



Pediatric Hematology
and Oncology Chapter

Indian Academy of Pediatrics

PHO Vibes

Fifth Edition | July 2026

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NOTE FROM PHO CHAIRPERSON



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It gives me immense pleasure to connect with you through another edition of PHO Vibes, a platform that reflects not only the academic achievements of our chapter but also the collective spirit, dedication, and vision of the pediatric hematology-oncology fraternity across India.

Over the years, the PHO Chapter of IAP has evolved into a vibrant academic community committed to advancing the care of children with blood disorders and cancer. Our vision remains clear—to ensure that every child, irrespective of geography or socioeconomic status, has access to high-quality, evidence-based, and compassionate care. Our mission is equally unwavering: to empower pediatricians and pediatric hematology-oncology professionals through education, collaboration, research, advocacy, and innovation.

The rapid advances in our specialty demand that we continuously adapt and learn. Precision oncology, molecular diagnostics, cellular therapies, survivorship care, supportive care, and multidisciplinary collaboration are redefining the future of pediatric oncology. As a chapter, we are committed to creating opportunities that enable our members to remain at the forefront of these advances while translating scientific progress into better outcomes for children.

One of the greatest strengths of our chapter is its people. It is particularly encouraging to witness the enthusiasm, curiosity, and leadership of our younger colleagues. Their energy, innovative ideas, and commitment to excellence are shaping the future of pediatric hematology-oncology in India. At the same time, the wisdom and mentorship of our senior members continue to provide the strong foundation upon which this growth is built. Together, they create a culture of learning that is both dynamic and enduring.

Our Midterm PHO CME at Madurai is another important milestone in this journey. Beyond scientific deliberations, these meetings strengthen professional relationships, encourage collaboration across institutions, inspire young clinicians, and foster meaningful discussions that ultimately benefit our patients. Every interaction, every shared experience, and every new partnership contributes to building a stronger national community.

I congratulate the organizing committee, faculty, and every member who continues to contribute selflessly to the growth of our chapter. Let us continue to work together with renewed purpose, embracing innovation while remaining steadfast in our commitment to improving the lives of every child with cancer and blood disorders.

I wish you all a memorable and academically enriching Midterm PHO CME and look forward to meeting you in Madurai.

With warm regards,

Dr. Satya Yadav

Chairperson, PHO Chapter, IAP

Director, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology & BMT

Medanta Hospital, Gurugram, Haryana

NOTE FROM HONORARY SECRETARY



Dear PHO Members,

Warm greetings to all of you.

As we gather for the Midterm PHOCON in Madurai, I am delighted to share some of the exciting initiatives that reflect the continued growth and evolving vision of our chapter. Every meeting is more than an academic event—it is an opportunity to learn together, strengthen professional relationships, nurture young talent, and collectively shape the future of pediatric hematology-oncology in India.

This year marks the welcome return of the Pediatric Surgical Oncology Workshop, organized in collaboration with the Association of Surgical Pediatric Oncologists (ASPO). The integration of surgical oncology with pediatric hematology-oncology underscores the importance of multidisciplinary care and reinforces our commitment to comprehensive treatment for every child.

Education continues to remain the cornerstone of our chapter. We are proud to have launched structured Certification Programmes in Palliative Care and Thalassemia, designed to provide high-quality, standardized learning opportunities that address the evolving educational needs of pediatricians, trainees, nurses, and specialists. These initiatives represent our commitment to lifelong learning and capacity building across the country.

Another major step forward is our chapter's academic partnership with the PICK4Kids (Precision in Cancer Care for Kids) initiative. Precision oncology is rapidly transforming pediatric cancer care, and through this collaboration we hope to promote molecular diagnostics, multidisciplinary molecular tumor boards, research, education, and equitable access to precision medicine. Our vision is simple yet ambitious—to ensure that advances in science reach every child, irrespective of where they live or the resources available to them.

As a professional community, our responsibility extends beyond organizing meetings and academic programmes. The strength of our chapter lies in the willingness of its members to share knowledge, mentor one another, and work together for a common purpose.

I sincerely thank our Executive Board, faculty, Dr. Annapoorni and the Local Organizing Committee, PHO delegates, PHO nurses, and the various NGOs whose enthusiasm and commitment continue to drive our chapter forward. Your support transforms ideas into impactful initiatives and strengthens our shared mission.

I look forward to welcoming all of you to Madurai for an engaging scientific programme, meaningful discussions, and the opportunity to celebrate the remarkable progress of our PHO family. Together, let us continue to innovate, collaborate, and ensure that every child with cancer or a blood disorder receives the best possible care.

With warm regards,

Dr. Shweta Bansal

Honorary Secretary, PHO Chapter, IAP

Director, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, BMT & Cellular Therapy

Gleneagles Hospital, Mumbai

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS



Dear Friends and Colleagues of the PHO Community,

It gives us immense pleasure to welcome you to the latest edition of **PHO Vibes**, the official newsletter of the Pediatric Hematology Oncology (PHO) Chapter of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics.

PHO Vibes continues to serve as a platform that connects our growing community, celebrates achievements, shares experiences, and highlights the remarkable work being

undertaken across the field of pediatric hematology and oncology. Each edition reflects the collective spirit of our fraternity and the unwavering commitment of those dedicated to improving outcomes for children with blood disorders and cancer. The past year has been one of learning, collaboration, and innovation. Across the country, PHO professionals have continued to advance patient care, strengthen academic initiatives, expand research efforts, and foster meaningful partnerships. This newsletter captures some of these milestones and provides a glimpse into the vibrant activities that have shaped our chapter over the past year.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to **Dr. Shweta Bansal, Honorary Secretary of the PHO Chapter, and Dr. Satya Prakash Yadav, Chairperson of the PHO Chapter**, for their leadership, vision, and steadfast support. Their guidance continues to inspire our collective efforts and strengthen the foundation of our specialty.

This edition also stands as a tribute to the diverse individuals who make our community unique—physicians, nurses, transplant specialists, social workers, psychologists, NGOs, researchers, trainees, and allied healthcare professionals. Together, we contribute to a shared mission of delivering the best possible care to children and their families.

A special word of thanks to all contributors whose articles, reports, photographs, artwork, and creative submissions have enriched these pages. Your enthusiasm and willingness to share knowledge and experiences are what make PHO Vibes a true reflection of our fraternity.

As we look ahead, may we continue to learn from one another, collaborate across institutions, and support initiatives that advance pediatric hematology and oncology in India and beyond. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey and for the difference you make every day in the lives of children and families entrusted to our care.

With warm regards,
Editors, PHO Vibes

Dr. Pritam Singha Roy

IAP PHO – Eastern Zone Member

Consultant, Department of Pediatric Hematology & Oncology, Tata Medical Center, Kolkata

Dr. Binitha Rajeswari

IAP PHO – South Zone Member

Additional Professor, Department of Pediatric Oncology, Regional Cancer Center, Thiruvananthapuram



PHO CHAPTER OF IAP : OFFICE BEARERS 2025-26



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Dr. Sunil Bhat



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Dr. Pritam Roy



Dr. Binitha R



PHOCON, MANIPAL, 2025



INTERNATIONAL SICKLE CELL DAY, JUNE 19, 2026



NATIONAL PEDIATRIC LIVER TUMOR CONCLAVE, CHENNAI, MARCH 28-29, 2026



ICCD 2026 CELEBRATION



The Pediatric Hematology-Oncology (PHO) Chapter of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) led nationwide activities to mark International Childhood Cancer Day 2026, focusing on awareness, early diagnosis, and equitable care.

Events included national webinars, public awareness campaigns, social media outreach, and community engagement programs across multiple centers. Hospitals organized educational sessions for families, survivorship stories, and multidisciplinary discussions to highlight advances and challenges in childhood cancer care.

Collaborative efforts with healthcare professionals, NGOs, and policymakers emphasized timely referral and access to treatment. The initiative reinforced the commitment to improving survival and quality of life for children with cancer across India.



INTERNATIONAL CHILDHOOD CANCER DAY (ICCD) 2026

NATIONAL WEBINAR
15 FEBRUARY 2026 | TIME: 4:00 – 5:00 PM (IST) | VIRTUAL

THEME
From Policy to Practice
What Do We Really Need to Improve Childhood Cancer Care in India?

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
DR. RAVI KANNAN
President, IAP PHO Chapter
Cancer Care Visionary | Public Health Leader

SESSION CHAIR
DR. SATYA YADAV
Chairperson, PHO - MP

SESSION MODERATOR
DR. SHREYA BANERJEE
Secretary, PHO - MP

PANELISTS

DISCUSSION FOCUS

- Bridging policy intent with real-world implementation
- Survivorship and long-term outcomes
- Strengthening shared-care & referral networks
- Early diagnosis, access & treatment completion
- Government-clinician-NGO collaboration



The Team of Pediatric Hematology Oncology at St. Johns Medical College and Hospital, Bengaluru, stands together for the cause of childhood cancer!

