



ICCI
Indian Childhood
Cancer Initiative

Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative (ICCI)

Newsletter 2026, Issue 1

We are excited to share with you the ICCI meetings and a summary of the key projects undertaken by our eleven taskforces.

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Meeting with Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Hon'ble Minister of State, MoHFW



The Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative (ICCI) team met Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of AYUSH and Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, in New Delhi on 31st October, 2025.

Representing Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative (ICCI) at the meeting were Dr. Ramandeep Arora, Ms. Poonam Bagai, Dr. Manas Kalra, Dr Sanjiv Kumar, Ms. Shivani Chauhan and Ms. Ritu Bhalla.

Key points discussed:

- ✓ ICCI's role as a multi-partner national initiative supporting childhood cancer control in India
- ✓ Alignment with the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer, aiming for 60% survival and improved access to care
- ✓ We requested for:
 - Formation of a MoHFW-led Technical Expert Group on Childhood Cancer
 - Development of a National Plan for Childhood Cancer
 - Organisation of a National Stakeholder Workshop in February 2026, coinciding with International Childhood Cancer Day



Strengthening Palliative Care by Training of PHO Physicians



The Palliative Care Taskforce of the Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative (ICCI) continues to lead focused capacity-building efforts to strengthen pediatric palliative care services across India.

At present, the Taskforce is planning to implement a nine-week virtual training program on Essentials of Pediatric Palliative Care for Pediatric Hematology-Oncology (PHO) physicians. The curriculum will comprehensively cover key domains, including an Introduction to pediatric palliative care, Pain management and multimodal analgesia, Gastrointestinal & neurological symptom management, Communication with families and children, Psychosocial and spiritual distress, Palliative care emergencies in PHO, End-of-life care, Recognition and care of the dying child, hydration and nutrition, palliative sedation and Grief and bereavement in pediatric palliative care.

The program will bring together expert faculty and healthcare professionals from across the country and is designed to strengthen both theoretical knowledge and practical competencies in pediatric palliative care delivery.

This initiative has received formal endorsement from the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology (PHO) Chapter of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP), which has also expressed its intent to conduct the program twice annually, ensuring sustained capacity building. Participants will receive a joint certification issued by the President and Secretary of IAP-PHO and the Chairs of the ICCI Palliative Care Taskforce.

The program is scheduled to commence in January 2026.

Strengthening Palliative Care by Training of PHO Physicians



**Virtual training in Essentials of Pediatric Palliative Care for Pediatric Hematology Oncology Physicians**

Certificate Course by the PHO chapter of IAP and the Palliative Care Taskforce of ICCI

 Course Format - Online teaching using zoom - Friday, 7 to 8.30 pm, from 9th January 2026 onwards Limited Seats 40 participants 1st come-1st serve	 Target Audience - PHO fellows- FNB, ICP - Institutional/ DM in PHO/DM in Pediatric oncology
 Unique Features - Renowned National & International faculty - Interactive online platform - Comprehensive curriculum	 Course Duration - One and a half hour certificate Course 9 weeks, total 13.5 hours Course fees: Rs. 5000/-
 Registration Link https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWo2bJX2icOx4w8_CnJjev4oUcmQy-tUcrjd2h_0JJht5RrQ/viewform?usp=header Contact + 91 9177238901 palliativecarepartners@gmail.com	 Join us! For an Enriching Journey in Pediatric Palliative Care with the Indian Academy of Pediatrics In line with WHO recommendations, integration of Pediatric Palliative Care in all routine care of children with serious illness is the need of the hour.

Academic Partners:
Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care

Participation in 57th SIOP Annual Congress



(SIOP 2025), Amsterdam, the Netherlands, October 20 – 23, 2025

Parent and Carer Education in Childhood Cancer

Within ICCI, the Information and Awareness Taskforce had led efforts to collate and develop Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials in multiple languages and formats. These materials address key topics such as early signs and symptoms, stigma reduction, survivorship and the dispelling of myths.

As part of this initiative, a systematic approach was undertaken to curate IEC content from both national & international platforms, creating a comprehensive and accessible resource base for parents and caregivers of children with cancer in India.



Shilpi Chauhan,
Project Coordinator, ICCI
did an oral presentation on,
“A multistakeholder national effort
to systematically curate and compile
information and education content
for parents/caregivers of children with
cancer in India” at the CCI:
Session 6 – Community-Led Solutions
for Childhood Cancer Education and
Stigma on 22nd October 2025.

