



**IPA** International  
Pediatric  
Association

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# International Pediatric Association Newsletter

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International Pediatric Association (IPA)



## Message from the President



Dear Esteemed Members and Supporters of the International Pediatric Association (IPA),

It is a privilege to speak to you as President of the IPA. We are happy to provide you with an update on the significant developments that have occurred within the International Pediatric Association (IPA) in the last couple of months. As we have entered into the year 2024, I would like to give a brief in a nutshell on those achievements and what shall be achieved soon.

Firstly, starting with the work of IPA Program Areas, the program area members have already established an online webinar series on topics such as “Survivorship on Childhood Cancer”, “Implementing Kangaroo Mother Care” and COVID-19 in 2024”. The IPA program areas stand as proud achievements, engaging in a myriad of activities. Studies are underway, and statements are being released, showcasing our dedication to advancing pediatric healthcare on multiple fronts. Furthermore, our program areas are actively involved in developing online courses that cater to the academic and professional needs of pediatricians worldwide. In a novel offering, IPA is planning to collaborate with Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (VYASA) for an online course in Yoga for Pediatricians.

IPA successfully conducted 3 workshops for the IPA GSK Project on Vaccines to Vaccination project in Nairobi, Kathmandu, and Abidjan. We plan to do similar workshops in Central Asia and Europe.

IPA has undertaken projects in collaboration with many international foundations such as the IPA BMGF Project in Nigeria and Indonesia. The IPA Sanofi Project will run a survey through Pediatric Associations in Europe in relation to RSV disease. The IPA SIOP Project to understand disparities in hematology/oncology education among pediatricians globally, is also underway.

Our advancements in technology-driven projects are driving IPA's future. Our initiative to develop a pediatric learning platform is gaining significant traction.

As we step into the New Year, let us carry the momentum of our successes forward. I am confident that, together, we will continue to make significant strides in pediatric healthcare, leaving an enduring impact on the well-being of children across the globe.

We appreciate your constant support to the organization and desire to provide you with more developments and accomplishments in the months that lie ahead.

**Dr. Naveen Thacker**  
IPA President



## From the Executive Director's Desk



The dawn of a new year brings about opportunities to reflect on past progress as we look towards the future. 2024 is indeed an important year for the International Pediatric Association.

With various pressing child health issues still prevailing globally, efforts must be made to address existing disparities and challenges in order to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030. Country and region-specific approaches are needed to tailor programs and solutions to local cultures, challenges and resources. While the world has seen tremendous progress globally with countries increasing access and availability to care and expansion of essential public health measures like newborn screening, there are still important challenges that need to be tackled.

A recent report released by UNICEF shows that 2 in 3 child-related SDG targets either require acceleration or are not being monitored. With the current rate of progress, it is predicted that only one in four children will live in countries where 70% of child-related SDGs will have been met. More than 450 million children, equivalent to one in six children, currently live in conflict zones with more than 30 million children displaced and exposed to violence, abuse and exploitation. A staggering one billion children live in countries extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, exposed to child poverty and changes in disease patterns that increase the risk of contracting vector-borne diseases for more than 600 million children. These are just a few of the available data that highlights that while progress has been made, it is imperative that more concrete actions have to be taken to close remaining gaps.

Children are the future. The prevailing crisis puts children's lives at risk, manifesting as increased risk of exposure to violence, malnutrition and food insecurity, disrupted education and access to health care, eventually perpetuating existing cycles of poverty, structural and systematic inequalities. The International Pediatric Association looks forward to continuing working with our partners globally and our member societies to strengthen commitment and action to accelerate progress for every child, every age, everywhere, and to ensure that no child is left behind.

**Prof. Aman B Pulungan**  
IPA Executive Director



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## From the Editor



As we embark on this New Year, 2024 and the auspicious Year of the Dragon, many of us are considering where we have come from and where we are going. This is reflected in the statements of the IPA President and Executive Director.

In 2020 the WHO-UNICEF-Lancet Commission asked if we should put children at the centre of the Sustainable Development Goals. “Child well-being”, they stated, “is both an indicator and a foundation of social and economic development, and children are at the heart of the concept of sustainability.” [Putting children at the centre of the Sustainable Development Goals \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/11-02-2020-putting-children-at-the-centre-of-the-sustainable-development-goals) And yet, as we begin 2024 many children are worse off, facing backward steps, or crises. Goals of no poverty, peace and justice, zero hunger, clean water and sanitation, among others, have all been threatened. Many of us are trying to understand how we can forge a better path forward.

We see in this issue discussions and activities around vaccine access and uptake, cancer medicines, and care for children and lead poisoning all of which highlight global inequalities which, perhaps, are now growing. Moreover, topics such as antimicrobial resistance highlight our co-dependence globally, how care and actions in one context contribute to global challenges.

Now, more than ever, we need to pull together as a collective of pediatricians, aiming for the best possible outcomes for children and adolescents, with the resources we have at our disposal. Now, more than ever, we benefit from learning from each other, and with each other. You will see in this issue we have included other examples from national associations, within regional reports, as examples of how this can be done and what national associations

may be able to access if the need exists. In addition we have included a short highlight of the career of one individual paediatrician, with diverse interests both in leisure and work, as another way to reflect on who we are as health professionals.

I believe the IPA can be instrumental in the need to connect societies and the individuals on the ground. Yet, it is not easy through our busy work and lives with many competing demands. Through the IPA I have been privileged to meet and know many paediatricians working tirelessly for children and adolescents in their own countries. Many of them I would otherwise have never met. I learn from them at every opportunity and encourage you to do the same.

**Professor Amy Gray**

IPA Newsletter Editor-In-Chief

## IPA Representative at the 73rd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

IPA took part in the 73rd session of the World Health Organization Regional Committee for Europe, which was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 24th to 26th October 2023. The meeting used a hybrid format, and Dr. Nigar Bayramova, a member of the IPA Program Areas Committee on Early Childhood Development from Azerbaijan, joined the event virtually to represent IPA.



IPA submitted a profile video, which was shown at a dedicated booth in the exhibition area during the RC73 agenda.

During the opening session, Dr. Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe, highlighted the importance of resilience to ensure health systems and health partners could face and overcome the crises of humanitarian emergencies and recognized three pillars of a resilient WHO European Region: resilient governance, resilient health systems, and resilient people.

The Regional committee has adopted a Member-state-led resolution to address the challenges of an aging population and the healthcare workforce. The Member States also endorsed a roadmap to identify, prioritize, and implement proven interventions. They adopted a new action plan for refugee and migrant health 2023-2030, addressing the acute needs of refugees and migrants and their long-term integration into health systems.

## IPA Representatives at the 76th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia

IPA participated in the 76th WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia from 30th October to 2nd November 2023. Dr. Santosh Soans, a Standing Committee member for 2023-2025, represented IPA. WHO had invited non-state actors, including IPA, to submit statements on various agendas within the scope of IPA's work. Dr. Santosh Soans prepared and submitted a written statement on two agendas: *Agenda 8.5 Data-driven Policy-making and Sharing of Information on a Common Platform*, and *Agenda 9.2 Challenges in Polio Eradication*. You can read the full statement on the [IPA Website](#).

