

3rd SIOP-Asia Conference



Organised by: Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Society of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Paediatric Association, Association of Paediatric Surgeons of Bangladesh, ASHIC Foundation for Childhood Cancer, Mosabbir Cancer Care Center

"Childhood Cancer is Curable." Let's Build on Our Past

DHAKA SHERATON HOTEL, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

26 - 28 FEBRUARY, 2004



PRESIDENT
People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka



26 February 2004

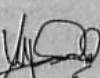
Message

I am pleased to know that the 3rd SIOP-Asia Conference is going to be held in Dhaka and eminent Paediatric Oncologists and Scientists from home and abroad are going to participate in the Conference.

It is heartening to find that Physicians, Surgeons and Scientists all over the world have made breakthrough discoveries and innovations in fighting cancers. Collective effort and promotion of mutual understanding is essential for a multifactorial global issue like childhood cancer. Nothing would make a greater impact on cancer today than being able to implement the past knowledge. I hope the deliberations of the conference and exchange of scientific ideas will enrich the participants with professional knowledge.

I congratulate the organizers for timely shouldering this genuine task. I also felicitate the delegates from home and abroad and wish the conference a great success.

Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad.



Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed



MINISTER
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

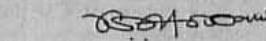
Message

I am happy to know that the '3rd SIOP-Asia Conference' on Childhood Cancer is going to be held in Dhaka from 26 to 28th February 2004. The child mortality is a serious public health problem in our country. Although there have been satisfactory reduction in child mortality in Bangladesh in the past decade, much yet is to be accomplished. The present government has given priority to the development of child health with decreasing mortality rates and correspondingly increasing the longevity.

Arsenic is also emerging as a healthcare problem in Bangladesh. The government is well aware of its forthcoming Arsenicosis problems and is working speedily to combat the problem.

I hope that the conference will be able to create a unique opportunity to exchange ideas, views, knowledge, experiences and latest innovations in the field of management of childhood cancer among the participants, which will contribute a lot in developing health care services in our country as well as for mankind.

I wish the conference a great success.



Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain

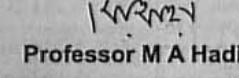


PRESIDENT
Bangladesh Medical Association

Message

I am indeed very delighted to know that the 3rd SIOP Asia Conference is going to be held in Dhaka. In the face of the existing and newer healthcare challenges the role of multinational and multiprofessional interaction and collaboration for sharing knowledge, ideas and technology can not be overemphasized. Cancer along with other second and third generation diseases are fast becoming public health problems in the developing countries. Physicians, surgeons and scientists need to continue research in these fields to find out realistic solutions to them and also to sensitize the professionals, people and the policy makers. From this view point the initiative to hold this conference is certainly relevant, timely and therefore laudable. It also makes me happy that this conference is going to be attended by a large number of participants from home and abroad including some of the global leaders.

Bangladesh Medical Association as a professional body makes use of the best resources and supports all initiatives towards strengthening the healthcare system. I take this opportunity to felicitate the organizations and the participants and wish the initiative its best success.



Professor M A Hadi



President of SIOP

Message

On behalf of the Board of SIOP I would like to welcome you to this 3rd SIOP-Asia Conference in Dhaka. The mission of SIOP is to bring hope to children with cancer wherever in the world they may be. There is much that we can now do and it is the right of every child to have access to appropriate treatment. Professor Mannan has done a wonderful job in putting together an excellent programme. We know that this conference will be a success. Together we can make a real difference for children.

Alan Craft

Professor M A Mannan
Organizing Chairman and Pro-Vice Chancellor, BSMU, Dhaka

Greetings from the Organizers

We extend a hearty welcome to the delegates to this conference. It is a great pleasure to be able to host this prestigious 3rd SIOP-Asia Conference in Dhaka. We feel proud that more than three hundred and fifty delegates from more than twenty countries, including some of the global leaders in the field, have responded generously to our humble hospitality and come to attend the conference. With demographic changes and changes in the life-style, cancer is rapidly becoming a public healthcare problem in the developing countries. Fortunately, rigorous successful research over the past few decades, now enable us to prevent a third of these cancers, cure a third if they can be detected early and offer good quality of life including pain control for the rest incurable. The most favourable feature of the childhood cancer is that they comprise of only 1% of the total cancer burden and 70-80% of them are curable. All that is needed now is to develop appropriate expertise and infrastructure, develop awareness among public, professionals, and policy-makers and thereby foster a medico-social movement to this end. We believe that the conference shall play a strong role of advocacy towards this goal. We congratulate the delegates and at the same time thank our patrons for making the conference a great success.

