**“Cancer registration must be top priority” declares cancer leaders**

**and advocates on World Cancer Day**

**Geneva | 4 February 2013** – Today, on World Cancer Day, the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP) calls on governments and health authorities to scale-up efforts in establishing childhood cancer registries worldwide. A cancer registry is a systematic collection of data about cancer and tumor diseases. Population-based cancer registries monitor the frequency of new cancer cases each year and over time by collecting case reports from difference sources. Accurate data collected by cancer registries are essential for improving patient care, efficient use of health programme funds and driving new research. While cancer registries may exist for adult cancers, documentation of childhood cancers is poor, especially so in developing countries, where 80 percent of all children with cancer live.

SIOP President Gabriele Calaminus explains “the time for reflection is over. We can only win the fight against childhood cancer if we know what we are up against.” Childhood cancer data in many developing countries are not available. “We simply will not be able to intervene and provide the necessary treatment, care and support to children with cancer if data are missing” adds Calaminus. In many countries, childhood cancer-specific data are often collapsed with those of adult cancers or worse, not recorded or misdiagnosed as another childhood disease.

In support of the 2013 World Cancer Day theme “Cancer - Did you know?”, SIOP is asking Ministries of Health worldwide – did you know that a childhood cancer registry will aid improved outcomes for children with cancer? Led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), World Cancer Day is an annual event marked annually on 4 February to raise awareness about cancer and improve the general public’s knowledge around the disease. Each year, cancer claims some 7.6 million lives, a figure higher than that attributed to people who lose their lives to AIDS, TB and Malaria combined.

Cary Adams, CEO of UICC notes “The Union for International Cancer Control fully supports SIOP’s call for improved cancer registration to shape, monitor and inform childhood cancer plans. This diligence will ultimately save lives, as many childhood cancers are curable.

A few days from now, on 15 February, SIOP will take the lead in observing International Childhood Cancer Day – a day in which the strength, courage, hope and determination of children living with cancer and their families to succeed are celebrated.

Each year, more than 175,000 children worldwide are diagnosed with cancer while an estimated 90,000 die from the disease. These numbers are staggering when one realises that 70% of all childhood cancers are curable. The light at the end of the tunnel is the fact that with new treatments available to children

with cancer in the past 30 years, notably in developed countries, thousands have survived the disease and lead productive lives as adults.

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**About the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP)**Established in 1969, the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP), with over 1500 members, is the lead organization concerned with the issues of children and young people who have cancer. The society envisions that “no child should die of cancer.” To realize this vision, SIOP’s mission are to: (1) ensure that each child and young adult with cancer has access to state-of-the-art treatment and care; (2) ensure that all involved in childhood cancer worldwide, have access to the latest progress through meetings, networking, and continuing professional development; (3) support those caring for children and young adults with cancer to provide the best curative and palliative therapies; and, (4) advocate for appropriate long-term follow-up for children and young adults after treatment for cancer. Dr. Gabrielle Calaminus is the president of SIOP. SIOP is governed by a board of directors and has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.[www.siop.nl](http://www.siop.nl)

**About the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)**

UICC is the leading international non-governmental organisation dedicated to the prevention and control of cancer worldwide. It is the largest cancer-fighting organisation of its kind, with over 760 member organisations across 155 countries representing the world’s major cancer societies, ministries of health, research institutes, treatment centres and patient groups.

UICC is dedicated to continuing to work with world leaders to increase their support for cancer control measures, and hold them to account for the cancer commitments made in the UN Political Declaration on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs).

UICC will use World Cancer Day to lobby to:

* Develop targets and indicators to measure the implementation of policies and approaches to prevent and control cancer
* Raise the priority accorded to cancer in the global development agenda
* Promote a global response to cancer

UICC and its multisectoral partners are committed to convincing governments to adopt specific time-bound targets that address the global burden of cancer and other NCDs.

UICC is also a founding member of the NCD Alliance, a global civil society network that now represents almost 2,000 organisations in 170 countries.

**About World Cancer Day – Did you know?**

World Cancer Day takes place every year on 4 February and is the single initiative under which the UICC, its members, partners and the entire world can unite together in the fight against the global cancer epidemic.

World Cancer Day is an initiative of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), through which we aim to help save millions of preventable deaths each year by raising awareness and education about cancer, and pressing governments and individuals across the world to take action against the disease.

This year’s World Cancer Day campaign focuses on Target 5 of the World Cancer Declaration: ***Dispel damaging myths and misconceptions about cancer****,* under the tagline ***“Cancer - Did you know?”***. World Cancer Day is a chance to raise our collective voices in the name of improving general knowledge around cancer and dismissing misconceptions about the disease.

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