Newsletter

SIOP Renal Tumour Study Group

Issue 11 2025

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Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

At the end of the year, we present a new issue of our Newsletter, which is already the 11th since 2009. Again, we are summarizing our activities over the last year and giving interesting and informative updates of SIOP-RTSG.

In 2025 the UMBRELLA study is still recruiting patients, now from 32 countries from Europe, Asia, and South America. Currently we started to analyze the impact of 1q gain on outcome in nephroblastoma, which is the primary question of UMBRELLA. For that purpose, completion and cleaning of data with the help of all participating centers is underway. A special thank goes to all biologists for analyzing the biomaterial and the coordination to bring these data together by Manfred Gessler, as the former chair of the Biology Group. Without the help of the data management at PMC and regular meetings with a core group of clinicians this endeavor would not be possible. Results can be expected next year and will help us to decide about introducing biological markers in the treatment stratification in the next protocol. Such a protocol is already under discussion and will hopefully be finalized next year to be send to the regulatory bodies. Before a new trial will start patients will further be enrolled in UMBRELLA. In parallel to the UMBRELLA protocol Randomet is still recruiting patients with stage IV nephroblastoma. A lot of efforts are done to increase the number of patients to be enrolled. We hope that in 2026 new countries, like Italy, Spain and Brazil, can join Randomet.

Our Annual Meeting in Liverpool was excellent again, and we are very grateful to our hosts for organizing it. A report of the meeting can be found in this Newsletter as well as summaries of other meetings with the participation of members of SIOP-RTSG.

Last but not least, please read the article about Professor Berta Jereb, a radiotherapist, one of the founders of the SIOP Wilms Tumor group, who celebrated the 100th birthday and is still active in public health.

We wish you a Merry Christman and a Happy and Healthy 2026!

Norbert Graf

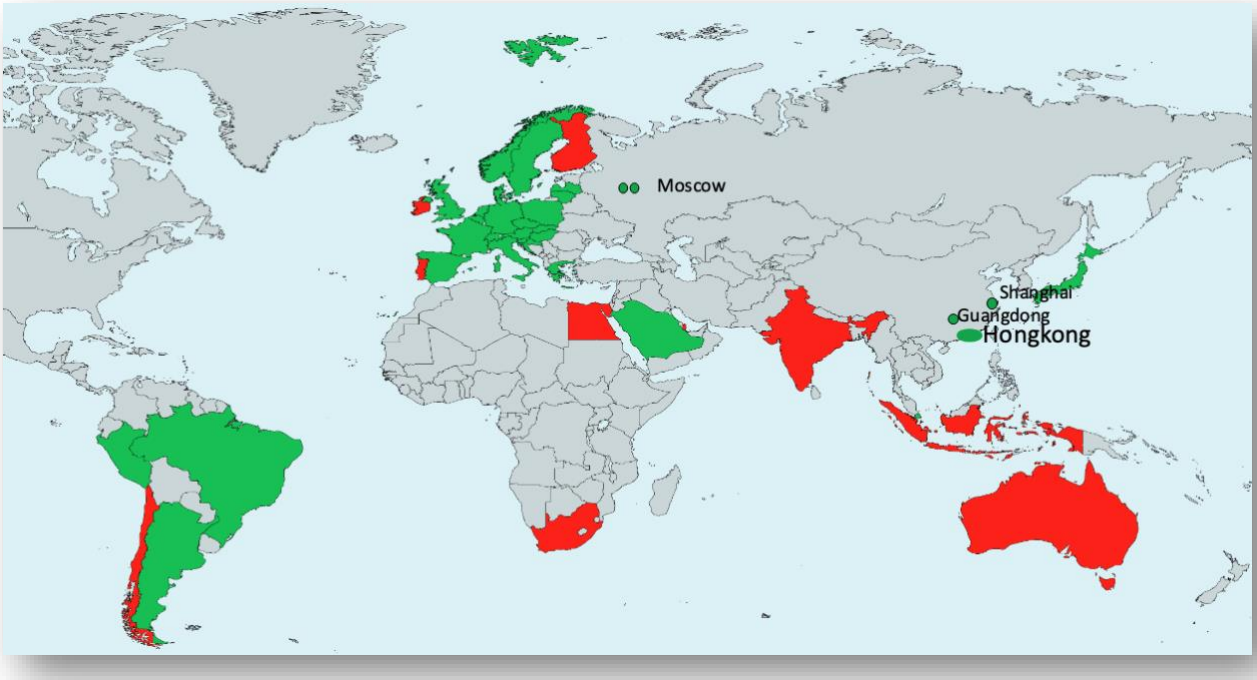
Gordan Vujanic

Nils Welter

News from UMBRELLA

By Norbert Graf and Marry M. van den Heuvel-Eibrink

Up to December 2025, 4541 patients are registered in UMBRELLA coming from 32 different countries. 4413 patients are newly diagnosed. Out of this cohort 268 patients (5.9%) relapsed. In addition, 128 patients with a relapse after non-UMBRELLA treatment are included as well. Interestingly we registered 661 patients with non-WTs, which is nearly a quarter (23.2%) of all registered patients with renal tumours. Six actual UMBRELLA interim reports can be requested by the Executive Committee, including reports about localized WT, stage IV WT, WT relapses, non-WTs, CCSK and events after radiotherapy, and relapses in non-WTs.



The main question of the UMBRELLA protocol is the impact of 1q gain and other biomarkers on outcome in a adequately powered prospective cohort of WT patients that had been treated with preoperative chemotherapy. One of the secondary objectives is to analyse the value of absolute blastemal volume after preoperative chemotherapy on outcome as a better predictor than the blastemal type in this prospective cohort. Due to a great international effort, we have now collected molecular and clinical data of around 1,800 WT patients allowing us to start the main analysis of UMBRELLA. The results will be available in 2026. See also the report of the Biology Panel in this Newsletter. This will help us to assess whether 1q gain, and/or other biomarkers such as LOH 16q, 1p, and p53 and MYCN, could be used as well as the blastemal volume as new stratification parameters for our next study. Already, we started discussing possible options for a randomized question in the next trial. Besides the usage of 1q gain and the blastemal volume chairs from all subcommittees are included in finding further aims of a next trial and study. We hope that at the end of 2026 writing of a new protocol can be finalized to start with the process submitting the protocol to the regulatory bodies. In parallel, funding options are explored to further analyse UMBRELLA data, and funding will be searched to allow a smooth run of the next trial. You will all be updated regularly about the progress of this endeavour.

We want to express a great THANK to all of you who are contributing to the UMBRELLA study in your countries, especially by collecting biomaterial and filling out all the CRFs, which is often a big burden during all your daily clinical work. Thanks for responding to our calls (SIOP-RTSG office) to provide the last missing data, in the next month, as we are closing the dataset in January 2026.

News from SIOP Randomet 2017

By Arnauld Verschuur and Rhoikos Furtwängler

In May 2025 a substantial modification has been approved, that accommodated new requirements caused by activation of clinical trial regulation (CTR) 536/2014. Thereafter the Randomet team in Homburg and Bern together with the active and tremendous help of the respective national coordinating centers continued with submitting Spain, Italy, Greece, Hungary and The Czech Republic the latter of which have been already accepted. However, Hungarian authorities unfortunately raised an unexpected condition that all medications shall be paid by the sponsor which would contradict any IIT in Hungary. Resolution pending, but the colleagues are looking for a solution, and we will support them where we can. Since then, Brazil and The Czech Republic have been initiated, and local centers will be activated as soon as possible. From January to November 2025, twenty-eight new patients were recruited so far, adding to the total of 74 patients enrolled per 1. December 2025. With the opening of additional countries and centers we hope to increase recruitment significantly. Impressing 96 centers across France, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands are initiated and actively recruiting by now. Though, we are still underrecruiting, we reach an encouraging 114% of recruitment in the DACH area (Germany, Austria, Switzerland). A low rate of serious adverse events and a reassuring survival in the current annual safety update report of well above 80%, underlines the safety, though with a relatively short follow up so far. The toxicity profile reflects expectation. Of note: only ten severe adverse effects have been reported so far. All patients have completely recovered, and the safety evaluation showed no unexpected or fatal toxicity so far, with the expected incidence of veno-occlusive disease (VOD) only in the VAD arm. Overall, there is no change in the risk-benefit evaluation. A big thanks to all that support us in our goal to improve outcome and reduce side effects – together we will reach the goal to recruit 406 patients!

Update on the SIOP-RTSG Association

By Arnauld Verschuur and Marry van den Heuvel-Eibrink

NEARLY 5 YEARS OF THE SIOP RTSG ASSOCIATION

As we are approaching the year of 2026 we can proudly announce that we are now in the fifth year of the SIOP RTSG association that was legally created on May 29th, 2021.

We can clearly be proud of several achievements during these 5 years that can be summarized as following:

1– The establishment of a solid governance structure.

