INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR CANCER TREATMENT AND RESEARCH

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CANCER PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND RESEARCH

INCTR

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ABOUT INCTR

The International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR) is an international nongovernmental organization (NGO) that was established to address a neglected global health problem - the ever increasing burden of cancer in developing countries. The founder members of INCTR included the former Institut Pasteur in Brussels and the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). The National Cancer Institute provided financial and technical support and the organization began its activities in 2000. INCTR’s headquarters are located in Brussels and it has offices and branches throughout the world. INCTR became an NGO in Official Relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) in January 2010.

The need for INCTR: Cancer in developing countries

Approximately 85% of the world’s people live in low- or middle-income countries. In 2008, Globocan estimated that there were approximately 12.7 million new cases of cancer, and 7.6 million deaths from cancer in the world, with 70% of deaths occurring in low- to -middle income countries. The number of cancer cases continues to rise across the world, but much faster in the low- to middle-income countries since as they develop, because of decreased mortality and an increased, albeit declining, birth rate, their populations are living longer. These demographic changes are accompanied by the adoption of the unhealthy lifestyles of the high-income countries, particularly smoking and increasingly, overeating and a sedentary lifestyle.

Resources of all kinds for treating cancer are limited in the low- and middle-income countries, such that patients who develop cancer frequently lack access to a facility capable of making an accurate diagnosis and providing appropriate therapy. There is a lack of drugs, a paucity of radiation therapy facilities and very few cancer specialists or other health care workers who are needed to effectively care for cancer patients. Diagnosis may be so delayed that there is little that can be done even if the patient does finally reach a facility competent to care for them. Terminal care is not widely available, and regulations and attitudes are still largely directed towards preventing the misuse of opioids rather than relieving the pain of dying patients, such that most patients die without symptomatic relief and little or no mental or spiritual comfort. It is estimated, for example, that less than 1% of patients who need palliative care in India receive it.

INCTR is unique in that it focuses only on the developing world. INCTR is dedicated exclusively to helping to build sustainable capacity in low- and middle-income countries in order to assist these countries in cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and palliative care.

Who INCTR works with

INCTR utilizes health care professionals familiar with the problems of developing countries to enable it to achieve its goals, See Box 2.

INCTR develops local capacity within low- and middle-
income countries by training health care professionals to establish “centres of excellence” in the delivery of feasible, affordable and effective care, including palliative care, that is considered “best practice” so that they in turn, can train others within their country or region.

INCTR works through its offices and branches in implementing various programmes and projects conducted in collaboration with partner institutions in developing countries.

INCTR integrates research into its programmes such that outcomes can be documented and evaluated. This, in turn, enables health care professionals working in developing countries to become active contributors to the knowledge of cancer management throughout the world.

**INCTR’s structure**

INCTR has part-time and full-time staff, consultants, and volunteers dedicated to the accomplishment of its goals. Although its headquarters are located in Brussels, it has branches in the USA, Canada, Brazil, France, Egypt and Nepal and offices in the UK, Tanzania and India. Branches are legally established NGOs that contribute and sometimes conduct programmes and projects that are relevant to INCTR’s mission. Offices serve as coordinating bodies for projects conducted within the country.

Resource development, administration and programmes are supervised by an Executive Committee or sometimes directly by the branches. The Executive Committee is responsible to INCTR’s Governing Council. Programmes and projects are developed with the participation, input and advice of various INCTR committees and strategy groups as well as independent scientific advisers. The INCTR Advisory Board, comprised of distinguished oncologists and pathologists from many countries, including developing countries, plays an active role in many aspects of INCTR’s work, and is responsible for the selection of recipients of INCTR Awards. Programmes and projects are conducted in collaboration with partner institutions.

