



IPOS Fundraising/Marketing Committee (FMC)

This is a summary of IPOS Fundraising Committee activities from the last report

Fundraising Committee members: Drs. Melissa Henry, Maggie Watson, Kevin Stein, Carolyn Messner, Francine Parnes, and Elizabeth Harvey.

The following is a description of activities hosted or facilitated (completed and in progress) by IPOS mainly through our Fundraising Committee and the IPOS Academy Planning Committee, IPOS Faculty, and the Association of Psycho-Oncology in Africa (APOA):

- Survey on policies and practices in communication of a cancer diagnosis in African cancer care
- IPOS ECHO Pan-African Capacity Building in Psycho-Oncology
- Expansion of the IPOS ECHO Pan-African Capacity Building in Psycho-Oncology to francophone Africa
- Joining forces with Brazil and Portugal to build capacity for psycho-oncology in Portuguese speaking LMIC nations in Africa and South East Asia
- IPOS Middle-East Pediatric ECHO
- Developing a training curriculum for LMIC
- Working group on National Cancer Plans in Africa

Please see below for a description of each activities.

Survey on the topic of policies and practices in communication of a cancer diagnosis in African cancer care

- A cross-sectional study of cancer care providers in African oncology settings (n = 125) was conducted to assess clinicians' self-reported knowledge of current policies in African oncology settings, of their personal communication practices around sharing bad news with patients, and to identify barriers to the sharing of serious news in these settings. This survey, combined with a World Café, optimized the cultural relevance of our IPOS communication skills training.
- Co-PIs: Dr. David Lounsbury (NYC Albert Einstein College of Medicine, USA), Dr. Melissa Henry (McGill University, Montreal, Canada); Co-investigators: Dr. Scott Nichols (Enloe Medical Centre, Chico, California, USA), Dr. Chioma Asuzu (University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria), Dr. Philip Odiyo (Faraja Cancer Support Trust, Nairobi, Kenya), Dr. Ali Alias (McGill University, Montreal, Canada), Dr Sharon Nichols (Chico, California, USA), Dr. Patricia Parker (Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA).

IPOS ECHO Pan-African Capacity Building in Psycho-Oncology

- We designed the IPOS Capacity-Building in Psycho-Oncology ECHO to disseminate evidence-based practices in psycho-oncology in Africa to improve cancer prevention and cancer care – as mandated by the World Health Organization (WHO). This capacity-building program was developed by our IPOS Academy Scientific Committee in collaboration with the IPOS Education Committee, the IPOS Board, members of the World Health Organization, and stakeholder consultations/surveys. It is based on the Institute of Medicine guidelines, European Guide for Quality National Cancer Control Programs, and existing training programs in psycho-oncology, contextualized using resource stratification, and adapted to the African context. The program includes topic-based training of relevance to improve cancer prevention and early detection, treatment adherence, symptom management, survivorship, and supportive and palliative care. It is based on the premise that good quality cancer care requires an illness-based approach rather than a disease-focused one, whereby the patient, family, and community are at the center of care.
- We have implemented this program, allowing one year training to a group of approximately 50 oncology professionals from across several countries in Africa.
- IPOS Board approved the final program.
- We received funding for this ECHO from the Friends of Psycho-Oncology in Africa, dedicated towards our Jimmie Holland Project Coordinator, Emeka Odiaka.
- Steering Committee members: Dr. Melissa Henry (Chair; Canada), Dr. Chioma Asuzu (co-Chair; Nigeria), Mr. Phillip Odiyo (co-Chair; Kenya), David Lounsbury (USA), Scott Nichols (USA), Sharon Nichols (USA), Elizabeth Oluwatoyin Akin-Odanye (Nigeria), Joyce Terwase (Nigeria). Contributors: Jane Turner (Australia), Maria Die Trill (Spain), Maggie Watson (United Kingdom), Gladys Nduku (Kenya), Tania Estape (Spain).

Our IPOS Academies contribute to advancing our IPOS mission and WHO-mandated portfolio of building capacity for cancer care and research in Low- Middle-Income Countries (LMIC). These endeavours require close work with the IPOS Board and Executive Director, several IPOS Committee and Sig Chairs (WHO Committee, Research Committee, Education Committee, LMIC Sig), lead large teams of researchers and clinicians over several months, find funding sources, coordinate and lead meetings with the World Health Organization (in Geneva and in targeted LMIC) and with Ministries of Health, develop relationships with our partner organizations (e.g., Association of Psycho-Oncology in Africa, African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC), African Palliative Care Association, World Hospice Palliative Care Alliance), and offer continued clinical and research supervision and mentorship to professionals from various disciplines such as palliative care, surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, internal medicine, psychiatry, nursing, epidemiology, social work, and psychology.

Expansion of the IPOS ECHO Pan-African Capacity Building in Psycho-Oncology to Portuguese-speaking LMIC nations of the world

We are exploring joining forces with Brazil and Portugal to build capacity for psycho-oncology in Portuguese speaking LMIC nations in Africa and South East Asia

IPOS ECHO Middle-East Pediatric ECHO

We are working towards creating a Middle-East Pediatric ECHO, with the help of Drs. Fiona Shultz (Canada) and Manale Alewah (Egypt).

Developing a training curriculum for LMIC

We have started an initiative to create a training curriculum for LMIC, currently led with the LMIC Sig and the Education Committee. We have developed the curriculum, have identified a context of use (delivery format, targeted professionals), and are now in the process of involving other committees (WHO Committee, Federation Committee, Health Promotion and Prevention Committee) and the Board.

Working group on National Cancer Plans in Africa

I am leading a program of research designed to identify how psycho-oncology and palliative care is represented in National Cancer Control Plans (NCCP) and Non-Communicable Disease Plans (NCDP) in all countries of Africa. We have completed the qualitative analyses, which reveal several lacunae in the plans and a need to further coordinate efforts towards implementing a psycho-oncology blueprint throughout NCCP and NCDP in Africa. We will be conducting a Delphi study to identify the essential elements of this blueprint and how to implement it across the African continent, in collaboration with our partners (e.g., WHO, Association of Psycho-Oncology in Africa, African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC), African Palliative Care Association, World Hospice Palliative Care Alliance).

I wish to thank the committed members of our Fundraising Committee as well as members of our IPOS Academies Planning Committee and IPOS Academies Faculty for their continued contribution towards building capacity for cancer care in LMIC. Please consider donating towards our initiatives and encouraging others to do so:

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2023 Annual Report

Report submitted by Dr. Melissa Henry

February 24, 2023