As you may know there's an Executive Board in place that is responsible for the daily management of the SIOP RTSG association that was chaired for the past 3 years by Prof. Marry van den Heuvel-Eibrink. In the first year we build a solid membership structure. Currently SIOP-RTSG has 226 members coming from 34 countries and 5 continents. Bylaws have been generated which describe the logistic organisation (Membership, Steering Committee, Executive Board) and the strategy for care and research in our Association. In addition, we have built a research proposal and evaluation procedure and started to engage young investigators in our Association. We also generated the vision to have a more rotating leadership structure to refresh the leadership and management (the Board as well as panels), every 3 years, to include the younger generation in the Association. With that in mind, Professor Marry van den Heuvel-Eibrink has handed over her chairmanship to Dr. Arnauld Verschuur in June 2025 during the SIOP Renal Tumour Study Group annual meeting in Liverpool. Dr. Filippo Spreafico started as Vice Chair and Dr. Tanzina Chowdhury as Secretary General. We are happy to have Jesper Brok joining the EB for the coming years to be responsible amongst others for the research coordination.

The Steering Committee is well established with chairs of all Panels / Sub-committees in addition to the EB members. The Steering Committee is the driving and decision-making organ of SIOP RTSG after preparation of these plans by the Executive Board. The General Assembly yearly validate the financial report and acknowledge on the achievements of the association during the SIOP-RTSG annual meeting.

2- The SIOP-RTSG association has obtained from several sources financial support to develop a professional structure to support the association.

Thanks to financial support from several countries, we have been able to recruit personnel for the high priority functions to create additional biostatistical capacity. In addition to 2 biostatisticians, we are grateful for the support for specific projects including support for the SIOP-RTSG office in Utrecht, several administrative personnel in the Netherlands, UK and France, through grant applications of Fédération Enfants Cancers Santé, KIKA, UK Little Princess Fund. In addition, several countries have supported the SIOP-RTSG Association for infrastructural funding. We very much thank these charities for their ongoing support and trust as well as the SIOP-RTSG members who with their membership fee also contribute to the financial funds of the SIOP RTSG. It should be noted that so far, we have not obtained yet what was envisaged in terms of amount of support, and we clearly anticipate moving forward through more structural funding for the coming years either from charity sources and/or through grants applications.

3- Research Coordination and Efforts

With the help of the research coordinators of the EB, the input of the SC as well as several project leaders and the supportive effort of the biostatisticians we have been able for the past 2 years to deliver scientific data for several of our projects. These results have already been published or are being submitted for publications (see the List of Publications at the end of the newsletter).

As such major efforts have been deployed to investigate the primary and secondary questions of the ongoing studies and trials (UMBRELLA, RANDOMET) and to facilitate retrospective studies.

4- Thanks to the SIOP-RTSG Office team in the Princess Máxima Center there has been considerable efforts made to merge the databases of several protocols that have been running for the past 30 years.

For retrospective studies the so called « Minke » database that compiled the data of more than 10,000 patients (1993-2019) of children with renal tumour has been generated by the SIOP-RTSG Office team. This merged web-based database is now secured for the future is obviously an enormous source of data to identify cohorts that could benefit from a change of treatment (either more or less).

Thanks to all these efforts we truly think that the nearly 5 years of existence of the Association has brought several achievements that may lead us to a positive future even if obviously the deliveries and recruitment of personnel could still be improved. We hope to continue this positive and challenging mode, and we thank all members of EB, Steering Committee, National Coordinators, supporting staff and families for their contribution that matters for the well-being of the association. The challenge of the coming years will be to find substantial financial support, making it possible to pay existing and to recruit additional personnel.

Also, the major challenge for the coming years is to work in a collaborative way to develop the future protocol that should replace the current SIOP-RTSG UMBRELLA protocol in a few years' time, and to find funding for this, to run this trial according to current CTIS standards. Obviously, the data of the current UMBRELLA study as well as those of the RANDOMET will have an impact on the study questions and design of that future protocol.

Prof. Dr. B. Jereb – the 100th birthday

By Simona Ivančan

The centenary of Prof. Berta Jereb (born in 1925, near Dravograd, Slovenia) provides an opportunity to highlight her substantive contributions to the early development of paediatric oncology in Europe, particularly in areas that formed the conceptual and methodological foundations of what later evolved into SIOP-RTSG standards.

Prof. Jereb's scientific work in the 1960s and 1970s included several of the earliest systematic analyses of radiotherapy for paediatric solid tumours, including Wilms tumour and soft-tissue sarcomas. Her publications from this period, notably on treatment outcomes, dose optimisation, and late effects were among the first European studies to articulate principles that became central to subsequent cooperative trial designs: consistent staging, protocol based dose delivery, and longitudinal outcome assessment. These contributions placed her among the small group of European clinicians whose work informed the earliest SIOP renal tumour discussions.

During her work in Stockholm, Sweden, at the Karolinska Institute (1961–1973), she was involved in the development of structured treatment approaches for childhood solid tumours at a time when SIOP was beginning to define its scientific identity. Prof. Jereb was one of the funding members of the SIOP Wilms' Tumour Committee and the SIOP President (1978-1979). Her research on the role of radiotherapy in Wilms tumour, neuroblastoma, and rhabdomyosarcoma helped shape early European consensus regarding indications and field design, topics that later became integral components of SIOP renal tumour protocols and contouring guidelines.

Her subsequent work at the NY, USA, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (mid-1970s–1984) extended this foundation. There she participated in protocol-driven therapeutic strategies for Wilms tumour and contributed to comparative analyses of multimodal treatments. These experiences positioned her as one of the few European clinicians with direct exposure to multicentre paediatric solid tumour trials at a time when cooperation between groups was still limited. This dual European-American perspective informed her later contribution to SIOP's scientific committees, where she advocated for harmonised staging and outcome documentation, the principles that remain core to SIOP-RTSG methodology today.

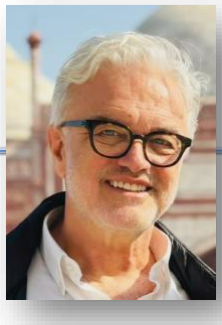
Upon returning to Slovenia, Prof. Jereb established paediatric oncology at the Institute of Oncology Ljubljana and, in 1986, introduced one of Europe's earliest structured programmes for long-term follow-up of childhood cancer survivors. Her systematic recording of late effects, organ toxicities, and secondary malignancies anticipated the survivorship framework that SIOP-RTSG later formalised for renal tumour survivors. The emphasis she placed on integrating late-effects surveillance into treatment planning was particularly influential in shaping contemporary SIOP-RTSG approaches to risk stratification.

As an early and active member of SIOP and its president, Prof. Jereb contributed to the consolidation of European paediatric oncology and to the scientific culture that enabled the later formation of the SIOP Renal Tumour Study Group. Her expertise in radiotherapy, protocol implementation, and survivorship was recognised within SIOP committees and working groups, where she supported the introduction of standardised treatment pathways and the systematic evaluation of long-term outcomes.

As we celebrate her centenary, Prof. Berta Jereb is recognised as a clinician-scientist whose work bridged radiotherapy, clinical research, and survivorship at a formative moment in European paediatric oncology. The principles she championed, protocol-based care, and long-term follow-up remain embedded in the scientific and organisational framework of SIOP-RTSG today.

News from the Pathology Panel

By Gordan Vujanic



The Pathology Panel continued with its primary duty of delivering rapid central pathology review and having review meetings of the cases previously reviewed by its national or regional Panels. Since in the previous 2-3 years we finally managed to catch up with the covid-related backlog, in 2025 we had fewer meetings than usual but we still reviewed ~600 cases: Utrecht, January 2025 (~100 Dutch cases, and ~20 North European cases), Bonn, May 2025 (~130 GPOH cases), Liverpool (~180 UK and non-UK cases), Budapest, October 2025 (~110 non-UK cases, reviewed by GV), and one online meeting, October 2025 (~70 Brazilian cases). We have planned a new series of review meetings in 2026 and will try to keep it up to date, so no backlogs are formed.

Meeting in Utrecht

Meeting in Liverpool

2025 was a quiet year for our Panel on the publishing side and we produced no paper with a Pathology Panel member as the first or last author, but our members contributed to projects done by different SIOP-RTSG projects, and we have been working on different papers which, hopefully, will be published in 2026. Earlier this year, a paper "Data set for reporting paediatric renal tumours: recommendations from the international collaboration on cancer reporting (ICCR)" by E. Perlman et al. was published (*Histopathology 2025; 87:183-196*). Some of our pathologists were involved in its production but it seems that their voice was either not loud enough, or it was ignored. The paper tried to produce a data set applicable to both COG and SIOP approaches to renal tumours – sadly, the result is not good, it is more confusing than helpful, the COG terminology dominates throughout the paper, it mixes up the terms and offers vague and sometimes incorrect criteria (for staging, for example), and even for people who are more deeply

Meeting in Bonn

Meeting in Budapest

involved with these tumours, it is not always possible to understand it. The result would have been much better if the two approaches had been presented separately rather than the way they are in the paper.

Therefore, we do not recommend it to be used by the pathologists dealing with renal tumours treated according to the SIOP RTSG approach; instead, there is a pure SIOP data set published in 2021 which should be used as it leaves no ambiguity and confusion (*Histopathology 2021; 79: 678-686*).

On the academic side, the Panel was very active in teaching around the world. A very significant achievement of our Panel is the LATAM Course (see the Report on page 23), and the visits to Vietnam and Chile, where we gave live lectures and training sessions, together with Professor N. Graf. In addition, online pathology lectures were given at paediatric oncology or pathology meetings in Paraguay (April), Pakistan (June), Germany (July), and China (August).

