

# APOSW:

## A Brief History

The Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers strives to advance pediatric psychosocial oncology care for children & young adults through clinical social work practice, research, advocacy, education, & program development.

### 1976: THE BEGINNING

Six social workers working with children with cancer met in Philadelphia to discuss common issues and offer support to one another.



### COMMUNICATION

The first newsletter was published in 1980 in order to provide ongoing professional information and support.



### HTR SCHOLARSHIP

The Houston Tyler Rothschild Scholarship was founded in 1991 for members in need of financial support to attend the conference. It supports an average of ten social workers per year.



### SW OF THE YEAR

Established in 1995, the Social Worker of the Year Award honors those demonstrating excellence in clinical practice.

Recent winners include:

- Lisl Schweers
- Alistair Robertson
- Helena Gutierrez-Richards



### STANDARDS OF CARE

In 1997 APOSW wrote & adopted *Standards of Practice* to provide a foundational document of our specialty.

APOSW members (B. Jones, W. Pelletier, L. Wiener) contributed to the development of the *Standards for the Psychosocial Care of Children with Cancer and their Families* (Pediatric Blood & Cancer, December 2015).



### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

APOSW has presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to four outstanding members:

- Marie Lauria
- Lynda Walker
- Nancy Cincotta
- Wendy Pelletier



### '77: OUR 1<sup>ST</sup> PRESIDENT

Antoinette 'Toni' Pieroni worked with Dr. Sidney Farber in Boston as the first social worker hired at the Children's Cancer Research Institute.

Toni's article, *The Role of the Social Worker in a Children's Cancer Clinic*, was published in a 1967 issue of *PEDIATRICS*.



### CLINICAL CARE

Guided imagery and hypnosis were among the first techniques social workers used to improve the treatment experience to relieve the pain, anxiety and trauma of treatment. They first presented at APOSW in 1980.



### TRAINING NEW SW'S

In 1991 the first conference seminar specifically for new workers was presented and has been offered at every conference since.



### THE COMPUTER AGE

In response to the increased availability of computers in hospital settings, APOSW started a list serve in 1999. This provided increased opportunities for networking and peer support.

www.APOSW.org was launched in 2000.



### COG

APOSW has been involved with *Children's Oncology Group (COG)* since its inception in 2000.

Our members continue to sit on the behavioral sciences committee.



### ADVOCACY WORK

Since 2012 APOSW has participated annually in *Childhood Cancer Action Days*.

A member of the *Alliance for Childhood Cancer*, APOSW was involved in development of the federal *Childhood Cancer STAR Act*, (July '15, Feb '17) and contributed language about survivorship care.



APOSW members share a common cause: enhancing the psychosocial well-being of pediatric & young adult cancer patients and their families.



WWW.APOSW.ORG

APOSW is an integral professional resource for Pediatric Oncology Social Workers.

Join now!