

Welcome to Cancer Control 2020

This eighth edition of Cancer Control comes at a time when global health issues could not be more important and visible; even taking precedence over economics as a key driver of government and individual's activities. The COVID-19 pandemic has struck most countries with devastating effect and has led to cancer specialists and facilities being repurposed to contain the new threat. It remains to be seen what long-term impact this will have on cancer care in low- to middle-income countries, but even in the short-term much damage has been done already.

In *Cancer Control 2020*, we start to understand what has happened from the cancer perspective with a global survey of our colleagues on the impact of COVID-19, and here we publish a selection of anecdotal comments for a quick first insight. Each contributor has something different to say: in Nigeria there is a rise in costs as PPE is required; in The Philippines and Ghana lockdowns have caused disruptions and restricted patients' and caregivers' freedom to travel; in Russia quarantining has robbed the cancer services of specialists and nurses; and all our contributors speak of the distress caused to patients.

In the next edition of *Cancer Control*, we shall go deeper into how COVID-19 has impacted on cancer services in LMICs and what steps are being taken to get back on track – which promises to be quite a challenge, and one where shared experiences will be crucial.

In this edition, we can see something of this spirit of cooperation and collaboration in the global context as we hear from the International Union for Cancer Control (UICC) on the important issue of how ageing populations are causing an upsurge in cancer – an issue that has not had the recognition it should. The My Child Matters programme of the Sanofi Espoir Foundation sets out their collaboration philosophy and new initiatives; as does Cancer Research UK, whose global approach includes tobacco control, science partnerships and cervical cancer prevention. The latter is also a major concern of the Commonwealth, who are also strong on collaboration.

Last year, *Cancer Control* was media partner to the inaugural London Global Cancer Week, which brought together a global audience attending multiple events in the UK's capital. We have included a special report on the occasion in this edition.

Our Regional Reports section focuses on Africa this year, with the Alliance Mondiale Contre Le Cancer writing about a new cancer reference centre in Senegal that is being created; we look at breast cancer survivorship in Tanzania; a partnership model in Ghana between a private hospital and an NGO that is working to great effect; the challenges facing diagnostic imaging for those in regions with few resources; and we catch up with the African Digital Health Library whose librarians are joining up university medical libraries across

countries and languages to liberate access to global and local medical content.

We share an inspiring article from two members of Malaysia's Ministry of Health on how they have used a pragmatic approach, rather than an idealist one, to successfully lower the cancer burden in their country. We also highlight the evolving role that pharmacists are playing in cervical cancer prevention, and we learn from social science how anthropology can help formulate better, more considered strategies for cancer care.

Partnerships, collaborations, a global approach to problems, and sharing come through every article in this edition and we hope that you will not only find something of use, but also be motivated to find collaborative ways to work together in these difficult times. We would be delighted to have your feedback at cancercontrol@globalhealthdynamics.co.uk. Please visit our website www.cancercontrol.info for updates and also to find out more information about INCTR and its programmes, as well as how to join. ■

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