News from the Radiology Panel

By, Hervé Brissé, Annemieke Littooij

The RTSG Radiology Panel is responsible for collecting imaging data for the UMBRELLA study and the RANDOMET trial. In order to provide expert analyses and ensure the quality of the data reported in the Imaging-CRFs (F2R), it is essential that imaging be subject to central review. Each participating country manages the central review process at the national level.

Panel membership increased significantly in 2025 and now more accurately reflects the countries involved in the RTSG. Three YIs* have been recruited. The 15 current members are: **Hervé Brisse** (Chair; Paris, France), **Ana Coma** (Barcelona, Spain), **Abdullah Hammad** (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**), Henrique Lederman** (Sao Paulo, Brazil), **Annemieke Littooij** (vice-Chair; Utrecht, NL), **Carlo Morosi** (Milano, Italy), **Nayla Nicolas** (Paris, France), **Daniela Pinto*** (Porto, Portugal), **Jens-Peter Schenk** (Heidelberg, Germany), **Sophie Swinson** (Leeds, UK), **Timothy Tan*** (KKH, Singapore), **Rodrigo Tastes** (Cascatinha, Juiz de Fora, Brazil), **Justine van der Beek*** (Utrecht, NL), **Kristina Vult Von Steyern** (Lund, Sweden), **Tom Watson** (London, UK).

Three panel meetings were organized for 2025: one in March (videoconference), one in June at the Liverpool RTSG conference (hybrid meeting), and one in September (videoconference).

2025 publications

Role of Diffusion-Weighted MRI in Wilms tumors

Justine and Annemieke published a study showing nice correlations between histopathology and MR-DWI using a patient-specific, 3D-printed cutting guide. They also demonstrated the ability of the ADC map to distinguish stromal-type WT from the epithelial and blastemal subtypes.

- van der Beek JN, Fitski M, de Krijger RR, Vermeulen MA, Nikkels PGJ, Maat A, Buser MAD, Wijnen MHWA, Hendrikse J, van den Heuvel-Eibrink MM, van der Steeg AFW, Littooij AS. Direct correlation of MR-DWI and histopathology of Wilms' tumours through a patient-specific 3D-printed cutting guide. *Eur Radiol. 2025* (PMID: 39115585)

Letter to the Editor / PET-CT

The Radiology Panel sent a letter to the editor after the publication of a debatable article promoting the use of PET-CT for histologic prediction of renal tumors in children (PMID: 40323439).

- Littooij AS, van der Beek JN, Coma A, Lederman H, Morosi C, Pinto D, Tostes R, Vult von Steyern K, Watson TA, Brisse HJ. 18F-Fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography in pediatric renal tumors: reply to Sun et al. *Pediatr Radiol 2025* (PMID: 40879717)

Panel members were also included in the authorship of several publications:

- Perotti D,…. van der Beek J, et al. Hallmark discoveries in the biology of non-Wilms tumour childhood kidney cancers. *Nat Rev Urol 2025* (PMID: 39881003)
- Mergen M,…Schenk JP et al. Efficacy of Preoperative Chemotherapy in Patients With Nephroblastoma and Imaging Findings Suggestive of Preoperative Tumor Rupture. *Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2025* (PMID: 41069077)
- de Groot NT, … Littooij AS et al. Introducing Holographic Surgical Navigation in Pediatric Wilms' Tumor Patients: A Feasibility Study During Total Nephrectomy. *Bioengineering (Basel) 2025* (PMID: 40868409)
- Groenendijk A, … Schenk JP et al. Outcome of patients with a first relapse after intermediate- or high-risk Wilms tumor, treated according to SIOP WT 2001/UK-IMPORT study; A report from the SIOP renal tumor study group. *Urol Oncol 2025* (PMID: 40545412)
- Groenendijk A,…Littooij AS et al. Gene Expression Analysis of (Paired) Primary and Relapsed Wilms Tumor Samples to Unravel the Underlying Factors Driving Tumor Recurrence. *Cancer Med 2025* (PMID: 40439002)
- Sutton KS,…van der Beek J, et al. Remaining Challenges in the Treatment of Relapsed Wilms Tumor: Children's Oncology Group and International Society of Paediatric Oncology Perspectives. *Pediatr Blood Cancer 2025* (PMID: 40369656)
- Ding M, …Littooij AS, et al. Deep learning-based auto-contouring of organs/structures-at-risk for pediatric upper abdominal radiotherapy. *Radiother Oncol 2025* (PMID: 40328363)
- Chow JS, Littooij AS, et al. The Global Reading Room: A Child With an Incidental Cystic Renal Lesion on Ultrasound. *AJR Am J Roentgenol 2025* (PMID: 39840959)

Studies in progress

Harmonica Project on Wilms tumor "rupture"

One of the 2025 Harmonica projects was dedicated to defining and managing Wilms tumor "ruptures." In most cases, only abnormal fluid or indirect retroperitoneal abnormalities are observed, so the term "rupture" is not recommended for use in imaging reports unless there is obvious macroscopic intraperitoneal spread. The recent publication pooling data (119 patients) from Germany, Austria and Switzerland confirmed this approach *(Mergen M et al. Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2025).*

A joint consensus paper from SIOP-RTSG and COG radiologists was accepted for publication in Pediatric Radiology. It will be published in 2026 in a special issue alongside articles from other specialties. The paper proposes a four-grade classification of "suspected locoregional tumor spread" based on radiological features and related literature data, along with recommendations for patient management.

Renal tumor Imaging / standardized reporting

The panel began work to promote standardized reporting of renal tumors in children, comparable to the SIOPEL/PRETEXT approach. This approach includes relevant radiological features, locoregional extent, and classifications of distant metastases. The goal is to standardize interpretation and lay the groundwork for the e-CRF of the upcoming SIOP protocol. Daniela, Sophie, and Timothy are leading this work, which is being supervised by Hervé and Annemieke. Consensus agreement will be sought through discussions with other panels.

Renal sarcomas

Rodrigo and Henrique are currently conducting a retrospective analysis of pediatric renal sarcomas observed in Brazil. Their goal is to provide a radiological description that distinguishes these tumors from WT.

Intraoperative ultrasound guidance for nephron-sparing surgery

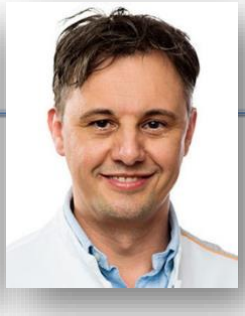
Tom Watson is currently assessing the impact of US-guided NSS. His experience with the GOSH surgical team (Carolina Bebi) was presented at the 2025 SIOP meeting in Amsterdam (39 US-Guided NSS in 20 patients compared to historical 128 non-US-guided NSS in 51 patients). US guidance eliminated positive surgical margins for malignant lesions and significantly increased parenchymal preservation.

Lung metastases
A retrospective study is being conducted by Jens-Peter on the German database to compare manual radiologist analysis with AI-driven automatic analysis of lung metastatic burden. Preliminary results suggest a high sensitivity, indicating the potential to rapidly rule out normal lungs.

Interventional Radiology
Max Pachel and Sabine Irtan (RTSG Surgical Panel) were invited to our last meeting to discuss ongoing projects. With the exception of image-guided biopsy, interventional radiology (IR) techniques are not widely used in children with renal tumors. Therapeutic IR is currently only used for liver metastases and delayed lung recurrences, and in a few centers only.
Percutaneous thermal ablation techniques (radiofrequency and cryoablation) are widely used for small renal tumors in adults, but not for pediatric embryonal tumors.
The Curie team (Nayla) shared their preliminary experience treating four stage-V patients with RFA for residual or recurrent kidney lesions with favorable (albeit short-term) follow-up.
We agreed that IR is a relevant topic for the minimally invasive treatment of pediatric renal tumors, either during surgery or as an alternative technique performed by interventional radiologists.
A Delphi study was proposed involving Simon McGuirk (IR, Birmingham; vice-chair of SIOPEL; and chair of the ESPR IR-Task Force with Giulia Cassanelli), as well as a survey to better identify centers using IR as part of Wilms tumor treatment.

News from the Radiotherapy Panel

By Patrick Melchior and Geert Janssens



The Radiotherapy Panel represents all radiation oncologists with a special interest in pediatric renal tumors, who would like to be involved in SIOP-RTSG-related projects and/or stay informed of the latest developments.

In radiotherapy, the use of artificial intelligence is increasingly influencing daily workflows. However, commercially available programmes designed to support work processes such as auto-contouring are generally based on image data sets from adults and are only applicable to paediatric oncology cases to a very limited extent.

In collaboration with 12 experts of the SIOP-RTSG Radiotherapy Panel from European medical centres across nine countries and the KiTZ in Heidelberg, the Princess Máxima Center in Utrecht and the institute Curie in Paris, a study was conducted in a two-day workshop in 2024 to investigate the effects of deep learning (DL) on the contouring of organs at risk (OARs) in the radiotherapy of paediatric kidney tumours. While DL-assisted auto-contouring has already shown significant improvements in adults, its application in paediatrics is still limited due to a lack of data and the high anatomical variability in children. The study compared purely manual contouring of OARs (such as the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas) on contrast-free CT images of children (aged 1–6 years) with an approach in which DL-based pre-contouring (using an U-Net model) was manually revised.