International Childhood Cancer Awareness Day
15 February 2026
Challenge to Change: Demonstrating Impact!
Music by the 'PHONics' group of St. Johns!

PHO MASTERCLASS AIIMS, NEW DELHI, APRIL 11-12, 2026



**ALL MASTERCLASS PGICH
NOIDA, MAY 14, 2026**

PICK⁴KIDS : FROM VISION TO REALITY

Our Mission

To advance the research on pediatric rare solid tumors.



Our Values

1. Marginal Matters
2. Small Changes Big Impact

PICK⁴Kids marks the beginning of a collaborative effort to improve access to precision pediatric oncology across India.

The PHO Chapter expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the Veda Family Foundation for its support, encouragement, and shared commitment to ensuring that every child has access to the best available precision cancer care. (Add the pictures attached)

Our Story

Our child had cancer, which had a very good prognosis, one of the rare success stories of pediatric solid tumor, with an over 90% success rate. Unfortunately, we ended up on the wrong side of the statistics; it's not just statistics for me and my family, it's a loss of a grave magnitude.

The entire study done in our category of tumor was finally of no use to us, as it failed in the primary objective to cure the cancer.

The subcategory apparently was too small to warrant spending resources on further research; the faith didn't care for this reality, and it hardly ever does.

This was our story, but no more. It doesn't have to be the fate of humanity. We will not stop, especially when the number of the affected group is small; we will continue to work on furthering the research and eventually find a



SAPNA YADAV
(PHO Division),
AIIMS Jodhpur, Social worker, Cankids.

ALL SHAVED HEADS, SMILING FACES

So innocent, yet so brave,
Walking through hospital doors with hope in their eyes,
They unknowingly taught me courage.

As a social worker, I want to share an experience that transformed the way I see life. When I joined my first job, I came with excitement, dedication, and many expectations. At that time, pediatric cancer was something I barely knew about. But my very first rounds in the IPD (In-patient department) changed me completely. Seeing small children fighting such difficult battles was emotionally overwhelming for me. Watching them on hospital beds, going through pain at such a young age, affected me deeply. Yet, over time, through regular conversations and visits, I developed a strong connection with the children and their families.

One moment that stayed with me forever was seeing a mother waiting outside the PICU (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit) for nearly three and a half months, hoping every day to see her child recover. That experience changed my perspective on life. Today, many of us lose hope very quickly during difficult situations, but these families continue to fight with unbelievable patience and strength. Working closely with these children and parents taught me that emotional support is sometimes as important as medical treatment. Even sitting beside someone, listening to them, or assuring them that they are not alone can make a difference.

These experiences also changed me personally. They taught me resilience, gratitude, and the value of hope. I often tell my patients to keep a picture of themselves with their shaved heads. One day, when life feels difficult again, they can look at that photograph and remind themselves of the battle they already survived. Because anyone who learns to smile while fighting cancer learns how to face life with courage. My journey as a social worker not only strengthened my skills in counseling and communication, but also brought a deep change within me as an individual. It introduced me to the true meaning of humanity, resilience, hope, and gave me a different outlook on life.

Spending time with these children and their families taught me that life does not always unfold as we wish. Some things remain with us, while some are meant to pass on. In the end, all we can do is give our sincere efforts, keep faith alive, and trust God with the rest.



PHO INDIA SHINES AT SIOP ASIA 2026

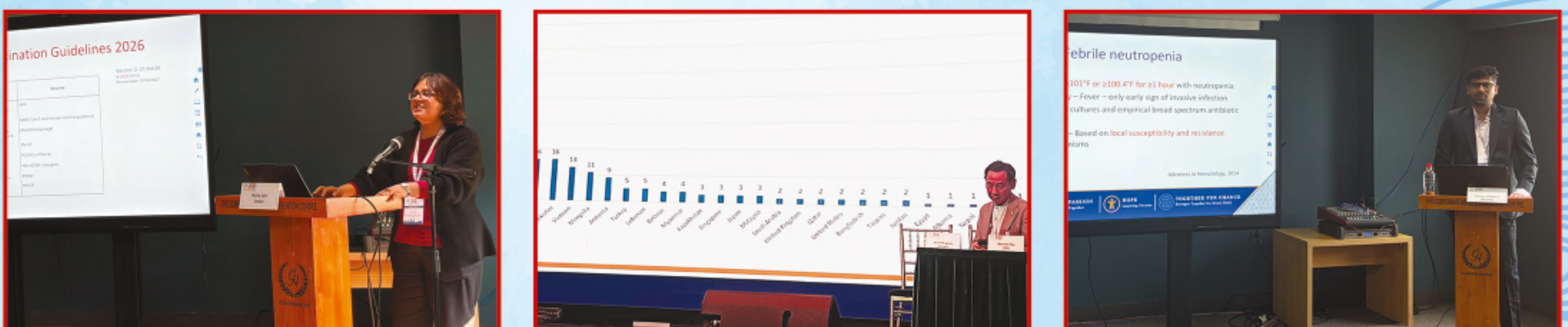


The Pediatric Hematology Oncology (PHO) fraternity of India made a remarkable impact at the **SIOP Asia 2026 Congress in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, reaffirming the country's growing academic and research footprint in pediatric oncology across the region.

India emerged as the **third-highest contributor in terms of abstract submissions**, with an impressive **34 abstracts**, trailing only **China and Russia**. This achievement reflects the vibrant research culture and collaborative efforts of PHO professionals across the country.

Indian delegates also earned significant recognition for the quality of their scientific presentations. **Oral Presentation Awards** were conferred upon **Dr. Richa Jain and Dr. Sonali Arora (PGIMER, Chandigarh)**, as well as **Dr. Saurav Sharma (AIIMS, New Delhi)**, highlighting the excellence of Indian research on the international stage.

Further adding to the accolades, **Dr. Munlima Hazarika (Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati)** received the **Best Poster Presentation Award**, bringing pride to the Indian PHO community.



PEDICON KOLKATA, JANUARY 2026



ISCALL PI MEET, KOLKATA, APRIL 10-12, 2026



PHO INDIA'S INITIATIVES IN THALASSEMIA PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

As part of its ongoing commitment to improving outcomes for children with thalassemia, the IAP Pediatric Hematology-Oncology (PHO) Chapter launched two important initiatives during World Thalassemia Day 2026. In collaboration with FOGSI, PHO unveiled a national awareness campaign promoting antenatal and prenatal screening for thalassemia, emphasizing prevention through early detection, carrier screening, and genetic counseling.

Complementing this effort, the chapter also introduced the **IAP-PHO Certification Programme in Thalassemia Diagnosis and Management**, a structured educational initiative aimed at equipping pediatricians with the knowledge and skills required for evidence-based thalassemia care. Together, these initiatives reflect PHO's vision of advancing both prevention and clinical excellence in hemoglobinopathy care across India.

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS. HEALTHY FUTURES.

ANTENATAL & PRENATAL TESTING FOR THALASSEMIA

A JOINT INITIATIVE OF
FOGSI, IAP & PHO
Creating a Thalassemia-Free Tomorrow

Early detection today. A healthy child tomorrow.

WHY IT MATTERS?

- Thalassemia is a serious genetic disorder that affects the production of hemoglobin.
- If both parents are carriers, there is a **25% risk** in every pregnancy of having a child with thalassemia major.
- Timely screening and counseling can prevent affected births and build healthy families.
- Prevention is possible. Together, we can make thalassemia a thing of the past.

WHO SHOULD BE TESTED?

- All pregnant women in the first trimester
- Couples planning a pregnancy
- Siblings and relatives of thalassemia patients
- Individuals from high prevalence communities or areas

SCREEN. COUNSEL. PREVENT.

OUR COLLABORATIVE COMMITMENT

FOGSI

- Integrating hemoglobinopathy screening into routine antenatal care
- Spreading awareness among obstetricians & gynecologists
- Promoting genetic counseling for informed choices

IAP

- Advocating national policies for prevention
- Supporting awareness & education initiatives
- Strengthening capacity building across India

PHO

- Providing evidence-based guidelines & protocols
- Training pediatricians in thalassemia care
- Supporting early diagnosis & comprehensive care

TOGETHER, WE CAN BREAK THE CYCLE OF THALASSEMIA

HOW IT WORKS?

- 1. SCREENING**
Simple blood test (CBC, Red cell indices, HbA₂, HPLC)
- 2. CARRIER DETECTION**
Identify carriers among parents
- 3. GENETIC COUNSELING**
Understand risks & options
- 4. PRENATAL DIAGNOSIS**
If both partners are carriers
- 5. INFORMED DECISIONS**
For a healthy future

A small test today can protect a life for generations.

8TH MAY WORLD THALASSEMIA DAY 2026

LET'S JOIN HANDS FOR A THALASSEMIA-FREE INDIA

- Get tested early in pregnancy
- Encourage carrier screening in families
- Spread awareness in your community
- Support policies that save lives

IAP-PHO CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME IN THALASSEMIA DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT

In Children with Thalassemia and Other Hemoglobinopathies

BUILDING EXPERTISE. STANDARDIZING CARE. TRANSFORMING OUTCOMES.

