

POEM Group Newsletter



Quarterly Newsletter of the Pediatric Oncology East and Mediterranean (POEM) Group

ISSUE 01 August 2016

POEM GROUP, FIRST SCIENTIFIC MEETING
"POEM 2017, OMAN,
CHILDHOOD CANCER REACH OUT TO HEAL"

JANUARY 27-28, 2017
MUSCAT, OMAN

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



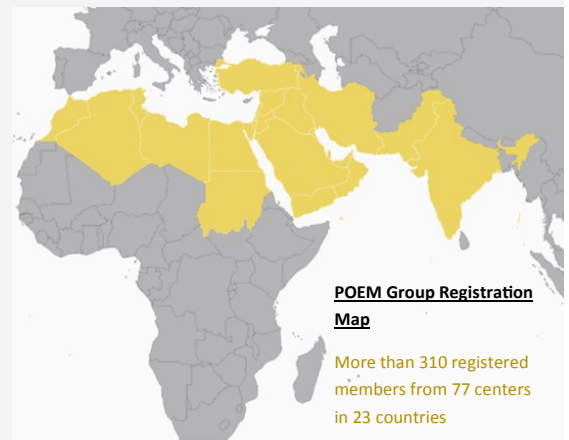
PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY EAST & MEDITERRANEAN GROUP

WWW.POEMGROUP.ORG

Welcome Note from Chairperson

Welcome to the Pediatric Oncology East & Mediterranean group (POEM) newsletter, an organization dedicated to the care of children with malignancy. Its merits based on commitment and passion from diverse lands around the world joining together to prevent cancer and optimize delivery of treatment to children in the Eastern and Mediterranean region. With now more than 300 members from 77 centers in 23 countries including pediatric oncologist hematologist, scientists, nursing and allied health professionals, POEM has become one of the leading pediatric cancer society's worldwide. Established in May 2013, POEM took off with the intention of addressing the specific needs of children with cancer in the region by creating the pediatric cancer registry, forming various working groups, conducting several activities including interactive forums to discuss problematic and interesting patients and share the expertise in association with St Jude Children's Research Hospital (SJCRH). Training and exchange programs have been launched for MD and non- MDs in the field of pediatric oncology. Several centers have been identified as point training centers including but not limited to Egypt, India, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Turkey. Through the training grants several MDs were able to join the 3-year fellowship training pediatric oncology at the American University of Beirut Medical center (AUBMC) and King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC). We are currently in our final stages of preparations of our first scientific meeting to be held in Muscat, Oman January 26, 2017 in parallel with the first Nursing Training Workshop which we invite you to join, share and exchange knowledge in the fight against childhood cancer to all spheres of the world.

Amani Kofide, M.D. - Chair, Board of Directors



What is POEM?

The Pediatric Oncology East and Mediterranean Group (POEM) is a cooperative platform for physicians, scientist and healthcare professionals from institutions in the East and Mediterranean area with the goal of sharing experience, initiation of cooperative trials and establishing common strategies to achieve optimization of the care of pediatric oncology patients. Its mission is to continuously improve Pediatric Oncology care, research, training and advocacy in the East and Mediterranean Region by means of integrated teamwork. POEM now includes more than 310 members including pediatric oncologists, nurses, and allied health specialists, from 77 centers in 23 countries.

Who is Eligible for POEM Membership?

As stated by its by-laws, the mission of POEM is to continuously improve Pediatric Oncology care, research, training and advocacy in the East and Mediterranean Region by means of integrated teamwork. Centers eligible for full membership should have the capacity to treat more than 20 patients per year for 3 consecutive years, and should have the commitment to actively participate and get involved in POEM activities. Centers may be considered associate if they cannot provide such commitment to POEM activities.

POEM Ongoing Activities and Upcoming Events:

Case Discussion Forum:

Ongoing activities of POEM group include a Case Discussion Forum, held on a monthly basis through an online platform provided by St Jude Children's Research Hospital (SJCRH), Cure4Kids (www.cure4kids.org). POEM members present cases from their centers and members from all POEM centers attend to provide their opinion in management. Experts from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital – Memphis USA attend this forum to give their input and help where needed. Members interested in presenting cases should first register as members at our website www.poemgroup.com.

POEM Working Groups:

There are 12 active working groups focusing on projects related to specific areas in Pediatric Oncology, supporting clinical services, research, and awareness.

Each working group consists of up to 10 POEM members, and is led by a chairperson, with a tenure period of 2 years that may be renewed once. Appointment to working group membership is done after a call for participation, and is open to all POEM registered members.