The session was attended by the Honorable Health Minister of India, as well as various other health ministers from South East Asia. There was a lengthy discussion regarding



Dr. Santosh Soans at the venue for the 76th session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia.





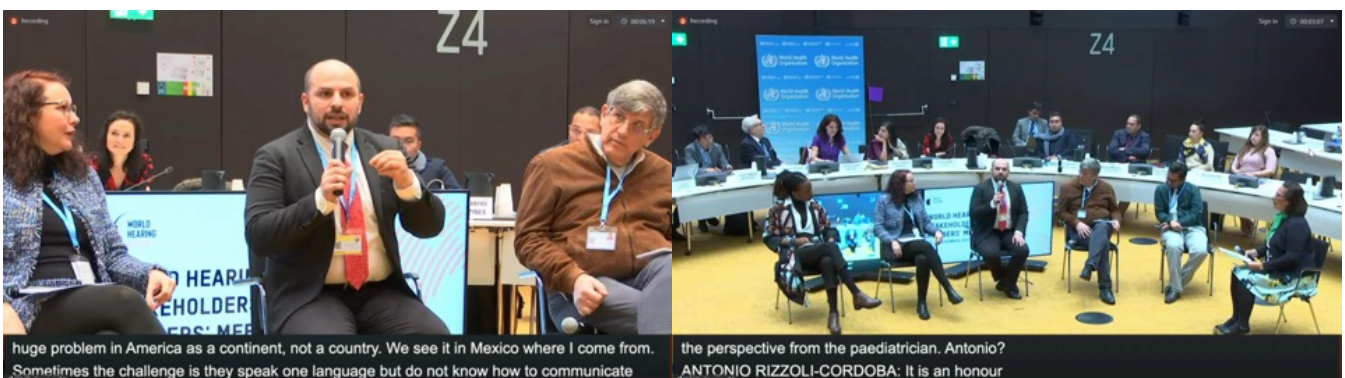
the adequacy of primary health centers. The regional strategic framework for sustaining, accelerating, and involving efforts to end NTD in our region was also discussed. During the evening session on implementing a new regional health security framework, various aspects of NCD were discussed, including the prevention of cardiovascular disease, harmful effects of alcohol, challenges in Polio eradication, and TB eradication. There was also a discussion on revitalizing school health programs. Special programs on research training in tropical reproductive health were organized.

## WHO World Hearing Forum stakeholders' meeting

WHO has set up the World Hearing Forum, a WHO-hosted global advocacy alliance that raises awareness about the importance of and crucial need addressing hearing loss across the life course, to support the implementation of WHA70.13 resolution on Prevention of deafness and hearing loss. On 27-28 November 2023, the World Hearing Forum stakeholders' meeting took place at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva. Dr. Antonio Rizzoli-Cordoba, a member of the IPA Program Areas Committee on Early Childhood Development, has been honored to represent IPA as one of the panelists on the 'Healthcare provider perceptions related to hearing care' agenda.

He highlighted that the challenges pediatricians face include healthcare models and services that are not centered on patient care and the impact of nutrition on children's hearing. These in turn are influenced by factors such as limited access to nutrition, and inadequate training and resources across the countries. A continuum of care and multidisciplinary care is needed to cater for transitions from childhood into adulthood and address the lack of specific care for hearing issues in primary care facilities. It's crucial for healthcare providers to reach out to all children, not only those registered in the healthcare service and attending schools, but also indigenous or disadvantaged children, to achieve the best outcomes possible.

He also raised the importance of early screening and baby-mother contact during the baby's early days, which are crucial for the baby's development. However, there are currently not enough pediatricians and allied health therapists across the globe to guide parents in nurturing care. Dr. Rizzoli-Cordoba concluded that it is necessary to encourage parents of children with hearing problems, and society more broadly, to help children grow and communicate, accessing healthcare, enabled by modern technology and being integrated into society.



## IPA Vaccines to Vaccination Project Workshop

IPA organized the Vaccines to Vaccination Project Workshop in collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline, supported by John Snow Inc. This aimed to provide Training of Trainers (ToT) in Anglophone Africa, Francophone Africa and Asia on the scientific and programmatic aspects of vaccine introduction to achieve higher vaccination coverage and reach zero dose children.

The ToT Workshops were conducted in the below mentioned 3 countries:

ToT 1: **20th and 21st November 2023**, Hosted by **Kenya Pediatric Association**

ToT 2: **1st and 2nd December 2023**, Hosted by **Nepal Pediatric Society**

ToT 3: **10th and 11th December 2023**, Hosted by **Societe Ivorienne De Pediatrie**

Pediatricians, academics, staff of EPI programs and members from technical partners including JSI, FIGO and UNICEF participated in the workshops, with a total of 130 participants across

all 3 workshops.

Pediatricians are in a unique position to enhance trust in immunization systems and ensure that services are appropriate, understood, and accepted by communities, thereby increasing sustainable utilization. They are particularly effective in communicating the value of vaccines, dispelling myths, and addressing miscommunications that exist within communities regarding vaccine uptake.

The workshop lectures and deliberations focused on an overview of Vaccines, Vaccinology and Immunization both at regional and global level, persisting challenges in achieving high coverage and reducing equity gaps. Decision making processes for vaccines and understanding vaccine safety were discussed. The vaccine acceptance session equipped pediatricians with techniques to address vaccine hesitancy and misinformation, including how to build effective interpersonal communication with the caregivers or patients.

Each country shared:

- “Best practices” to improve immunization coverage and equity or reach zero-dose children in their country.
- Updates on strategies adopted for the ‘Big Catch-Up’ from an EPI representative.
- An interactive session on role-play on Interpersonal Communication was facilitated by IPA



Regional Training of Trainers Workshop IPA Vaccines to Vaccination Project in Nairobi, Kenya (20-21 November 2023)



Regional Training of Trainers Workshop IPA Vaccines to Vaccination Project in Abidjan, Ivory Coast (10-11 December 2023)



Regional Training of Trainers Workshop IPA Vaccines to Vaccination Project in Kathmandu, Nepal (1-2 December 2023)



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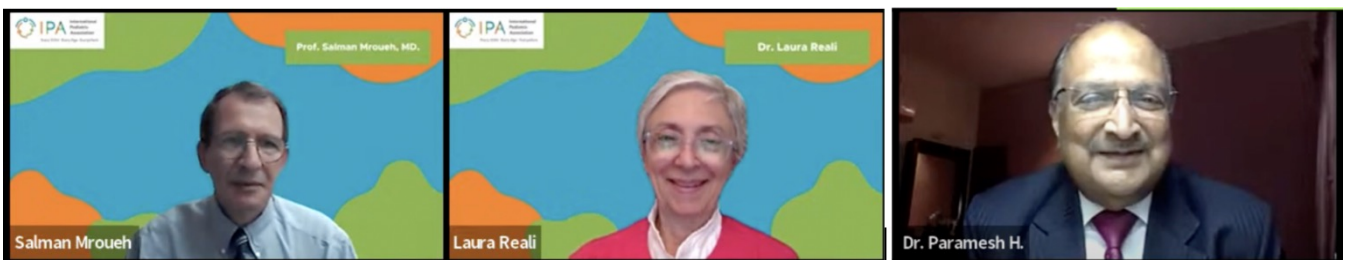
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## IPA Webinar Highlights

### 1. Lead Menace - Zero Tolerance

On October 27, 2023, the IPA Program Area Committee on Environmental Health and Climate Change organized a webinar on "Lead Menace - Zero Tolerance", in commemoration of Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (22-29 October). Dr. Laura Reali (Italy) moderated, Dr. H. Paramesh (India) discussed the impact of lead exposure on children, the diagnosis of lead poisoning, and how bans could improve outcomes. The presentations were followed by a discussion session for participants. Dr. Salman Mroueh (Lebanon) concluded the webinar and shared the importance of preventing lead exposure, highlighting evidence-based findings that lead exposure is still seen in LMIC and needs global advocacy.

