

<p><b>25 YEARS</b> <b>SIOP</b> The European Society for Paediatric Oncology</p> <p><b>13th Edition</b></p> <h1>International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) 2023</h1> <p>8 February 2023 13:00 to 15:00 CET</p> <p>Brussels, Belgium</p>	
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## SPEAKER PROFILES

### International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD 2023)

Wednesday, 8 February 2023 (13:00 – 15:00 CET)

***‘Contributing to childhood cancer survivorship in Europe: current programmes, emerging trends and furthering the agenda***

#### EVENT HOST AND CHAIRS

##### Host

**Cindy Franssen**  
MEP (EPP, BE)



**Cindy Franssen** is the former coordinator for the EPP group in the special committee on beating cancer. The fight against cancer has been at the centre of her political work for years, first in Belgium and since 2019 on the European level, with a focus on prevention, childhood and AYA cancers in particular.

**Carmelo Rizzari**  
**SIOPE President and**  
**SIOPE Research Council**  
**Co-Chair (University of**  
**Milano-Bicocca, IT)**



**Prof. Carmelo Rizzari** is a Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy and has been involved in the field of paediatric leukaemias with a special interest in both traditional and innovative chemotherapy agents. He is currently running the Paediatric Haematology-Oncology Unit in Monza (MBBM Foundation, ASST Monza, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy), which is one of the largest centres for the diagnosis and treatment of haematological malignancies in Italy.

Since the start of his career, he has been involved in the field of paediatric leukaemias with a special interest in both traditional and innovative chemotherapy agents.

He is currently Chairman of the AIEOP (Associazione Italiana di Ematologia ed Oncologia Pediatrica) Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) Committee which aims to improve the knowledge and treatment of childhood ALL in the country. He is also a member of the national AIEOP scientific committees for first-line and relapsed trials for ALL and AML and an active member of several scientific and steering international committees (e.g. AIEOP-BFM ALL trials, International BFM Study Group, ITCC, INTREALL). Within the ITCC Consortium (Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer), he served as a member of the Quality and Accreditation Committee and is currently the Chair of the ITCC Centre of Monza, Italy.

For several years now, he is also serving as the representative of the International BFM Study Group at ENPREMA (European Network for Paediatric Research at EMA) which aims to foster and integrate at the European level the research and innovation in different paediatric areas.

He is also currently national PI or Co-PI or local site PI for several national or international phase I and II Pharma sponsored or Academia driven studies involving innovative drugs for resistant/relapsed leukaemias and lymphomas.

Author or co-author of over 150 peer-reviewed scientific publications, he has also actively participated as an invited speaker in several international scientific meetings and disease-specific working groups.

As of January 2022, he is the President of the European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE Europe, or SIOPE). He previously served as Co-Chair of the SIOPE Europe Clinical Research Council, which gathers the thirty-five National Paediatric Haematology-Oncology Societies and the nineteen European Clinical Trial Groups.

**Anita Kienesberger**  
**CCI Europe Committee**  
**Chair (AT)**



**Anita Kienesberger** is the Chair of the CCI Europe Committee. Through her past role as Board Member of Childhood Cancer International (2003 – 2014), she put international collaboration high on the national as well as on the European agenda. Mrs. Kienesberger was also the CEO of the Austrian Childhood Cancer Organisation for 20 years. By training, Mrs. Kienesberger is a paediatric nurse with a specialisation in oncological diseases. She was Head of the Intensive Care Unit at the St. Anna Children’s Hospital in Vienna, Austria for over 10 years. Through her past experiences, she developed a multi-disciplinary approach to childhood cancer care.

Anita holds a master’s degree in international Gender Studies and Feministic Politics.