**Box 2: Strategies**

- To build capacity for cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and palliation through professional education and training
- To conduct, or provide materials for the conduct of educational campaigns for the public and primary care doctors about the causes of cancer and living a healthier life
- To work with experts in-country to conduct locally relevant research on cancer control

**Figure 2: Disease burden and resources**

[Graph showing distribution of health workers by level of health expenditure and burden of disease, WHO regions]

(Source: WHO, 2006)

**Figure 3: INCTR structure**

[Diagram showing INCTR’s structure with various committees and programmes]

**Table 1: Strategies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Build capacity</td>
<td>Cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and palliation through professional education and training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct campaigns</td>
<td>Educational campaigns for the public and primary care doctors about the causes of cancer and living a healthier life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with experts</td>
<td>Conduct locally relevant research on cancer control</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Founder and active members**

- Governing Council
- Executive Committee

**Advisory Board**

- Branches/Offices
- Programmes

**Committees**

- Ethical review
- OERC consortium
- Disease-specific strategy groups
- Funding

**Programmes**

- Clinical research
- Palliative care
- Pathology
- Foundational
- Pediatric oncology
- Oncology nursing

**Cancer registry**
institutions involved with cancer research, treatment, including palliative care, and education in countries with limited resources.

Individuals, institutions or organizations often choose to serve as Associate Members who contribute financially to the work of the organization.

**What does INCTR do?**

INCTR addresses all aspects of cancer control with the overall goal of lessening the morbidity and mortality from cancer. It emphasizes training and education of health care professionals in low- and middle-income countries to ensure that "best practices" are instilled in cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and palliative care. Research is an integral part of its work with its partners in developing countries in order to accurately document the cancer burden – including types of cancer and extent of disease, the outcomes of prevention and early detection campaigns and the efficacy and toxicity of treatment delivered. It also emphasizes public awareness of cancer.

INCTR has a variety of programmes that are carried out in close collaboration with its branches and offices as well as with its partner institutions in developing countries. INCTR's current programmes include:

- Adult oncology;
- Cancer registry;
- Clinical research;
- Foundational;
- Oncology nursing;
- Palliative care;
- Pathology;
- Paediatric oncology.

**INCTR’s projects and achievements**

Each INCTR Programme has goals and objectives in-line with the overall mission of the organization, divided into separate projects. Many projects have been conducted or are on-going and include:

**Adult oncology**

- Cervical cancer screening using visual inspection in Nepal and Tanzania.
- Training of Bolivian health care professionals in cervical cancer screening by Peruvian experts.
- HPV vaccination of young girls in Nepal.

**Cancer registry**

- Establishing an East African Registry Network (EARN) that subsequently became the African Cancer Registry Network (AFCRN). As part of the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development in LMIC, the Network acts as a consortium to provide a "regional hub" for cancer registries in sub-Saharan Africa. The AFCRN is supporting or assisting the development of 22 cancer registries in the region, including English and French speaking countries.
- Provision of training courses in cancer registration and the use of CanReg 5.
- Participation in collaborative international research studies.

**Clinical research**

- The treatment and characterization of acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in children, adolescents and young adults in India – over 450 patients have been treated by four institutions.
- The treatment and characterization of Burkitt Lymphoma in Africa – over 600 patients have been treated by seven centres in Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Survival is greater than 60%.
- Understanding problems faced by parents of children with Retinoblastoma before treatment – 435 parents interviewed from institutions in 10 countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa.
- Situational analysis of breast cancer – 8,800 medical records of women treated for breast cancer in four institutions in Peru, Egypt, Pakistan and India.
Foundational
- Accreditation Programme in the conduct of clinical trials in institutions in Brazil.
- Educating school children about cancer in Nepal.
- Evidence base development through preparation of bibliographies of published literature from developing countries relevant to breast cancer and selected cancers in Egypt.
- Open Educational Resources for Cancer available online.
- Thematic workshops to discuss challenges in cancer control in East Africa.
- Webinars for e-learning.

Oncology nursing
- Development of a specific curriculum for training and educating nurses in the principles of paediatric oncology nursing for Ethiopia.

Palliative access (PAX)
- Training and educating health care professionals – doctors, nurses and social workers in the principles of palliative care – in Brazil, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Sénégal, Mali, Tanzania, India and Nepal.
- Sensitization workshops for government officials and members of the public in Brazil, Tanzania, India and Nepal.
- Development of a centre of excellence in palliative care for both adults and children in Hyderabad, India.
- Lobbying governments to improve access to opioids for terminally ill cancer patients – Nepal and India.
- Establishment of twinning programmes with hospices in Canada that support palliative care efforts in Nepal.
- Fostering the establishment of palliative care societies – in Nepal and Pakistan.
- Promoting paediatric palliative care in Pakistan.
- Publishing a palliative care handbook describing the management of a wide variety of symptoms in English, Portuguese, French and Turkish.