The full recordings of the webinar are available on the [IPA Webinar Platform](#).

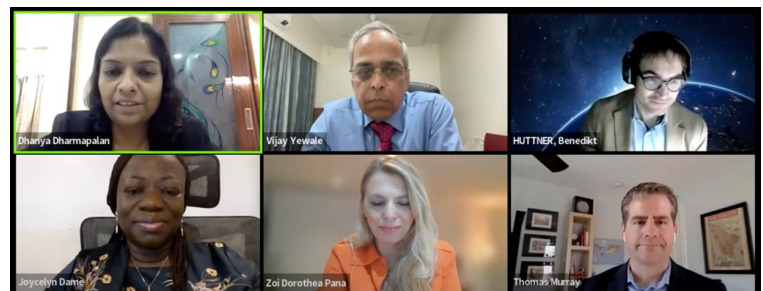


Top-Left to Right: **Dr. H. Paramesh, Dr. Salman Mroueh, Dr. Laura Reali** (Members of IPA PA Committee on Environmental Health and Climate Change) at the "Lead Menace - Zero Tolerance" Webinar.

### 2. World Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Week

In alignment with World Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Week, the IPA Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance held a webinar titled "Barriers and Solutions in Combating AMR in Pediatrics: Country and Regional Perspectives". Dr. Dhanya Dharmapalan (Co-chair of IPA Program Area Working Group, India) moderated the webinar, which invited speakers from all regions of IPA to represent each continent's pertinent issue on AMR.

One of the challenges faced by India is the lack of regulatory oversight of antibiotic production and distribution, as presented by Dr. Vijay Yewale (Asia). He proposed strategies such as focusing on access to quality healthcare and education about appropriate antibiotic use in rural areas and reducing over-prescription of antibiotics in urban areas. Dr. Zoi Panna (Europe), shared her data on the EU's commitment to antimicrobial stewardship. Current challenges in Europe include limited training, limited implementation, and a lack of metrics for antimicrobial



Top-Left to Right: **Dr. Dhanya Dharmapala, Dr. Vijay Yewale, Dr. Benedikt Huttner, Dr. Joycelyn Dame, Dr. Zoi Dorothea Pana, Dr. Thomas Murray** at the "Barriers and Solutions in Combating AMR in Pediatrics: Country and Regional Perspectives" Webinar.





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stewardship. She shared IPA's most recent publication in BMJ Paediatrics titled "Fighting the hidden pandemic of AMR in pediatrics: recommendations from the IPA".

Dr. Thomas Murray (USA) presented his data on prescribing errors in a US pediatric emergency department. Within 1 month, there were 213 errors, including 30% dosage and 41% duration errors. Common challenges in the US include pressure from patients and pediatricians' perception of prescribing improper antibiotics. Some of the solutions offered were local data on resistance patterns, continuing education on AMR, and posting dosing guidelines for common infections.

Dr. Joycelyn Dame (Africa) shed light on the lack of incorporation of AMR education in the school's curriculum and timely access to AMR surveillance programs. Her survey found antibiotics can be purchased over-the-counter in 58% of the African countries. Strategies to address these issues have been education, surveillance, research, strict country policies on AMR, and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).

IPA was honored to have Dr. Benedikt Huttner as one of the speakers, representing the WHO Headquarters, in Geneva. He shared the WHO AWaRe Antibiotic Book and updates in the newest version.

The full recordings of the webinar are available on the [IPA Webinar Platform](#).

### 3. Childhood Cancer

The IPA Working Group on Childhood Cancer held its first webinar entitled "Essential Medicines in Pediatric Cancer" on 27th November 2023. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Guillermo Chantada (President of SIOP) and Dr. Nita Radhakrishnan (Chair of IPA Working Group on Childhood Cancer).

Dr. Sanjeev Sunsekhar shared his experiences in Sri Lanka and highlighted the importance of fulfilling the needs of the majority and the quality of care by standardization. Dr. Carlos Rodriguez-Galindo then shared the topic of a 'Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines' and



Top-Left to Right: **Dr. Girish Chinnaswamy**, **Dr. Guillermo Chantada**, **Dr. Nita Radhakrishnan**, **Dr. Carlos Rodriguez-Galindo**, **Dr. Miguel Abboud**. at the "Essential Medicines in Pediatric Cancer" Webinar.

highlighted its importance to provide an uninterrupted supply of quality childhood cancer medicines. Dr. Girish Chinnaswamy highlighted steps that have been taken in India to improve access and affordability to cancer medicines. The speaker, moderators, and members from the Working Group then proceeded to discuss other issues such as the quality of childhood cancer medicines, and address questions from the audience.

All webinar recordings are available for access to all on the [IPA Webinar Platform](#).



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## IPA Regional Activity Recap

# Europe REGION

## EPA-UNEPSA

News from the Board of the European Pediatric Association, Union of National European Pediatric Societies and Associations (EPA-UNEPSA), Berlin, Germany from *Massimo Pettoello-Mantovani, Hilary Hoey, Eli Somek, Sir Terence Stephenson, Tudor Lucian Pop, Mehmet Vural, Leyla Namazova-Baranova, Angel Carrasco-Sanz, Robert Cohen, Esra Şevketoğlu and Georgios Konstantinidis.*

EPA-UNEPSA was particularly active during the period September-December 2023. The European Society convened leading experts to speak at the "Hot Topics in EuroPediatrics" Conference, which took place in Belgrade, Serbia from October 6-8 2023. This educational initiative highlighted the dynamic nature of pediatrics, and medicine more broadly, where medical knowledge, technologies, and best practices are continually evolving. It underscored the critical importance of continual professional growth and education for general pediatric practitioners across Europe. The "Hot Topics in EuroPediatrics" Conference is the "educational formula" developed by EPA-UNEPSA to transfer knowledge from various specialty areas to general pediatrics. "Hot Topics" meetings encompass educational conferences, seminars, or gatherings dedicated to the latest. Short articles authored by the speakers at the conference, summarizing their lectures, are collected in the special issue "EPA-UNEPSA Hot Topics in EuroPediatrics 2023" published open access in Volume 7 of the new Elsevier scientific journal "Global Pediatrics" (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/>

[global-pediatrics/vol/7/suppl/C](https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/global-pediatrics/vol/7/suppl/C)).

On October 7, 2023, EPA-UNEPSA took part in the annual meeting of the European Union Scientific Research Consortium of 20 public, private, and academic research centers involved in the international EU-China program "Safe Food For Infants," part of the Horizon 2020 EU Program. EPA-UNEPSA is an active partner of the consortium, contributing the experience of European pediatricians and its researchers to the progress of this important European-Sino transnational program. The program aims to develop an integrated approach to enhance the identification, assessment, detection, and mitigation of safety risks raised by microbial and chemical hazards all along the EU and China infant food chains.