The study focused on three main aspects: time required, contouring accuracy and inter-observer variability (IOV). The results show that the DL-assisted approach significantly reduces contouring time while improving accuracy and consistency (lower IOV) compared to the purely manual method.

The results were presented on the ESTRO congress in Vienna and successful published. They clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of DL methods in streamlining workflows and improving consistency in OAR contouring in paediatric radiation oncology. The significant time savings of approximately 60% and improved accuracy, particularly for organs that have a high IOV when contoured manually (such as the pancreas), underscore the clinical benefits.

References:
Deep learning-based auto-contouring of organs/structures-at-risk for pediatric upper abdominal radiotherapy. Mianyong Ding et al., Radiotherapy and Oncology 208 (2025) 110914

Impact of deep learning on CT-based organ-at-risk delineation for flank irradiation in pediatric renal tumors: a SIOP-RTSG radiotherapy committee study. Mianyong Ding et al., Clin Transl Radiat Oncol 2025, doi: 10.1016/j.ctro.2025.101051. eCollection 2026 Jan.

Two-day workshop on auto-contouring of organ at risk for flank RT, November in PMC Utrecht, Netherlands.
Status on the project **"Towards para-aortic lymph node irradiation in Wilms tumors with lymph node involvement only"**

Currently, efforts are being undertaken in the framework of Harmonica to develop a consensus statement based contouring guideline for the para-aortic lymph nodes (LN) as a first step in reducing the target volumes in selected patients with a Wilms Tumour (stage III, based on LN involvement only), ultimately aiming to reduce radiotherapy exposure to structures at risk, such as the musculoskeletal tissues, pancreatic tail, spleen, and colorectum in future protocols.

This will be a 2-step process, in daily practice coordinated by Drs. Adrian Radu and Romy Spijkerman, both PhD candidates in Utrecht. *Initially*, **a Delphi study** will be developed to evaluate the current practice of radiation oncologists among the SIOP-RTSG and COG in delineation of para-aortic LN volumes and to reach a consensus regarding the minimum required volume of this area. *Afterwards*, a **contouring exercise workshop** will be organized in which 10 experienced radiation oncologists from SIOP-RTSG and COG will delineate this area for various clinical scenarios. The inter-clinician variation and its determinants identified in this workshop will be analyzed, and subsequently further refinements of the initial consensus achieved with the Delphi study will be implemented, defining the final form of the consensus-statement-based contouring guideline.

Current active SIOP-RTSG core group members of the radiotherapy panel:
Patrick Melchior, Chair, Germany
Geert Janssens, Co-Chair, The Netherlands
Davila Fajardo, The Netherlands
Xavier Muracciole, France
Britta Weber, Denmark
Henriette Magelssen, Norway
Emmanuel Jouglar, France
Aymeri Huchet, France
Karin Dieckmann, Vienna
Lim Pei, UK

All radiation oncologists interested in paediatric renal tumours are very welcome to join the radiotherapy panel of SIOP-RTSG.

New Young investigators

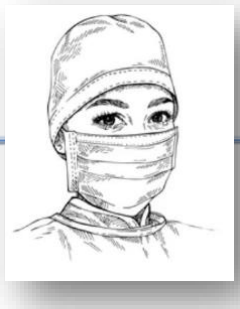
Remus Stoica, Bucharest,
Romania Mianyong Ding, PhD-Student, Utrecht PMC

New interested members

Yasmin Lassen, Denmark
Eduardo Weltman, Brasil
Monika Ramos, Spain
Wen Shen Looi, Singapore
Alexopoulou Aikaterini, Greece
Law Chi Ching Simon, Hong Kong
Sabina Vennarini, Italy
Agata Szulc, Poland
Daiva Sendiuliene, Lithuania
Gazelle Lequannec, France
Stephane Supiot, France
Sabina Vennarini, Italy
Lim Pei, UK

News from the Surgery Panel

By Sabine Irtan and Jan Godzinski



The Surgery Panel elected Dr. Sabine Irtan as a new Chair to follow Jan Godzinski who served as a Chair for 30 years. Jan has been a very active and devoted surgeon for leading the group over many years and has a tremendous experience and knowledge on paediatric renal tumours whether on medical or surgical management. He is still actively involved, and the surgical panel is very grateful for his help and advice in this challenging succession.

This year, The Group has met "in person" in Liverpool at the very fruitful (Annual RTSG) meeting, then everybody spent an active summer to make proposals for new studies either retrospective on the current UMBRELLA study or for building sensitive questions for the next UMBRELLA 3.0. All together we are working hard to constantly improve the surgical care of our little patients. Very good ideas and proposals have been made, and some have already been discussed with the Executive committee.

In parallel, some recent projects, however run by some centres only, are doing well: the tracers (ICG) for the SM detection or delineation of the primary tumour in the kidney or WT metastasis in the liver or lung. The animator of those efforts is undoubtfully Max Pachl. Also, some older projects like NSS-related surgical complications, finally were presented to a wider audience (WOFAPS, Antalya).

The challenges awaiting us are the wider introduction of the augmented reality and some aspects of robotic surgery, which could be potentially of value in NSS, and IVC thrombosis.

We also have our potential successors. The Young Investigator' group develops well within our Panel, closely co-operating with non-surgical YI's, all of them primarily under the leadership of Christa Koenig and now under Nils Welter.

We are a very enthusiastic and friendly group looking forward to building the best surgical future for our patients in an always multidisciplinary way with all our colleagues from the SIOP RTSG. To prove that this is an ongoing process, please recall the Hawaii SIOP Meeting with focus on WT and the excellent cooperation with COG friends within the Harmonica project, which resulted so successfully in common COG/RTSG publications. A platform was established to discuss the differences in COG and RTSG approaches and, if needed, difficult cases to reach a consensus in a variety of fields. We welcome all the surgical colleagues around the world and the young surgeons' investigators to join the group and make the difference!

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Dearest Friends, Surgeons of RTSG,
Please accept our Best Seasons Geetings:
Merry Christmas and Prosperous Happy New Year!

On Behalf of the SIOP-RTSG Panel of Surgeons
Sabine Irtan (Chair) & Jan Godzinski (Past Chair)

The Relapse Subcommittee and New Agents Panel

By Jesper Brok

First, the group would like to express our deep gratitude to Filippo Spreafico, who has served as chair for many years and is now stepping down. With his wise, considerate, scientific, and highly collegial leadership, he has laid the foundation for our group's work. We are pleased that he will continue as an ordinary member and take on the role of vice-chair of the RTSG–SIOP.

Jesper Brok will take over as chair and will do his best to follow up on the many initiatives launched and the challenges ahead. Likewise, Sarah Al-Jilaihawi checked out this year as a young investigator after three years and will continue as an general member. We are very fortunate to keep her in the group. Another rotation is Annelise Mavinkurve-Groothuis, who will become the new chair of the New Agents Panel, which works closely with the relapse committee. Finally, Daniela Perotti from the group is also now appointed the chair of the Biology Panel.

From a scientific perspective, Alissa Groenendijk has completed her analyses of relapse groups AA, BB, CC, and second relapse based on the previous protocols; SIOP2001/SIOP93-01. The second paper was published this year (see below), and the final paper has been submitted. These data will help shape future guidelines.

We will continue our monthly teleconferences and the main focus ahead will be analyzing the first relapse data from the UMBRELLA protocol (now 270 relapses) and exploring the associated outcomes.

We also foresee preparing the treatment guidelines for the UMBRELLA Protocol 3.0, continuing to work on developing relapse WT trials, and continuously updating data from early-phase trials.

Key publications on relapse WT 2025

1. *Lu AD. Relapsed Wilms Tumor Management and Outcomes in Canada: A Report From CYP-C. J Pediatr Hematol Oncol. 2025;47(8):406-413.*
2. *Groenendijk A. Outcome of patients with a first relapse after intermediate- or high-risk Wilms tumor, treated according to SIOP WT 2001/UK-IMPORT study; A report from the SIOP renal tumor study group. Urol Oncol. 2025;43(9):525.e19-525.e32*
3. *Schneller N. Outcomes of relapsed favorable-histology Wilms tumor in non-clinical trial setting. Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2025;72(1):e31347.*
4. *Groisser A. Activity of Paclitaxel-Containing Regimens in Recurrent/Refractory Wilms Tumor. Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2025;72(10):e31915.*
5. *Welter N. SIOP abstract: EP480 – Prediction of time to – and outcome of relapse in nephroblastoma.*

News from the Biology Panel

By Daniela Perotti and Jenny Wegert

It's been an exciting year for the biologists - and many others - involved in pediatric renal tumor research. At the beginning of 2025, we started collecting and centralizing molecular and clinical data related to one of the primary aims of the Umbrella protocol: the gain of 1q and other copy number biomarkers for risk stratification. This represents a major international effort, and to date, molecular and clinical data from approximately 1,800 WT patients have been collected, coming from 20 different countries. This number is expected to increase further in the coming months. Manfred Gessler is leading these analyses, working closely with a core group of physicians, biologists, and statisticians: Daniela Perotti, Jenny Wegert, Marry van den Heuvel-Eibrink, Harm van Tinteren, Norbert Graf, Agustina Oller and Patrick Kemmeren.

