

Legal and Advocacy News

by Lisl Schweers, LCSW, OSW-C, Chair

APOSW Heads to Washington!



On April 24th over 200 advocates descended upon Capitol Hill to meet with legislators to urge the passage of the Childhood Cancer STAR Act. Childhood Cancer Action Days advocates included patients and survivors, their families and friends, and a variety of pediatric oncology clinicians.

Lisl with Constance Connor at Childhood Cancer Action Days

I was very fortunate to be on a team that included two families whose daughters were treated at my institution, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, as well as a father and a pediatric oncologist from Northern California. It was humbling to walk alongside these families, whose children succumbed to cancer, and who shared their stories – the good, the bad, and the ugly – hoping that their heartbreaking experiences would leave a lasting impression on those who have the political will to pass and fund the most comprehensive childhood cancer bill ever introduced.

The STAR Act passed the House on May 22nd and was signed into law on June 5th! This incredible achievement would not have been possible without the commitment of many dedicated individuals, organizations, and APOSW's former Legal & Advocacy Chair Constance Connor. By uniting with the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, of which APOSW is a member, this grassroots legislation now has the very real possibility to save lives and make life better for children with cancer.

You may be asking "what's next?" In concert with the Alliance, "we move immediately to the vital effort of getting this critical bill fully funded. While the STAR Act creates a host of incredibly important programs, it will

do no good unless Congress provides the money necessary to make them happen. The STAR Act contains a provision that allows the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to provide up to \$30 million every year for the next five years to fund STAR Act programs like, creating and maintaining bio repositories, conducting nationwide childhood cancer surveillance programs, developing best practices for long term survival care, among many others."

As recently as last week, the Senate Labor/HHS Appropriations Subcommittee marked-up their annual appropriations bill, including the language requested that will fund all of the programs within the STAR Act for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2018. Consideration of the Labor/HHS bill by the full House Appropriations Committee has been delayed until after the July 4th recess.

Reach out to your elected officials to encourage them to support the funding needed for the STAR Act to realize it's potential - call, e-mail, tweet! In our advocacy training, we learned that Twitter is the most closely followed social media platform by our elected officials. They want their constituents to follow them and they will listen to you! New to Twitter? No problem, read this short [article](#).

As APOSW's current Legal & Advocacy Chair, I'd love hear how YOU are advocating on behalf of the childhood cancer community and the role of pediatric oncology social work.

[E-mail me](#) or even better, tweet me @lislms!



Lisl with a physician and Family Advocates preparing to meet with Senator Feinstein

I have a paper to publish. Where should I submit it?

by Lori Wiener, PhD, *APOSW Research & Publication Liaison*



Choosing a journal to publish your work is a very important consideration. Choosing a journal that does not match well with your research can be painful - leading to rejections, adding months to publication and slowing career progress.

You might start by doing a search on other publications in the area of your research.

Where were these studies or papers published? If you find a journal that seems to be a good match for your work, I have always found it helpful to write an email to the journal editor. The editor can let you know if he/she agrees that your work is of interest to the journal and the journal readership. This won't guarantee that your paper will be accepted, but this can save you time if the match is not considered a good one. Often times, editors will recommend other journals that you might want to consider.

Once you decide on the journal that you will submit your paper to, make sure you follow the Author Guidelines to the "T"! Submissions will be returned if references are improperly formatted, section heads are missing, or spacing or font type/ font size are not followed.

Below you will find a list of journals that have published high quality papers by pediatric oncology social workers. There are many others, which we welcome you to share with each other.

- British Journal of Social Work
- Children's Health Care
- Clinical Social Work Journal
- Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services
- Health and Social Work
- Journal of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
- Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing
- Journal of Psychosocial Oncology
- Journal of Social Work Education
- Pediatric Blood & Cancer
- Psycho-Oncology
- Qualitative Social Work: Research and Practice
- Social Work
- Social Work in Health Care
- Social Work Research

Attention BMT Social Workers:

Don't miss an opportunity to share your expertise and ideas alongside other BMT team members! As you begin to develop abstracts to submit for APOSW, consider submitting one for the multi-disciplinary **Transplant and Cellular Therapy Meetings** of the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplant (ASBMT) and Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR).

Consider partnering with your

nursing and physician colleagues to present on the work you are doing in the field of transplant and cellular therapies. The abstract deadline is Oct. 3rd.

The NMDP BMT Social Work Workforce Group, composed of Pediatric and Adult BMT social workers, has been working with ASBMT to deepen the presence of social work within the Society and the TCT community of professionals. It's important that

Social Workers have a "place at the table" alongside the multi-disciplinary team. While at present there is not yet a specific "BMT Social Work" sub-group at TCT, it is important to begin to share our insights and expertise at this BMT focused meeting. Please consider presenting at and attending this important international conference.

[The Annual TCT Meetings](#) will be held in February 2019 in Houston.