**Pamela Kearns**  
**SIOPE President**  
**(University of**  
**Birmingham, UK)**



**Prof. Pamela Kearns** is Chair of Clinical Paediatric Oncology at the University of Birmingham and an Honorary Consultant Paediatric Oncologist at Birmingham Women and Children’s Hospital. She is Director of the University of Birmingham’s Institute of Cancer and Genomic Sciences and Director of the Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit (CRCTU). As Director of CRCTU, she leads the research strategy for one of the UK’s largest cancer trials units, delivering a trials portfolio of over 100 multi-centre & international cancer trials for a wide range of cancers, occurring in all children, young people and adults, notably leading the National Children’s Cancer Trials Team responsible the vast majority of UK’s clinical trial portfolio for children and young people with cancer. Her research is focussed on research in childhood acute leukaemias and lymphomas and drug development and innovation in the design and delivery of clinical trials for childhood cancers.

She served as President of the European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOP Europe) from 2019 to 2021, having been a Board member since 2013 and now continues to sit on the Board of SIOP Europe as Past President. She has several European roles including Executive Board Member of the academic consortium ‘Innovative Therapeutics in Childhood Cancer’ (ITCC), Chair of ITCC’s European Sponsor Institutions Committee and Steering Committee member of the International multi-stakeholder platform ‘ACCELERATE’. Her research interests are focussed of drug development and innovation of design and delivery of clinical trials for childhood cancers. She was also a Senior Clinical Advisor to Cancer Research UK from 2015 to 2020 and is now as Trustee for Cancer Research UK as well as continuing to be a Trustee of a Child of Mine, a charity dedicated to supporting bereaved parents. She is also Chair of the Research Assessment Panel for GOSH Charity, and Chair of The Independent Scientific Advisory Panel for Bone Cancer Research Trust.

## SPEAKERS

**Katrin Scheinemann**  
PanCare Chair,  
SIOPE Board Member  
(Ostschweizer Kinderspital  
St. Gallen, CH)



**Prof Dr Katrin Scheinemann** is the Division head of pediatric Oncology/ Hematology at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Switzerland in St. Gallen. She is also Head of the LACC (Life after childhood cancer) research group in St. Gallen, Switzerland. She is a professor of Medical Science in the Faculty of Health Science and Medicine at the University of Lucerne and President of the Swiss Paediatric Oncology Group (SPOG).

Prof Dr Scheinemann is currently the Chair of the Pan-European network for care of survivors after childhood and adolescent cancer (PanCare) and chair of the SIOPE BTG (Brain tumour group). She is a board member of SIOPE with focus on survivorship and a member of the steering committee of ISLCCC (International Symposium on Late Complications after Childhood Cancer).

Prof Dr Scheinemann holds a Master of Science degree in Palliative Care from the University of Freiburg, Germany.

**Carina Schneider**  
Managing Director and  
Patient Advocate,  
CCI Europe (AT)



Today a passionate patient advocate, Carina was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma at the age of 17. Experiencing the lack of adequate long-term follow-up care, she became active in patient advocacy in 2009. In 2017, she was part of the group of survivor-representatives from across Europe who launched the survivors-network within CCI Europe. Later that year, she joined the CCI Europe Committee.

Carina is a psychology graduate and has worked in paediatric oncology since 2013, first in the Austrian Childhood Cancer Organisation as project manager and later at the Medical University of Vienna as research coordinator in the psychosocial team of the Paediatric Neurooncology Department. In January 2022, she became CCI Europe's Managing Director and works, together with a committed team, dedicated Committee Members and patient advocates from all over Europe for a better future for children, adolescents and young adults, as well as their families, who are affected by cancer.

**Nicole Scobie,**  
CCI Europe Committee  
and Patient Advocate (CH)



**Nicole Scobie** is the president of Zoé4life, a non-profit organization based in Switzerland which supports children with cancer and their families, as well as paediatric oncology research.

As a parent of a childhood cancer survivor, she is an advocate for improving access to treatment as well as accelerating the development of new, better therapies for childhood cancer.

She is a committee member of Childhood Cancer International (CCI)-Europe, where she is the co-chair of the Research & Innovation pillar. Nicole is also a member of the ACCELERATE steering committee and a founding member of the ITCC Advocate Committee.

**Loucas Furlas**  
**MEP (EPP, CY)**



**Loucas Furlas** was born in 1969 Limassol, Cyprus. He undertook university studies between the period 1989 – 1994 at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece in Economics and Political Sciences. In 2006, he attended a number of courses in Research Journalism and International Crisis at the Columbia and Washington Universities respectively in the USA.