Psychosocial support
- Development of an educational programme relating to the psychosocial needs of cancer patients in conjunction with the Brazilian Society of Paediatric Oncology.

World Health Organization
- Organized the 2009 update of the WHO Essential Medicines List for Cancer.
- Participated in guideline updating and development (cervical cancer and referral guidelines).
- Consultation with Dr Jean Marie Dangou, Head of AFRO (African Regional Office of WHO) on non-AIDS defining malignancies in HIV positive individuals.

Pathology
- Central pathology review of Burkitt Lymphoma in institutions participating in the treatment protocol for this disease in Africa.
- Training and education workshops for pathologists and clinicians.
- Training and education workshops for technicians and pathologists in techniques to improve diagnostic capabilities.
- Use of iPath – an internet telepathology programme – for consultation, training and education.
- Provision of training and education of haematopathologists in French-speaking African countries (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sénégal).

Paediatric oncology
- Mentoring of Indian paediatric oncologists in the development of a common treatment for Wilms Tumour.
- Conducting workshops and symposia on topics of relevance in developing countries.
- Promotion of the establishment of paediatric oncology societies – in Pakistan.
- Development of a centre of excellence in pediatric oncology at the Santa Marcelina Hospital/TUCCA in São Paulo.
- Conducting of a campaign for the early diagnosis of Retinoblastoma including, but not limited to, the translation of a film showing a child with early Retinoblastoma into 12 languages and distributing the film around the world (Brazil); development and wide dissemination and display of posters (Mexico and Brazil); and establishment of a Retinoblastoma day (Turkey and Brazil).
PARTNER INSTITUTIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

**Latin America**
- Santa Marcelina Hospital (Sao Paulo, Brazil)
- Instituto Nacional de Pediatría (Mexico City, Mexico)
- Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Neoplásicas (Lima, Peru)
- Universidad Francisco Marroquin (Guatemala City, Guatemala)
- El Instituto Oncologico Del Oriente Bolivano (Santa Cruz, Bolivia)

**Africa**
- Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex (Ile Ife, Nigeria)
- University College Hospital, Ibadan (Ibadan, Nigeria)
- Hôpital Général de Yaoundé (Yaoundé, Cameroon)
- Kenyatta National Hospital, University of Nairobi (Nairobi, Kenya)
- Bugando Medical Center (Mwanza, Tanzania)
- Muhimbili National Hospital (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
- Ocean Road Cancer Institute (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
- Tikur Anbessa Hospital, University of Addis Ababa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
- St Mary’s Hospital Lacor (Lacor, Uganda)
- Hôpital de Vanga (Vanga, Democratic Republic of Congo)
- Institut Ophthalmologique Tropical Africain (Bamako, Mali)
- National Cancer Institute (Cairo, Egypt)
- Hôpital du Point G, Université de Bamako (Bamako, Mali)
- Centre Pasteur du Cameroun (Yaoundé, Cameroon)
- Université Cheikh Anta Diop (Dakar, Sénégal)
- CHU Mohammed VI (Marrakesh, Morocco)
- Clinique Universitaires, Faculté de Médecine de Kinshasa (Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo)
- Clinique Universitaires, Université de Lubumbashi (Lubumashi, Democratic Republic of Congo)

**Asia**
- Ankara University (Ankara, Turkey)
- Haceteppe University (Ankara, Turkey)
- Dokuz Eylül University (Izmir, Turkey)
- King Hussein Cancer Center (Amman, Jordan)
- King Faisal Specialist Hospital (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)
- Children Cancer Institute, Ziauddin Medical University (Karachi, Pakistan)
- Jinnah Hospital Lahore – Allama Iqbal Medical College (Lahore, Pakistan)
- Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (Lahore, Pakistan)
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (New Delhi, India)
- Cancer Institute (WIA) (Chennai, India)
- Jaslok Hospital and Research Centre (Mumbai, India)
- MNJ Institute of Oncology (Hyderabad, India)
- Tata Memorial Centre (Mumbai, India)
- Nepal Institute of Health Sciences (Kathmandu, Nepal)
- B P Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital (Bharatpur, Chitwan, Nepal)
- Bhaktapur Cancer Care Hospital (Bhaktapur, Nepal)
- Hospice Nepal (Kathmandu, Nepal)
- Kanti Children’s Hospital (Kathmandu, Nepal)
- Shechan Hospice (Kathmandu, Nepal)
- Scheer Memorial Hospital (Banepa, Nepal)
- Patan Hospital (Kathmandu, Nepal)
- Philippine Children’s Medical Center (Quezon City, Philippines)
- Shanghai Children’s Hospital (Shanghai, China)
- Sarawak General Hospital and Sarawak Hospice Society (Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia)
INCTR BRANCHES AND OFFICES

