



# Second Scientific Meeting

*Toward global equity in childhood cancer care*

In joint providership with Cleveland Clinic and in collaboration with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, **POEM group** held its **Second Scientific Meeting** "*Toward global equity in childhood cancer care*" in Yerevan, Armenia on **February 7-10, 2019**. This meeting was held in partnership with **Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU)** and the opening ceremony was under the patronage of H.E. Mrs. Anna Hakobyan, the First Lady of Armenia and the President of the City of Smile Foundation

The rich scientific program covered topics in Hematologic Malignancies, Solid Tumors and Neuro-oncology in addition to Palliative care/nursing and nutrition workshops targeting key areas of palliative and nursing care for childhood cancer catering for the prime needs of pediatric oncology in the region. Furthermore, retinoblastoma experts from the region met and had a discussion on different issues related to the retinoblastoma initiative. With the members' support, contribution and participation, this meeting was a successful and memorable event. This event included:

### ***Scientific & Educational Sessions:***

- POEM Palliative care workshop *February 7-8, 2019*
- POEM Nutrition workshop *February 8, 2019*
- POEM Second Scientific meeting *February 9-10, 2019*

### ***Closed Business Sessions:***

- POEM Board of Directors Seventh business meeting *February 8, 2019*
- POEM Retinoblastoma clinical trial planning meeting *February 9, 2019*
- ALSAC - NGO (POEM region) meeting *February 9-10, 2019*

## **Opening ceremony**

The opening ceremony was held on Friday February 8, under the patronage of H.E. Mrs. Anna Hakobyan, the First Lady of Armenia and the President of the City of Smile Foundation. A welcome speech was given by her followed by speeches by Prof. Armen Muradyan, Rector of Yerevan State Medical University, Prof. Armen Tananyan, Director of the National Oncology Center and Dr. Gevorg Tamamyan, conference chair. POEM Group history, mission and activities in addition to highlights on St. Jude Global Alliance were presented respectively by Dr. Abdul Hakim Al-Rawas, Chair of the POEM Group and Dr. Sima Jeha, Director of East and Mediterranean Region in St. Jude Global. Dr. Sima's talk was on behalf of Prof. Carlos Rodriguez-Galindo, Executive Vice President of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Director of St. Jude Global. A final talk on Conquering Pediatric Cancer in Armenia was given by Dr. Samvel Danielyan, Director of the Hematology Center and Honorary President of the Armenian Association of Hematology and Oncology. The ceremony was ended by awards' distribution and classical music.

## Second Scientific meeting

The meeting took place on February 9-10, 2019 at the Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU), Armenia with the participation of around 230 local, regional and international attendees coming from 30 different countries. These countries included Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Canada, Egypt, Georgia, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, KSA, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Russia, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE, UK, Ukraine, USA and Uzbekistan. Health professionals from different fields attended the meeting including:

- Pediatric Hematology-Oncology
- General Pediatrics
- Pediatric Surgery
- Radiation Oncology
- Pediatric Ophthalmology
- Pediatric Critical Care
- Scientists including biologists and epidemiologists
- Pathology
- Anesthesiology
- Radiology
- General Practitioner
- Pharmacy
- Psychology
- Nutrition

The scientific meeting covered a variety of topics including:

- Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: Advances impacting outcome
- Contemporary management of pediatric brain tumors
- Neuropathology – new classifications and impact in pediatric brain tumors
- Radiation therapy for pediatric brain tumors – advances and pitfalls
- Establishment of a neuro-oncology service
- Advances in solid tumors
- Surgical management of abdominal solid tumors
- Role of radiotherapy in management of abdominal solid tumors
- Management of pediatric solid tumors in a tumor board setting
- Lymphoma: advances and updates

In addition to the POEM region-related topics and updates that included:

- Current POEM strategies in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
- Neuro-oncology status in POEM centers
- Retinoblastoma in POEM countries – status and opportunities
- POEM working groups updates
- Subspecialties training grants
- Data Management Plans

Speakers included experts from the POEM region, USA, Canada, and Netherlands.

Furthermore, 6 winning abstracts were accepted for oral presentations, in addition to 50 poster presentations.



## Meet the expert session

Taking place within the scientific program, three sessions entitled “Meet the experts” were given by knowledgeable and skillful professionals in the oncology field. Experts shared their stories of success and answered questions from the participants, in addition to brief talks on brain tumors and End of life care and Home-Based Palliative Care development that were discussed.





## Palliative care workshop

The two-day Palliative Care workshop was expertly led by the POEM's Palliative Care Working Group and international leaders in Palliative Care, and was taught using the world renowned EPEC-Pediatric curriculum. The workshop covered the following topics:

- Pediatric Palliative Care: Introduction & Needs assessment
- What is Pediatric Palliative Care and Why Does it Matter?
- General Pain Management and Opioid Pain Management
- Team Collaboration and Effectiveness Psychosocial Considerations
- Preparation for Imminent Death and Palliative Sedation

In addition to group discussions on:

- Neurological and Respiratory Symptoms in Advanced Cancer
- Care of the imminently dying child and Communication with Patient and Family
- Grief and Bereavement
- Self-care for Clinical Professionals



## Nutrition workshop

A one-day Nutrition Workshop was competently conducted by a panel of experts in the nutrition field. General topics discussed included:

- Overview of the Science: Nutritional Status, Toxicity, Outcome
- Nutritional Assessment
- Nutritional Interventions-Algorithms, Enteral & Parenteral Nutrition in Pediatric Oncology
- Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition
- Pharmacokinetics of chemotherapy in the malnourished child

In addition to region-related topics including:

- Aflatoxins: Problem in the Middle Eastern Countries
- Problems of Nutrition in Palestine
- Nutritional Assessment & Intervention in Pakistan

The workshop ended by case presentations in addition to short presentations of selected regional and international initiatives for tackling malnutrition in childhood cancer – opportunities for collaborations.





## Business meeting

The 7<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting was held on February 8, 2019 at the Komitas museum with the participation of Board of directors, Working groups chairs, POEM central officers and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Global Medicine program team. During the meeting, presenters gave updates on achievements, scientific activities, future and strategic plans including election and voting timeline plans, as well as agreements, by-laws and registry, in addition to the role of POEM in St. Jude Global alliance. Chairs of active working groups also presented the status, achievements, challenges and plans/project proposals of their working groups.



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## Contact us

For any questions or further information, please contact us at: [info@poemgroup.org](mailto:info@poemgroup.org)

Or visit our website: [www.poemgroup.org](http://www.poemgroup.org)