Finally, in December 2023, the society published the book "EPA-UNEPSA Scientific Activity 2021-2023," which includes the collection of scientific articles published by the European Society of Pediatrics EPA-UNEPSA over the last three years. (<https://www.epa-unepssa.eu/sites/default/files/epaunepssa-scientific-production-20212023.pdf>)



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IPA Regional Activity Recap

## Europe Region

### EAP

The European Academy of Paediatrics (EAP) represents 52 national pediatric societies and 14 European pediatric subspecialty societies, collaborating closely with an additional 14 affiliated societies dedicated to Child Health. Our commitment is not only to act on behalf of our member societies but also to provide unwavering support.

On September 23, 2023, the [Young European Academy of Pediatrics \(YEAP\)](#) hosted a smashing symposium at the National Congress of the German Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine (DGKJ) in Hamburg, Germany. The event was organised and co-chaired by YEAP Chair Nora Karara, collaborating with Ivan Bambir (Past YEAP Chair), Sian Copley (YEAP Vice Chair), and Manuel Baarslag (YEAP Representative, the Netherlands). The symposium aimed to engage young doctors, foster awareness of EAP activities, and facilitate face-to-face collaboration. Participants discussed the merits of different approaches to training programs, expressing a desire for more structured organisational models and regular assessments. The consensus highlighted the need for aligned residency programs in Europe, supporting mobility while respecting country-specific differences. The annual European Board of Paediatrics Exam was recognized as a positive step towards improving training standards and evaluation. Young EAP aspires to make such events an annual occurrence during national society congresses.





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## IPA Regional Activity Recap

# Europe Region

In November 2023, over 250 colleagues participated in the [European Board of Paediatrics–European Academy of Paediatrics Exam](#) Exam, evaluating knowledge and identifying gaps. Many engaged in the preceding online [Core Knowledge in Paediatrics Course](#) from 13-14 October 2023 or used the [EAP Learning app](#) to prepare for the examinations or refresh their knowledge. The upcoming course and exam in 2024 offer a valuable opportunity for continued professional development

During the European Board of Paediatrics Session, EBP chair Liviana da Dalt provided a comprehensive overview of the EAP Exam and the future plans. The next examination is planned for November 2024. EAP takes pride in offering two valuable resources to assist trainees in exam preparation: a virtual classroom experience accessible on mobile, tablet, or laptop devices and the online [Core Knowledge in Paediatrics \(CKP\)](#) course, scheduled for October 2024, offering a specialized curriculum to enhance candidates' knowledge base. Details will be posted on the EAP website ([www.eapaediatrics.eu](http://www.eapaediatrics.eu)).

In June 2023, the European Academy of Paediatrics published a position paper critiquing the 5-year strategy of the WHO Regional Office for Europe for not paying attention to the needs of children and adolescents. We were heard, and WHO Europe agreed to develop a "European Strategy for Child and Adolescent Health and Wellbeing". We were given the opportunity to comment and contribute. Early in December the WHO Regional Director Hans Kluge met with EAP secretary Ann de Guchteneare and EAP president Berthold Koletzko. We agreed to proceed to a closer collaboration in selected key areas of child and adolescent health. We are excited about this great opportunity to advance our common goals.



The Winter Meeting held from December 1-2, 2023, showcased the dynamic and collaborative essence of the EAP, bringing together pediatricians dedicated to shaping the future of child health in Europe. This gathering served as a pivotal platform for discussions involving EAP's Strategic Advisory Groups (SAGs), which play a crucial role in developing joint positions on key pediatric issues, forming the basis for advocacy initiatives. Open to members of [affiliated and member societies](#), SAGs engage in regular online meetings with occasional face-to-face sessions. Current SAG topics encompass areas such as Adolescent Health, Choosing Wisely, Ethics, Migrant Children's Health, Medicines for Children, Rare Diseases, and Vaccination. EAP





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## IPA Regional Activity Recap

# Europe Region



welcomes nominations of qualified experts from member and affiliated societies who can contribute to their respective areas. Ongoing conversations explore the possibility of establishing new SAGs focusing on themes like Climate Change and Child Health, Research for Children, and Diversity and Inclusion in Paediatrics. We encourage nominations and suggestions for European colleagues to [secretariat@eapaediatrics.eu](mailto:secretariat@eapaediatrics.eu), along with a brief

biosketch of the proposed colleague.

Keep an eye on EAP's website for [new publications](#) and the European Union funded research programmes and initiatives that EAP contributes to including [Vaccinate your Child Campaign](#), the [Core-MD](#) project (work on securing access to medical devices for children), [ImmuHubs](#), [RIVER EU](#) (work on vaccine equity) & [IMMUNION](#).

Together, we have achieved significant milestones. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who actively contributed, including members from our societies, national and subspecialty society delegates, SAGs, and other dedicated individuals. Special thanks to our outgoing board members. I express my deep appreciation to our longstanding past treasurer, Arunas Valiulis, for skilfully guiding us through the turbulent times of the pandemic and leaving behind a financially stable society for his successor, Lukasz Dembinski. A sincere thank you is also reserved for our past-president, Adamos Hadjipanayis, who played a pivotal role in advancing EAP over the years with strategic thinking and immense dedication. I am genuinely thankful that we retain Adamos as an active contributor in his roles as past-president, congress representative, and Coordinator of Development on the International Pediatric Association Executive Committee.

Finally, we extend a personal invitation for you to join us on a truly distinctive journey with the [EAP MasterCourse](#) — from April 12 to 14, 2024. Not only will you be able to immerse yourself in the delightful hospitality of Porto, Portugal, but you will have the opportunity to delve into an exciting scientific programme with a focus on Paediatric Infectious Diseases and Vaccination. Feel free to spread the word by joining our ambassador programme (scan the QR code below for more information).

Prof. Berthold Koletzko  
President, European Academy of Paediatrics

**Join Our Prestigious EAP  
Ambassador Programme**

Supporting us is easy! All you need to do is one or more of the following:

- Promote EAP 2024 to encourage participation and awareness
- Announce the EAP 2024 Mastercourse on your social media accounts
- Post the EAP 2024 Mastercourse banner on your organization's websites

Scan the QR code for more information

European Academy of Paediatrics  
Paediatric Section of U.E.M.S.



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IPA Regional  
Activity Recap

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## AAP

Over the past few months, AAP Global has been busy with new projects and partnerships. We are highlighting two events where we hosted and participated.

On November 17-19, 2023, the AAP hosted fellows, residents, medical students, nurses, and physicians at AAP Headquarters for three days of rich content developed for pediatric healthcare professionals interested in global health. Day 1 featured a Point of Care Ultrasonography (POCUS) workshop where attendees had the opportunity to practice on child models and learn the ins and outs of globally-focused POCUS program. On day 2 the third annual Global Health Education Course (GHEC) was held and AAP was thrilled to offer the course in person at AAP Headquarters as previous iterations had been held virtually. Some of the highlights of this course included: emerging priorities, high-yield topics in neonatology and pediatrics, and the MacGyver Guide to Global Health: Tips and Tricks for Practicing Medicine When Resources Are Limited. Day 3 showcased the [Global Health Education on Equity, Antiracism and Decolonization](#) (GHEARD) curriculum. GHEARD authors led small group discussions highlighting principles of the curriculum and guided attendees through interactional case presentations.