Loucas Furlas is known for his long-lasting career as a Journalist and TV presenter (1995-2016) as well as for being the Press Secretary of the Presidential candidate Mr. Ioannis Kasoulidis during the Cyprus elections in 2008. He also served as a spokesperson of the House of Representatives of Cyprus.

Loucas Furlas is also the Ambassador of the Charity Foundation “Hope” and the initiator of the non-profit organization “Little Heroes” – children who suffer from cancer. In 2022, he won the Health Award in the context of the Parliament Magazine’s MEP Awards and he became the first Cypriot who managed to win this award since the Cyprus Accession in the EU.

He was a member of the European Parliament’s Beating Cancer Committee (BECA) and Co-Chair of the MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) Interest Group. An important contribution to the BECA Committee’s own-initiative report on ‘Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer’ was Loucas Furlas’ initiative for a number of amendments dedicated to childhood cancer, notably the integration of small countries to clinical trials.

Loucas Furlas is the author of the book ‘A sea upon a time’ depicting a special childhood story that was selected for the campaign ‘Readers of Europe 2021 – recommendation by the Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the EU’. All the revenues associated with the book will be donated to the philanthropic organisation “Little Heroes”. In addition, he recently published his second book entitled ‘23 years on air’.

**Patrizia Toia**  
**MEP (S&D, IT)**



**Patrizia Toia** is an Italian politician and Member of the European Parliament, part of the group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. She graduated in political science from Università degli Studi in Milan, Italy and later complemented her studies with a degree in strategic planning from the Bocconi University in Milan.

Ms Toia's career started off as Municipal Councilor of Vanzago (Milan), then Director of Planning Service at Lombardy Region and regional Councilor in charge of different portfolios (Health; Social Services Coordination; Budget). She was then Member of the Chamber of Deputies and subsequently Member of the Senate between 1996 to 2004. During her national mandates, she held various governmental positions: Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Minister for European Affairs and Minister for Relations with Parliament. In 2004, she was elected to the European Parliament, then confirmed in 2009, 2014 and 2019 as a Member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D).

She is currently Vice-Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) as well as substitute member of the Committee on Development (DEVE) and the Committee on Transport (TRAN). In addition, she is Co-Chair of the Intergroup on the Social Economy. From 2021 to 2022, she was part of the European Parliament's Delegation to the Conference on the Future of Europe (COFOE).

Ms Toia's interest in health led her to become a member of the MEP Heart Group, MEPs Against Cancer Group, MEP member of the European Parliament Intergroup on Cancer as well as substitute member of the Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA).

**Alessandra Moretti**  
**MEP (S&D, IT)**



**Alessandra Moretti** is an Italian lawyer and Member of the European Parliament.

She began her political career in her hometown, Vicenza, mainly focusing on youth policies and education. After being a Member of the Italian Parliament and of the Veneto Regional Council, in 2019 she was elected to the European Parliament, where she is a member of the ENVI, FEMM, AFET committees dealing with crucial issues for the future of Europe.

Alessandra Moretti has also been Coordinator for the Socialists and Democrats group of the Special Committee against Cancer, she is currently the rapporteur for the S&D in the Special Committee on Covid-19 pandemic and has been included by the Parliament Magazine among the most influential MEPs in the field of health for several years.

**Nicolae Ștefănuță**  
**MEP (RE, RO)**



**Nicolae Ștefănuță** is a full member of the Committee on Budgets, and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. He is a Vice-President of the Delegation for relations with the United States.

He is also Substitute member of the Committee on International Trade, on the Delegation to the EU-Armenia Parliamentary Partnership Committee, the EU-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and the EU-Georgia Parliamentary Association Committee.

In 2022, he was the general rapporteur for the EU budget.

Among his areas of interest as a MEP are: climate change, foreign policy, security, public health, European budget and European rights.

He is a graduate of the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy, where he obtained a Master of policy management degree. He has a bachelor's degree in economics, obtained in Timișoara, Romania and a master's in advanced international studies at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, Austria and in European studies from the University of Vienna.