FEATURED PROJECTS BY WORKING GROUPS INCLUDE:

1. Infection Control Workshop:

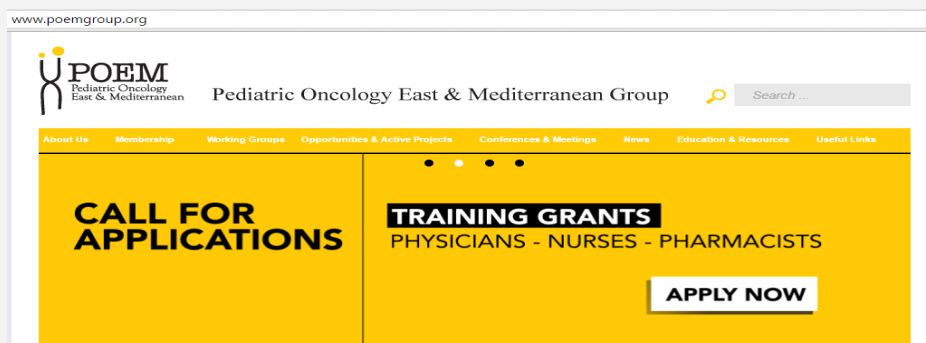
The Infection Control and Supportive Care group members were involved in the preparation of the Infection Control Workshop held in Pune- India in November 2015, where the needs of POEM centers in different countries were identified and planning for specific projects was initiated and will be led by the new elected committee.



Infection Control Workshop—Pune India 2015

2. Training Grants

In its first two years, the Training Working group was able to launch a training program for MDs and non-MDs in the field of Pediatric Oncology. Six POEM member centers (Egypt, India, Jordan, KSA, Lebanon and Turkey) were identified as training sites, and applicants were involved to apply on-line through the POEM Group website (www.poemgroup.org). In 2016-2017, 2 pediatricians from Syria and Palestine received a 3-year fellowship training in Pediatric Oncology at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) and King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC) respectively, and 2 pediatricians from Yemen were awarded a grant to complete short term training in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. For more information on Training Sites, Application Process and available Training Grants, you can visit our website: www.poemgroup.org



3. Minimal Residual Disease Testing and Acute Leukemia Protocol Establishment:

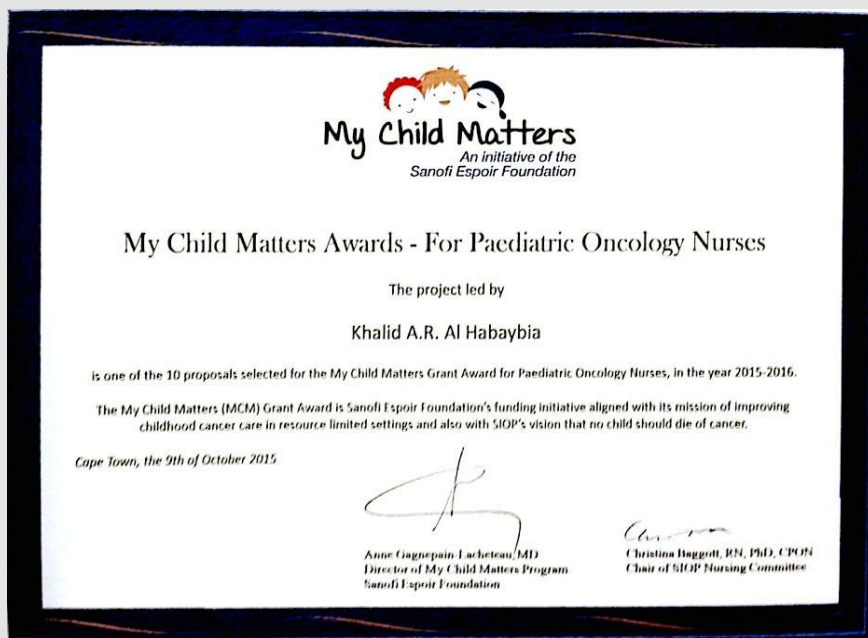
The Hematological Malignancies group members collected data from different member centers in order to evaluate the different priorities, challenges, needs and strengths in hematologic malignancies. The group is currently formulating a treatment protocol for low/ special risk B- precursor ALL. The primary goal of this protocol is to reduce toxicity and morbidity in patients with ALL, reducing infections and toxic deaths occurring early in therapy in a group of very good risk patients who showed good early response to therapy (assessed by bone marrow morphology with/without MRD). The group also successfully organized a flow cytometry- MRD workshop in Cairo-Egypt in April 2016 which was attended by Hemato-Pathologists from POEM centers. Presenters from SJCRH discussed the recent technologies in MRD and member centers presented their current status in MRD approach and problematic cases. The group met several times after the workshop to put a future plan for standardizing the MRD procedure in all POEM centers to be applied clinically.

