

IPOS Survivorship Special Interest Group

Annual report 2020

IPOS has recently established a Survivorship Special Interest Group (SIG). The aims of the SIG are to:

- Provide a professional network for clinicians and researchers who have an interest in cancer survivorship
- Promote awareness of issues affecting cancer survivors, their family members, and carers
- Disseminate through the IPOS website information about a broad range of educational opportunities (including web-based resources or focused training), workshops or conferences of interest to members
- Establish research collaborations, in coordination with the IPOS Research Committee
- Disseminate research findings including implementation strategies particularly in the areas of prevention, early detection, and management of survivorship issues, as well as promotion of wellness
- Network with like-minded organisations with a similar focus to the IPOS survivorship SIG
- Provide advice to the IPOS Board regarding survivorship care

We had a call for volunteers in late June and were delighted that 42 people indicated their interest in joining the SIG.

We had our first Zoom meeting on August 25.

Members are from 19 countries, including 9 from the USA, 5 each from the UK and from Australia, and 2 from each of Mexico, Canada, Denmark, India, Nigeria and Russia. The majority of members are psychologists, with nurses being the second most common professional grouping. We comprise a mix of clinicians and researchers. Over 30% have over 15 years' experience in survivorship / psycho-oncology, and around 35% have between 7 and 15 years' experience.

Agreed initial work of the SIG will focus on:

- Collating information from SIG members regarding their current clinical practice, educational and research activity, relating to cancer survivorship (already complete)
- Establishing a section of the IPOS website that will contain: guidance regarding common issues experienced by survivors; professional education relevant to survivorship care; information about research gaps and priorities; profiles of current IPOS members active in survivorship care and research; resources about the post-treatment survivorship phase for patients and carers, available in multiple languages
- Undertaking an audit of survivorship-focussed research presented at IPOS meetings
- Developing and delivering educational opportunities for IPOS members
- Exploring improved models of care for cancer survivors
- Facilitating research collaborations in topics relating to cancer survivorship

- Considering the development of position statements and resource-stratified guidelines relating to cancer survivorship.

A subsequent survey asked people to nominate their interest in the above areas. We have a good number of volunteers to progress each of these items.

Following a call for interest in the role of Deputy Chair, we were pleased to appoint Anao Zhang, who is Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan and the Clinical Research Director at the Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology Program at Michigan Medicine, USA.

The current Chair of the SIG is Prof Michael Jefford, a consultant medical oncologist at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, where is also Director of the Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre.

The SIG's next meeting will be on October 26/27. We plan to meet again in Q1 2021, and again at the World Congress in Kyoto in May 2021.

Prof Michael Jefford
October 9 2020