



Special report on the inaugural London Global Cancer Week, 24–28 November 2019

Global Health Dynamics, publishers of *Cancer Control*, was delighted to be media partner for the first London Global Cancer Week which took place in November 2019. The following report has been prepared by the Steering Group of the London Global Cancer Week on what proved to be an exciting and informative event. The Week brought together key members of the cancer community from all around the world to address the problems of cancer care in low- and middle-income countries both through presentations and discussion.

Historically the United Kingdom has had a significant influence on the global development of disease control strategies and scientific method. The UK Government played a major role in designing the architecture of the MDGs which effectively excluded cancer and the other noncommunicable diseases during the period 2001–2015. Despite this, many productive formal and informal partnerships and strategic relationships were forged between UK Royal Colleges, universities, private sector organizations, cancer centres and NGOs and their counterparts in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). In recent years, amidst a proliferation of “global health” institutes and departments in UK Universities, the Oncology Section of the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) has hosted an annual meeting in November focused on issues around cancer in LMICs. Its audience has been primarily clinicians and health professionals that have an academic interest or clinical involvement in “global health”. In the same month *The Economist* Events Unit’s (EEU) War on Cancer – Europe programme has provided a platform for a day of discussions with a different type of speaker and attendees: policy makers; CEOs and international thought leaders.

When in November 2018 these meetings took place on succeeding dates (RSM: 19 November 2018; EEU: 20 November 2018) and had met with success, it was evident that an opportunity existed to create a series of co-ordinated events under the umbrella title “London Global Cancer Week” that could should provide a 360° picture of the impact of the rising incidence of cancer in LMICs. Such an initiative offered the opportunity to take stock of the challenge cancers represents to the emerging countries and to highlight how UK partners can continue to help LMICs address the rising tide of malignant disease.

It was evident that other institutions would need to be approached in order to cater for different types of audiences.

Informal discussions with colleagues at the Centre for Global Health Security at The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, were immediately productive: Chatham House would consider hosting two meetings: a closed Round Table discussion on “cancer in an age of universal health coverage” and an open members’ event on “toxic air pollution and cancer”. With the pre-existing plans of the RSM and EEU meetings this provided a third day of events.

An ad hoc Steering Group (SG) was formed which prioritized the importance of securing sufficient funding for a project manager and a coordinated communications strategy that included high social media activity. A concept note was commissioned to support the search for potential sponsors and for additional organizations that might be interested in hosting a LGCW event. This helped clarify the purpose of the London Global Cancer Week, which would be to:

- ➔ draw attention to the global cancer pandemic;
- ➔ provide an opportunity for multisectoral/multidisciplinary discussions, engagement and reflection on the costs and challenges arising from the spread of cancer in LMICs and what it will take to address the growing cancer burden;
- ➔ highlight opportunities for the UK to contribute towards building capacity for sustainable cancer control in LMICs through training, research, aid and diplomacy;
- ➔ be a catalyst for the development of substantial multilateral and bilateral initiatives in global cancer control and research;
- ➔ explore how governments and civil society can address the commercial determinants of health that adversely impact on cancer prevention and control.

It was agreed that the week of events would run from Sunday 24 November to Thursday 28 November, 2019, and that the schedule of events should be coordinated so as to

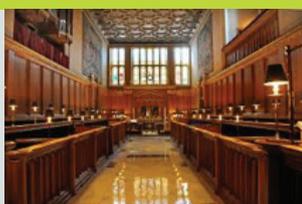
avoid clashing of dates and timings. Theoretically, a visitor to London would be able to attend every open meeting if he /she needed to. Crucially it was also agreed that each event host would be responsible for their own costs and PR; in return the LGCW organizers would promote their event on the LGCW website and would not ask for a financial contribution to support LGCW umbrella activities.

The Steering Group recognized that helping event organisers attract important international speakers would contribute to raising the profile of the Week. Following her stirring address at the United Nations High Level Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases the previous year (September 2018, UN, New York) an approach was made to HRH Princess Dina Mired in her capacity as the President of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). Princess Dina generously agreed that she would fly from Jordan to London to support London Global Cancer Week and to attend as many LGCW events as she was able on the condition that she would be given an opportunity to address the issues that were of global importance. The Princess's participation was warmly welcomed by the event hosts, most of whom were able to invite her onto their meeting agendas as a key note speaker.