A structured, comprehensive programme by IAP Pediatric Hematology-Oncology (PHO) Chapter to empower pediatricians across India with the knowledge, skills and confidence to deliver high-quality, evidence-based care for children with thalassemia and other hemoglobinopathies.

WHY THIS PROGRAMME?

- EARLY & ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS**
Improve detection and timely diagnosis of thalassemia and hemoglobinopathies.
- STANDARDIZED MANAGEMENT**
Equip with updated protocols for optimal treatment and follow-up care.
- BETTER OUTCOMES**
Reduce complications and improve quality of life for children and families.
- NATIONWIDE IMPACT**
Build uniform expertise and strengthen care delivery across the country.
- EXPERT NETWORK**
Connect with a national community of experts for guidance and collaboration.
- PROFESSIONAL GROWTH**
Enhance clinical skills, credibility and career opportunities.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

- THALASSEMIA BASICS**
Pathophysiology, types, genetics and epidemiology
- DIAGNOSIS**
Screening, CBC indices, Hb analysis, HPLC, molecular diagnostics
- TRANSFUSION MEDICINE**
Indications, safe transfusion practices and complication management
- IRON OVERLOAD & CHELATION THERAPY**
Monitoring iron status, chelation options, protocols and side effect management
- COMPREHENSIVE CARE**
Growth, nutrition, endocrine care, immunization and psychosocial support
- COMPLICATIONS & SPECIAL SITUATIONS**
Splenectomy, infections, bone health, pregnancy counseling
- CURATIVE THERAPIES**
Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and emerging therapies

FLEXIBLE LEARNING FORMAT

- Online modules with expert lectures
- Case discussions and clinical scenarios
- Assessments and knowledge checks
- Live webinars and interactive sessions
- Certification on successful completion

WHO CAN ENROLL?

- Pediatricians in clinical practice
- Postgraduate students in Pediatrics
- Fellows in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology
- Doctors with special interest in pediatric hematology

ON COMPLETION, YOU WILL RECEIVE

- IAP-PHO Certification
- Recognized credential
- Enhanced clinical competence
- Access to expert network and ongoing updates

EMPOWERING PEDIATRICIANS TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S LIVES

LAUNCHING ON WORLD THALASSEMIA DAY 8TH MAY 2026

LET'S BUILD A NATION OF EXPERTS. LET'S TRANSFORM THALASSEMIA CARE. Enroll. Learn. Lead the Change.

TOGETHER WE CAN STRENGTHEN KNOWLEDGE. ELEVATE CARE. SAVE LIVES. JOIN THE IAP-PHO CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME TODAY!

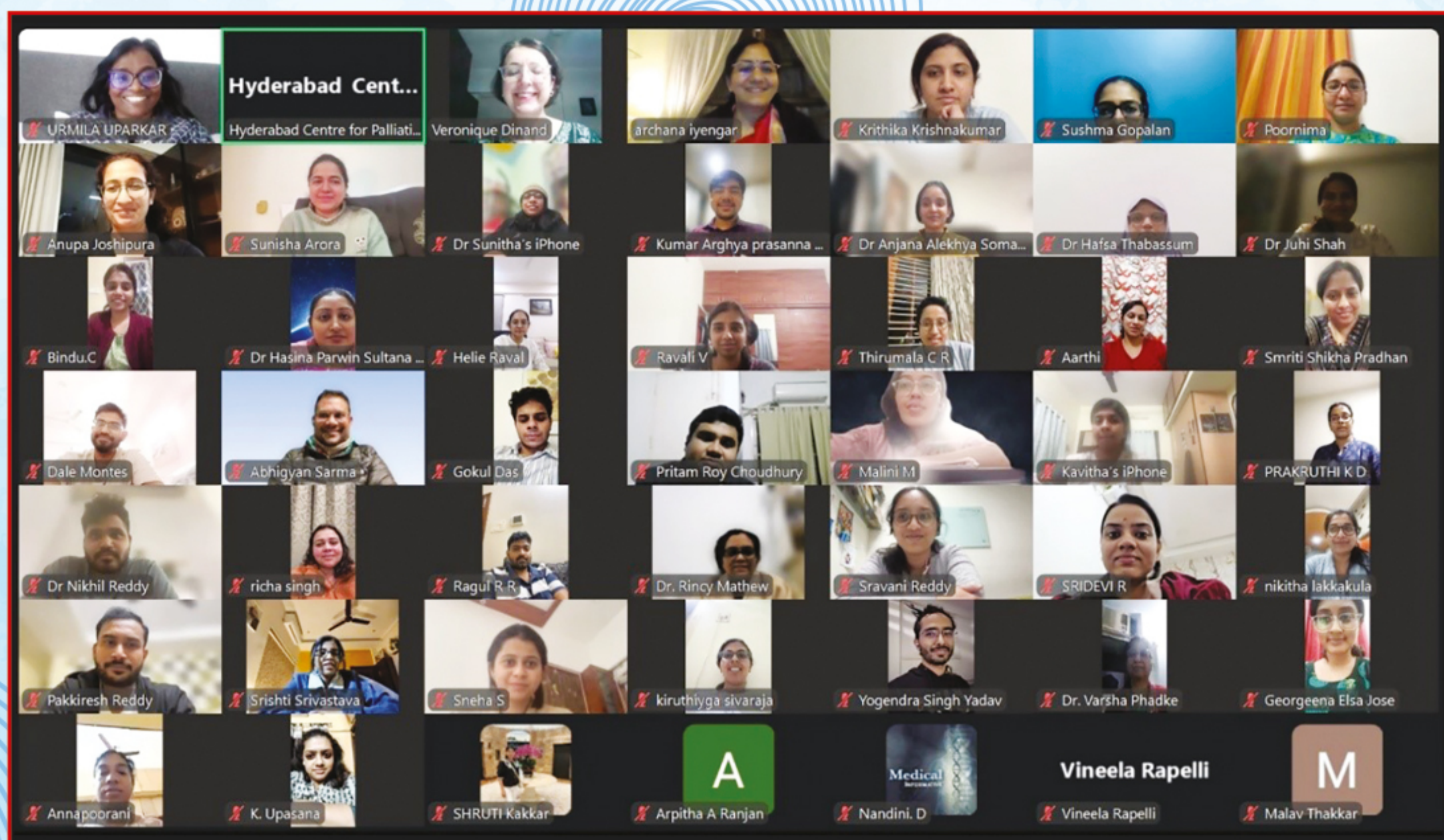
From Awareness to Action
From Treatment to Prevention • From Hope to Cure

PHO-ICCI PALLIATIVE CARE COURSE

Pediatric Hematology-Oncology (PHO) Chapter of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) and the Palliative Care Task Force of the Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative (ICCI), in collaboration with the Hyderabad Center for Palliative Care, conducted a Virtual Training Program in Essentials of Pediatric Palliative Care from 9 January to 27 March 2026.

The program consisted of nine sessions covering key topics such as the principles and scope of pediatric palliative care, pain management and multimodal analgesia, gastrointestinal and neurological symptom management, psychosocial and spiritual distress, communication with children and families, palliative care emergencies, and end-of-life care. A total of 46 Pediatric Hematology-Oncology physicians registered for the course.

The program witnessed excellent participation, active discussions, and strong engagement from attendees throughout the training. An online examination was conducted on 13 June 2026 to assess participants' learning. Forty-two physicians successfully completed the course and qualified for certification, marking another important step in strengthening pediatric palliative care capacity among pediatric oncology professionals in India.





DR. PARTHASARATHI BHATTACHARYYA

Senior Consultant, Pediatric Onco-Critical Care Unit,
Tata Medical Center, Kolkata

NOT WHERE I WANTED TO BE

Not once I wanted to be in
Confined to my bed
By the side of a big window
Lines sticking to my hand Carrying the deadly cocktail up my veins
I feel sick every day
I want to be free
Free of all the pain and suffering
I see the blue sky and the sunshine
I see raindrops and I see the cloud
I hear the birds chirping
I lie on my bed
Thinking I want to be free like a bird
Like the breeze running through the trees
I know I may not leave my bed ever
I do see hope now and then
Not to go home and lie in my own bed
But to be free of pain of cancer for ever
And go to the garden up in heaven
To rest in peace forever.