The SIOP-RTSG annual meeting took place in Liverpool June 10 -12, and the Biology Panel session was **dynamic and engaging**, with many participants actively contributing and numerous ongoing projects presented. The topics covered ranged from single cell RNAseq to liquid biopsy and tumor sequencing to in vitro and in vivo models. We were delighted to see many new faces and noticed that more and more people are interested in the biology of pediatric renal tumors. A particularly large delegation came from Austria. Molecular biology was also well represented during the main sessions with the entire audience. During the social dinner, we had the opportunity to thank and celebrate Manfred Gessler, the long-standing chair of the Biology Panel, for his remarkable commitment and leadership. During the Biology Panel session, Daniela Perotti was elected as the new chair, and Jenny Wegert as the new vice-chair.

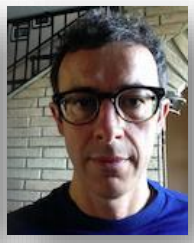
The Biology Panel met again online on October 24. On this occasion, we hosted speakers who had presented at SIOP 2025 in Amsterdam: Franziska Oberhammer (PMC) *DNA Methylation profiling as tumor-first approach to identifying genetic predisposition in Wilms,* Julia Sprokkerieft (PMC) *Liquid biopsy genomic and epigenomic sequencing enables early diagnosis and risk stratification,* and Sanja Goldberg, one of the lead authors of the paper *"A novel Frizzled 7 antibody disrupts the Wnt pathway and inhibits Wilms tumor growth"* (doi: 10.3389/fbioe.2025.1641137). Discussion was very lively, engaging, and full of interest.

These online meetings, which we plan to hold every four months, are intended to provide a friendly and safe space where participants can share their projects, explore potential collaborations, exchange ideas, and discuss any technical challenges that may arise. The next online meeting will take place on **February 27**, from **1:30 pm to 3:30 pm CET**. Everyone is warmly invited to join. If you were not already contacted through the mailing list collected in Liverpool, please express your interest by sending an email to **daniela.perotti@istitutotumori.mi.it.**

Please be aware that the next international meeting on Renal Tumor Biology will be 11-13th October 2026, at The Francis Crick Institute, 1 Midland Rd, London NW1 1AT, London, UK. We look for an enthusiastic and numerous participation!

Young investigators of the paediatric oncology community in SIOP-RTSG

By Nils Welter, Jesper Brok and Filippo Spreafico

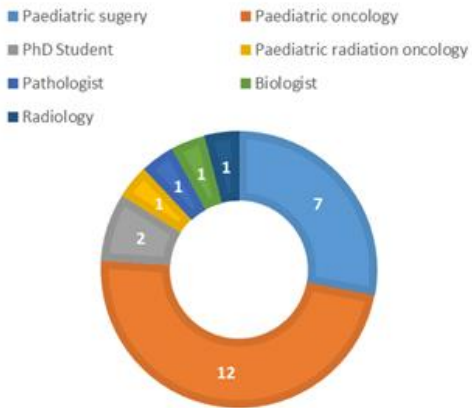

Since the foundation of the Young Investigator (YI) Initiative in 2021, both established members and young researchers have invested significant effort to build and integrate this group within the RTSG Association. The three guiding principles for engagement in the YI group are: (1) Long-term commitment (3 years), (2) Mentorship connection, (3) Definition of tasks/ Identification of research projects for every YI. The group is coordinated by a Chair and Vice Chair – currently Nils Welter and Christa König – who are Young Investigators themselves, together with two established RTSG members acting as liaisons, Filippo Spreafico and Jesper Brok. Over the past years, several key achievements have been made:

- General principles for the application process, YI period, and check-out procedures have been developed.
- Panel and mentorship assignments have been completed for nearly all YIs.
- YIs have been successfully integrated into research projects, with several publications already featuring YIs in prominent authorship positions.
- Regular Zoom meetings are now held every 3–4 months, during which YIs present their work and discuss current topics.

Since the first call in 2021, when eight young colleagues joined as the first YI generation, the group has grown steadily. Today, it includes 25 Young Investigators from 15 different countries, all dedicated to the care and research of paediatric kidney tumours. The group represents a wide range of specialties, reflecting the broad interdisciplinary spectrum of SIOP-RTSG, and YIs are now actively engaged in nearly all panels and subcommittees.

a)

b)



RTSG Young Investigators per country (a) and speciality (b)

News from 2025

Following the Liverpool Meeting, Christa König stepped down as Chair of the group but will fortunately remain actively involved in her new role as Vice Chair. We are deeply grateful for her outstanding contribution to building and shaping the YI group and are delighted to continue working with her. Nils Welter has been appointed as the new Chair of the YI group and will continue to work closely with Christa, Jesper, and Filippo to further develop the initiative.

For the first time, five YIs have completed their check-out, qualifying them to become established panel members. These YIs have successfully contributed to the group's work, completed research projects, and participated in panel activities—demonstrating the high value of the YI program in integrating the next generation of experts.

We are also pleased to welcome four new Young Investigators, who have already been assigned to panels and subcommittees.

YIs at the annual RTSG-Meeting Liverpool 2025

Outlook

In 2026, our group will continue to strengthen connections and networking opportunities—not only within RTSG, but also with young research groups beyond the association. We will further focus on identifying research projects and tasks within RTSG where Young Investigators can actively contribute and be meaningfully involved. The YI group remains open to welcoming motivated young colleagues interested in joining our network. Applications can be sent to **nils.welter@uks.eu**

The Young Investigators wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Data Management and statistics working group

By Harm van Tinteren

At the beginning of the year, we welcomed Loic Abed as the new statistician for the SIOP-RTSG, appointed by Arnauld. Loic spent a week at the Princess Maxima Center, where he got to know the entire team involved in the RTSG studies and we were able to introduce him to our working procedures and databases in the statistical office. With the arrival of Loic as an additional statistician, a considerable number of projects have been taken on and completed. Rana, Loic, and Harm meet weekly to discuss progress and any problems we encounter. Loic has proven to be a highly skilled R user, which is also useful when combining data from ALEA and Obtima.

In March we revived the DM-stat group, including the statisticians, the PIs of the studies/trials and central data-management with monthly meetings. The aim now is to deliver reliable, high-quality data and reports that are approved by statisticians and oncological experts on behalf of SIOP-RTSG and to reduce the delay in leverage of results, now that the merged historical database is available. This will enhance the quality and quantity of scientific output of SIOP-RTSG. In addition to the usual reports, such as the annual study report, subgroup reports, and trial reports, there are also specific projects. The projects, approved by the Steering Committee, are being discussed, prioritized, and distributed (see also recent publications list).

In the second half of the year, we began preparations for the OMICS study as part of the current UMBRELLA protocol. In early 2026, we will begin drafting statistical analysis plans and then start analyzing the data.

The transatlantic HARMONICA collaboration

Leads: M.M. van den Heuvel-Eibrink (SIOP-RTSG) and J. Geller (COG-RTC)

Members of SIOP-RTSG and COG-RTC have attended our monthly HARMONICA meetings to discuss topics of interest for children with kidney cancer. Over the past year, we discussed several topics including content, strategy and future research agendas. In addition, since the past two years, members of HARMONICA have been participating in the WHO-ARIA initiative for Wilms tumours, to share SIOP-RTSG and COG-RTG treatment perspectives, for strategy development in countries with limited resources.

A closed meeting in Amsterdam during the Annual SIOP meeting will lead to restructuring the charter, and to prioritize future research projects.

Scientific output:

The spin-off of the SIOP-OTTAWA 2023 HARMONICA meeting**:** Remaining Challenges in the Treatment of Relapsed Wilms Tumor: Children's Oncology Group and International Society of Paediatric Oncology Perspectives. Sutton KS, Walz AL, Groenendijk A, Murphy AJ, Pater L, Janssens GO, Brzezinski J, Mullen EA, Spreafico F, Godzinski J, van der Beek J, Hwa Wijnen M, van den Heuvel-Eibrink MM, Pachl M, Graf N, Ehrlich PF, Furtwangler R, Brok J, Geller J.*Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2025 Aug;72(8):e31790.*

After publishing Hallmark discoveries in the biology of non-Wilms tumour childhood kidney cancers. by Perotti D, O'Sullivan MJ, Walz AL, Davick J, Al-Saadi R, Benedetti DJ, Brzezinski J, Ciceri S, Cost NG, Dome JS, Drost J, Evageliou N, Furtwängler R, Graf N, Maschietto M, Mullen EA, Murphy AJ, Ortiz MV, van der Beek JN, Verschuur A, Wegert J, Williams R, Spreafico F, Geller JI, van den Heuvel-Eibrink MM, Hong AL.*Nat Rev Urol. 2025 Aug;22(8):526-543,* the workshop "strategies for relapsed non-WTs", in Honolulu led to the manuscript: ""Relapsed rhabdoid tumours and other non-nephroblastoma childhood and adolescent kidney tumours: perspectives from the HARMONICA collaboration"". Michael V. Ortiz, Francis S.P.L. Wens, Andrew L. Hong, Paola Quarello, Arnauld C. Verschuur, Elisabeth T. Tracy, Najat C. Daw, Jeffrey S. Dome, Amy L. Walz, Julia Sprokkerieft, Godelieve A.M. Tytgat, Alex Kentsis, Jaime Libes-Bander, Peter J. Schoettler, Daniela Perotti, Jarno Drost, Rajkumar Venkatramani, James I. Geller & Marry M. van den Heuvel-Eibrink., which is now provisionally accepted *by Nat Rev Urology.*

The other project that was delivered after intensive collaboration before, during and after the SIOP 2024 Honolulu meeting was the "rupture project", for which the transatlantic expert groups delivered 5 full perspective papers (from radiology, pathology, surgery, radiotherapy, and oncology). These are currently under review together for a special issue, a "mini-symposium", on Ruptures in the journal Pediatric Radiology. It is expected that this special issue will be published in Q1 of 2026.

