programmes and projects of SIOP Asia. The ideas and suggestions received from all quarters which have helped us to expand our base of activities. I foresee a strong growth curve for SIOP Asia! Thanks to you all.

ANNEXURE 1: REGISTRATION FEES FOR 3rd SIOP-ASIA CONFERENCE

| Details | Before Sept. 30 2003 | Before Dec. 31 2003 | After Dec. 31 2003 |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bangladeshi delegates | Tk.2,500 | Tk. 3,500 | Tk. 5,000 |
| Foreign delegates | US\$ 200 | US\$ 300 | US\$ 400 |
| SAARC delegates | US\$ 75 | US\$ 125 | US\$ 400 |
| Parents / Nurses / Accompanying Persons: | | | |
| Bangladeshi | Tk 1500 | Tk.2,500 | Tk.3,000 |
| Foreign delegates | US\$ 100 | US\$ 200 | US\$ 250 |
| SAARC delegates | US\$ 50 | US\$ 100 | US\$ 125 |

Conference Secretariat: Prof. M.A. Mannan, Pro-Vice Chancellor & Chairman, Dept. of Pediatrics, Room No. 206, Block – C, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Shahbag, Dhaka – 1000, Bangladesh. Tel. 8626165, Fax 880-2-8015576
Email : paed@bangla.net

NEWS FROM AFRICA

This year is the first time that SIOP is having its annual meeting in Africa.

SIOP has been very busy in Africa for a number of years. Strong links with Professor Peter Hesselning in the last 5 years lead to successful SIOP funded and directed clinical trials in the therapeutic management of Burkitt's lymphoma. The most recent

results of the SIOP clinical trials in this disease will be presented during the annual Congress in Cairo. These trials were originally only available to children being treated in Blantyre, Malawi. However, they are now being expanded to allow children from other countries to benefit from this research. SIOP 2003 coincides with the completion of a fantastic

project to build a specialist hospital for children with cancer and related diseases in Cairo. This hospital will be the equivalent of the famous St Jude's Hospital, Memphis, USA, aiming to help all children with cancer in Africa, regardless of their ability to pay. It will have an important role in training staff and developing and supervising protocols and guidelines adapted for use throughout Africa.

On another issue, steps towards another successful 6th Continental SIOPI meeting are in progress. This meeting will be arranged by Prof. Liz Molyneux in Blantyre in Malawi. Professor Molyneux is Professor of Paediatrics and Head of Department in the College of Medicine at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Blantyre, Malawi. Liz's main interest is

the Burkitt's lymphoma and childhood cancers. Malawi is a beautiful country with many opportunities to climb Mulanje mountain or to relax at the lakes. So, please save your money and prepare your abstract for the 6th Continental Meeting in May 2004 in Malawi.

Hoping to see you soon at our next two important events: Cairo 2003 and Malawi 2004. ■

Professor Elhamy Rifky A.Khalek
SIOPI Continental President for Africa



Announcements from the secretariat

Congratulations to the Cairo Schweisguth Prize Winner

The Schweisguth Prize was won by Dr. A. Narendran from Canada. His paper was titled: "Molecular changes in bone marrow stroma as a supportive mechanism for the proliferation of acute lymphoblastic leukemia". He will present his paper at the SIOPI Cairo congress on Friday October 10, 2003 from 13.00 to 13.30 hrs. The booklet with his paper will be available at the Cairo meeting and will also be included in the December newsletter mailing.

Invitation to Members of SIOPI Asia

SIOPI Members from Asia who would like to host the SIOPI annual meeting, are asked to send in a bid for the organisation/hosting of this annual meeting in 2007. Bid information can be obtained at the SIOPI Secretariat or on the SIOPI web site. Bids are to be received at the Secretariat prior to October 1, 2003.