Branches
Branches are established as legal nonprofit organizations within the country in which they are located so that they may raise and disburse funds in support of INCTR’s mission. Branches establish and maintain linkages with cancer centres or units, relevant professional organizations or elements of national or regional governments and coordinate ongoing INCTR programmes and projects within the country or region, if located in a low- and middle-income country. INCTR branches are listed below.

Alliance Mondiale Contre le Cancer
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► Medical Director: Professor Pierre Bey
► Treasurer: Professor Jacques Roussé
► contact@cancer-amcc.org

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BRAZIL
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Vancouver, British Columbia
V6A 1B2 CANADA
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Contact: cci-cancercontrol@shaw.ca
or Helen@torrance.com

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EGYPT
► President: Dr Hussein Khaleed
► Executive Director: Dr Atef Badran
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INCTR USA
c/o Phillips & Cohen LLP
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First floor
Washington DC 20036
USA
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► Vice President and Secretary: Craig Kline
► Treasurer: Mary Louise Cohen
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(mlc@phillipsandcohen.com) or Elisabeth Dupont
(edisport@inctr.be)

Nepalese Network for Cancer Treatment and Research INCTR Nepal
Ghokechaur Banepa 1
NEPAL
► Chairman: Dr Surendra B B Shrestha
► Vice Chairman: Dr Manohar Lal Shrestha
► Member Secretary: Radha Pyari Nakarmi
Contact: inctr@inctr.net.np

Office
Offices work at a national or regional level with respect to furthering INCTR’s mission. They function as extensions of INCTR, Brussels. Offices conduct similar activities to Branches and coordinate ongoing INCTR programmes and projects in the country or region. Offices may evolve into Branches as local needs increase.

INCTR India
MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Center
Hyderabad
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(gpalat@gmail.com)

INCTR Tanzania
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Dr Pierre Bey  
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Institut Curie  
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Former Director, Institut Pasteur  
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Siena, Italy

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CTSU – University of Oxford  
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Vancouver, BC Canada

Ambassador for Science  
Dr Harald zur Hausen  
Nobel Laureate in Medicine  
Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum  
Heidelberg, Germany
PARTNERS

ORGANIZATIONS
World Health Organization (NGO in Official Relations)
International Agency for Research on Cancer
International Atomic Energy Agency/PACT
Union for International Cancer Control
European School of Oncology

NGOs
American Cancer Society
The Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation
Augusta Victoria Hospital
Breast Global Health Initiative
CanTreat
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
Global Giving
Hospice Africa France
ICEDOC
Jiv Daya Foundation
Open Society Institute
TUCCA

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AND THEIR FOUNDATIONS
CIPLA Foundation
Eli Lilly
Glaxo Smith Kline
Novartis Brasil
Roche
Sanofi-aventis – Fondation sanofi-espoir

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS
Georgetown University, Washington, DC USA

Hospital Bicetre, Paris, France
Imperial College, Hammersmith Hospital, London, UK
Institut Curie, Paris, France
King’s College Health Partners, London, UK
Nainamo Hospice, British Columbia, Canada
National Cancer Institute of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
National Cancer Institute of France, Paris, France
University of Basel, Switzerland
University of Ghent, Belgium
University of Lund, Sweden
University of Siena, Italy

GOVERNMENTS
Government of Australia, Australian Embassy, Nepal
Government of Brazil
Government of Ethiopia
Government of Mali
Government of Nigeria
Government of Sénégal
Government of Tanzania
Government of Uzbekistan

COMMERCIAL COMPANIES
AGFA-Gaeverts
Brussels Airlines
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Susan G Komen for the Cure
Swiss Cancer League
Varian Medical Systems International