



Introducing Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

A new way to connect, share, and grow with fellow oncology nurses

♥ The short version

We're launching Special Interest Groups (SIGs) — informal, topic-based communities where members with a shared clinical interest can connect, share resources, and learn from one another.

Committees are NOT going anywhere. SIGs are something new, in addition to committees, not a replacement for them.

What Is a SIG — and How Is It Different from a Committee?

A Special Interest Group (SIG) is a member-driven community built around a shared clinical or professional interest. SIGs give members a high-value way to trade clinical pearls, ask questions, share resources, and stay current in a niche area of practice.

Committees, on the other hand, are the organization's working engines. They're formally appointed, carry a defined charge, and report to the APHON Board on specific organizational business.

	SIG (New)	Committee (Same as Always)
Purpose	Connect nurses who share a clinical interest to swap knowledge, resources, and support	Carry out specific organizational business, governance, or projects
Who joins	Any current member with interest in the topic	Members appointed, elected, or selected by the Board
Structure	Informal, member-led, flexible	Formal, structured, reports to the Board
Time commitment	Opt-in, participate as much or as little as you like	Ongoing, scheduled meetings with defined deliverables
You can join...	Any number of SIGs, any time	Committees per the organization's usual process
What you get	Peer connection, clinical pearls, current trends, informal mentorship	A direct hand in shaping policy and organizational decisions

Who Can Join a SIG?

- ✓ You must be a current member of APHON.



- ✔ **Join as many SIGs as you like**, and leave or switch at any time as your interests evolve.
- ✔ **SIG membership and committee membership are not mutually exclusive** — you can absolutely do both.

Why This Matters for You as a Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Nurse

- 👥 **Find your people.** Connect with nurses who understand the exact clinical challenges you face day to day.
- 💡 **Share what you know.** Trade clinical pearls, new research, and practical tips — informally, without the pressure of a formal deliverable.
- 📊 **Stay current, easily.** Keep up with trends and emerging evidence in your specialty niche without a major time commitment.
- 👤 **Grow your career.** Build informal mentoring relationships and expand your professional network.
- 🗣️ **Have a voice.** SIG discussions can surface ideas that may inform the work of committees and the Board.

Quick FAQ

Do I have to choose between a SIG and a committee?

No. They serve different purposes, and members are welcome to participate in both.

Are SIGs replacing committees?

No. Board-appointed committees continue exactly as they are today. SIGs are a new, additional way to engage. Because they are new, we will evaluate committees over time to determine if any of them should be a SIG and/or if a SIG should become a committee.

Does a SIG have a leader?

SIGs are informal and member led. We will appoint a chair and an assistant chair to help organize discussions and meetings, but there's no formal election process the way there is for committee leadership.

How much time will this take?

As much or as little as you want. Read a discussion post when you have five minutes, or join a live SIG discussion or chat when your schedule allows — it's entirely opt-in.

How do I join a SIG?

📄 **Willingness to serve form:** Please complete and submit the willingness to serve form so that we know that you are interested in serving in this role.

What SIG topics will be available at launch?

📄 **SIG Topics:** Advanced practice provider, nurse navigators, global outreach, and nurse educators.

Questions? Reach out to membership@aphon.org — we're excited to bring this new way of connecting to our oncology nursing community.