

## THE ESMO/SIOPE JOINT WORKING GROUP ON CANCER IN ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS (AYA): PROGRESS THROUGH COLLABORATION BETWEEN TWO OF EUROPE'S LEADING PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

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on behalf of the ESMO/SIOPE AYA Working Group

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### Abstract

AYA related topics and activities are relevant for both pediatric and medical oncology. Strong ties between both worlds are essential to appropriately address the AYA population's needs. While efforts to link AYA-related activities of adult and pediatric oncology societies have been initiated in some countries, formal international collaboration remained to be established. Recognizing this need, the European Societies for Medical (ESMO) and Pediatric (SIOPE) Oncology signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2015 and have since established a Joint Cancer in AYA Working Group (AYA-WG, <http://www.esmo.org/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Educational-Committee/Adolescents-and-Young-Adults-Working-Group>). Its goals include promotion of education in cancer topics specific for AYAs, increasing awareness amongst the medical and pediatric oncology communities, enhancing knowledge on AYA specific cancer issues. The group will also liaise with other committees as needed, e.g. providing advice at policy level to optimize prevention, diagnosis, treatment and long term follow-up. The group will advocate for increasing research capacities in malignancies affecting AYAs and cultivating sensitive collaborative relations between medical and pediatric oncologists, as well as with other involved healthcare professionals. Joint activities are discussed and progress is monitored during regular teleconferences and at least annual face-to-face meetings. Examples of educational activities promoted by the AYA-WG include AYA-specific e-learning modules published on the ESMO website, a joint AYA session at ESMO's 2016 conference and participation of an ESMO representative from the AYA-WG in ECCO-2017's pediatric track, and others. A professional education survey on AYA with cancer to be sent out to all ESMO and SIOPE members has been sent to the respective memberships. It is expected that its results will help to identify those AYA-related areas with the greatest needs for joint action by both European societies.

The implementation of the Joint ESMO/SIOPE AYA Working Group demonstrates the dedication of Europe's leading societies for Medical and Pediatric Oncology to jointly improve care and outcomes for the AYA population.



**The Joint ESMO-SIOPE Working Group on Cancer in Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA)**

### Chairs

- Giannis Mountzios, Greece (ESMO)
- Stefan Bielack, Germany (SIOPE)

### Committee Members

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### Background

AYA with cancer face a number of unique challenges, not the least being often fragmented treatment infrastructures, which limit professional knowledge about their specific medical and psychosocial needs.

Communication and cooperation between disciplines and across artificial age barriers is essential if the field is to move forward.

Acknowledging this fact, the European Society for Medical Oncology, ESMO, and the European Society for Paediatric Oncology, SIOPE, signed a Memorandum of Understanding and decided to form a Joint Working Group on Cancer in Adolescents and Young Adults, with a focus on education.

The main aims of the Joint Working Group are to increase awareness amongst the medical and pediatric oncology communities and to enhance knowledge on AYA related cancer issues.

### Mission of the Joint ESMO-SIOPE Working Group on Cancer in Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA)

The goal of the joint Working Group is to promote education in cancer topics specific to this population. It is a joint venture between the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) and the European Society for Pediatric Oncology (SIOPE) created in 2016, following collaborative efforts in the educational arena between the two societies since 2014.

### ESMO-SIOPE AYA Activities and Responsibilities (1)

- Increase awareness amongst the medical and pediatric oncology communities & enhance knowledge on specific AYA cancer issues
- Serve as a primary resource for new CME opportunities through production of specific educational and scientific programs.
- Liaise with other ESMO committees when specific actions are needed, e.g. providing advice at policy level to optimize approaches to prevention, diagnosis, treatment and long term follow-up of these specific patient populations.