SIOPI sponsored meetings

SIOPI sponsored meetings are meetings which use the name of SIOPI, by showing the SIOPI logo. No financial support is allocated to these meetings by SIOPI. If you are organising a meeting of workshop and you wish to include the name of "SIOPI" (use of logo), there are several conditions to which this meeting or workshop has to fulfill:

- The faculty of the meeting/workshop has to consist of (partly) SIOPI members
- The programme of the meeting/workshop has to be submitted for review to the SIOPI Scientific Committee at the earliest stage possible

This information will also be published on the SIOPI web site.

Sponsoring of a member from an OECD developing country for Euro 60.-

You can sponsor a SIOPI member of a PODC country by adding to your membership fees the amount of Euro 60.-.

The PODC Committee together with the secretariat will select the members who are eligible for this sponsorship.

SIOPI Call for dues - Reminder

Those members who have not yet paid their fees of 2002 (and former years), will find with this newsletter a reminder to pay their fees. Please be informed that if you have more than 1 year of outstanding fees, your subscription to MPO will be withdrawn.

Duplicate issues of "Medical Pediatric Oncology (MPO)"

If you receive at your hospital duplicate issues of MPO, which are not used by you or your colleagues, you can have the duplicate issue sent to a paediatric oncology colleague in a less affluent country for whom MPO could be very helpful. This suggestion was already made some years ago by Dr. D'Angio and we repeat this once more. In case you have an additional issue and you wish to have it sent to somebody else, please contact the secretariat. ➤

The secretariat will then check with the PODC Committee chairman where to send this.

Free access to medical journals

Free access to over 1.000 of the world's leading medical journals, including MPO, for those in developing countries.

Information can be found on:
www.healthinternetwork.net

SIOP Web site

Please be reminded that the SIOP web site can be found at www.siop.nl. You have received a password and personal username and should be able to visit the

"Members only" parts. If you have any problems entering these parts or otherwise, please contact the secretariat. We would like everybody to be able to visit the site without difficulties. Also, if you have any suggestions or comments on the site, please contact the secretariat: we need your input!

Report on Master Class 2003 from the Amsterdam School of Paediatric Oncology (ASPO) 14-18 January 2003 in Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands.

I became aware of the ASPO Master class 2003 through the head of my department who is a member of the board SIOP Europe. Additional information I obtained through the German speaking Society of Paediatric Oncology and Haematology. I then referred to the webpage, which is well laid out and gives specific and detailed information on the course and the requirements to be accepted as participant. The secretary of ASPO Mrs. Ball delivered an excellent service in providing prompt and detailed information on receipt of application, acceptance, travel, and M.C. program and lodging.

Once all the participants from 4 continents arrived at the nice hotel in Egmond aan Zee, we were heartily welcomed by the hosts Profs. Caron and Voûte. They perfectly managed to make us get to know each other in a short time and to create an atmosphere that fostered critical thoughts and fruitful discussions. The participants were well chosen covering different fields of paediatric oncology working either as physicians or biologists. Soon a feeling of togetherness came up in all the classmates which was useful for the days to come. Each day started with a run at the sea-side in the early darkness before dawn with a great variety of weather conditions reaching from clear skies and a calm sea to winds of Beaufort 8 and a stormy sea. The hotel was very close to the sea, enabling all the classmates to enjoy a wonderful sight of the beach. The social program was excellent including a boat trip on the canals of Amsterdam where a typical delicious "local" Indonesian rice-buffet was served. Amsterdam was so charming, that some classmates were not able to resist spending more than one evening in this

city even having to commute about 1 hr each way. The course was kicked off on the day of arrival by an evening lecture held by Prof. Borst, an outstanding personality as a teacher and scientist, on the hallmarks of cancer, which allowed reviewing current knowledge comprehensively. As all participants were expected to have read the paper beforehand, Prof. Borst was able to elicit a lively discussion allowing the group to elaborate together the underpinnings of the actual knowledge on cancer genesis. The discussions were so fascinating that they continued during the ensuing visit to the hotel bar. The next day, the series of presentations were started. They contained a 15 min presentation of the research project of each participant, which were followed by detailed discussions on scientific strengths and weaknesses of the paper presented. Prof. Borst was well prepared and able to quickly detect the critical issues of each project. He set an environment that invited all participants to openly give their opinion and ask questions. After 40 minutes of discussion for each paper, an additional 5 minutes were spent on critical appraisal of the presentation format. Again, all the participants actively and constructively discussed the areas of possible improvement. Each presentation was respected and handled equally by Prof. Borst and co-master Prof. Jürgens, as all participants highly appreciated the comments and tried to implement them in their presentation, when possible in the following days.