In November, AAP Technical Expert, Dr Reshma Shah represented AAP and the Global ECD Project Advisory Committee at a WHO technical convening to plan for the development of global virtual learning materials to support implementation of the Nurturing Care Framework. Over the past 5 years, AAP worked with national pediatric societies and other key health sector stakeholders in 10 countries to operationalize the guidance provided by the nurturing care framework to advance early childhood development at national and regional levels. Most of our work has been in Sub Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. Dr Shah presented on this to implement ECD training for healthcare workers and was joined by colleagues from the Kenya Paediatric Association (KPA).

AAP shared lessons on utilizing adult learning and simulation and role plays for improving developmental surveillance skills, in addition to the importance of creating a supportive policy environment for ECD. Some specific takeaways from the convening included the importance of incorporating the science behind ECD – something that AAP has incorporated into our partner training programs with KPA, the Paediatric Association of Tanzania, The Association of Mozambiquan Pediatricians, and the East and Southern Africa College of Pediatrics.

For more information on any of these programs, reach out to [AAPGlobal@aap.org](mailto:AAPGlobal@aap.org).

## APPA

### Asian Vaccine Conference (ASVAC) 2023. Nov. 8-11, 2023, Cebu, Philippines

The Asian Vaccine Conference (ASVAC) held from Nov. 8-11, 2023 in Cebu, Philippines, is an event organized by the Immunization Partners in Asia Pacific (IPAP), in partnership with several key organizations and agencies. ASVAC serves as a platform for sharing the latest research, developments and collaborative efforts in immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases. Prominent Speakers included APPA President, Prof. Iqbal Memon & APPA Secretary General, Prof. Zulkifli Ismail.



**Prof. Iqbal Memon**



**Prof. Zulkifli Ismail**

### APPA Executive Committee (EC) & Standing Committee (SC) Zoom Meeting, Nov. 19, 2023

The APPA EC & SC Zoom Meeting was held on Nov. 19, 2023 at 2pm Pakistan ST. The meeting was to discuss issues pertaining to APPA which included updated information on the 18<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) to be held from Nov. 14-17, 2024 in Cebu, Philippines, Conflict of children murdered in Gaza, Palestine, Report of Technical Advisory Group (TAG) chairpersons, Reorganisation of the APPA e Journal and APPA Constitution amendments.

### Memorial Booklet in Honour of the late Dr. Chan Chok Wan



We pay our respects to Dr. Chan Chok Wan who passed away peacefully on Nov. 19, 2023. Dr Chan was formerly President of IPA (2007-2010) and Association of Pediatric Societies of the South East Asian Region (APSSEAR, 1997-2000). APSSEAR is now known as Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA). In honour of Dr Chan, his family planned a memorial booklet and sought assistance from APPA to compile letters of condolence messages and photographs to which APPA responded recognising Dr Chan's significant contributions.

### APPA-UNICEF Session on Child Rights and Protection, Nov. 23-26, 2023, Peshawar, Pakistan

The APPA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Child Rights, Environment and Child Health, organized a comprehensive session on 'Child Protection' during the 21<sup>st</sup> National Pediatric





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## IPA Regional Activity Recap Asia Pacific Region

Conference in November in Peshawar, Pakistan. The session aimed to delve into various aspects of child protection and was organized in collaboration with Child Rights Group, Pakistan Pediatric Association (PPA) and UNICEF with Justice Shakeel Ahmed as Chief Guest. Guest of Honour & APPA President, Prof. Iqbal Memon in his closing remarks urged concerted efforts to ensure children grow in safe and nurturing environments. Prominent Speakers included Prof. Harendra De Silva (Sri Lanka), Prof. Naeem Zafar (Pakistan) and Dr. Affifa Farrukhm (UK).



L to R- Prof. Abdul Hameed, former PPA President, Justice Shakeel Ahmed, Peshawar High Court. Chair: Prof. Iqbal Memon



Nepal Paediatric Society President, Dr. Arun Neopane (left) with IPA President, Dr. Naveen Thacker.

### 'Vaccines to Vaccination' Training of Trainers, Kathmandu, Nepal, Dec. 1-2, 2023

The Nepal Paediatric Society (NEPAS) in collaboration with IPA) hosted a program on 'Vaccines to Vaccination' (V2V), Training of Trainers in Kathmandu, Nepal, from Dec. 1-2, 2023. The two-day program, supported by an academic grant from GSK Global, covered the science of immunology, vaccines and updates along with country presentations on how each country plans to achieve the goals set by SDGs. Different countries discussed their strategies to increase the vaccination drive in their respective countries, following the slogan "Leave no child behind."

### International Online Symposium on Child Protection in Disaster, Dec. 21, 2023

The APPA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Child Rights, Environment and Child Health and the Indonesian Pediatric Society held an Online Symposium on 'Child Protection in Disaster' on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 07.00-08.30pm (GMT+7).

### APPA Bulletin (Newsletter)

The latest APPA Bulletin (Volume 89 September-December 2023 No. 79) was published and circulated digitally to all APPA members and IPA on January 9, 2024.





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## IPA Regional Activity Recap Asia Pacific Region

### Asia Pacific Journal of Pediatrics and Child Health (APJPCH), APPA e-journal

APJPCH is a quarterly e-journal published regularly since September 2018 – [www.apjpch.com](http://www.apjpch.com).

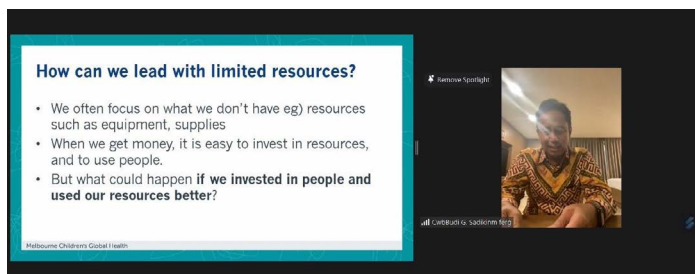
APJPCH has listed the proposed new Editorial Board as part of measures to reorganize and strengthen its Editorial Board. The October-December 2023 issue is now online.

Compiled by Fairos Nazri (Executive Secretary, APPA)  
Approved by Prof. Zulkifli Ismail (Secretary General, APPA)

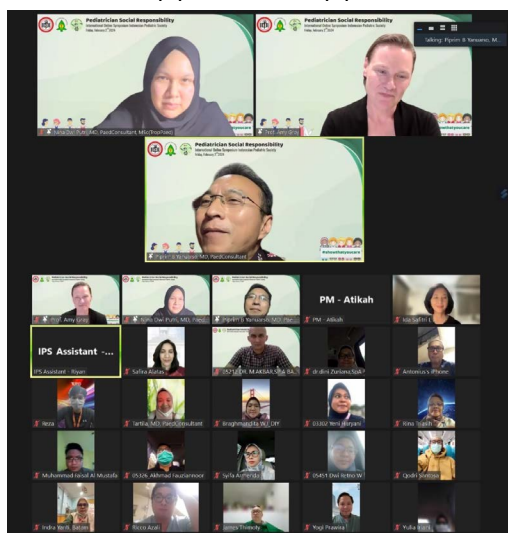
### Indonesian Pediatric Society: Leadership in Learning Health System

Reducing infant and child mortality is one of IPS's concerns. The Pediatrician Social Responsibility (PSR) program aims to reduce mortality rates through sharing knowledge and skills of pediatricians, to increase the capacity and ability of health workers in first-level health facilities to manage sick children the first 48 hours.