### ESMO-SIOPE AYA Activities and Responsibilities (2)

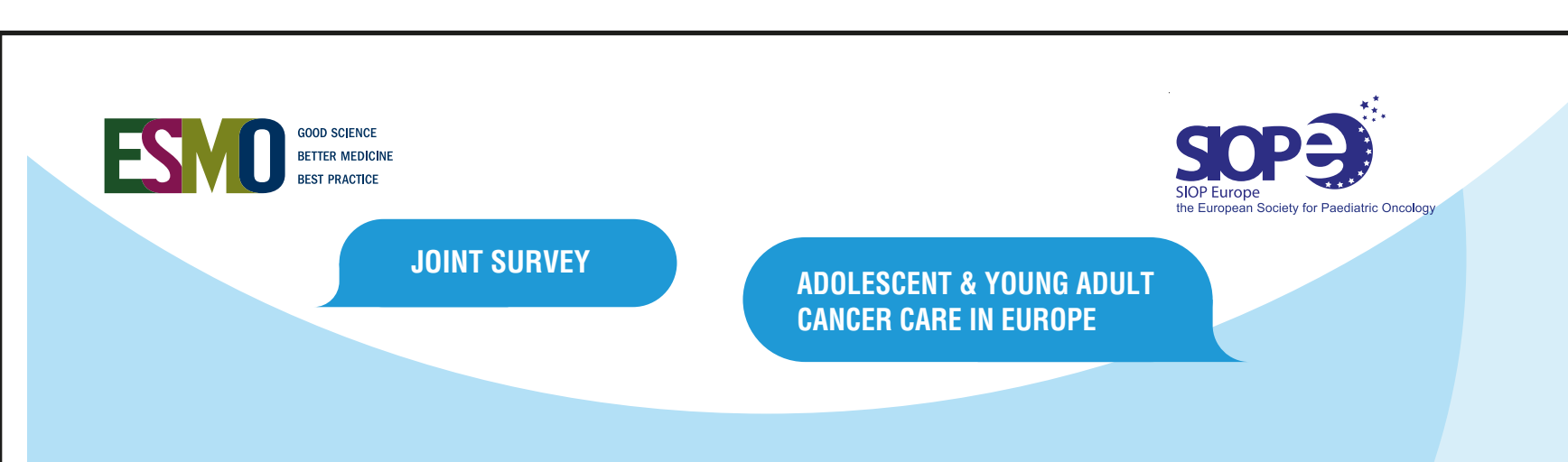
- Advocacy for an increase in research capacities in tumor types affecting these patients and cultivating sensitive collaborative relations between medical and pediatric oncologists and other healthcare professionals involved in AYA care.

Sharing the same goals with ESMO, one of the objectives in SIOPE's strategic plan is to address the specific needs of adolescents and young adults in cooperation with adult oncology. The actions foreseen in a joint integrated program between pediatric and adult oncology, in strong partnership with patients are:

- Create a European multidisciplinary network on AYA cancers that covers care and research and includes all health professionals and patients.
- At the national level, help the creation of AYA cancer services, which provide the required complex multidisciplinary care.
- Define a training program for health professionals addressing the specific needs of AYA.
- Increase the portfolio of clinical trials for AYA, and increase their accessibility.
- Monitor progress in AYA terms of survival.

### Selected AYA Working Group Accomplishments

- Regular teleconferences & face-to-face meetings (Yes!!! Medical and pediatric oncologists talk to each other!)
- Dedicated space on the ESMO website  
<http://www.esmo.org/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Educational-Committee/Adolescents-and-Young-Adults-Working-Group>
- e-learning modules on:
  - Cancer in adolescents and young adults
  - Breast cancer in young women
  - Colorectal cancer in young adults: the focus on hereditary cancer syndromes
  - Development of further modules in progress
- Joint ESMO-SIOPE AYA symposia at ESMO conferences
- Agreement on producing a joint handbook on AYA cancer
- ESMO-SIOPE Survey on AYA Care (see below)
- This poster!



### ESMO-SIOPE Survey on AYA Care

Help us record the current situation in Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA) cancer care in Europe by completing our quick survey at [www.esmo.org/siope](http://www.esmo.org/siope)

**Take the survey today and make your voice heard!**



### Objectives of the Survey

- To record the current situation in AYA cancer care in Europe
- To ensure the ESMO and SIOPE Joint Working Group provides educational content on AYA issues that is of interest to members of both societies
- To increase professional awareness of AYA cancer related issues

### The survey consists of seven parts and can be completed in 10 minutes:

- Demographics
- Services for AYA and clinical teams
- Clinical research and clinical trials
- The health of people living after cancer
- The management of cancer risk in AYA
- Involvement of patients and the public in improving AYA cancer outcomes and services
- Professional education about AYA with cancer

**The deadline for survey completion is 24 December 2016 and all responses are anonymous.**

### Conclusions and Outlook

- To our knowledge, the ESMO-SIOPE AYA Working Group is unique in the way it links the AYA activities of a continent's leading Medical and Pediatric Oncology Societies.
- Following implementation of the Joint AYA Working Group in 2015, important accomplishments have already been achieved.
- The results of the ESMO-SIOPE Survey on AYA Cancer Care will be translated into further action starting 2017.
- The successful collaboration between Europe's leading Societies for Medical and Pediatric Oncology, ESMO and SIOPE, in a joint AYA Working Group may serve as a model and as an incentive for other regions of the world where the needs of AYAs with cancer are just as pressing.