Despite the predominance of neuroblastoma and leukaemia in the program, research presentations covered a plethora ➤

of aspects of paediatric oncology such as imaging, high-throughput techniques, drug design, gene therapy and epidemiology. The first workshop addressed expression profiling, where participants were divided into groups of four to work on outstanding papers covering the current techniques. The group work was led by a well designed questionnaire, which allowed the group members to present their understanding of the different techniques concisely and enabled everybody to critically assess the potential and the weaknesses of each of the discussed techniques used for expression profiling. Profs. Versteeg and Caron gave in depth details on the techniques they are currently using themselves and led a good round discussion. The second workshop focussed on "evidence based medicine" by Dr. van de Wetering. Again, the papers that were analyzed by small groups of classmates were well chosen. The questionnaire that guided the group work was well organized allowing an intense discussion. Very soon all participants pinpointed the critical issues of the papers that were handed out, "proving" a steep learning curve on "evidence based medicine". In addition to the workshops we also had two lectures. One was held by Prof. Jürgens on phase III trials paediatric oncology that was followed by lively discussions

on current ethical problems of clinical trials in paediatric oncology. The second lecture was held on mistakes one should avoid in order to increase the chances of acceptance of submitted papers by Prof. Janse. As a former editor in chief of an important journal he elucidated the clockwork of an editorial board and gave interesting insights on fraudulent activities in the field of research.

After 4 days and a half we all felt exhausted but at the same time were in high spirits knowing that we had increased our knowledge, being able to use these new insights in clinical work and in the field of research. Furthermore, we had made many contacts from a scientific as well as from a personal point of view. I can recommend this Master Class to anybody who wants to pursue a career in paediatric oncology. The next Master Class will be organized by the ASPO in January 2005; information will be available on the webpage from ASPO. ■

**Pablo Hernáiz Driever, MD
Berlin, Germany**

OBITUARY:

JANINA BOGUSLAWSKA-JAWORSKA, MD, PhD, ScID AUGUST 16, 1930 - APRIL 23, 2002



Pioneer of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology in Poland
Prof. Janina Boguslawska-Jaworska, 72, Pioneer of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology in Poland died in April 2002 of leukemia.

Janina Jaworska was born in 1930 in Jaroslaw into an educated family. She started her academic career at the University of Krakow where she graduated from the Collegium Medicum in

1953. After a two-year fellowship in paediatrics, Dr. Jaworska went to Wroclaw, where she initially worked as an assistant in the Department of Biochemistry. In 1958, she started to work in the Department of Paediatrics at Wroclaw Medical University, and from 1973 to 1981 she served as an Associate Professor in Paediatric Hematology and Oncology. From 1981 until her retirement in 2000 she has been Professor and Chairlady of the newly established Department of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology.

Professor Boguslawska-Jaworska has been a hard-working person devoted to Paediatric Oncology. Even under difficult economic conditions she spared no effort to make her Department one of the renowned paediatric oncological institutions far beyond Poland. She succeeded in building up a the largest Polish Department of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology and a modern equipped and efficient bone marrow transplantation unit in Wroclaw. She contributed markedly to develop Paediatric Haematology and Oncology in Poland. With the aim of standardising therapy nation-wide, she has been the author of 12 national protocols for the treatment of childhood malignancies. For many years she served as the National Consultant of Paediatric Haematology and

Oncology. Furthermore, she established the Children Cancer Foundation and a children's sanatorium. Thanks to her work the cure rates of paediatric cancers in Poland achieved the level of western countries.

