



## PRESS RELEASE

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### EDUCATION, EQUITY FOCUS OF CONFERENCE SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE SUBSPECIALISTS AND PATIENT CARE

**Chicago, May 2021:** The Board of Trustees of the American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (ASPHO) convened its annual spring meeting April 20 to welcome new Trustees and kick off the [2021 ASPHO Conference](#), the premier educational and scientific conference for pediatric hematology/oncology subspecialists.

“ASPHO’s leadership and good governance have been essential to supporting subspecialists during the pandemic, ensuring relevant and responsive education, professional development, and advocacy,” notes ASPHO Board President Jorge Di Paola. Joining the Society’s Board as Trustees-at-Large are Sarah Alexander, MD, Clinical Director, Division of Haematology/Oncology at Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, and Mukta Sharma, MD MPH, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Children’s Mercy, in Kansas City, Missouri. Trustees-at-Large Dana Matthews, MD, of Seattle Children’s Hospital and Nobuko Hijiya, MD, Columbia University Medical Center, were recognized for their exemplary leadership and Board service which ended April 23.

Over 1,250 specialists attended the 2021 ASPHO Conference which was held virtually April 21-23. Renown experts and thought leaders presented discoveries and

insights at over 35 educational sessions, 358 papers in oral and poster format on clinical, translational, and basic science, 25 Genius Bars, and roundtable programs. Highlights included presentations by Luminary Investigators Alexis Thompson, MD MPH, on Clinical Outcomes in Patients with Sickle Cell Disease and by E. Anders Kolb, MD, on Hot Topics in Oncology and HSCT/Cellular Therapy, and sessions relaying key issues from COG, ASH, PTCTC, and the FDA. Presidential Symposia speakers Smita Bhatia, MD MPH, and Allison King, MD MPH PhD, presented critical research on healthcare disparities in PHO; additional diversity and equity programs addressed societal issues impacting patient care and workforce issues. Registration remains open for access to on-demand conference content, which is available until July 23. The virtual ASPHO [Summer Symposium](#) on July 27 will showcase additional research and presentations by individuals recognized for significant contributions to pediatric hematology/oncology and offers CME.

Founded in 1981, the American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (ASPHO) advances research, education, treatment, and professional practice in support of pediatric hematology/oncology physicians and other practicing professionals, including nearly 2,000 members, who are dedicated to the optimal care of children, adolescents and young adults with blood disorders and cancer. ASPHO sponsors educational and professional development programs and co-sponsors *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*. The ASPHO Conference is the flagship education conference for pediatric hematology/oncology subspecialists, where leading experts and thought leaders present clinical and scientific developments, career development and networking. In 2020, the Society published a [statement](#) condemning racism and supporting healthcare equity. ASPHO's [diversity statement](#) welcomes diverse and inclusive participation within the profession and the Society's membership. An [overview](#) of the Society, along with the Editorial Report of the journal *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*, was presented at the conference Business Meeting and is available for members. For more information, view the Society's [2020 Annual Report](#), visit [www.aspho.org](http://www.aspho.org), or contact ASPHO at [info@aspho.org](mailto:info@aspho.org) or 847-375-4716. Follow ASPHO on Twitter at [@aspho\\_hq](https://twitter.com/aspho_hq) and [www.facebook.com/aspho.org](https://www.facebook.com/aspho.org).

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#### ASPHO

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