Participation in 57th SIOP Annual Congress



Progress in Setting Standards for Psychosocial Care

Dr. Ramandeep Arora presented on behalf of the Psychosocial Taskforce of the Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative (ICCI) at the 57th Annual Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP 2025).



The presentation, titled "From Grassroots to Guidelines: Evolving, Standardizing and Implementing Psychosocial Care in India," highlighted India's growing and structured efforts to strengthen psychosocial care in pediatric oncology and brought international attention to the progress made through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Participation in 57th SIOOP Annual Congress



Adapting Survivorship Care Guidelines for Childhood Cancer in India

A collaborative initiative developed adapted long-term follow-up guidelines for childhood cancer survivors in resource-limited settings, focusing on survivors with any treatment exposure and leukemia. The guidelines were created through a structured Delphi consensus process involving 39 experts, with high participation across two online surveys and an in-person meeting.

Drawing on existing evidence from COG and IGHG guidelines, expert input from the INPHOG Survivorship and Late Effects Subcommittee and C2S investigators, and patient-caregiver feedback, the approach ensured relevance and feasibility. This work was presented by Dr. Venkata Rama Mohan Gollamudi at SIOOP 2025, highlighting a promising strategy to strengthen survivorship care and early identification of late effects in resource-constrained settings.



Symposium on Baseline Nursing Standards for Childhood Cancer in India



The Oncology Nursing Association of India (ONAI), Kolkata Chapter, and the Nursing Department at Tata Medical Center, organised the 6th International and 24th National ONAI Conference, titled “Frontiers in Oncology Nursing Practice: Navigating Tomorrow’s Innovations”, on 13–14 December 2025 at Fairfield by Marriott, Newtown, Kolkata.



A focused scientific session highlighted the importance of baseline nursing standards in pediatric oncology and their role in improving care delivery across diverse health systems. The session opened with a recorded presentation by Dr. Courtney E. Sullivan, who discussed translating global and national nursing frameworks into measurable impact. This was followed by Dr. Julia Challinor, who outlined the SIOP Baseline Standards for Pediatric Oncology Nursing and emphasized the role of nurses within interprofessional healthcare teams.

Ms. Menaka Raghuraman presented a proposal on achieving baseline nursing standards in India, addressing local challenges and opportunities. The session concluded with an engaging symposium titled “Achieving Baseline Nursing Standards in India – Why does it matter?”, moderated by Dr. Piyali Bose and Dr. Ramandeep Arora. The panel featured Dr. Julia Challinor, Dr. Pritam Singha Roy, Ms. Sindhu Nair, Dr. Neelima Thakur, and Ms. Menaka Raghuraman, who shared diverse perspectives on strengthening pediatric oncology nursing standards and their impact on quality of care

Visit of Ms. Yadurshini Raveendran, St Jude Global to ICCI Operations



Ms. Yadurshini Raveendran, Program Manager – South Asia Regional Program at St. Jude Global, visited the ICCI headquarters for a two-day engagement on 6–7 November.



On 6 November, she visited CanKids KidsCan Office and Palliative Care Centre to gain a deeper understanding of CanKids' role and support for ICCI. On 7 November, she visited the ICCI office to learn more about ICCI's foundation, structure, ongoing work, and overall progress.

During the visit, the ICCI operations team made detailed presentations on the work of various taskforces, highlighting progress achieved, impact generated, and potential areas for future focus. Ms. Raveendran provided constructive and insightful feedback on the ongoing initiatives. She also shared a presentation on St. Jude's outlook towards the South Asia region with the operations team, fostering meaningful discussions and knowledge exchange.

The visit was valuable in strengthening engagement, gaining external perspectives, and refining ICCI's ongoing and future efforts.

Identifying Ongoing Childhood Cancer Clinical Trials in India



A structured search of the Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI) was conducted to identify pediatric oncology trials involving newer and high-cost therapies. From 113 registered trials (2021–2025), 9 unique pediatric cancer studies were identified. These trials, registered between 2022 and 2025, primarily focus on leukaemia, lymphoma, neuroblastoma, and select solid tumours. The information was further validated with study PIs to confirm recruitment status and site activity. This compiled and simplified listing will be updated regularly and shared through INPHOG/ICCI platforms to improve awareness, support timely referrals, and enhance access to novel therapies for children with cancer in India.



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Participated in ICPCN Conference, Manila



The ICPCN conference was held in Manila, Philippines between the 14th to 16th November with a preconference leadership program organised by the St. Jude's team and ALSAC foundation.

Dr. Veronique Dinand and Dr. Archana Iyengar, Chairs of the ICCI Palliative Care Taskforce, attended the conference, representing ICCI and engaging in academic discussions, leadership forums and global exchanges. We truly appreciated the immense passion, dedicated efforts, sensitization and knowledge dissemination with respect to pediatric palliative care.