Prof. Jaworska's educational role extended far beyond her Department. During her career she has been the author of more than 360 scientific papers and numerous medical textbooks on General Paediatrics and Paediatric Oncology. In addition, she served on editorial boards of several scientific journals. She organized many international conferences, scientific congresses and educational courses for young physicians and students. At an early stage, she appreciated the role of molecular biology in modern medicine and encouraged her young co-workers and

others to spend times abroad in order to learn and introduce new techniques into everyday practice.

Professor Janina Jaworska was an open-minded person. She was widely known as a humanitarian and advocate for children. Her effort was awarded with the prestigious 'Order of Smile', which is given by children in acknowledgment of outstanding work to the advantage of children.

With Janina Boguslawska-Jaworska SIOPEL has lost one of its active and devoted members. We will keep her in remembrance with honor.

**Günter Henze
Eva Koscielniak**

International Childhood Liver Tumour Strategy Group – SIOPEL A brief note

Dear SIOPEL members,

The SIOPEL group is now into its 13th year of activity.

The second generation clinical trial (SIOPEL2) is now closed and awaiting publication. Details of current and future trials as well as other activities are given below.

Two new major innovations within the SIOPEL group have been

1. the establishment of cooperation with CINECA, an Italian non-profit Inter-University Consortium which can provide us with AMR (Advanced Multicentric Research) a system based on WEB technology for collecting, handling and evaluating data. (including, amongst other services, the RDE – The Remote data entry)
2. provision of a tissue bank for all SIOPEL patients. The bank is run by members and supervised by the Swiss Paediatric Oncology Group and its service is free of charge. SIOPEL has its own scientific committee for this project. The service will be activated at the same time as SIOPEL 4 (see below).

During this last year a special relationship has been established with dr. Ram Kumar

Marwaha from the, PHO Chapter of Indian Academy of Paediatrics and President of the National PHO group, that we are bringing forward with him, aims to develop a clinical research strategy for childhood hepatic tumours to be run in India in synergism with the activity of the SIOPEL group. The SIOPEL group is ready to provide them with the AMR system with which, as reported above, the new SIOPEL trials will be run.

Last but not least, Siopel will, under the leadership of Michael Sullivan, coordinate a trial on pancreatoblastoma which has many biological similarities to hepatoblastoma.

We wish to welcome all new participants into the SIOPEL group: Michela Casanova, Bruce Morland, Ram Kumar Mahrawa and Michael Sullivan, paediatric oncologists from Italy, United Kingdom India and New Zealand. We hope other colleagues interested in sharing their special know how with us may follow.

The SIOPEL network has provided an unique resource and opportunity to effectively manage clinical research on rare tumours such as hepatoblastoma and hepatocellular carcinoma. We are

extremely grateful to all who have entered patients into the trials and made this venture possible.

We hope to see you soon in Cairo during the Annual SIOPEL Conference during which on Friday, October 10th 2003 between 11.30 and 13.00 we will hold an open study committee meeting. Please join us; sandwiches and beverages will be also served.

**Giorgio and Jack
On behalf of the SIOPEL group**

P.S.

May we highlight to you the issue of Medical Paediatric Oncology of November 2002. It is completely dedicated to the Proceedings of the Third SIOPEL Liver Tumour Study Group Workshop. ■

INTERNATIONAL CHILDHOOD LIVER TUMOUR STRATEGY GROUP - SIOPEL

Up-date of clinical research activity

May 2003

Present programme

SIOPEL 3a – Standard risk Hepatoblastoma
SIOPEL3 b High risk Hepatoblastoma

Presently, the SIOPEL 3a is the most challenging project.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Study Opened | December 1999 |
| Current status | still open to patient recruitment |
| Biostatistician & | R. Maibach; Swiss Institute for Applied Cancer Research, Berne |
| Trial office | UKCCSG Data Centre, University of Leicester |
| Trial coordinator | M. Childs |
| Study co-ordinators | G. Perilongo and E. Shafford |
| Study design SIOPEL 3a | Standard risk patients: prospective randomised trial |
| SIOPEL 3 b | High risk patients; single arm study |
| Financial support | Cancer Research UK and Swiss Cancer League |
| Independent data monitoring Committee | J. De Kraker, D. Ashby, Max Coppes |
| Present status | interim analysis available |