MRD Workshop—Cairo Egypt 2016



4. Nursing Award:

The Nursing Care group's goal is to promote the role of specialized nursing care for children with cancer. The group is planning for a dedicated page for nurses on POEM website with pediatric oncology related topics. The Nursing Working Group won "My Child Matters Award 2015-2016" by the Sanofi Espoir Foundation for the best initiative in improving childhood cancer care. The award was announced in SIOF Annual Meeting in Cape Town. Currently, the group is finalizing the preparations for the first **Nurses Training Workshop** (in parallel with the First Scientific Meeting) which will be held in **Muscat – Oman on January 26, 2017**.



5. Pediatric Cancer Registry:

The Registries and Data Management group was established with the aim of facilitating data management among the POEM centers, and establishing web based registry for POEM group. After assessing the needs of the different POEM countries the group is in the stage of choosing the suitable database in collaboration with SJCRH and collecting data on the infrastructure of each member center in terms of technical and human resources to be able to accommodate for a Data Registry within the next year.

6. Palliative Care Manual:

The Palliative Care Working Group members has finalized data collection in the first tenure and are currently working on publishing the collected data and writing a Pediatric Palliative Care Manual.

7. Other Working Group Activities:

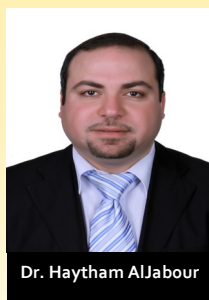
The remaining working groups are currently working on finalizing data analysis or collecting further data to come up with relevant projects as needed. These groups are: Neuro-Oncology, Solid Tumors, Late Effects and Quality of Life, Public Awareness and Prevention, Clinical Pharmaceutical Services and Patient Access to Care. More information on Working Groups chairs, members, and projects can be found on our website www.poemgroup.org

Congratulations for Fellowship Grants!

Drs. Rasha Al Youssef and Haytham Al Jabour were offered Fellowship Grants in Pediatric Hematology Oncology in POEM Training Sites.



Dr. Rasha Al Youssef



Dr. Haytham Al Jabour

I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative of your support. I am currently starting my early steps with great and generous team in KHCC, training and educational fellowship program with hopes of becoming an excellent Pediatric Hemato-Oncologist. The financial assistance you provided me, will be of great help to me and my family, in paying my educational and life expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more and more of my time for learning and taking care of my patients.

Haytham Al Jabour, M.D.
Pediatric Hem/Onc Fellow, KHCC—Amman, Jordan



POEM Group First Business Meeting held in Muscat—Oman on November 2013

Business and Scientific Meetings



POEM Group First Scientific Meeting

Muscat—Oman . January 27-28, 2017

Overview:

Join us for evidence-based updates on scientific advances in the treatment of Pediatric Cancer, featuring international and regional speakers. Learn about the ongoing activities of the POEM Group, and plans for future projects.

Target Audience:

This activity is targeted towards all healthcare providers involved in pediatric oncology, including Pediatric Oncologists, Pediatricians, Practitioners, Residents, Medical Students and Pediatric Oncology Nurses.

Registration:

Details will follow

For more information please check the website www.poemgroup.com or contact the POEM Group Central Office at: info@poemgroup.org or hk34@aub.edu.lb

Business Meeting

A Business Meeting takes place every one or two years where a report of the ongoing projects, achievements, working group progress will be presented as well as strategic plans negotiated.

Next Business Meeting will be held in Muscat—Oman on January 27-28, 2017 during which projects of POEM activities and upcoming plans will be discussed. In addition, results of POEM Board of Directors elections will be announced.

Elections for POEM Board Membership will take place prior to the next business meeting . Call for nominations for POEM Board of Directors will be sent to POEM members in July-August 2016. To be involved in the elections, make sure to **register to become a POEM member** on our website www.poemgroup.org.

Membership in POEM will confer eligibility to nominate yourself and/or others for key positions within POEM, and to be involved in working groups, ongoing projects, workshops and conferences, and participation in case discussion forums. Register now by following this link: www.poemgroup.org

Contact Us

POEM Group Central Office

Ms. Haifaa Khalifeh
Administrative Director
American University of Beirut
P.O. Box 11-0236 / Children's
Cancer Center of Lebanon
Riad El-Solh / Beirut 1107 2020
Lebanon

Website: www.poemgroup.org

Tel: 00961-1-374374 ext: 8104-8105

Fax: 00961-1-366384

E-mail: hk34@aub.edu.lb/
info@poemgroup.org