Dr. Mohammad Saiful Islam
Organizing Secretary and Associate Professor, BSMU, Dhaka

SIOP: The International Society of Paediatric Oncology

The International Society of Paediatric Oncology was founded in Switzerland in 1969. The initial proclamation was like this under the name of International Society of Paediatric Oncology, there exists an association governed by the present statutes and by the provisions of article 60 ff of the Swiss Civil Code. The initial document mentioned the following aims: To improve knowledge of the childhood malignant and premalignant diseases, their nature and their management; To improve the welfare of children with these illness and their families; To improve the bonds of friendship between members and to foster such bonds with people working in the field of Paediatric Oncology; and To further scientific exchanges among them. Within few years its activities drew international acclamation and SIOP became an international organization in true sense. It is one of the biggest and most organized platform in the world and has a membership of more than 1200 from 120 countries. Bangladesh represented in this organization as a fourth Asian nation, preceded by Japan, Iran and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The organization publishes the most widely circulated journal in this field "Medical and Paediatric Oncology" and develops its own protocol for treatment of Childhood Cancer. Every year the organization holds its annual conference where Paediatric Oncologists from all over the world take part in the scientific discussion, particularly to develop new approaches to treatment and discuss the current problems. It also organizes parent's group meeting in those conferences. Most of the conferences are held in Europe and America, Japan, in Asia and Egypt, in Africa are among the countries outside Europe and North America to hold this conference.

Considering the difficulty for most of the Asians to travel to Europe or America every year it was decided in 1998 to hold a regional conference in Asia every two years and SIOP-Asia was formed with Prof. Yoshiaki Tsuchida from Japan as its first President. Ministry of Health of the Government of Singapore, World Health Organization and Academy of Medicine, Singapore came forward to collaborate and hold the first SIOP-Asia conference in Singapore in the year 2000. The second conference was held in New Delhi, India in 2002. The venue is selected in the "General Body" meeting where contending countries have to win for their cause and sometimes secret voting takes place. Bangladesh feels proud to become the third Asian nation to hold this prestigious scientific conference. Peoples Republic of China is to host the fourth conference to be held in 2008.

SIOP-Asia is dedicated to the cause of the children and is trying hard to undertake a common strategy to fight Childhood Cancer in Asia.

Childhood Cancer- The Global & Bangladesh Scenario

Childhood Cancer is a comparatively rare disease. Yet in developed countries it is the second leading cause of death after the age of 6 months preceded only by accidents. In developing countries, too, along with the improvement of socioeconomic condition and control of infectious disease and malnutrition, cancer is becoming a matter of growing concern among the common people as well as the healthcare community. Statistically, one in every 600 live births, is at the risk of developing cancer before the age of 15 years. However there is wide variation in the incidence among different countries and ethnic groups. According to the data recently published by The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) based population study from 65 countries, the highest incidence of cancer was found in Israel (30.6 per 100,000) and lowest in India (6.8 per 100,000) in children less than 15 years of age. However, authenticity of statistical figures in developing countries, in such a disease, where high technology is required, is always questionable. In United States and Japan the incidence was slightly more than 10 per 100,000. One of the difficulty in identifying magnitude of Childhood Cancer in Bangladesh is that we do not have a population registry covering the whole country. Yet if we refer to other countries of similar demographic constitution, it can be presumed that 5000 to 6000 children are likely to develop cancer in this country every year.

Although the disease was taken as priority by developed nations long ago, it was never considered as a major medical threat by any healthcare planners in the past in this country and it was rightly then. They had been fighting to combat the common communicable disease to reduce the overall infant mortality rate (IMR) over the years. With this effort IMR has come down to 57 per 1000 live births which was more than 100 a decade ago. However, the problem of Childhood Cancer was not allowed to go unnoticed. In 1993 a unit of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology was opened at Department of Paediatrics of Institute of Postgraduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR). Over the years the department improved itself. Presently it is equipped with most modern diagnostic facilities and in the last year 212 new patients were admitted in that center. The average 5 year disease-free survival of acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia, the commonest childhood blood cancer, is now 59% at the center, a result comparable to any country of this region. However, a significant number of people cannot afford the treatment and they can not be included in these calculations. The average drop out at present is 44%. The main reason for this drop out is financial constraints. The medicine is expensive, travel and lodging costs are also colossal. A child with Leukaemia on an average needs three years for treatment and another 3 to 5 years of follow up. Since the only specialized center is available at Dhaka, it is presumable how much parents have to spend for their journey alone. The average cost of treatment for a 15 kg child is about US\$ 3000 for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia, US\$ 700 for Nephroblastoma and US\$ 500 for Hodgkin's disease. This includes cost of medicine, travel, lodging and cost of investigations while not admitted in hospital. Most of the investigations are free for admitted patients. At least one center should be available in each medical college so that children with this serious disease does not have to move like shuttle cork between Dhaka and different corners of the country. It will cost a small amount of money to the national exchequer, but will save many times more indirectly. If treatment is available at doorstep, only few people will venture to cross the border to have it. We, now, have enough trained manpower to serve all medical colleges. One of the serious constraints remain that bone marrow transplantation is not available in this country. Technologically, we are not far behind in this field but facilities need to be adequate.