Last year it was decided on the advice of the IDMC that the randomised trial for standard risk HB (SIOPEL 3a) should continue, the aim being to recruit 125 patients per arm, and that the high risk study (3b) is to be replaced by SIOPEL 4 in the very near future (see below)

As of 12/2002 in SIOPEL 3 (a and b) we have recruited 332 Patients: 284 Hepatoblastoma, 45 Hepatocellular carcinoma and 3 others. Of the 283 HB 111 were considered high risk and 162 standard risk (11 had primary surgery). Of the 162 standard risk 137 have been randomised. We need your support in registering patients for successfully completing the trial.

Phase II study of Irinotecan for recurrent or refractory HB

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Study opened | April 1st, 2003 |
| Current status | Study open to patient registration |
| Biostatistician & | R. Maibach; Swiss Institute for Applied Cancer Research, Berne |
| Trial office | UKCCSG Data Centre, University of Leicester, Dept. of Epidemiology & Public Health, Leicester in cooperation with CINECA (Bologna, ITALY) |

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Trial Coordinator | M. Childs |
| Study co-ordinators | J. Zsiros, L. Brugieres, P. Brock, |
| Financial support | Cancer Research UK as part of SIOPEL 3 |

Hopefully this trial will be run in co-operation with the German Cooperative Paediatric Liver Tumor Study Chair. Dietrich von Schweinitz and the COG Liver Group.

Future programs

SIOPEL 4 – A new high risk hepatoblastoma trial

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Current status | Study not open yet |
| Biostatistician & | R. Maibach; Swiss Institute for Applied Cancer Research, Berne |
| Trial office | UKCCSG Data Centre, University of Leicester, Dept. of Epidemiology & Public Health, Leicester in co-operation with CINECA (Bologna) |
| Data manager | M. Childs |
| Study co-ordinators | J Zsiros, L. Brugieres, P. Brock, P. Czuderna, |
| Study design | High risk patients – single arm study |
| Financial support | Request to Cancer Research UK |
| Present status | Final draft circulated among participating centres for critical consideration and approval. |

SIOPEL 5 - Prospective study on childhood Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Trial status | Study design still in progress |
| Biostatistician & | R. Maibach; Swiss Institute for Applied Cancer Research, Berne |
| Trial office | UKCCSG Data Centre, University of Leicester, Dept. of Epidemiology & Public Health, Leicester in co-operation with CINECA (Bologna) |
| Data manager | M. Childs |
| Study co-ordinators | P. Czuderna, B. Morland, M. Casanova, G. Perilongo, J. Plaschkes, D. Roebuck, A. Zimmermann |
| Study design | HCC patients – single arm study |

Financial support

Present status

October 1st, 2003 study concept to be presented to the Group

Hopefully this trial will be run in co-operation with the German Cooperative Paediatric Liver Tumor Study Chair. Dietrich von Schweinitz

SIOPEL-MAIN FUTURE SPECIAL PROJECTS (in brief)

Creation of a net-work for running in vitro, in-animal and then phase I and II studies for developing, identifying and testing

new drugs for childhood liver tumours. This is the group's most fascinating challenge for the future coordinator: Dr. Bruce Morland

Establishment of world-wide registry on pancreatoblastoma – Project leader: Michael Sullivan

Development of a clinical research strategy for childhood hepatic tumours to be run in India in synergism with the activity of the SIOPEL group. This is the group's most exciting project for the future Project leaders : Ram Kumar Mahrawa, J. Plaschkes, J Pritchard, G. Perilongo, M. Childs. ■

The Children's Oncology Group is pleased to announce a new membership category.