For the next year, the charter will be finalized, and already interesting collaborative transatlantic topics are on the agenda, such as Delphi studies for LN+ radiotherapy, as well as analysis of cellular CMN.

If you don't receive invites for the HARMONICA meeting, please let us know. As SIOP-RTSG member you are more than welcome to attend (m.m.vandenheuvel-eibrink@prinsesmaximacentrum.nl).

Events in 2025

UMBRELLA Launch Event Saudi Arabia April 2025

By Naveed Ahmad, Local PI UMBRELLA Study, Saudi Arabia

During SIOP Asia 2025, which was held in Saudi capital city of Riyadh, there was a dedicated session on the official launch of UMBRELLA study in Saudi Arabia. Dr Norbert Graf, Principal Investigator of the study, kindly accepted to be there with us to facilitate the discussion around potential challenges. Local reference oncologist Dr Abosoudah kickstarted the session on why we switched to UMBRELLA guidelines, followed by an update by local PI Dr Naveed Ahmad on the implementation of UMBRELLA study in Saudi Arabia.

	Day 1, 13 April 2025- Lunch break meeting	
Time	**SAPHOS/UMBRELLA meeting**	**Speakers**
	Moderators: Dr. Ibraheem Abosoudah & Dr, Naveed Ahmad	
5 min	Why did we switch to UMBRELLA?	Ibraheem Abosoudah
5 min	Updates on UMBREALL study from Saudi Arabia	Naveed Ahmad
10 min	Comments from UMBRELLA PI on international participation	Norbert Graf
40 min.	**Panel discussion**	All
Panalists	Mohammed Al Namshan	
	Hammad Abdullah	
	Fahad Sufiani	
	Ali Balbaid	

The panel discussion included national reference surgeon, radiologist, pathologist and radiation oncologist along with the wider pediatric oncology community from Saudi Arabia, where important clinical issues like advantages of delayed surgery after upfront chemotherapy, radiological interpretation of typical Wilms, pathological classification of Wilms Tumor in treated kidney and radiotherapy guidelines were discussed.

Brazilian Renal Tumor National Meeting 2025 - Highlights


By Beatriz Camargo and Joaquim Caetano de Aguirre-Neto

The Brazilian Renal Tumor Group (GBTR) held its national meeting in Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo, from November 20th to 21st, organized by local colleagues from the University of São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto Branch, and chaired by Maristella Bergamo, MD, PhD.
This year's event brought together 39 participants representing 8 different Brazilian states and 19 institutions across the country.
Multidisciplinary disciplines were represented by 5 surgeons, 1 molecular biologist, 1 radiotherapist, 3 pathologists, 1 data manager, and 24 pediatric oncologists.
We were also honored to host three international speakers: Norbert Graf, Rhoikos Furtwangler, and Jesper Brok.

The program consisted of four major keynotes:

1. **Bilateral Wilms Tumor and Nephroblastomatosis** – Rhoikos Furtwangler
2. **New Strategies for Metastatic Renal Tumors** – Rhoikos Furtwangler
3. **Assessing Risks and Benefits: Avoiding Overtreatment and Undertreatment in Suspected Tumor Rupture After Preoperative Therapy** – Norbert Graf
4. **Advances in the Management of Refractory or Relapsed Wilms Tumor** – Jesper Brok

Figures 1, 2 and 3: Brainstorm Case discussion

After the keynotes, we held three brainstorming discussion groups focused on the theme, covering a total of 12 groups of discussion of challenging cases. (Figures 1,2,3)

The meeting highlighted the truly multidisciplinary nature of our network, bringing together specialists from all disciplines, with extensive and enriching discussions.
The atmosphere was very friendly and enthusiastic.

Figure 4. Brazilian Group of Renal Tumor, Ribeirao Preto, 2025 (Grupo Brasileiro de Tumores Renais (GBTR))

And finally, our motto was: **"Your gaze improves my gaze"**, a poem by the Brazilian poet Arnaldo Antunes. (Figure 4)
All colleagues together had a wonderful time at social events. (Figure 5)

Figure 5. Brazilian National Renal tumor meeting, Choperia Pinguim, Ribeirao Preto, 2025

SIOP-RTSG Annual Meeting Liverpool, UK, 22nd -24th June 2025

By Lisa Howell

Liverpool played host to this year's SIOP RTSG annual meeting. The 2 day meeting was held in the Impressive Royal College of Physicians SPINE building. We were pleased to welcome 120 delegates from 23 countries, with representation from many professional disciplines working together to improve the outcomes for children with renal tumours. Specialisms represented included medical and clinical oncologists and trainees, academic scientists, radiologists, oncology surgeons, radiologists, histopathologists, and nurse specialists.

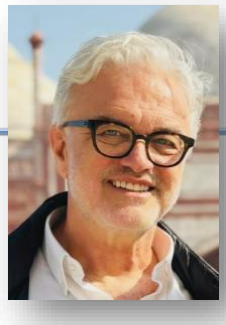
The keynote lecture was delivered by Professor Sam Behjati, on 'the genetic revolution of Wilms tumour'. Focused panel workshops dedicated to the understanding of stage 4 disease, bilateral Wilms Tumours, epidemiology, radiology, surgery, radiotherapy, biology and data management took place during the first morning. Joint sessions focusing on the UMBRELLA study, basic science and project updates as well as presentations from newly joining countries took place during the rest of the meeting.

The Titanic Hotel complete with a performance from the Alder Hey hospital choir was the venue for the meeting's social dinner with smaller social events including a young investigators dinner following the end of the meeting.

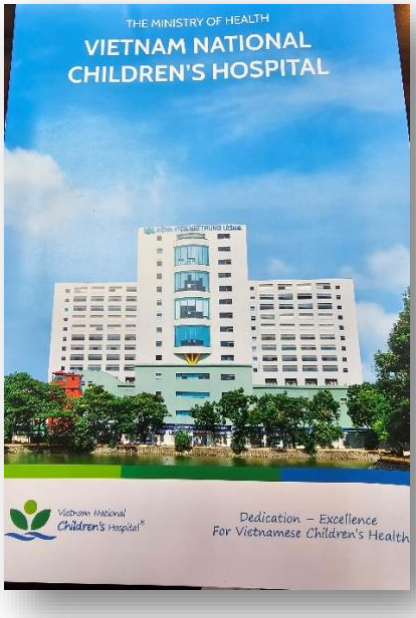
As usual this meeting gave great opportunity for learning and networking and was possible thanks to generous support from benefactors such as the Cheshire and Mersey Cancer Alliance, The Alder Hey Children's Charity, The Children and Young Person's Cancer Association (CCLG), The Evie Dove Foundation, The North West Children's Cancer Operational Delivery Network (NWCCODN) and The Amy Laura Fund.

Report from the visit to Vietnam

By Gordan M. Vujanic



Some 15+ years ago Bengt Sandstedt and Ivo Leuschner went for 8 years to Vietnam as part of the IKEA initiative to improve the diagnostics of paediatric tumours in the country and they always had very positive experience from their meetings and work with pathologists and oncologists. In 2015 that programme finished but in 2024 we re-connect with our pathology colleagues there and as a result of that, we agreed to meet in Vietnam and discuss how we could collaborate in future.

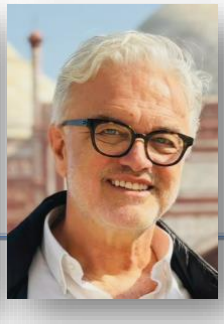


The meeting took place at the Vietnam National Children's Hospital in Hanoi, where a workshop on "Updates on diagnosis and treatment of pediatric kidney tumors" was organized (17 March 2025). About 50 people attended the workshop (plus many more who followed it online) which included a series of lectures from Norbert Graf, Christian Vokuhl and Gordan Vujanic, as well as very interesting presentations from our Vietnamese colleagues who shared their experience on pathology, surgery and oncology on renal tumours.

The second day (18 March 2025) was focused on pathology, so in the Department of Pathology we talked about how to deal and assess cases, then we reviewed a series of cases, and attended a Multidisciplinary Team meeting where a series of challenging cases was presented and discussed. In Vietnam they follow the Umbrella protocol, but are not able to participate officially. We encourage them to set up Central Pathology Review for the whole country and offered our help for that.

We are very grateful to our hosts, Professor Tran Minh Dien, Director of National Children's Hospital, Professor Hoang Ngoc Thach, Head of Pathology Department, Dr Pho Hong Diep, Vice Head of Pathology Department, and all other colleagues who me met and who made our stay in Hanoi so nice.

