

# WELCOME TO THE FIFTH EDITION OF CANCER CONTROL

**C**ancer control 2017 is the fifth edition of our annual publication published with the International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research. This year we are pleased to have an article from the Access to Medicines Index, an NGO established in The Netherlands by the United Kingdom and Dutch Governments with help from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Index has been working for ten years to analyze how well pharmaceutical companies are managing access to their medicines for low- and middle-income countries. For the first time, cancer drugs will be incorporated into the 2018 Index. The article explains the challenges involved in this process and how access can take many forms which need evaluation.

A special focus of *Cancer Control 2017* is cervical cancer. We begin with the annual *Cancer Control* survey which asks readers to comment on “What are the priority needs for controlling HPV infection in your country? We received answers from 18 countries across the world and response ranged from improvements in raising public awareness and education to the need for more effective vaccination plans. Interestingly, some countries said it was not a priority at all as they faced greater priorities or had low incidences of cervical cancer.

We follow up the survey with some practical examples from Africa on how the treatment of cervical cancer can be improved. From the Cervical Cancer Prevention Program in Zambia we read how to create a prevention programme from scratch with very few resources and their experiences take resourcefulness in every sphere, including the psychological, to inspiring new levels. The WAKA (Wanavyama wa Kudhibiti ya HPV or Partners in controlling HPV) network uses carefully structured collaborations, both within Africa and in Europe, to share and coordinate knowledge, improve capacity and develop research, as well as lobbying local and Federal governments. Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon, based in the United States, seeks to strengthen the prevention and cure of cervical cancer by leveraging existing resources. A team working in Malawi provides more insights into how testing for cervical cancer can be improved and the positive economic impact this can have.

In other sections, the UICC explain the importance of their 2017 cancer resolution as we approach the UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs in 2018. We have an update from the prizing-winning CONCORD global cancer surveillance project and its future plans. There are regional initiative reports from the Caribbean, the Commonwealth and on the treatment of breast cancer in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as two articles describing developments in aspects of paediatric cancer.

Therefore, there is much to read and we very much hope you enjoy this edition of *Cancer Control*. We would be delighted to have your feedback and suggestions. *Cancer Control 2017* can be accessed online at [www.cancercontrol.info](http://www.cancercontrol.info) together with the five previous editions. You can also find information about INCTR and its programmes, as well as details on how to join. ■

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