



Research Committee

Annual Report 2020

Submitted by: Dr Joanne Shaw

The Research Committee's (RC) mission is to:

- a. Facilitate research activities by IPOS members, particularly those that have international significance, address cross cultural differences or address issues of importance to developing countries;
- b. Act as a clearing house for, or develop, resources to support Psycho-Oncology researchers;
- c. Provide advice to IPOS member organisations on research standards when necessary; and,
- d. Identify strategies to promote research training and development in psycho-oncology, in collaboration with the IPOS Education Committee.

Committee Members: Joanne Shaw (Chair), Nick Hulbert-Williams (Immediate Past Chair), Sylvie Lambert (Deputy Chair) Gill Hubbard, Melissa Henry, Maiko Fujimori, Saskia Duijts, Csaba Degi, Pandora Patterson, Sophie Lebel, Michelle Peate, Lisa Beatty, Lauren Matheson.

i. Committee Governance

The committee last met in person at IPOS World Congress, Banff 2019. At this meeting and in accordance with the RC Terms of Reference, Nick Hulbert-Williams stepped down as RC Chair and Jo Shaw (Deputy Chair) was appointed as Chair. Sylvie Lambert was appointed Deputy Chair. The following Committee members also stepped down: Phyllis Butow, Neil Aaronson, Tom Hack, Claire Wakefield, Wendy Lam, Qian Lu, Tania Estape and Angelos Kassianos. The Committee thanks our outgoing members for the contribution and welcomes new committee members.

The Committee recognizes the need to recruit new members from geographic areas currently under-represented and will put out a call out for new committee members in due course – this is planned to coincide with the IPOS World Congress.

ii. Update on working groups, projects and committee liaison 2019-2020

Training and Resources Working Group

The RC Committee conducted a member survey in 2018 to assess the research training needs of IPOS members. The results of this survey were published in September 2020. Lambert SD,



Coumoundouros C, Hulbert-Williams NJ, Shaw J, & Schaffler J. (2020). *Building the capacity for psycho-Oncology research: a survey of the research barriers and training needs within the International Psycho-Oncology Society*. *Journal of psychosocial oncology research and practice*, 2(3), e023. <https://doi.org/10.1097/OR9.0000000000000023>

The Committee has identified two areas to focus educational activities given current COVID-19 restrictions. *Top tips for preparing grant applications* (this could be hosted as a webinar with a panel of experts or as a concept development workshop for mid-career researchers) and *Building Collaborations* (hosted as a webinar format). These themes have international applicability and can be incorporated into the IPOS World Congress as (virtual) workshops.

Facilitating Research

The peer review process established as a pilot in 2018 was formally adopted by the Committee in 2019 and the Committee has reviewed and provided feedback on five proposals from IPOS members. This review process provides a formal review process for members who wish to seek support of IPOS in advertising and recruiting to research studies or as a review of grant submissions relevant to IPOS committees or international collaborations between IPOS members.

The IPOS Support Team forward all requests for support to the RC Chair, who communicates directly with the research team to facilitate review requests. A number of requests for IPOS to advertise to IPOS members were not actioned as there were no IPOS members listed on the research team.

It was agreed at the last AGM that annual emails would be sent to users of the scheme to ask for updates on outcomes of supported projects.

A proposal was made at the 2019 AGM that the RC draw together relevant research guidelines and publish these on the IPOS website. This work is ongoing.

Fear of Cancer Recurrence Delphi Study

In 2019 the RC established a collaboration with the FoRWARDs special interest group to conduct a Delphi process to establish international research priorities for fear of cancer recurrence. This research was completed in 2020 and a publication submitted on behalf of the group to an upcoming *Frontiers Psychology Psycho-oncology Special Issue*.

iii. Liaison with other committees:

i. Collaboration with Early Career Committee.

We believe that supporting ECPP should be one of the core activities of the Research Committee and communicated our commitment to support the EECF to the incoming Chair, particularly in relation to EECF activities at the IPOS World Congress. The RC confirmed willingness to continue to support the EECF in conducting concept development activities—pending EECF plans given the change to a virtual congress