



## Early Career Professionals in Psycho-Oncology Committee

### Year-end Report – October 2020

**1. Name of Submitter: Dr. Helena Lewis-Smith (Chair), Dr. Ursula Sansom-Daly (Deputy Chair)**

**2. List of active committee members:**

Dr. Helena Lewis-Smith (United Kingdom) **Chair**

Dr. Ursula Sansom-Daly (Australia) **Deputy Chair**

Dr. Yeva Asribabayan (Armenia) **ECPP Director**

Dr. Danielle Wing Lam Ng (Hong Kong)

Ms. Diana Correia (Portugal)

Mr. Ray Andrade Nascimento (Brazil)

Dr Mamsau Twalib Ngoma (Tanzania)

Dr Cristina Sade Botto (Chile)

Dr Zoë Moon (United Kingdom)

Dr Tamara Green (Jamaica)

Dr Anna Ugalde (Australia)

Sravanthi Maya (India)

With the support of:

Dr. Barry Bultz (Canada)

Prof. Phyllis Butow (Australia)



## **2. Committee changes**

Dr Sigrun Vehling and Dr Michelle Peate stepped down as Chair and Deputy Chair, respectively, at the end of September 2019. Dr Helena Lewis-Smith was nominated as the new Chair and Dr Ursula Sansom-Daly as the Deputy Chair.

There was also an update to the committee in January 2020, with seven members stepping down and nine new members joining. It is pleasing that we have a more diverse and international committee, with representatives from across the world.

## **3. List of committee/SIG meeting dates for the period October 2019 to September 2020**

A committee meeting was held online on 26 February 2020. However, the planned conference committee and SIG meeting was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **4. Goals and mandates of the IPOS Early Career Professionals in Psycho-Oncology (ECPP) Committee for the period October 2019 to September 2020**

The mandate of the IPOS Early Career Professionals in Psycho-Oncology (ECPP) Committee is to heighten awareness of, and advocate for, issues of particular importance to early career professionals in psycho-oncology, paying special attention to the varied challenges that international ECPPs may face.

## **5. Activities and accomplishments for the period October 2019 to September 2020**

a) To continue to develop an international network of ECPPs within the IPOS ECPP special interest group (SIG).

**Accomplished:** the SIG currently has 102 members.

b) To organize events that facilitate career development, as well as conceptual and clinical support and networking opportunities for ECPPs during the annual IPOS conference.



**Accomplished:** Whilst the IPOS 2020 conference in Japan was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee hosted the first part of a virtual workshop for early career researchers and clinicians on 25 August 2020: 'COVID-19 and Early Career Professionals: Facing the crisis and preparing for the aftermath'. This was an informal workshop where ECPPs shared the professional challenges they were facing in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, provided peer support to one another, and talked about particular issues for which they would appreciate support and guidance in the coming months during the pandemic. The event received a lot of positive feedback, and participants enjoyed the opportunity to connect with others in similar situations. The second part of the workshop is currently being planned. This will involve presentations from senior clinicians and researchers in the field offering guidance on how to navigate our work and careers in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts. This will be advertised in the near future (see point 6 below)

c) To increase visibility of the ECPP activities.

**Accomplished:** ECPP events are regularly promoted through the IPOS newsletter and twitter, as well as the conference website.

## 5. Issues arising this past year

The committee were excited about the year ahead and planning the ECPP events for the IPOS conference. However, the postponement of the conference due to the COVID-10 pandemic put a pause on ECPP events. However, running the COVID-19 specific workshop has highlighted the importance of fostering connections between ECCPs for the coming year.

## 6. Goals for the next 12 months

a) Adaptation of the ECPP events for online format at the virtual POS conference in 2021. We plan to include the mentoring matching, the oral poster session with expert feedback and a certificate for best presentation, a clinical case symposium where ECPPs can present and receive feedback from expert clinicians, and a pre-conference research grant development workshop, where ECPPS can present grant ideals and receive feedback from expert clinicians. (collaborating with the Research Committee). We will also hold the annual SIG meeting and organize an engaging virtual social event (e.g., a quiz).

b) Delivery of the second part of the COVID-19 workshop, so that ECPPs are provided with guidance on how to manage work challenges relating to the pandemic in the coming year.



c) Increase visibility of the ECPP activities: This could be achieved with increased representation of the ECPP committee in IPOS communications and through other avenues (other than through IPOS) and social media promotion (e.g. Twitter).

d) Membership: Greater promotion of ECPP membership opportunities (i.e. reduced membership fees for ECPPs to join IPOS, access to the pre-conference workshop) and increased SIG engagement.