He began his professional career working for the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Once Romania joined the European Union in 2007, Nicolae started his European career working for the European Parliament in various public policy areas, including budget and agriculture policy, as well as in the area of Transatlantic relations for the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with the United States.

**Philippe Roux,**  
**Head of Unit DG SANTE, European  
 Commission**



**Philippe Roux** started his career in the French Social sector in 1985. During the same time, he studied social sciences, European law and Public Health. He worked with DG V (Employment and Social Affairs) from 1990 to 1998 in support of the development of the EU initiatives related to drug prevention. In September 1998, he joined the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction where he contributed to the development of the framework and tools for the evaluation of the EU action plans on drugs and was from 2002 deputy Head of Unit in the "Interventions, law and policy" Unit of the Agency. He joined SANTE Health Determinants Unit in 2005 to work with the Nutrition and Physical Activity team with responsibilities in the coordination of the Diet, Physical Activity and Health European Platform. In July 2013, he became Head of the Health Determinants Unit, since March 2016 Head of the Unit 'Country Knowledge and Scientific Committees', Head of Unit 'Health Information and Integration in all policies' in October 2020 and Head of Unit 'Cancer, Health in all Policies' since October 2022.

**Annika Nowak**  
 Head of Unit, DG RTD,  
 European Commission



After studying law at the Humboldt University in Berlin, Annika Nowak began her professional career as a parliamentary assistant in the European Parliament in 2001, focussing on food safety and health policies. In 2004, she joined the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) of the European Commission and worked primarily in the field of health systems and patients' rights. From 2014-2019, she was member of Cabinet to the EU Health Commissioner, responsible for health policies, including eHealth, health technology assessment, and pharmaceuticals. In 2019, Ms. Nowak moved to the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) to work in the area of health research. Since July 2021, she is the Head of Sector of the Cancer Mission secretariat in DG RTD Unit D1 'Combating Diseases'.

**Dominik Karres**  
 Scientific Officer,  
 European Medicines Agency



**Dominik Karres** received his medical degree from the University Erlangen, Germany, followed by a MD in paediatric drug development. He held a training post in paediatric haematology/oncology (University Hospital Muenster) and worked as a clinical fellow in paediatric oncology and paediatric oncology drug development in the UK (Royal Marsden Hospital & Institute of Cancer Research UK). In 2014 he joined the UK's medicines regulatory agency (MHRA) with positions in the Post-marketing and Licensing Divisions. Since 2018 he works as Scientific Officer at the EMA's Paediatric Medicines Office. Dominik is supporting the agency's efforts further fostering paediatric oncology drug development. In this capacity he is also the EMA's nominee to the ACCELERATE Steering Committee, a multi-stakeholder platform aiming to facilitate the acceleration of science driven developments of paediatric oncology drugs through global cooperation and collaboration.

**Stergios Zacharoulis**  
 Senior Director of Paediatric  
 Oncology,  
 Bristol Myers Squibb (US)



**Dr. Stergios Zacharoulis** works as Senior Director, Oncology Pediatrics Lead at Bristol Myers Squibb and Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Oncology at Columbia University. Before joining BMS, Dr. Zacharoulis held several leadership positions at renowned US and international institutions including Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Children's Hospital in Los Angeles and the Royal Marsden Hospital in the UK. Throughout his professional career, Dr. Zacharoulis has led the development and establishment of a Novel Drug Delivery program for children with brain tumours focusing on Convection Enhanced Delivery and Focused Ultrasound, and launched the first worldwide Convection Enhanced Delivery trial, using a subcutaneous programmable pump for children with Diffuse Pontine Glioma, and was instrumental in obtaining FDA approval for the first worldwide non-invasive Focused Ultrasound clinical trial in children with relapsed Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Gliomas. He received his M.D. from the Aristotelis University of Thessaloniki in Greece. Stergios trained at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and Dana Farber Cancer Institute/Boston Children's Hospital, and is board certified for paediatrics, and paediatric haematology/oncology in the US. In his current position, he is in charge of creating a pipeline of drug development in childhood cancer within Bristol Myers Squibb.