Experts also had panel discussions on the sustainability, funding of an integrated pediatric palliative care for children and neonates with a serious illness. There was a virtual feast with respect to display and presentation of varied posters related to pediatric palliative care across the world. It was a beautiful amalgamation of learning, sharing and an inspiration to focus on PPC services reaching every child in need where ever the child is.



A highlight of the event was a community engagement activity titled "Miles for Millions... Go the Distance for Children Worldwide," a marathon walk organised to raise awareness about pediatric palliative care services.

Overall, the conference served as an important opportunity for learning, collaboration, and inspiration, reinforcing the shared goal of ensuring equitable access to quality pediatric palliative care for every child in need, regardless of location.

Strengthening Drug Safety in Childhood Cancer Care



Ensuring the safety and quality of medicines used in childhood cancer treatment is critical. As part of ICCI's efforts to strengthen pharmacovigilance and patient safety, a structured reporting form has been developed to systematically capture drug-related reactions and medicine quality concerns in pediatric oncology.

The form enables healthcare professionals to report:

- ✓ Suspected adverse drug reactions
- ✓ Medicine quality issues or abnormalities noticed before use, during preparation, or after administration
- ✓ Any clinical changes or unexpected reactions observed in patients following treatment

Information collected through this initiative will help identify patterns, detect potential issues early, and contribute to improving the safety, quality, and effectiveness of childhood cancer treatment across care settings.

We encourage all healthcare professionals involved in pediatric oncology care to actively participate. If you encounter any drug-related reaction or quality concern, please scan the QR code and submit a report.

Your inputs are invaluable in helping build a safer treatment environment for children with cancer.



SCAN HERE

Link:

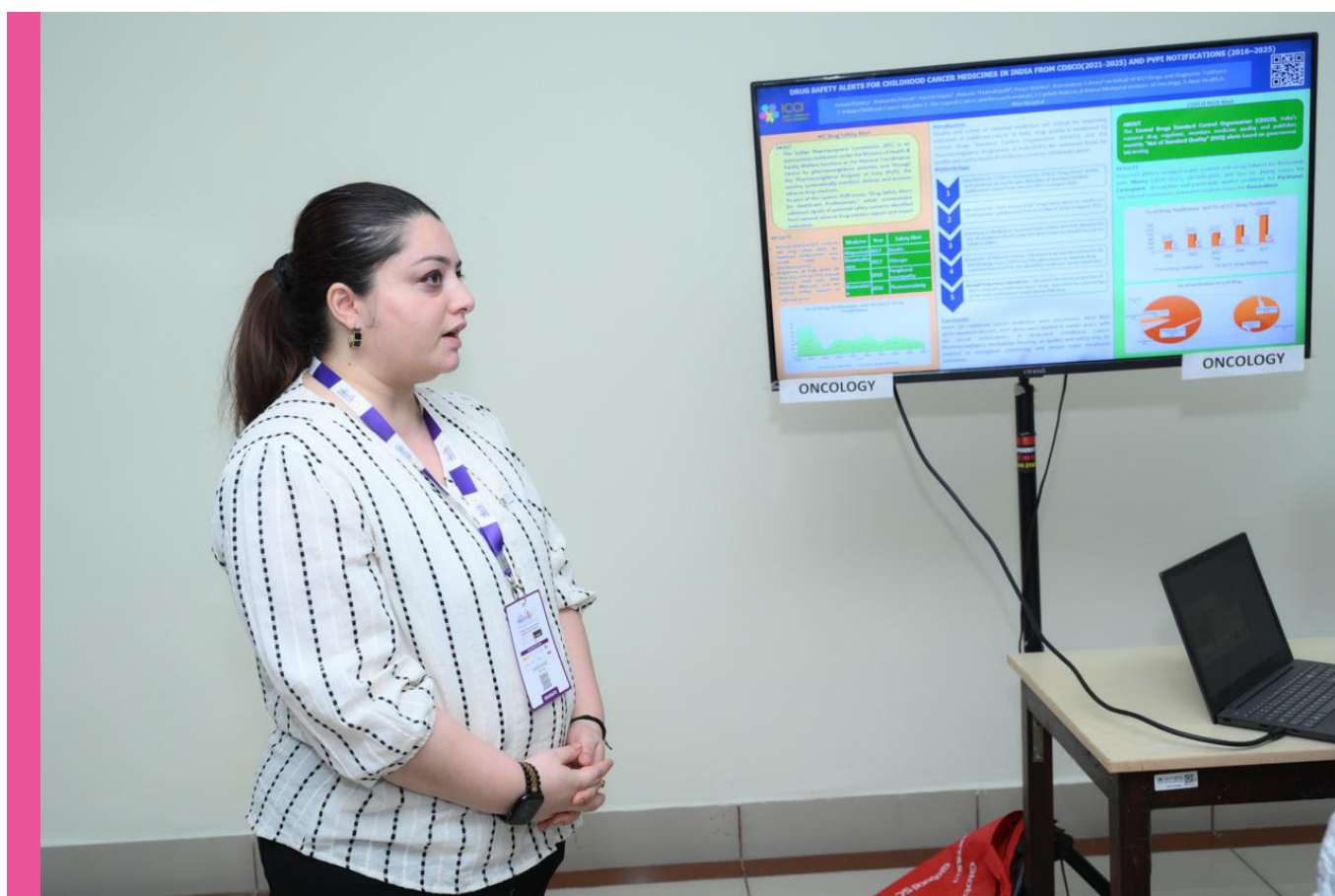
<https://forms.gle/DebE4GkjjY4DCEYGA>

Poster Presentations

ICCI submitted abstracts highlighting the work undertaken across its initiatives for presentation at PHOCON–PHOSSCON 2025. We are pleased to share that the following submissions were selected for poster presentation and display,

E-Poster Representation

- ✔ E poster presentation on Drug safety alerts for childhood cancer medicines in India from CDSCO (2021-2025) and PVPI notifications (2026-2025).
- ✔ E poster presentation on Early integration of palliative care and pediatric oncology: An interdisciplinary approach. Position statement of the palliative care taskforce of the Indian Childhood Cancer Initiative

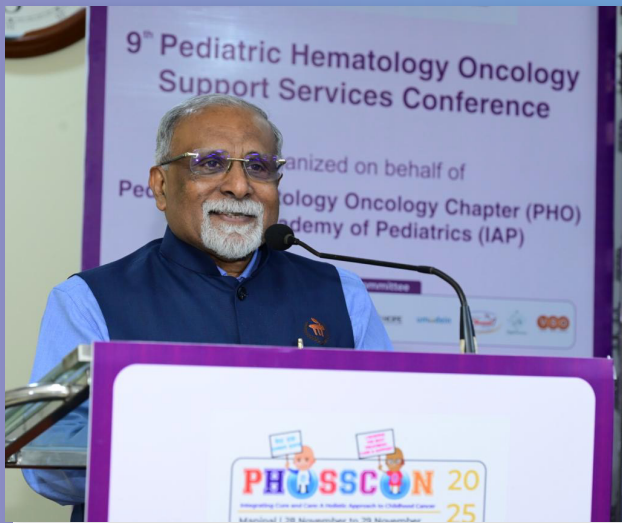


E- Poster Displays

- ✓ E poster display on – Developing Adapted Guidelines for Childhood Cancer Survivors Using a Delphi Consensus
- ✓ E poster display on – Driving health system changes in childhood cancer service delivery through multi-stakeholder engagement at state level – the Odisha experience
- ✓ E poster display on – Improving the visibility of childhood cancer clinical trials in India to enhance patient access to newer therapies



Session On Roadmap towards achieving GICC Goals



The session began with a Keynote address from **Dr. Cherian Varghese, Professor and Director at Prasanna School of Public Health**, on India's positioning, opportunities, and the broader global context. This led into a moderated conversation with Dr. Cherian Varghese, facilitated by the panellists.

Keynote address from Dr. Cherian Varghese

The programme concluded with a panel discussion featuring members of the ICCI Dr Revathi Raj, Ms Ritu Bhalla, Mr Nitai Panigrahi; with the session chaired and moderated by Ms. Poonam Bagai and co-chaired by Dr. Ramandeep Arora.



ICCI Information Booth

ICCI participated in PHOCON 2025 with an information booth that saw strong engagement from conference attendees. The booth provided an opportunity to connect with healthcare professionals from across the country and share ICCI's work, resources, and ongoing initiatives in childhood cancer care. We saw a great footfall at the booth.



To support meaningful engagement, ICCI distributed a pocket folder that included:

- ✔ QR codes to key ICCI website pages, along with brief descriptions, social media handles, and contact details
- ✔ The latest issue of the ICCI newsletter
- ✔ The CTRI report
- ✔ A flyer with a QR code for the Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) reporting exercise
- ✔ A demo copy of the Fever Alert Card for children undergoing cancer treatment



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