As part of the PSR implementation program, the IPS central board held an online symposium event on the topic of Leadership in Learning Health System on February 2nd, 2024. This event was attended by more than 300 participants including pediatricians, general practitioners, and other health workers.



Positive support was apparent from the Indonesian Republic's Minister of Health, Budi Gunadi Sadikin, who said he was amazed by this program, which could bring in speakers who were very experienced in their fields. He highlighted that leadership is critical to improve the health of our people and he hopes that all Indonesian Pediatricians can lead the way to create a healthier population of Indonesian in the future.



Prof. Amy Gray as a speaker on this online symposium delivered many great insights. One such principle is connect then lead, connecting with our partners is important because with connection we can encourage people to follow us. She highlighted that we should continue believing in what we are doing, trying to share our ideas, collect data, and proving that making changes has impact.



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## IPA Regional Activity Recap Central Asia

### UNPSTR



On December 14-16th, 2023 the second National Congress of the Azerbaijan Pediatric Society was held in Baku, Azerbaijan with the participation of members from the UNPSTR. In attendance were a delegation of professors from Turkey and the General Secretary of the Turkish National Pediatric Society, Enver

Hasanoglu. Esteemed international guests included IPA President Naveen Thacker, President-Elect Joseph Haddad and Coordinator of Development Adamos Hadjipanayis. The program was rich, including pre-congress courses, lectures, workshops and discussion panels covering all aspects of child and adolescent health and well-being.

## IPA Regional Activity Recap

# Sub-Saharan Africa REGION

### UNAPSA

In this newsletter edition UNAPSA highlights activities of the Senegalese Paediatric Society (SOSEPED).

#### The 4th Senegalese Perinatology Days

In November 2023, the Senegalese Paediatric Society organized its 4th Perinatology Days event in Dakar. The main theme this year was the management of low-birth-weight newborns.

SOSEPED took advantage of these days, which







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## IPA Regional Activity Recap

# Sub-Saharan Africa Region

coincided with World Prematurity Day on 17 November, to raise awareness among carers and communities, through the media, of the best practices to adopt to give these fragile newborns the best possible chance of survival, in the hope of improving their care and reducing neonatal mortality.

The conference brought together 243 participants from Senegal, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, Mauritania, Benin and Niger. The conclusions and recommendations from the conference were forwarded to the Mother and Child Health Department of the Ministry of Health and Social Action.

### The SOSEPED walking tour

The Société Sénégalaise de Pédiatrie, aware of its role in leveraging the implementation of policies to improve child survival, organized a walking tour on Sunday 17 December 2023 in collaboration with the Direction de la Santé de la Mère et de l'Enfant (DSME) of the Ministère de la Santé et de l'Action Sociale. The Director of the DSME personally participated in this activity. The theme of the walk was: "A child's first thousand days: a window of opportunity", as part of the organization of the 4th Mother and Child Health Day. It was attended by 350 children and adults.



### Thoracic ultrasound training

Médecin Sans Frontières (MSF) organized a capacity-building session for pediatric specialists in Dakar from 27 November to 7 December 2023, in collaboration with the African Centre of Excellence for Mother and Child Health (CEA-SAMEF) at the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar (UCAD) / Albert Royer Hospital in Dakar and the Senegalese Paediatric Society (SOSEPED). Seven pediatricians benefited from this pilot clinical training project which enabled recipients to learn about a wide range of childhood anomalies through practical activities.



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## IPA Regional Activity Recap

# Latin America Region

## ALAPE

### VI Update Conference of ALAPE and the LXIV National Congress of Pediatrics ASOPEDIA 2023

One of our principal events of the season was the VI Update Conference of ALAPE and the LXIV National Congress of Pediatrics ASOPEDIA 2023, from September 27 to 28 in Guatemala. A great gathering of one thousand participants from all over Latin América were delighted with an enriching academic program, focused on relevant issues that affect childhood and adolescence.



### Neonatology Committee.

Our Neonatology Committee coordinated along with CLAP/PAHO the 2nd Edition of the ENC (Essential Newborn Care) Workshop in Spanish, aimed at first-level healthcare workers, specifically in rural areas of the country.

### Breastfeeding Committee.

The Breastfeeding Committee headed the workshop called "Art and Science to support breastfeeding and paid work outside the home". This was part of the Academic Program of the VI Update Conference of ALAPE and the LXIV National Congress of Pediatrics ASOPEDIA 2023. Pediatricians and Pediatric Neonatologists from México, Panamá, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, and Puerto Rico attended and learned more about the importance of continuous breastfeeding after the 6 months of life, communication skills, expressing and preserving breast milk and the key role that the family and support network play in order to achieve a successful return to work for nursing mothers.



### Participation in events

ALAPE participated in the Latin American Society of Pediatric Infectiology's Congress by organizing and leading a symposium moderated by our President Dr. Carlos G. Alonso including speakers Dr. Mónica Pujadas (Uruguay), Dr. Antonio Luévano (Mexico), and Dr. Marcela Fama (Colombia).

### Mexico will host the IPA Congress of 2025.

Mexico City has been elected as host city for the next IPA Congress. We look forward to sharing more details about this magnificent event.

### 2023 American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference & Exhibition.

The participation and attendance of Latin American pediatricians was highly recognized, with simultaneous translations and personnel carrying signs of "Spanish speaking" (se habla español). With the objective to reinforce mutual academic cooperation a reunion was held between the two institutions with the participation of Dr. Janna Patterson from the AAP and Dr. Carlos Alonso and Dr. Marcela Fama from ALAPE.



### Webinars

1. Disability Committee and Adolescence Committee. "Sexuality, Adolescence and Disability: an orientation for the pediatric practice" Panelists: Dr Graciela Varin (Uruguay). "A look at disability from rights, diversity and gender"; Sergio Meresman (Uruguay). "Is it possible for a disabled teenager to grow with autonomy?"; Dr Patricia Goddart (Argentina) "Adolescents with functional disabilities in the pediatric consultation" Presenter: Dr. Silvia Intruvini (Argentina) Watch the webinar here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBKtYfZ0gSA>
2. Social pediatrics Committee. "Migration and its impact on the health and rights of children, a regional challenge" Panelists: Dr Josefina Luna Rodríguez (Dominican Republic), Dr Iliana Curiel Arismendy (Colombia) and Presenter Dr Ernesto Durán Strauch (Colombia). Watch the webinar here. <https://fb.watch/pViogL72ES/>

### Newsletter

A new volume of our Newsletter is now available on our webpage. Learn more about the activities, writings and research of our committees and mark your calendar with the upcoming events from our Affiliated Societies. Download the latest Newsletter here: <https://alape.org/boletin-alape-enero-2024/>



# International Subspecialty Pediatric Societies

## FISPGHAN

On behalf of FISPGHAN we are honored to share with IPA the scientific activities held by three of our societies:

### APPSPGHAN

The 16th Congress of APPSPGHAN (2023) hosted by Korean Society with Professor Kyung Mo Kim as Congress President. It was held in Seoul, Korea, with 685 participants from 36 countries and featured 48 concurrent sessions with 319 presentations.