The LATAM Course on Pediatric Renal Tumor Pathology (2024-2025)



By Alejandra Casanovas and Gordan M. Vujanic

1. Introduction & Background

The LATAM Course on Pediatric Renal Tumor Pathology was a strategic initiative developed to address a critical gap in pediatric cancer care across Latin America. This program was organized by the Renal Tumor Network from GALOP, led by Dr Alejandra Casanovas, Dr Caetano Aguirre Neto and Dr Beatriz de Camargo, and Professor Gordan Vujanic (Umbrella's Chair of Pathology), with the generous support of TELEO.

The impetus for this course stemmed from a GALOP survey conducted in 2022, which mapped the available resources for diagnosing and treating renal tumors across 87 centers in 15 Latin American countries. The survey revealed significant challenges:

- **Low Case Volume:** The majority of centers (56%) treat fewer than 5 patients with kidney tumors per year, limiting individual exposure and expertise.
- **Variable Diagnostic Resources:** Only 55% of centers had consistent access to both ultrasound and CT scans for initial staging.

No	LECTURE	Presenter	Date
1	International trials in renal tumours of childhood	Gordan Vujanic	21.11.24
2	The role of biopsy in renal tumours of childhood	Gordan Vujanic	21.11.24
3	The role of central pathology review in renal tumours of childhood	Gordan Vujanic	05.12.24
4	Wilms tumour – clinical features, predisposition syndromes, etc	Laura Galluzzo	19.12.24
5	How to sample and assess microscopically renal tumours	Ellen D'Hooghe	09.01.25
6	Wilms tumour - staging criteria	Ellen D'Hooghe	23.01.25
7	Wilms tumour – blastemal type	Laura Galluzzo	06.02.25
8	Wilms tumour – mixed type	Laura Galluzzo	20.02.25
9	Wilms tumour – completely necrotic and regressive type	Ellen D'Hooghe	06.03.25
10	Wilms tumour – epithelial type	Gordan Vujanic	20.03.25
11	Wilms tumour – stromal type	Laura Galluzzo	03.04.25
12	Wilms tumour – anaplastic type	Gordan Vujanic	17.04.25
13	Wilms tumour – 'teratoid' type	Ellen D'Hooghe	01.05.25
14	Wilms tumour – 'botryoid' type	Gordan Vujanic	15.05.25
15	Cystic renal tumours in children	Gordan Vujanic	29.05.25
16	Nephrogenic rests	Gordan Vujanic	12.06.25
17	Immunohistochemistry in diagnosis of renal tumours	Ellen D'Hooghe	TBD
18	Molecular diagnosis of renal tumours	Christian Vokuhl	TBD
19	Clear Cell Sarcoma of the Kidney	Christian Vokuhl	TBD
20	Mesoblastic nephroma	Christian Vokuhl	TBD
21	Rhabdoid tumour of the kidney	Christian Vokuhl	TBD
22	Metanephric tumours	Christian Vokuhl	TBD
23	Renal Cell Carcinomas in Children	Christian Vokuhl	TBD
24	(Rarer) renal tumours (ASK, ORTI, AML, IMT, ...)	Laura Galluzzo	TBD
25	Dataset for reporting renal tumours	Gordan Vujanic	TBD
26	Similarities and differences between SIOP and COG	Laura Galluzzo	TBD
27	Pitfalls in diagnosis and staging of renal tumours	Gordan Vujanic	TBD

- **Fragmented Approach:** While 75% of centers performed pathology examinations in-house, there was no regional consensus on treatment strategies, leading to potential inconsistencies in care.

Critically, the survey highlighted a strong desire for collaboration, with 85 out of 87 centers expressing interest in joining a Renal Tumor Study Group. This identified a clear, unmet need for standardized education and multidisciplinary networking.

In response, the GALOP Renal Tumors Network was created. The LATAM Course on Pediatric Renal Tumor Pathology was designed as a cornerstone of this network, aiming to build capacity and capability directly at the diagnostic level, which is fundamental to improving overall survival rates for children with renal tumours in the region.

2. Course Organization and Faculty

The course was brought to life through a dedicated international collaboration:

- Scientific Director & Lead Faculty:
  - Professor Gordan Vujanic, SIOP-RTSG Chair of Pathology - Provided world-renowned scientific oversight, curated the curriculum, and served as a key lecturer.
- Distinguished Faculty:
  - Dr. Laura Galluzzo
  - Dr. Ellen D'Hooghe
  - Prof. Christian Vokuhl
- Course Coordination:
  - Dr. Alejandra Casanovas, GALOP
  - Dr. Beatriz de Camargo
  - Dr. Caetano Aguirre Neto
- Supporting Organization:
  - TELEO - Provided crucial technological and logistical support to host the course and make it accessible across the region.

3. Course Overview and Highlights

The course was offered free of charge in a virtual, bi-weekly format starting on 21 November 2024 and finishing on 30 October 2025, represented a significant commitment to professional development. It included 28 one-hour lectures covering all renal tumours of childhood, followed by Q&A time, and with MCQ tests after each lecture. All the lectures were recorded, and the participants were able to listen to them when convenient, if they were unable to attend 'live' lectures. Participants who completed the full curriculum received a certificate equivalent to 40 hours of training.

4. Participant Overview and Global Reach

The course demonstrated an extensive reach, attracting a total of 518 registered participants from across the globe, with a strong focus on, but not limited to, Latin America.

- **Total Registrations:** 518
- **Countries Represented:**
  25 countries, highlighting the international appeal and relevance of the course content. Participants joined from nations in Europe (Italy, Norway, Spain, Russian Federation), North America (USA, Canada, Mexico), the Middle East (Qatar), and across Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **Top Latin American Countries by Registration:**
  1. **Argentina:** 123 participants
  2. **Brazil:** 93 participants
  3. **Colombia:** 55 participants
  4. **Bolivia and Paraguay:** 37 participants each
  5. **Mexico:** 36 participants

  This diverse participation underscores the high global demand for specialized training in this field.

5. Professional Profile of Participants

The course attracted a wide range of medical professionals, ensuring a multidisciplinary learning environment. Most of the participants were medical doctors, including pathologist, pediatric oncologist and surgeons. There was also a significant number of fellows who participated.

6. Course Completion and Engagement

Tracking participant progress provides valuable insight into engagement levels. The data shows a strong level of activity, with a significant number of participants completing the course. So far, ~260 participants fully completed or are in the process of completing the course, and others will be doing it over a period of time.

7. Satisfaction Survey Results (Key Findings)

A post-course satisfaction survey was distributed, and the results reflect an overwhelmingly positive reception.

- **Course Met Expectations:**
  - **Rating: Completely Agreed:** 66.7% participants
  - **Mostly Agreed:** 27.3% participants
  - **Combined Positive 94%**
- **Adequacy of Covered Topics:**
  - **Completely Agreed:** 81.8% participants
  - **Mostly Agreed:** 18.2% participants
  - **Combined Positive Rating: 100%**
- **Depth of Topics: 100%** of respondents found the depth of the topics to be appropriate.
- **Net Promoter Score (NPS):**
  - **97%** of respondents stated they would recommend the course to a colleague.

8. Qualitative Feedback and Testimonials

The open-ended feedback highlighted the aspects participants valued most:

- **Quality of Faculty:** Repeated praise for the "world-reference," "expert," and "high-quality" speakers.
- **Practical & Updated Content:** Appreciation for the practical approach, updated information (especially on SIOP protocols), and clarity of complex topics.
- **Course Structure:** The flexibility of asynchronous learning, the clarity of presentations, and the usefulness of quizzes for self-assessment were frequently mentioned.
- **Overall Impact:** Participants described the course as "magnificent," "fantastic," and "complete," noting that it provided essential tools for improving diagnostic accuracy and patient care.
  A few suggestions for improvement included incorporating clinical case discussions and reviewing the course length.

9. Conclusion

The LATAM Course on Pediatric Renal Tumor Pathology was a resounding success. It directly addressed the critical needs identified in the 2022 GALOP survey by providing high-quality, accessible education to a broad, international, and multidisciplinary audience. The combination of a virtual curriculum with an optional in-person meeting created a rich and collaborative learning environment. The high registration numbers, coupled with the exceptional satisfaction scores and positive testimonials, confirm the course's significant value and impact. This initiative has successfully laid a solid foundation for the GALOP Renal Tumors Network, establishing a powerful model for advancing specialized medical education and directly contributing to the overarching goal of improving diagnostic accuracy, standardizing care, and ultimately, enhancing survival outcomes for children with renal tumours in Latin America and beyond.

The last online lecture of the Course was on 30 October 2025, and after that we had a live meeting (plus online participation) with the participants in Santiago de Chile. The first day of the meeting was a series of lectures followed by discussion on different pathological and clinical aspects of the Umbrella study.

The second day was devoted to pathology, so we had a session during which we presented a series of interesting cases and discussed them in detail.

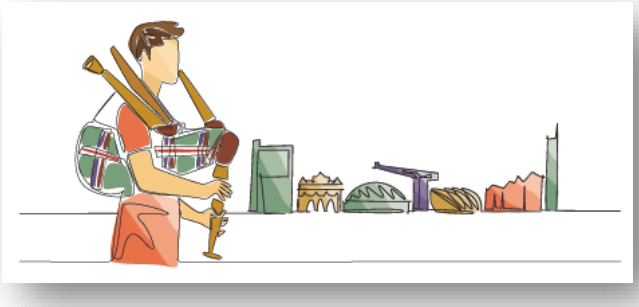
All in all, the 2-day meeting was very interesting, and hopefully will result in Chile joining the UMBREALLA study, too (they treat children according to our protocol).