-----X-----





SHUBHAM DUTTA

Data manager

Tata Translational Research Centre, Tata Medical Center, Kolkata

SILENT CORRIDOR

It was a deep night in the hospital corridor,
The pale white walls stood speechless
Behind the ticking sound
Of the clock hands.
A little child lay on the bed,
Eyes weary,
Yet wrapped in a strange faded calmness.
Day after day, I had seen him—
Sometimes stubbornly refusing medicine,
Sometimes drawing on crumpled sheets of paper
A house, a sun, and two little figures.
I had asked,
“Who are they?”
He replied,
“Me and my mother.”
That night, his mother sat in silence.
No sleep in her eyes, only waiting—
Waiting for a miraculous morning
Where doctors would walk in and say,
“There is nothing to be afraid of anymore.”
The child, writhing in pain, asked me,
“Doctor uncle, when can I go home?”
simplest, yet irrevocably difficult to answer.
Holding his tiny little hand,
With unnoticed grief, I exclaimed—
“’tis time, your sufferings have come to end, love”
Did he understand the weight my words held?
Perhaps not.
Yet, he gave a faint smile
A smile of farewell, I suppose;
For an instance, it was mocking all of my medical learning.
He uttered the words of truth in agony and the pain of a lost battle
“So, you have lost after all.”
I thought to myself, “well I did lad, I did”
There comes a moment
When all medical science comes to a halt,
When every calculation surrenders,
And only silence speaks.
That day, his mother said nothing.
She gently stroked her child’s forehead
And kept staring without blinking,
As if, she had been embracing her entire world for the one last time.
That day I understood,
Death doesn’t appear as a cacophony of loud sounds.
At times, it’s quiet, cold like the ice that lays in the morgue
Leaving a mother’s lap empty.
Even today, whenever I stroll through hospital corridors,
I remember those unfinished stories
That were silenced forever.



SOUHRIDHRA CHAKRABORTY

Clinical Data Manager, ISCALL Project,
Tata Translational Cancer Research Centre, Tata Medical Center, Kolkata

DANCING WITH MY DEMONS

I used to know exactly what my body was for.
Grass under boots. The clean arc of a thrown ball.
A body that moved through the world
and the world moved aside.
December came with a word no one says quickly.
They held it out like something fragile.
I took it.

On the last night of the year
the sky caught fire the way it does
when everyone outside is celebrating something,
gold, crimson, the whole city counting down.
I watched through glass.
The demon and I had just been introduced.

They moved me to another place.
State of the art, they said.
The demon came too, of course.
We shared a room for months,
it in my marrow,
me watching the ceiling,
both of us learning
the other's moves.

Outside, life kept its tempo.
The team played on. The corridors filled.
Messages came, then thinned, then stopped
the way music fades
when the door closes between you and it.
She left. I don't blame her.
You can't ask someone to dance
with a demon they didn't choose.

For a while I was something people were sorry about.
An assembly mention. A fundraiser.



Sympathy is a strange partner,
it holds you at arm's length
and calls it an embrace.

Eventually, the demon tired.
Or I did. Or the drugs did.
The numbers turned.
Recovery is not a moment,
it is a hundred mornings
of testing the floor with your weight
and finding it holds.

I sat my exams again.
Then university. Then, further.
I studied the demon...
its proteins, its pathways,
the exact mechanism of its cruelty.
If you are going to keep dancing with something,
you should at least know its name.

Now I work in the place that held me.
Same corridors. Repainted walls.
The demon is here too, in the charts,
in the bone marrow of strangers
I am trying to help.

People call it a full circle.
I call it what it is,
still dancing.
Not because I won.
Not because I made peace.
But because the music hasn't stopped
and I have not yet
decided to sit down.

-----X-----

HEMOGLOBINOPATHY CME, AIIMS BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 2026



NTP-PPH WORKSHOP, PUNE



NTP-PPO WORKSHOP

Patna ►



Hyderabad ►

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Quality Matters in Cancer Care

NTPPPO WORKSHOP

NATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT IN PRACTICAL PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY

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Quality Matters in Cancer Care

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DR. SOMA DE

Dy-In-Charge, Paediatric Oncology Department
SGCC&RI, Kolkata

THE SCORCHING SUMMER

The scorching summer
Invites the warm winds
To usher the Norwester.
The relief, the joy
Shrouds the destruction!

The balance between
Grief and joy,
Love and hate,
Rage and placidity Seems relentless...
As life moves on!

The race to achieve,
Targets to fulfill,
Has masked the power
To appreciate
The beauty and mystery
Of precious LIFE!

We often forget
The "PAUSE" button.
Little do we fathom
The internal corrosion,
The lost pearls of life!

So friends,
Bask in the glorious serenity,
Those silent moments
While walking through forest path.
Count your blessings!
Pick up the treasures of being Alive.

-----X-----



DR. RAJANI CHERIAN

DM Senior Resident

Dept. of Pediatric Oncology, Regional Cancer Center, Thiruvananthapuram

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE.....

As I complete my four year tenure of being a resident in Pediatric Oncology, Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum, here are some of my reflections of my journey through these past four years.

I remember the day I decided to choose this specialty. Some had congratulated whereas some had asked me to reconsider as the road ahead did not promise to be an easy one. As for me, taking up this meant giving up a secure job, financial strain on the family income, destabilization in the lives of my family and my two little kids and the uncertainty of future which always hovers around a pediatric oncology resident. But I decided to go ahead to at least try not only to get the degree but also to improve myself as a doctor in the areas of knowledge, clinical acumen, hands on skills, scientific research and communication.

The initial few months as a first year resident was a blur. My days were spent in making summaries, updating case files, taking sleepless duties, tagging behind seniors cluelessly in the ward rounds and attending multidisciplinary tumor board meetings either dozing off or listening to case discussions which sounded like Greek and Latin. Another aspect which affected me immensely was death. While being a pediatrician, death was something which happened once in a while. But here, I faced death more frequently. Some were sudden, some took a while. Some deaths were due to the incurable nature of the disease while some deaths happened during the fight against the disease. I remember vividly the stages through which I passed in my journey of embracing the concept of death. Initially I passed through stages of anger and frustration. But later on, they turned to phases of despair, disillusionment to finally reach the phase of meaningful acceptance.

As months passed, rays of sunshine started streaming through the rain clouds of confusion. Concepts and biology of disease started making sense through reading and meaningful discussions. Moments of happiness and small successes started becoming part of life. It came when a particularly sick child got discharged after days of sleepless monitoring or after seeing unmasked happiness and relief in the face of parents when they finally went home after treatment completion. It came when those total counts started to budge after remaining in nadir for days together or when that stubborn fever finally touched baseline. It came when a difficult intravenous access was secured after multiple painstaking attempts or even in mundane things like when the child passed stools after days of constipation!

Moments of happiness came when we finally relaxed and indulged in friendly banter with colleagues (who became second family) after a particularly hectic day or while gossiping with nurses and other staff, sipping black coffee and munching snacks in the midnight during night duties. Moments of happiness came when we celebrated with the kids and their parents either on their birthdays or during festive times. (RCC had become a second home at least for a few months both for the kids and for us residents.)

While I learnt the subject from textbooks, journals, conferences and webinars, I also learnt life lessons from the children and their parents. I learnt selflessness from a child who emptied her piggy bank so that it would be of help to a fellow patient. I learnt that attitude is the best skill to possess from a child who became a small entrepreneur selling handicrafts, bracelets and jewelry she herself made, during her months spent in treatment. I learnt resilience from a mother of twin babies who refused to give up, both diagnosed with infant leukemia in a span of one month and who had to spend months together in the ward as both the babies had stormy courses of chemotherapy. I learnt quiet acceptance from parents of a terminally ill child, who decided that they would stay together making memories in the last few months even when it meant the father quitting his job abroad. The list could go on and on...

There were instances when life felt so unfair too. They were children who not only had to bear the pain of treatment but also the pain of loss when one of the parents decided to abandon the family after the diagnosis of

cancer was made. We saw an entire family wiped out with cancer- a single mother who had come seeking treatment for her child with osteosarcoma and who later on got diagnosed with MDS herself and expired during treatment. Even though the child fought the disease alone, she also later relapsed and succumbed, all within a span of three years. There was also this couple who were blessed with a child after long years of infertility treatment only to lose her to cancer.

All throughout these months of ups and downs, the support and guidance of our teachers and mentors remained with us consistently. They taught us not only the subject but also how to navigate patient management, balancing both empathy and scientific fervor.

As I step out of RCC, I hope to make some difference, gaining strength and confidence from these rich experiences of which I was fortunate to be part of.....