No programme can be successful, without people's participation. Efforts should be taken to increase the awareness about the disease among the public, professionals and policy-makers by holding seminars, symposium, newspaper reports, holding rallies and others. Capable cross-sections of the society should be motivated to be more generous to donate in this field and come forward to help these children. It is heartening to mention that some of them are already working in this field. Let good sense prevail.



PRIME MINISTER
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh



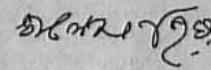
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Message

Cancer, particularly those of the childhood, is an emerging healthcare issue and needs immediate serious attention of all concerned. Life-styles and environment in many developing countries are fast changing and many of these changes appears to be responsible for the spread of cancer. All we need now is to create awareness amongst the people about this emerging healthcare calamity and a strong social commitment and a coordinated effort to formulate a practical strategy to fight this preventable and potentially curable healthcare problem.

Against this backdrop, I thank the organizers for holding the 3rd SIOP-Asia Conference in Dhaka. I think, the theme of the conference 'Childhood Cancer is Curable. Let's Build on Our Past' has also rightly been chosen.

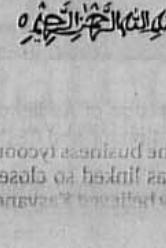
I wish the Conference success.
Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad



Khaleda Zia



STATE MINISTER
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka



I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere congratulation to the organizers of "3rd SIOP-Asia Conference" on Childhood Cancer to be held from 26-28th February 2004. Due to timely and effective healthcare program of the government, the overall health situation of this country is gradually improving and the mortality from the common infections and diarrhoeal diseases have significantly come under control over the past years. In the prevailing perspective, cancers along with some other second-generation diseases are expected to rise. However, many cancers, in particular those of the childhood, are curable. It is therefore important that those suffering from cancers are appropriately cared. This potentially curable aspect of our health problems still remains to be adequately addressed. The government needs a great deal support from the society to meet the healthcare needs. The conference holds great deal promises to this end. This international conference is really a great opportunity for exchanging scientific views and opinions on childhood cancer to find out an appropriate strategy for its control and management.

I welcome the delegates and wish this program a great success.

Mizanur Rahman Sinha

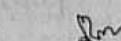


SECRETARY GENERAL
Bangladesh Medical Association

Message

It is a great pleasure to know that the 3rd SIOP-Asia Conference is going to be held at Dhaka. With continuing changes in the life-style and the environment, cancer threatens to become a major healthcare problem in the developing countries. In combating the threat, national health care programs in Bangladesh are taking appropriate measures. But in the way of gathering resources and social mobilization we are yet to make major achievements. It is heartening to find that the Bangladesh Paediatric Association, Bangladesh Association of Paediatric Hemato-Oncology, Association of Pediatric Surgeons of Bangladesh, ASHIC Foundation and Mosabbir Cancer Care Center have assumed the responsibility to this end by hosting the prestigious conference at Dhaka. It is apparent from the program that the conference will make landmark contribution both towards developing resources and a social backup. The conference theme "Childhood Cancer is Curable, Let's Build on Our Past" holds a strong commitment to this purpose.

On behalf of Bangladesh Medical Association I take this opportunity to felicitate the organizers and participants and wish a very successful outcome of the conference.



Prof. AZM Zahid Hossain



Message

On behalf of SIOP-Asia I would like to welcome the delegates to the 3rd SIOP-Asia conference to be held in Bangladesh. One of the main aims of the SIOP is to try and bring the benefits of treatment to all children who develop cancer, wherever they may be in the world. We are delighted with your own personal efforts to the purpose of SIOP and we have reasons to believe that the seminar will be one step forward to our goal. I take this privilege to congratulate you and your team who have taken all the pain to organize the event for us.

We wish the seminar every success.

Dr. Bharat R Agarwal