The Opening Ceremony honored Prof. Seng Hock Quak with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Keynote lectures by experts from APPSPGHAN (Kyung Mo Kim), ESPGHAN (Berthold Koletzko), and NASPGHAN (Jennifer Lightdale) covered diverse topics.

The congress received 289 abstracts, with 217 presented, recognizing excellence through Young Investigator Awards and Travel Grants.



### LASPGHAN

The XXIV LASPGHAN Congress was held in Rio de Janeiro 25-28 October 2023. It was organized by the board of directors with the support of the 21 Working Groups which proposed topics and activities to be developed.

There were 7 postgraduate courses, which included Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Brain-Intestine Axis Disorders, Pediatric Nutrition, PPPP (Probiotics, Prebiotics, Postbiotics in Pediatrics), Hepatology and two Hands on courses: Endoscopy and Motility.

The Annual Meeting included 120 speakers from LASPGHAN and 30 from NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN together with a special JPGN Session led by Dr Sandeep Gupta. Abstracts were divided into oral presentations and electronic posters. It was a very successful event with 1306 registrants from the Americas (South, Central, North) and Europe.



## NASPGHAN

The Annual Meeting was held in San Diego. It included a Single Topic Symposium on Pediatric Polyposis and GI Cancer Syndromes, directed by Dr. Thomas Attard. Drs. Toba Weinstein and Maria Perez led the Postgraduate Course embraced by 941 registrants. The Teaching and Tomorrow, CPNP Nutrition Symposium, APGNN, and LASPGHAN meetings further enriched our diverse membership learning opportunities.

The 2023 Annual Meeting marked a milestone with 1,946 registrants. The agenda aimed to challenge paradigms and promote collaboration and education on emerging trends, clinical advancements, and innovative treatments across the spectrum of pediatric GI conditions. Annual Meeting highlights included Dr. Sandeep Gupta's Year in Review and a standing ovation-worthy Balistreri Keynote Lecture by Dr. Reshma Jagsi, highlighting the gender equity challenges in academic medicine. A broad array of concurrent sessions, alongside professional development and research workshops, provided a comprehensive learning experience. The record number of abstract submissions underscored our membership's commitment to advancing knowledge.



## IAAH

### Submitted by Risa Turetsky, IAAH North American Vice President

The International Association of Adolescent Health (IAAH) (<https://iaah.org>) has been active in several initiatives for adolescent and young adult healthcare in the past few months.

IAAH leadership, our education committee, our International Adolescent Health Week team, and our young professionals facilitated several sessions in the first ever Global Forum for Adolescents in October 2023 ([www.1point8.org](http://www.1point8.org)). Led by the Partnership for Maternal, Child and Newborn Health (PMNCH), the Forum had more than 5600 participants. Many countries, funders, civil society groups, and health care professional associations, including IAAH, made new commitments to financing and services for adolescent health and well-being. (<https://pmnch.who.int/news-and-events/news/item/04-04-2023-spotlight-on-the-international-association-for-adolescent-health>).

IAAH President and IPA Treasurer Jonathan Klein worked closely with IPA President Naveen Thacker and with PMNCH in developing the joint commitment for health care professionals' societies to collaborate at the national level to call attention to what adolescents need for health and well-being. At the Global Forum, IAAH also co-facilitated a presentation about climate change and its impact on adolescents. IAAH is also developing a joint position statement for publication on climate and adolescent health in partnership with the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine.



IAAH has also taken a more active stance in support of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). IAAH published an open letter calling for [evidence-based CSE](https://iaah.org/statements-cse-2023/) in July (<https://iaah.org/statements-cse-2023/>)

IAAH Emerging Professional Network co-chair Melis Pehlivanürk-Kızılkcan presented IAAH's position at the World Association for Sexual Health conference in Turkey in November. IAAH is also working in collaboration with WHO and civil society partners to dispel myths and advocate for implementation of CSE in schools.



Jonathan Klein (IPA Treasurer and IAAH President), Helga Fostad (PMNCH Executive Director), Naveen Thacker, (IPA President), and Ilze Kalnina, PMNCH Manager for Global Campaigns) at the UN General Assembly meetings in New York City, September 2023.

In November, IAAH also hosted 2 virtual sessions on improving the training of health care professionals. The IAAH Symposium: Innovations in Education and Training in Adolescent Health sessions 3 and 4 brought new and creative ways of training health care providers to the stage. IAAH education committee activities are led by Risa Turetsky and Preeti Galagali, and our educational symposia are led by Richard Churchill.

I A A H  
education

priorities are framed by the September 2023 release of IAAH's policy statement on the [Education and Training of Healthcare Providers](https://iaah.org/education-training-healthcare-providers/) (<https://iaah.org/education-training-healthcare-providers/>). This new policy agenda was also recently highlighted in a commentary in the Journal of Adolescent Health.

In November, 2023, IAAH co-sponsored the Latin American regional adolescent health meetings in San José, Costa Rica, led by CODAJIC (the Confederación de Adolescencia y Juventud de Iberoamérica, Italia y el Caribe). Successful national adolescent health meetings were also recently held in Nigeria, Australia and in India. Upcoming IAAH regional meeting include the North American Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine in San Diego, California in the USA March 13-16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and the European regional IAAH congress in Copenhagen, Denmark, October 10-11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. IAAH is also looking forward to our next World Congress, in Kingston, Jamaica, November 6-8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



Mauricio Scarpello (IAAH Latin America Vice-President) right, Maria Del Carmen Calle Davila (IPA Standing Committee Member and IAAH Special Advisor) center, and Jonathan Klein (IPA Treasurer and IAAH President) left, at the CODAJIC Regional meeting in San José, Costa Rica in November, 2023.



## WOFAPS



The WOFAPS Congress 2022 was held at Prague. It was attended by 657 delegates from 76 countries. Sameh Shehata, WOFAPS representative to IPA was reelected to the IPA steering Committee by majority of votes. He attended the IPA meeting (India) in person as the WOFAPS representative.

7<sup>th</sup> WORLD CONGRESS OF PEDIATRIC SURGERY **WOFAPS** OCTOBER 12 – 15, 2022 PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

The WOFAPS Regional meeting was held in Milan, Italy on 25 Oct, 2023. Two conferences were endorsed by WOFAPS in 2023 1) Live Exstrophy bladder-Epispadias Workshop, Chittagong Bangladesh 21-29 Nov, 2023 and 2) The 8th Research and Innovation Pediatric Surgical Society Conference (RIPSSCON-IAPS 2023) and 8th International Conference on Stem Cells and Cancer (ICSCC- 2023):Proliferation, Differentiation and Apoptosis, New Delhi, India December 2023.

The First Official World Pediatric Surgery Day will be celebrated on 7th April 2024. We invite all pediatricians across the globe to join us in this celebration.

The next meetings in 2024 would be held in Hong Kong from April 28-May 1, 2024 and in Ecuador from 25-27 July, 2024. The next WOFAPS Congress will be held at Antalya, Turkey from Nov 12-16, 2025.