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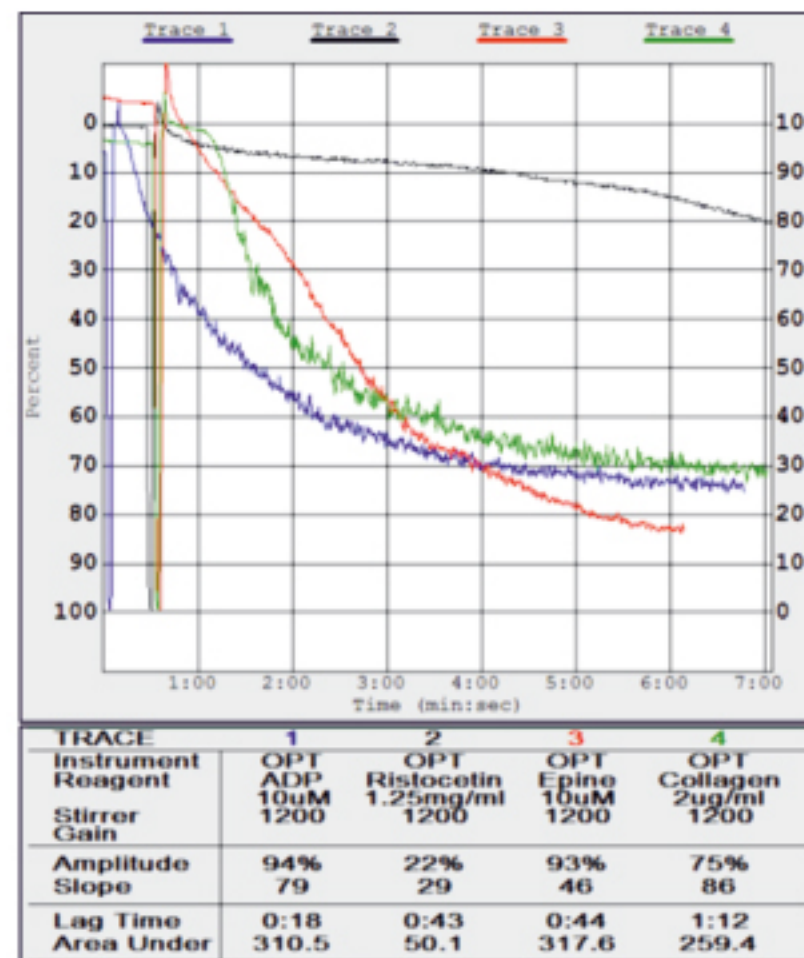
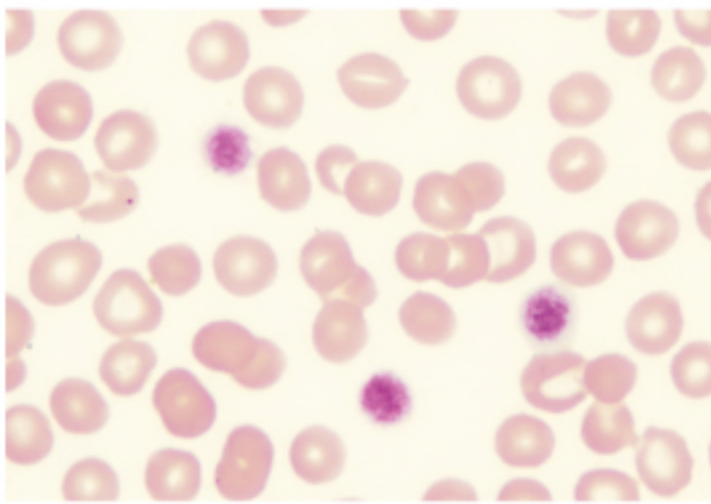
DR. VINAY MV

Consultant, Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, and BMT
Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru

QUIZ

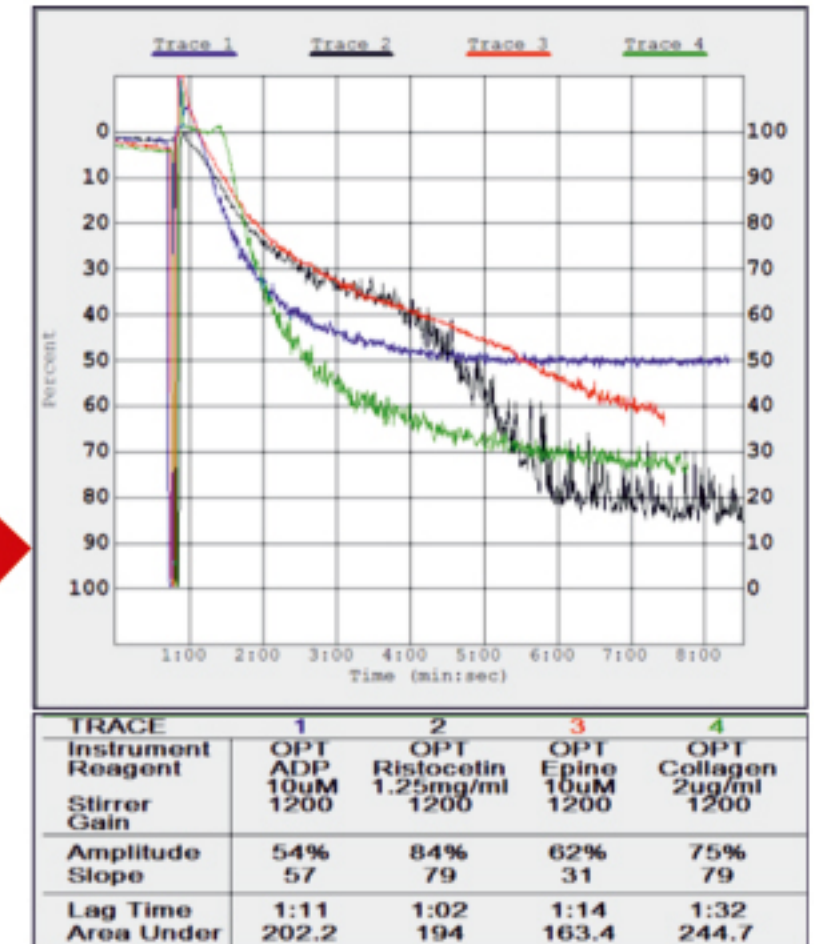
Q1:
Name the clinical condition
based on these findings?

Peripheral smear

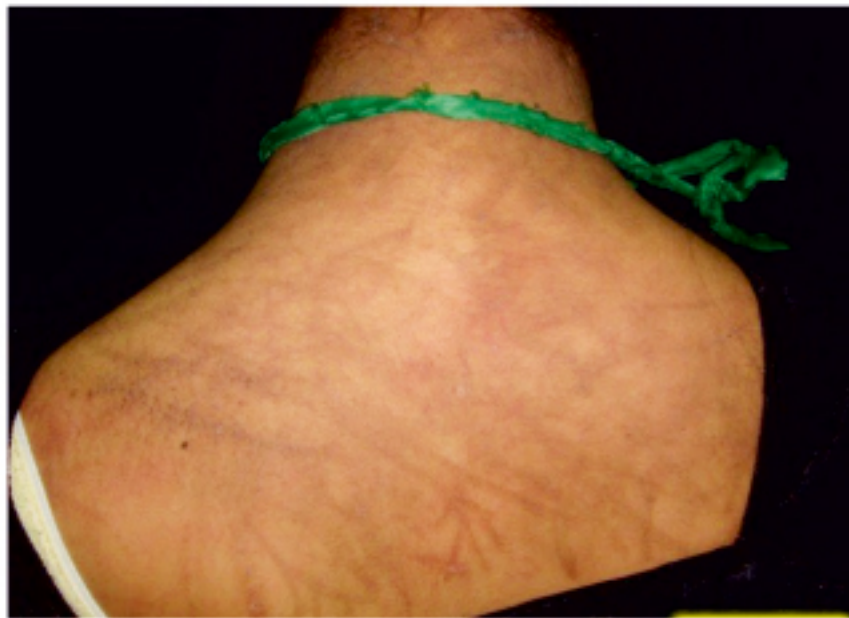


Test

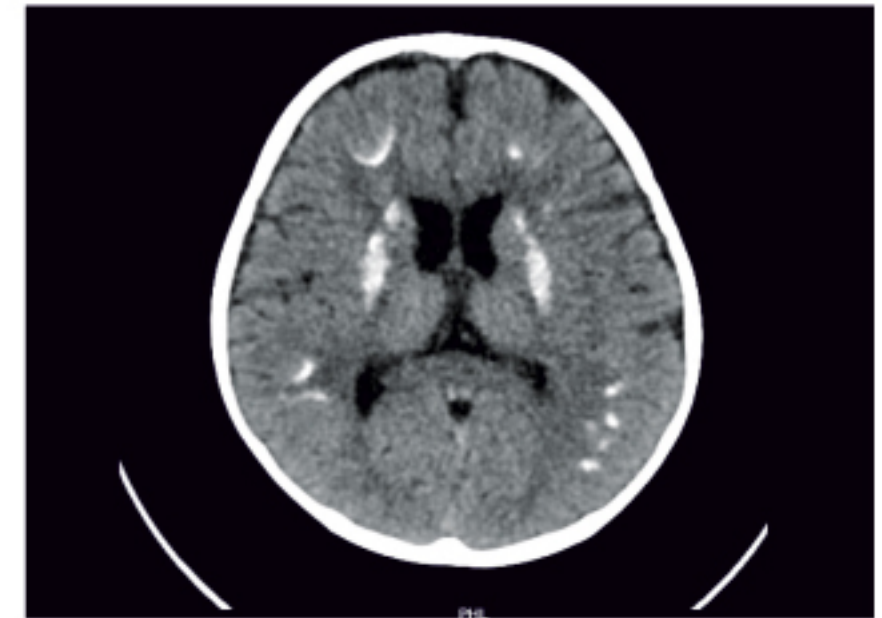
Control



Q2:
What is the
clinical finding
and caused
due to?