Finally, many thanks to Professor Las Heras for hosting our meeting and for facilities provided.

SIOP-Europe Annual Meeting in Glasgow, UK, 2026

https://siopeurope.eu/

We are delighted to welcome you to the 7th SIOP Europe Annual Meeting which will take place in Glasgow, UK on 4-7 May 2026.



This meeting brings together the diverse stakeholders involved in facing key issues for children and adolescents with cancer. The SIOP Europe Annual Meeting provides a unique interactive format to discuss the current priorities and needs in the field of childhood cancers.

The Annual Meeting is held in partnership with CCI Europe, ensuring the representation and participation of childhood cancer parents and survivors.

We hope to see you on 4-7 May 2026 in Glasgow, United Kingdom for another memorable SIOP Europe Annual Meeting!

SIOP-RTSG Annual Meeting Lille, France, June 21-23, 2026

We are looking forward to seeing you for our next Annual SIOP-RTSG meeting, which will be held in Lille, France from 21st to 23rd of June 2026. The city of Lille was once known for its cotton production, this was aided by Napoleon I's blockade against the United Kingdom. Later become known as the birthplace of Charles de Gaulle, who was the leader of the French resistance and later the President of France. The city was extremely damaged during the Second World War. After the war, Lille became the main city in the North-East of France. Now, Lille is a cosmopolitan centre located within easy reach of three European capitals (Paris, London and Brussels). Lille is served by two major train stations: Lille Europe and Lille Flandres, the two are located within walking distance of each other. Lesser used is the Lille-Lesquin airport but it connects Lille to several European cities. The city is also on a major interchange in the French autoroute network:

The Place du Théâtre in Lille hosts the Opera as well as restaurants.

Details of the meeting will follow soon and will be send to our members or can be found on our website with information for registration and an agenda with topics of the meeting.

SIOP Congress in San Antonio, USA 2026

https://siop-congress.org/

After experiencing four outstanding days of cutting-edge science, engaging debates and networking with world-renowned experts at SIOP 2025 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, the next SIOP congress will be held in San Antonio in USA from September 15-18, 2026.

General congress Information can be found at: https://siop-congress.org/.

Publications 2025

Mianyong Ding, Matteo Maspero, Semi Harrabi, Emmanuel Jouglar, Sabina Vennarini, Timothy Spencer, Britta Weber, Henriette Magelssen, Karen Van Beek, Remus Stoica, Simonetta Saldi, Tom Boterberg, Patrick Melchior, Marry M. van den Heuvel-Eibrink, Geert O. Janssens
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Clin Transl Radiat Oncol. 2025 Sep 19;56:101051. doi: 10.1016/j.ctro.2025.101051 ->Abstract

Marvin Mergen, Norbert Graf, Nils Welter, Patrick Melchior, Christian Vokuhl , Andreas Schmidt, Sabine Kroiss-Benninger, Leo Kager, Jens-Peter Schenk, Rhoikos Furtwängler
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Kristina Kleen, Judith Gebauer, Claudia Spix, Lea Louisa Kronziel, Inke König, Katja Baust, Gabriele Calaminus, Thorsten Simon, Barbara Hero, Oliver Zolk, Norbert Graf, Hashim Abdul-Khaliq, Thorsten Langer
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Kathryn S. Sutton, Amy L. Walz, Alissa Groenendijk, Andrew J. Murphy, Luke Pater, Geert O. Janssens, Jack Brzezinski, Elizabeth A. Mullen, Filippo Spreafico, Jan Godzinski, Justine van der Beek, Marc HWA Wijnen, Marry M. van den Heuvel-Eibrink, Max Pachl, Norbert Graf, Peter F. Ehrlich, Rhoikos Furtwangler, Jesper Brok, James Geller
Challenges in the Treatment of Relapsed Wilms Tumor: Children's Oncology Group and International Society of Paediatric Oncology Perspectives.
Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2025 May 14:e31790. doi: 10.1002/pbc.31790 ->Abstract

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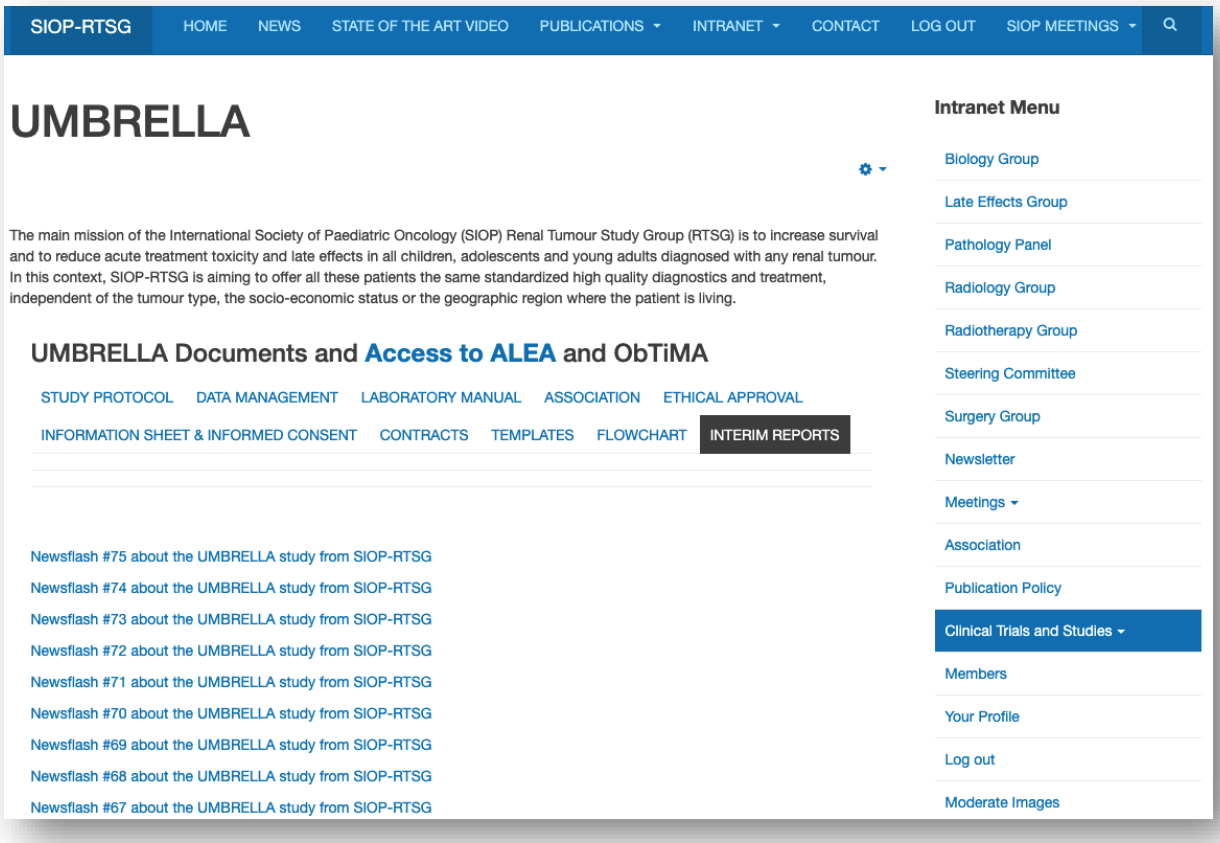
Hallmark discoveries in the biology of non-Wilms tumour childhood kidney cancers.
Nat Rev Urol (2025).DOI: 10.1038/s41585-024-00993-6 ->Abstract

Lisa Götz, Jenny Wegert, Alireza Paikari, Silke Appenzeller, Sabrina Bausenwein, Christian Vokuhl, Taryn Treger, Jarno Drost, Christin Linderkamp, Dominik T. Schneider, Karen Ernestus, Steven Warman, Jörg Fuchs, Nils Welter, Norbert Graf, Sam Behjati, Rhoikos Furtwängler, Manfred Gessler
Wilms tumor primary cultures capture phenotypic heterogeneity and facilitate preclinical screening
Translational Oncology, 52, 2025, 102263 2024; DOI: 10.1016/j.tranon.2024.102263 ->Abstract

Our Website

Please visit our website. Members of SIOP-RTSG can create an account for the Intranet, where the UMBRELLA protocol, CRFs and other news are shared. We are updating the content regularly. ➔ **https://siop-rtsg.org**



Upcoming Meetings

14th to 17th April, 2026	Chicago, IL United States	COG Spring Meeting (invitation only)
17th to 22nd April 2026	San Diego, CA United States	AACR Annual Meeting 2026
4th to 7th May 2026	Glasgow, UK	7th Annual SIOP Europe Meeting
29th May to 2nd June 2026	Chicago, IL United States	ASCO Annual Meeting 2026
21st to 23rd June 2026	Lille, France	SIOP-RTSG Committee Meeting
6th to 9th October 2026	Chicago, IL United States	COG Fall Group Meeting (invitation only)
15th to 18th September 2026	San Antonio, United States	58th Congress of SIOP
23rd to 27th October 2026	Madrid, Spain	ESMO

Impressum

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