



THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK  
CHILDREN

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Alan KS Chiang  
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Clinical Associate Professor & Honorary Consultant  
Children's Centre of Cancers & Blood Diseases

### **Re: proposal of Training Curriculum for Paediatric Haematology & Oncology**

Dear Dr. Chiang,

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to review and comment on the document entitled  
**“proposal of Training Curriculum for Paediatric Haematology & Oncology.”**

I read this proposal with great interest and I found it extremely relevant for the training of the next generation of paediatric haematologists and oncologists in Hong Kong. I understand that there is currently no such subspecialty training program in Hong Kong and this proposal will certainly have a major impact on the care delivered to this unique population of patients.

The 36-month training program is in agreement with the North American and European standards. The elective module on year 3 is an excellent idea. However, without specific MOUs with other paediatric oncology/haematology centres overseas, it may be challenging for the trainees to find a fellowship opportunity outside Hong Kong. I am sure that many centres in Europe or in North America would be interested in such a partnership.

The description of the training program is very detailed and I fully support the training syllabus. I see that there is a requirement to publish at least one peer review paper in a local or international journal, which is good. However I did not see any reference to a mentorship program, which could be very helpful for the trainees (every trainee would have a supervisor with regular face to face meetings during the 36 month period). I also did not see any section that relates to radiation oncology rotation. This would be important to know the basics of radiotherapy, which is still a key component of many treatments in children.

There is also a requirement to attend meetings and training courses at least once a year. I know, I may be biased with my “SIOP hat”, but I think it would be important to include at least one international meeting (this can be SIOP or SIOP Asia or another international PHO meeting) during the 3 year period.

Overall, the program is very detailed and comprehensive, and I fully support it. This is really a very timely proposal in the context of the opening of the new Children Hospital in Hong Kong. I have no doubt that the official development of this subspecialty will also benefit children affected with haematological and oncological conditions.

Please accept my congratulations for this excellent proposal and do not hesitate to contact me, should you have any questions regarding my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Bouffet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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