Q3.
ALL child in
maintenance
treatment,
post CRT;
imaging done
for seizures



Q4.
What is the
finding?

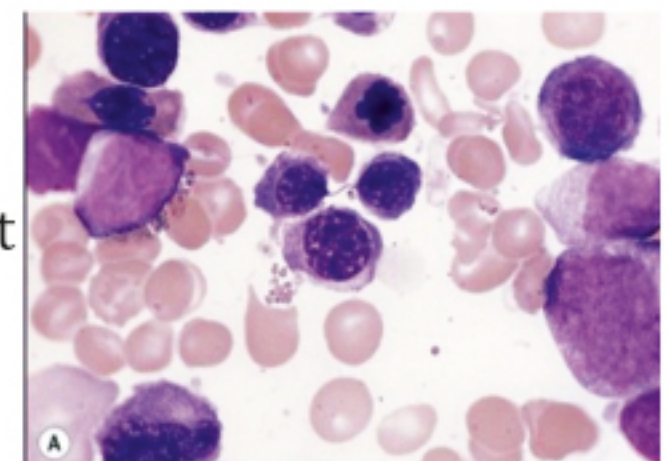


Q5.
What is the
diagnosis?

- History of intermittent blood transfusions

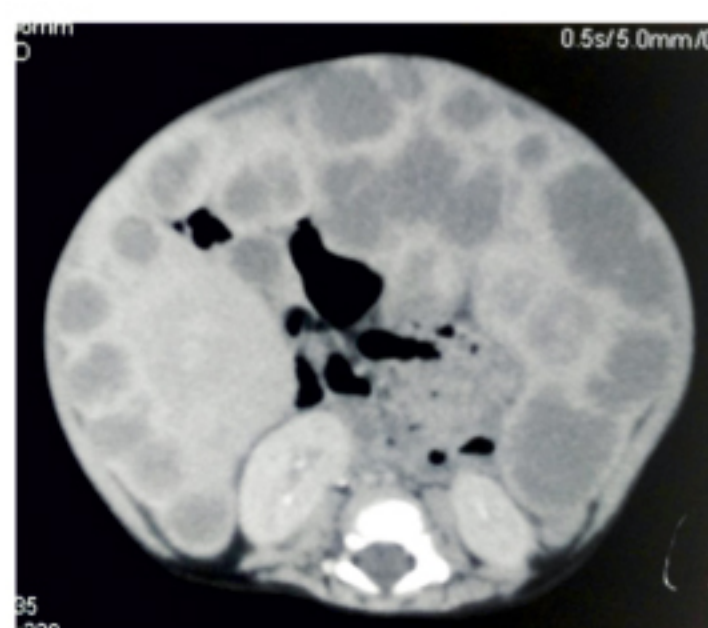
CBC:

- Hb 8 g/dl, MCV- 95 fL,



Q6.
What is the
diagnosis?

- Infant with hepatomegaly
- Anemia + thrombocytopenia
- Raised AFP



ANSWERS

Q1. Bernard-Soulier syndrome (BSS);
defect of GpIB-X complex

Q2. Flagellate skin pigmentation
(Bleomycin induced)

Q3. Mineralizing micro-angiopathy

Q4. Migrated chemoport line

Q5. Congenital dyserythropoietic anemia

Q6. Hepatic hemangio-endothelioma



DR. SOMA DE

Dy-In-Charge, Paediatric Oncology Department
SGCC&RI, Kolkata

A TRIBUTE TO ALL PARENTS WHO ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE:

A resource constraint, superstitious society
Sudders at the word "Cancer"
But, a family struck by this
Has, regrettably, no choice.

Those who brave it up- succeeds.
Specifically, will share a story amongst
myriads of such stupendous struggles,
witnessed over two decades:

The baby was only 17 months old when diagnosed with a malignant thigh tumor. Mother was a housewife while father was a daily labour outside the state. As expected, the relatives cleared off while the desperate mother plunged into the unknown city with the child and all her savings. The never-say-die struggles saw the child complete all chemotherapy, surgery through an amazing mindset and courage of a near-illiterate mother!

13 years later....

On a bright OPD day, a teenager stood before me. Instantly the room brightened up! My champion with her sports trophy and a brilliant smile took me on flashback ride!

Such inexplicable feelings are our rewards of never letting the monster called Cancer get better of us!

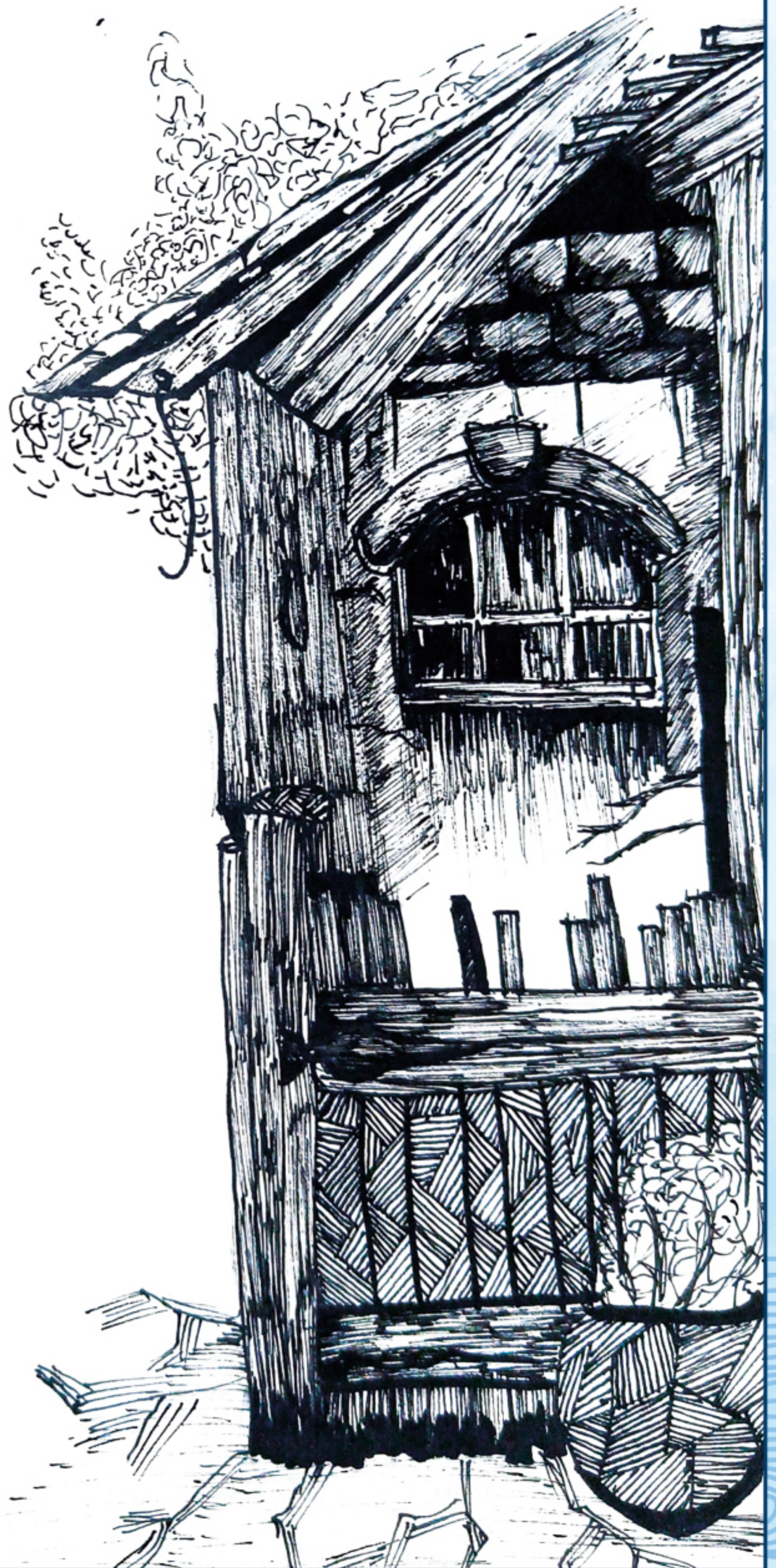
Our motto: Fight with positivity and hope And Success will be ours!