The Children's Oncology Group is pleased to announce a new membership category which will enable it to achieve one of its goals and objectives to extend its mission of collaboration in epidemiologic, clinical and translational research in pediatric cancer globally.

COG welcomes the opportunity to develop successful international partnerships and collaborations world-wide and will consider institutional applications for our clinical/translational research network. Since COG is sponsored and is largely supported by federal funds made available through the National Cancer Institute, international collaborative efforts must comply with U.S. federal regulations and appropriate international agreements governing the conduct of human subject research.

This new membership category for individuals outside of the United States and Canada was established to promote scientific exchange between COG and the institution and community that the International Associate Member represents. The institution/community represented by the International Associate Member is expected to benefit from this relationship in that the Associate Member is:

- Recognized by COG as an official partner in collaboration on clinical and translational research on the cancers in infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
- The primary contact with his/her institution/community who is responsible for communication of problems/solutions in pediatric oncology and other mutual concerns.

- Granted privileges that parallel the Associate Member category within approved COG full member institutions, including attending meetings as an official member and having access to the COG website that is restricted to Associate Members. The latter includes direct participation in developing new diagnostic, treatment and prevention strategies in pediatric and adolescent oncology, access to investigators, laboratory resources, newsletters, bulletins and protocols of the COG.

The criteria for International Associate Member are specified below, and the process for applying is posted on the public portion of the COG website (www.childrensoncologygroup.org).

- a. Requests for International Associate Membership will be considered from individuals, not institutions outside the United States and Canada.
- b. An applicant must receive two letters of support from Full Members of COG
- c. Applicants must be at major institutions and should be the head of a pediatric hematology/oncology service or related discipline
- d. The applicant must be engaged in the clinical investigation of cancers of infants, children, and adolescents
- e. International Associate Members must attend at least one semi-annual COG meeting every two years
- f. International Associate Members are welcome to

- attend all open COG committee and Group meetings and may participate in the meetings but may not vote
- g. International Associate Members shall be entitled to access the Members Only section of the COG website
- h. International Associate Members will not enter patients on COG studies
- i. International Associate Members agree to share scientific results of studies from their own institution and/or country, with their colleagues in the COG

- j. International Associate Members are expected to pay for the costs of supporting their membership by making a nominal charitable contribution to the National Childhood Cancer Foundation, the foundation for the COG.

Please share this information with potential candidates for membership. We look forward to this opportunity to maintain and expand the robust character of our scientific agenda by taking full extent of all international collaboration opportunities. ■

FECS COUNCIL ELECTS ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2003 - 2005 TERM

At its meeting in Brussels on 10th June 2003, the Council of the Federation of European Cancer Societies (FECS) elected its new Board of Directors for the period 2003 - 2005.

The new Board of Directors will start office immediately after the ECCO 12 conference, on 25th September 2003, and will terminate its mandate at the end of the ECCO 13 conference, on 3rd November 2005.

Professor Harry Bartelink, current President-elect (European Society of

Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology-ESTRO), will take over the Presidency of FECS.

Professor John Smyth (European Society of Medical Oncology-ESMO), was voted into the office of President-elect.

Professor William J. Gullick (European Association for Cancer Research-EACR), current President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, will act as Past-President.

Professor Heinz Ludwig (European

Society of Medical Oncology-ESMO), was elected Secretary General. Professor Michael Stevens (European Branch of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology - SIOP Europe), was elected Treasurer.

