**NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OCTOBER 2012**

15 October, 2012

The PROS meeting held in conjunction with the SIOP congress in London last week was a great success. Most ably organised by Christian Carrie in collaboration with Mark Gaze as local host and the SIOP Scientific Committee and well-attended by PROS members, the meeting offered a balanced variety of educational sessions and symposia as well as a proffered paper session. Our newsletter editor, Ed Halperin has submitted a very detailed summary of all of the sessions that has already been posted on the website. Any comments about this meeting and/or suggestions for future meetings will be most welcome. The Executive Committee met for a total of nearly 8 hours. Ed’s newsletter summarises the many issues discussed. Some that you will definitely hear more of over the coming months are:

* **Our Statutes and By-laws**

Our by-laws (that are the original ones) need to be updated. Proposed changes to the EC include:

* + the addition of the positions of president-elect and past-president with the goal of ensuring continuity on the EC
  + reallocation of the responsibilities of members of the EC including by-laws to the general secretary, publications to the North American education representative, and SIOP liaison to the European education representative
  + the addition of two members representing the allied health professions.

The revised by-laws will be circulated to you very soon for your comments, if any, and we will hope to ratify them at our General Assembly in Louisville in May.

* **The website**

As you know, we recently asked for volunteers to help us evaluate and improve our website. Two of our members, Malika Siker from Milwaukee and Klaus Siersen from Aarhus came to the EC meeting to present their vision for the website and we agreed to create a small working group, co-lead by them, to come up with a strategy for consulting PROS members in order to identify needs and goals and propose next steps.

* **Educational and other initiatives with respect to colleagues working in low and middle income countries (LMIC)**

This is a fairly “hot” subject given that several international agencies and professional associations have identified radiotherapy as problematic or even not available at all in some countries. PROS is increasingly seen as the organisation best placed to provide advice and support to our colleagues working in these countries. The EC agreed that we will waive the membership fee for colleagues from World Bank-defined low income countries and Natia Esiashvili, the EC member responsible for LMIC, together with Karen Marcus who is responsible for membership, will work together to see how we can reach out to them and establish their needs. This may tie into our plans to upgrade the website if, for example, we were to include on-line educational materials and even perhaps offer opportunities for review of cases and radiotherapy plans.

* **The Louisville Congress May 2013**

Plans for our next congress are progressing well and I think that we will have another great meeting. The call for abstracts will go out very soon. Main topics include neuroblastoma and bone and soft tissue sarcoma, and as well radiotherapy in LMIC. Note that, for the first time, abstracts of oral presentations will be published in our official journal, the International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology and Physics. We anticipate that the venue as well as the scientific and social programs will maximize opportunities for interacting and we hope that as many of you as possible will attend. Your comments, questions, suggestions are all most welcome as we work on all of these various issues!

**Carolyn FreemanPresident**