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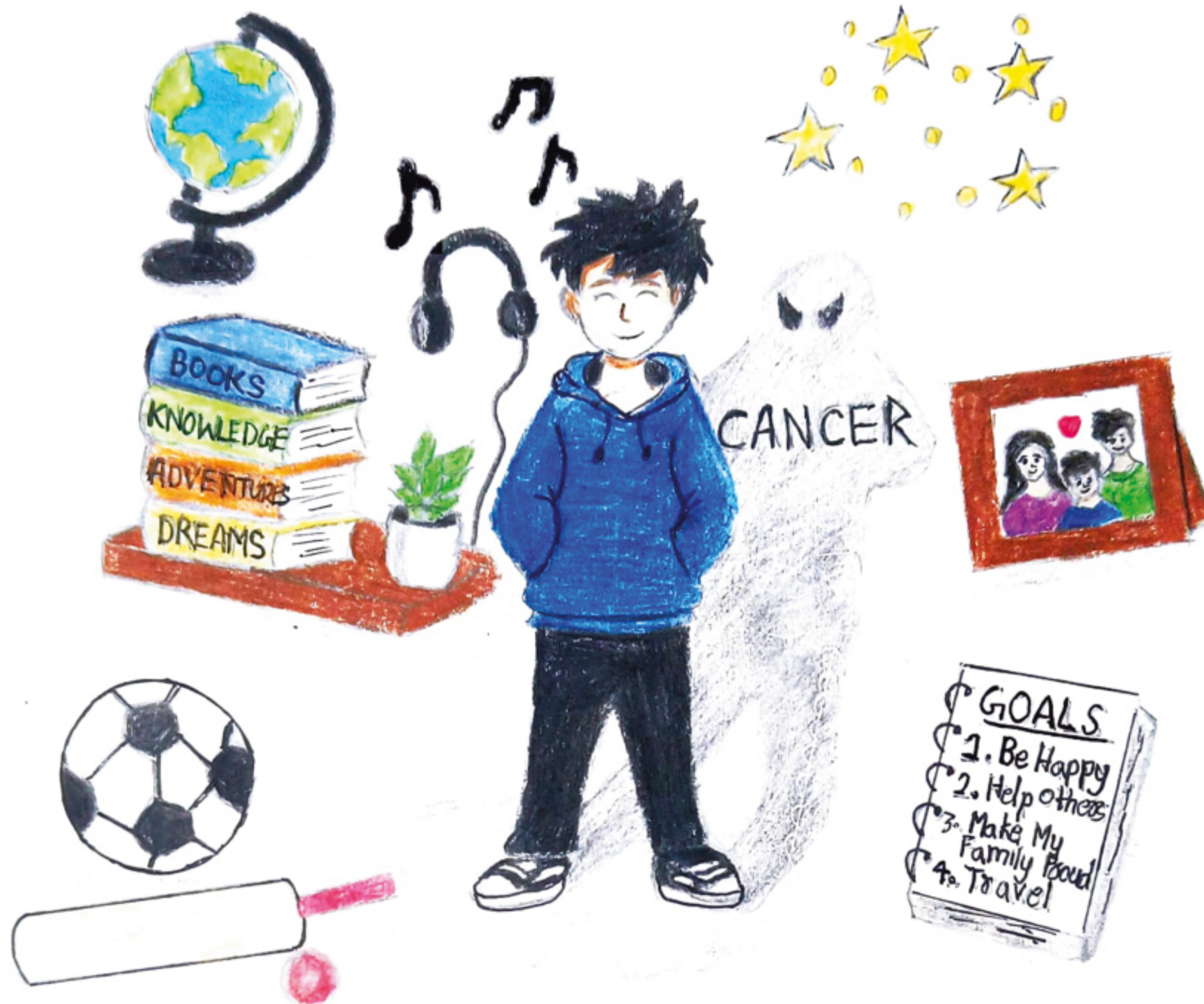


PAINTINGS BY OUR WARRIORS

Sometimes
We should take
a break and
do what we really
love
Our mind deserves
a break too.



PAINTINGS BY OUR WARRIORS



♥ I AM MORE THAN MY ILLNESS ♥

Cancer became a part of my life, but it does not define who I am. I still enjoy talking to my friends, listening to music, and reading my favorite books. Even on difficult days, I continue to dream about my future and the goals I want to achieve. My family's love and support remind me that I am strong and never alone. Cancer may have changed some parts of my life, but it cannot take away my happiness or hope. I am still the same person with talents, passions, and a bright future ahead of me.

NATIONAL AND GLOBAL RECOGNITION



DR. CHETAN DHAMNE

Professor, Pediatric Oncology,
Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai

The Pediatric Hematology-Oncology fraternity extends its heartfelt congratulations to **Dr. Chetan Dhamne**, Professor of Pediatric Oncology at Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, on being awarded the prestigious **Hans-Peter Wagner Prize 2026** by the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP). The award recognizes outstanding contributions to improving childhood cancer care in resource-constrained settings.



DR. VASUDEVA BHAT

Professor, Pediatric Hematology and Oncology,
Kasturba Medical College, Manipal

The Pediatric Hematology-Oncology community extends its warmest congratulations to **Dr. Vasudeva Bhat**, Professor of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, on being selected for the prestigious **SIOP PARC Early Career Award 2026**. The award, instituted by the Paediatric Oncology in Developing Countries (PODC) Advocacy, Research, and Collaboration (PARC) program of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP), recognizes outstanding early-career professionals who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to advancing childhood cancer care, research, education, and collaboration in low- and middle-income countries.

PHO CHAPTER HONoured WITH IAP BEST CHAPTER AWARD

The Pediatric Hematology Oncology (PHO) Chapter of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics was conferred the prestigious **Best Chapter Award at PEDICON 2026**, in recognition of its outstanding academic, educational, and advocacy initiatives during the year. Competing among **25 IAP subspecialty chapters**, PHO emerged as the top-performing chapter, reflecting the collective efforts and dedication of its members across the country.

The award was presented by **Dr. Neelam Mohan, President, IAP**, to **Dr. Manas Kalra, then Honorary Secretary of the PHO Chapter**, during the award ceremony held in **Kolkata**. This achievement stands as a testament to the chapter's continued commitment to advancing pediatric hematology and oncology care, education, and research in India.



DrNB PEDIATRIC HEMATO-ONCOLOGY: A LANDMARK RECOGNITION FOR THE SPECIALTY

The year 2026 marked a historic achievement for Pediatric Hematology-Oncology in India with the **National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS)** announcing **DrNB Pediatric Hemato-Oncology** among eleven newly introduced superspecialty academic programmes in the country. The announcement was made during the 23rd NBEMS Convocation held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, underscoring the growing recognition of the specialty and the increasing need for structured advanced training in pediatric blood disorders and cancers.

The PHO Chapter expresses its sincere gratitude to **Dr. Anupam Sachdeva, Prof. Deepak Bansal, Dr. Leni Mathew**, and the many colleagues whose tireless efforts, advocacy, and vision were instrumental in making this long-awaited milestone a reality.

The introduction of DrNB Pediatric Hemato-Oncology is expected to strengthen specialist workforce development, expand training opportunities, and further enhance the quality of care available to children with hematological and oncological disorders across India. This landmark development represents an important step forward in the continued growth and maturation of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology as a distinct superspecialty in the country.



INPHOG: RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Journal of Clinical Oncology®
An American Society of Clinical Oncology Journal

Meeting Abstract: 2026 ASCO Breakthrough

FREE ACCESS | Other Malignancies or Topics | June 23, 2026

Olanzapine-based, dexamethasone-free antiemetic prophylaxis for highly emetogenic chemotherapy in children and adolescents: A multicenter phase III non-inferiority trial (CIVIC-POD).

Authors: Venkatraman Radhakrishnan, Prasanth Srinivasan, Gargi Das, Sameer Bakhshi, Amita Mahajan, Prasanth Ganesan, Balaji Thiruvengadam Kothandan, ... SHOW ALL ... and Swaminathan Rajaraman | [AUTHORS INFO & AFFILIATIONS](#)

J Clin Oncol 44, 304(2026) • Volume 44, Number 19 suppl • DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2026.44.19_suppl.304

Toxicity during induction of pulsed versus continuous prednisolone in children with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia: a multi-centre, open label, randomised, phase 3 trial from India (2016–2022)

Parag Das,^{a,q} Nandana Das,^{a,q} Gaurav Narula,^{b,c} Amita Trehan,^d Sameer Bakhshi,^e Venkatraman Radhakrishnan,^f Rachna Seth,^g Prashant Tembhare,^h Man Updesh Singh Sachdeva,ⁱ Anita Chopra,^j Shirley Sundersingh,^k Soumyadeep Das,^l Manash Pratim Gogoi,^a Mayur Parihar,^m Rahul Bhattacharya,ⁿ Shripad Banavali,^{b,c} Vaskar Saha,^{a,o,p,q,*} and Shekhar Krishnan^{a,o,q}



> Lancet Reg Health Southeast Asia. 2026 Feb 5;45:100727. doi: 10.1016/j.lansea.2026.100727. eCollection 2026 Feb.