31 January 2024  
Prof Alp Numanoglu (President)  
Prof Udo Rolle (President Elect)  
Prof Shilpa Sharma (Secretary General)

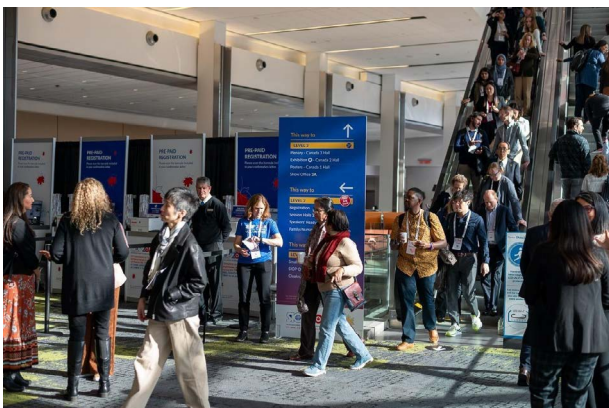


## SIOP

SIOP 2023, our second hybrid Congress, was held in Ottawa, Canada on October 11 – 14, 2023. With a record attendance of 2,580 delegates (1986 in person and 595 online) from over 115 countries, we hosted over 120 sessions and educational events including 7 Symposia, 8 Keynote Lectures, 2 Debates, 2 Joint Sessions and 5 Meet-the-Expert sessions. The annual SIOP Congress has played a central role in the Society's work. It serves as a venue for global



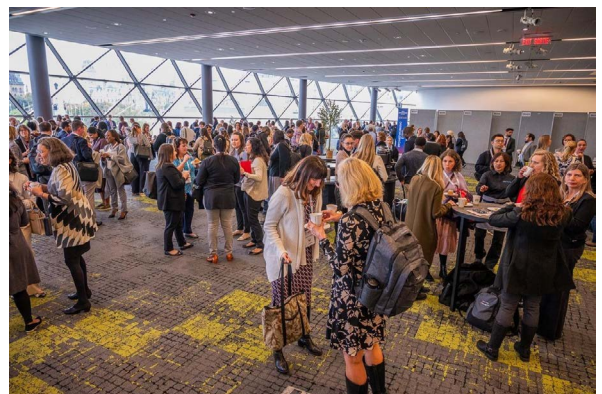
networking, sharing knowledge and learning about the latest developments in paediatric oncology. We would like to thank Dr. Donna Johnston and the Local Organising Committee for their efforts, enabling us to host our meeting in the wonderful Canadian capital city Ottawa. For the first time, we introduced various interdisciplinary joint sessions into our programme and will continue to do so. You can browse the report [here](#) to understand a breakdown of our attendees, programme highlights, awards, announcements, networking opportunities, partners and sponsors.



For Gold September, SIOp participated in disseminating CCI's Did You Know? 10 Facts About Childhood Cancer campaign. Additionally, we invited our members to add a gold frame to their social media profiles and advocate for prominent local landmarks to be lit up in gold to increase

visibility and awareness of childhood cancer.

Our Advocacy Committee had an advisory role in the side-event on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and childhood cancer, co-hosted by SIOp at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), September 2023. The event was titled "CureAll Implementation Advancing Toward UHC Realization and Bridging Survival Gap in Childhood Cancer" and we were proudly represented onsite by our Secretary General Elect, Prof Rejin Kebudi, Continental President Africa, Dr Joyce Kambugu and our SIOp North America Board Member/SIOp ARIA Guide representative, Dr Ira Dunkel.



Reflecting on the UNGA side event on UHC and childhood cancer, the Advocacy Committee drafted a statement for International UHC Day (12 Dec) which was also very well received. On World Children's Day (20 Nov), SIOp disseminated messages on children's participation in clinical trials and innovation and supported the Worldwide Candle Lighting Day (Dec 10) campaign to light candles in remembrance of children who have lost their lives to cancer.

Towards the end of the year, we launched [SIOpCONNECT](#), SIOp's new membership engagement platform to foster communication with our members. This members-only platform contains the latest news, upcoming Network or Working Group meetings and messages, job openings, events and resources.



## A Paediatric Profile

In this new section we introduce a paediatrician with diverse interests both within and outside of their work. If you know a paediatrician we should get to know for future newsletters contact us at [adminoffice@ipa-world.org](mailto:adminoffice@ipa-world.org)



I am Dr. Mamatha M Lala, a Paediatrician & a Perinatal/ Pediatric HIV Specialist dedicated to caring for orphans & vulnerable children of the HIV epidemic in India for the last over 21 years.

I have been a fortunate recipient of many Awards for my work and a contributor to over 200 presentations on various national and international platforms and over 50 publications in journals and books, I have edited and published two comprehensive medical reference books on Pediatric HIV/AIDS: "Principles of Perinatal & Pediatric HIV/ AIDS" [the first of its kind from the Indian subcontinent, and "The Positive Child has a Right to a Positive Life" [which emphasizes not just the medical management of HIV in children, but also on providing equal opportunities to these children in a world with no stigma & discrimination, to achieve their goals and become productive citizens of tomorrow].



I share an equal passion for extreme adventure sports. Since childhood I have participated in mountaineering, arctic survival training, Himalayan car rally, Nordic skiing, skydiving, white water river rafting, parasailing, gliding and abseiling. I successfully completed a Driving Expedition across Central Asia covering 4 countries including the high Pamir Mountain ranges recently, as part of a fundraising campaign for the HIV positive children of India. I was awarded 3rd place in the 'Raid - De - Himalayas', one of the toughest car rallies in the world which covers a

distance of approximately 2700 km over 7 days in the interiors of the Himalayan wilderness. I was a gold medallist for India the Commonwealth countries in rifle shooting, I was selected as Expedition Medical Officer for the Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica in 2011; an intense "Pre Antarctic Training & Acclimatization Program" in basic mountaineering, rock climbing, ice craft, snow craft, crevasse rescue, fire fighting, sea faring, was imparted by the Indo Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP) at the foothills of the Himalayas, before embarking on the expedition.

Links:

<https://youtu.be/32T3Hh2605c?si=phXG6gYlf52cSDNN>

<https://youtu.be/xil6ISjXGMw?si=7hMekOV1GxZ7mSqW>

<https://orthotvonline.com/Speaker/dr-mamatha-m-lala-paediatrician-hiv-specialist/>

<https://www.deccanherald.com/archives/ice-clad-moments-adventurous-doctor-2303209>







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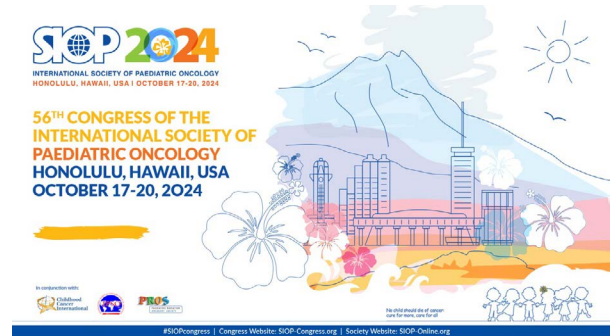
# Announcement

## 2024

**16-19 May 2024**



**17-20 October 2024**



**14-17 November 2024**



**4-7 December 2024**