Full member societies not represented in a honorary position, namely the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO) and the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS) will be represented on the Board of Directors by their respective President or President-elect. ■

Future Courses, Congresses and Meetings

INDIAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS - PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY-ONCOLOGY NATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT WORKSHOP

Date: AUGUST 22-23, 2003
 Venue: NIZAM'S INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, PANJAGUTTA, HYDERABAD, INDIA

For more information, please contact:
 Dr. Andhra Pradesh
 Tel. +91 40 233 717 47
 Fax: +91 40 556 690 49
 E-mail: telerama@hd2.dot.net.in or telerama@rediffmail.com

Other workshops will take place in Bhopal, Kolkata, Jaipur and Varodara. As no dates are published, please contact Dr. B.R. Agarwal for more information:
 Fax: + 91 22 264 319 02
 E-mail: parul@bom5.vsnl.net.in

ERASMUS WORKSHOP ON MOLECULAR THERAPEUTICS IN ACUTE LEUKEMIA

Date: SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2003
 Venue: CONGRESS CENTRE 'DE DOELEN', ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

For more information, please contact:
Erasmus Workshop Leukemia
EMCO
Mrs. T. Wilson
P.O. Box 1738
3000 DR Rotterdam
The Netherlands
F: +31 10 4089462
E-mail: info@emco.fgg.eur.nl
Internet: <http://www.eur.nl/fgg/emco>

ECCO12

Date: SEPTEMBER 21-25, 2003
Venue: COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

For information, please contact:
Federation of European Cancer Societies
Avenue E. Mounier 83
B-1200 Brussels
T: +32 2 775 2931
F: +32 2 775 0200
E-mail: info@feces.be

XXXV SIOP CONGRESS

Date: OCTOBER 8-11, 2003
Venue: CAIRO, EGYPT

For information, please contact:
Congrex Holland B.V.
P.O. Box 302
1000 AH Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: +31-20-5040 200
Fax: +31-20-5040 225
e-mail: congrex@congrex.nl

EUROPAEDIATRICS 2003

Date: OCTOBER 19-23, 2003
Venue: PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

For information, please contact:
Kenes International
Mrs. Avital Rosen-Topel
Project Manager
Tel: +41 22 908 0488 or +972 3 514 0069
Fax: +41 22 732 2850 or +972 3 514 0025/77
E-mail: europaediatrics2003@kenes.com
Website: www.kenes.com/europaediatrics2003

3RD SIOP-ASIA CONFERENCE CHILDHOOD CANCER IS CURABLE

Date: FEBRUARY 26-28, 2004
Venue: DHAKA SHERATONHOTEL, DHAKA,
BANGLADESH

For more information please contact:
Prof. M.A. Mannan
Pro-vice Chancellor and Chairman
Dept. of Pediatrics, Room no. 206, Block: C (1st floor)
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Tel: +880-2-862 61 65
Fax: +880-2-801 55 76
E-mail: paed@bangla.net or mahmood@agni.com

2ND JOINT GH-IGF SYMPOSIUM

Date: APRIL 18-22, 2004
Venue: CAIRNS CONVENTION CENTRE, QUEENSLAND,
AUSTRALIA

For more information please contact:
Symposium Managers
Intermedia Convention & Event Management
11/97 Castlemaine Street or PO Box 1280
Milton QLD 4064
Tel: +61 (0)7 3858 5597
Fax: +61 (0)7 3858 5510
Email: grs2004@im.com.au

6th CONTINENTAL MEETING OF SIOP IN AFRICA

Date: MAY 03-05, 2004
Venue: BLANTYRE, MALAWI

For more information please contact:
SIOP 2004 Paediatric Dept.
College of Medicine, Box 360 Blantyre, Malawi
e-mail: emolyneux@paeds.medcol.mw

XXXVI SIOP CONGRESS

Date: SEPTEMBER 16-19, 2004
Venue: OSLO, NORWAY

For more information please contact:
Congrex Holland B.V.
P.O. Box 302
1000 AH Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: +31-20-5040 200
Fax: +31-20-5040 225
e-mail: congrex@congrex.nl



**FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO
ALL MEMBERS**

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!

FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN CANCER SOCIETIES

DEADLINES

Early registration
15 March 2003

Abstract submission
8 April 2003



ECCO 12

the European
Cancer
Conference

Copenhagen
21-25 September 2003

on behalf of EACR - EONS - ESMO - ESSO - ESTRO - SIOP Europe