Long term outcomes of the Indian childhood cancer survivorship (C2S) cohort: a multicentre study (2016–2024)

Rachna Seth¹, Gauri Kapoor^{2,3}, Nirmalya Roy Moulik⁴, Prakruthi Kaushik⁵, Nishant Verma⁶, Amita Mahajan⁷, Priyakumari T⁸, Nita Radhakrishnan⁹, Revathi Raj¹⁰, Amitabh Singh¹¹, Sujata Sharma¹², Venkatraman Radhakrishnan¹³, Sirisha Rani¹⁴, Parthasarathi Bhattacharyya¹⁵, Yamini Krishnan¹⁶, Piali Mandal¹⁷, Emine A Rahiman¹⁸, Prachi Jain¹⁹, Debasish Sahoo²⁰, Debabrata Mohapatra²¹, Gargi Das¹³, Vineeta Gupta²², Gurpreet Singh²³, Shruti Kakkar²⁴, Anuj Singh⁹, Prashant Prabhakar¹¹, Arun Kumar Ar²⁵, Jagdish Prasad Meena²¹, Aditya Kumar Gupta²¹, Payal Malhotra²⁶, Chandan Kumar²⁷, Siyaram Didel²⁸, Shilpa Khanna Arora²⁹, Veerendra Patil³⁰, Anand Prakash³¹, Purva Kanvinde³², Maya Prasad⁴, Jagdish Chandra³³, Purna Kurkure³⁴, Ramandeep Arora³⁵

Multicenter Study > *Pediatr Blood Cancer*. 2025 Sep;72(9):e31871. doi: 10.1002/pbc.31871. Epub 2025 Jul 3.

Patterns of Care and Survival of Wilms Tumor in Children in India: A Retrospective Multicentric INPHOG Study

Sirisha Rani Siddaiahgari¹, Sandhya Vaddadi¹, Varshini Bandi¹, Deepa Trivedi², Arpita Bhattacharya³, Venkatraman Radhakrishnan⁴, Veerendra Patil⁵, Amita Mahajan⁶, Gauri Kapoor⁷, Shalini Mishra⁷, Revathy Raj⁸, Ramya Uppuluri⁸, Anand Prakash⁹, Julius Scott¹⁰, Dhaaran Jayaram¹⁰, Purna Kurkure¹¹, Ruchira Misra¹¹, Intezar Mehdi¹², Smita Shekhar¹², Vibha Bafna¹³, Archana M V¹⁴, Vasudev Bhat¹⁴, Yamini Krishnan¹⁵, Ramandeep Singh Arora¹⁶

Affiliations + expand
PMID: 40611538 DOI: 10.1002/pbc.31871



Risk stratified treatment for childhood acute lymphoblastic leukaemia: a multicentre observational study from India

Manash Pratim Gogoi,^{a,q} Parag Das,^{a,q} Nandana Das,^a Soumyadeep Das,^b Gaurav Narula,^{c,d} Amita Trehan,^e Sameer Bakhshi,^f Venkatraman Radhakrishnan,^g Rachna Seth,^h Prashant Tembhare,ⁱ Man Updesh Singh Sachdeva,^j Anita Chopra,^k Shirley Sundersingh,^l Mayur Parihar,^m Rahul Bhattacharya,ⁿ Shripad Banavali,^{c,d} Vaskar Saha,^{a,o,p,*} and Shekhar Krishnan^{a,o}



UPCOMING EVENTS



PHOCON 2026

29th Annual Pediatric Hematology Oncology Conference



Dates: 23–25 October

Venue:

📍 Education Day: 23 October at PGIMER, Chandigarh

📍 Main Conference: 24–25 October at IISER, Mohali

Organised by:

Pediatric Hematology Oncology Unit,
PGIMER, Chandigarh

UPCOMING EVENTS



AIIMS
BHOPAL



INDIAN ACADEMY
OF PEDIATRICS



PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY
& ONCOLOGY CHAPTER (PHO IAP)

Join us for

PHO MIDTERM CME 2027

Advancing Care. Inspiring Excellence. Together for Children.



JULY 2027

(Dates to be announced)



VENUE

AIIMS, Bhopal



TARGET AUDIENCE

Pediatric Hematologists,
Oncologists & Allied Specialists

HIGHLIGHTS



Expert Lectures &
Updates



Interactive Panel
Discussions



Free Paper &
Poster Sessions



Networking &
Collaboration



ORGANIZING SECRETARY



**DR NARENDRA KUMAR
CHAUDHARY**



TOGETHER, LET'S SHAPE A BRIGHTER
FUTURE FOR CHILDREN





Acknowledgements

As Editors of the PHO Newsletter, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to the successful publication of this issue.

We are especially thankful to Dr. Satya Prakash Yadav, Chairperson, PHO Chapter, and Dr. Shweta Bansal, Secretary, PHO Chapter, for their constant encouragement, guidance, and unwavering support.

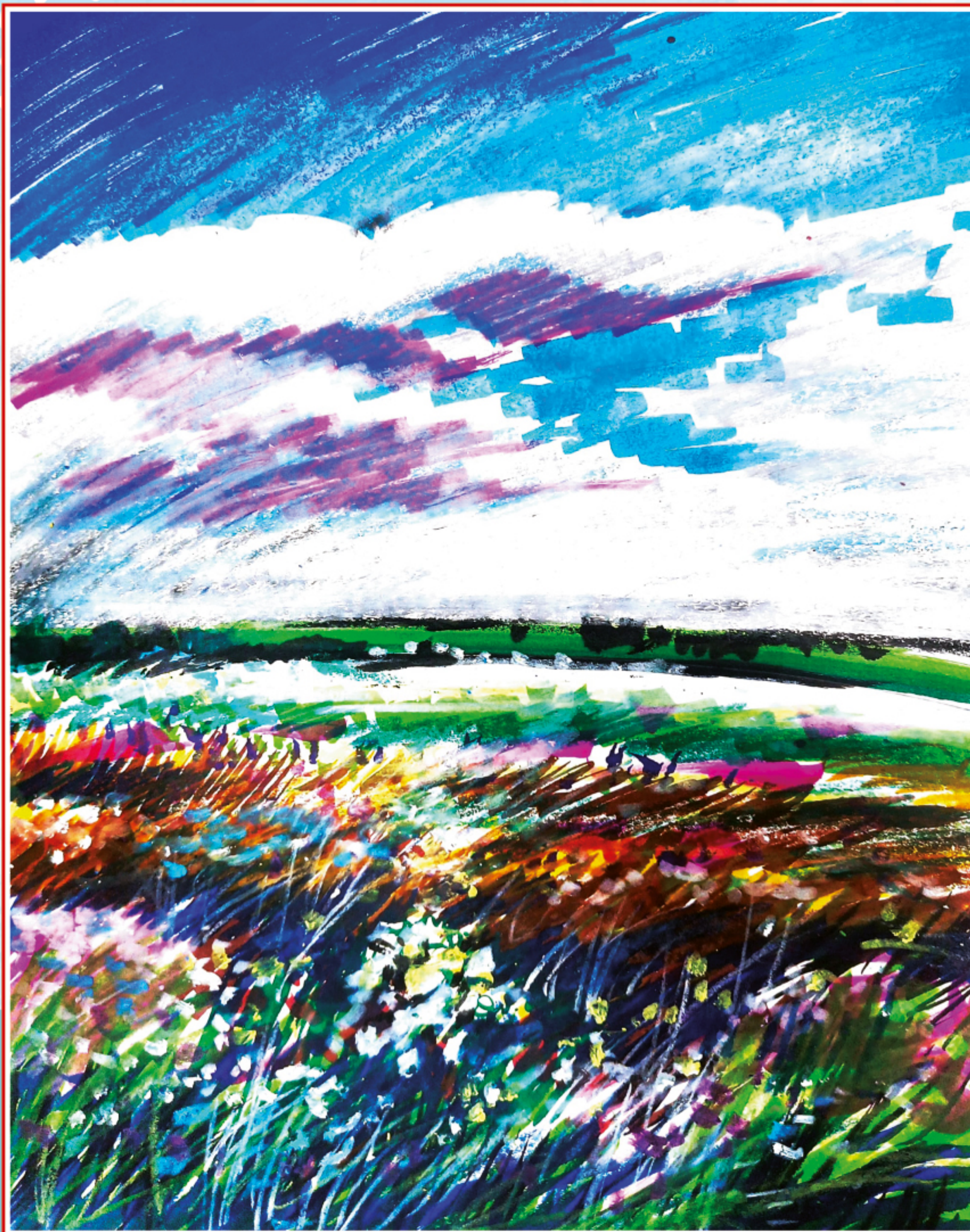
We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the authors and contributors who generously shared their knowledge, experiences, achievements, and perspectives, enriching the content of this newsletter.

We are also grateful to everyone who assisted behind the scenes in reviewing, coordinating, compiling, and designing the various sections. It has been a privilege to bring together the collective accomplishments and voices of the pediatric hematology-oncology community through this edition.

We hope our readers find it informative, engaging, and inspiring.

Dr. Binitha R
Dr. Pritam Singha Roy

Editors, PHO Newsletter version 5



All pictures are hand drawn paintings and sketches collected from various pediatric hematology / oncology centres all over the country.