DAY ONE – Sunday 24 November

Service of Sung Mattins and Reception

Host: The Church of England
Venue: The Chapel Royal
St James's Palace, London SW1
Time: 11.15 am – 1.30 pm



Thirty-one people, including four international speakers, members of the London Global Cancer Week Steering Group and representatives of UK charities attended the service of Sung Mattins at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace as guests of the Church of England. They were welcomed by Dr James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle and were privileged to enjoy the matchless singing of the Chapel Royal Choir. At the conclusion of the Service Canon Paul Wright (Sub-Dean of the Chapel Royal) thanked the LGCW guests for their attendance and shared some interesting facts about the Chapel Royal before guiding the group towards York House. At the Reception Mark Lodge gave a short address, thanking Bishop James and Canon Paul for their kindness and the Church of England for its generosity. Welcoming the international speakers to London, he briefly summarized the objectives of the London Global Cancer Week and wished the speakers and the organizers good fortune in the week that lay ahead.

DAY TWO – Monday 25 November

Cancer control in low- and middle-income countries: New solutions to evolving challenges

Host: Royal Society of Medicine
Oncology Section
Venue: Royal Society of Medicine,
1 Wimpole St, London, W1
Time: 9.00 am – 5.30 pm



In a full day's meeting 21 experts (eight from the UK, 13 international) contributed 14 talks, presentations and workshops. Several speakers spoke of their experiences collaborating with LMICs with the aim of improving outcomes. The topics addressed ranged across the cancer spectrum from the challenge of falsified medicines (Chloe Tuck, Sheffield University, UK), and the necessity of developing resource-stratified guidelines for oncology in LMICs (Dr Benjamin Anderson, University of Washington, USA) to the damaging stigma encountered by women with breast cancer in LMICs (Dr Beatrice Waife Addei, Kumasi, Ghana) and the important role of primary care in global oncology (Dr Ophira Ginsburg). The annual Vanessa Moss prize was presented by HRH Princess Dina Mired to the winner Dr Nono Ahuka from Congo (in absentia) for his work on raising awareness of prostate cancer in sub-Saharan Africa. HRH Princess Dina went on to give an inspiring talk on "The need for a new paradigm shift on building sustainable partnerships and solutions to tackle cancer control challenges in the low- and middle-income countries", before formally launching the first London Global Cancer Week.

Delegate feedback collected on the day was overwhelmingly positive. Quotes from attendees include that the day was "inspiring" and provided "an excellent networking opportunity". The majority of attendees felt that knowledge gained from the conference would impact on their practice. A call and subsequent momentum for the setting up of a national global oncology network has come from this meeting.

DAY THREE – Tuesday 26 November

War against cancer – Europe

Host: Economist Events
Venue: Waldorf Hilton Hotel,
London WC2
Time: 8.45 am – 6.15 pm



Over the last four years, *The Economist Events'* series of cancer summits in Europe has articulated the challenges and opportunities in improving cancer control. There is still considerable unmet patient and societal need; cancer control

and preparedness varies among and within countries; and investment and health systems generally lag behind the advances in technology and services available to combat cancer. The way forward can seem dauntingly complex. The 2019 summit looked at the solutions, not problems.

Building on the findings of *The Economist* Intelligence Unit's recently released Index of Cancer Preparedness, the summit explored examples and case studies from programmes that have navigated the complexities to genuinely "move the needle" on cancer control. It set out to celebrate the successes – even if these were small-scale at present – in areas of policy, regulation, investment, partnerships, systems and technology that had led to better outcomes for patients, and to ask: What was accomplished? How? And how could this progress be built upon? It was clear from the presentations and discussions that there was still a long way to go before the inequities of care would be eliminated and the stigma and misconceptions around cancer were removed.

DAY FOUR – Wednesday 27 November

Cancer in an age of universal health coverage

Host: Royal Institute of International Affairs
Venue: Chatham House, 10 St James's Square, London SW1
Time: 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm



The primary purpose of this roundtable was to bring together leading cancer experts, advocates and leading figures from the universal health coverage (UHC) movement and global health, to highlight the importance of prioritizing cancer services in the UHC reform process. The event featured participants from many contexts, including patient advocates, donor organizations, global advocates and leading experts on cancer and key figures in the global health field. The meeting was held under Chatham House Rules.

Tackling toxic air pollution in cities

Host: Royal Institute of International Affairs
Venue: Chatham House, 10 St James's Square, London SW1
Time: 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm



Participants: Camilla Hodgson, Environment Reporter, *Financial Times*; Dr Benjamin Barratt, Senior Lecturer in Chinese Environment, Kings College London; Dr Susannah Stanway, Consultant in Medical Oncology Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust; and Elliot Treharne, Head of Air Quality,

Greater London Authority. Chair: Rob Yates, Head, Centre on Global Health Security, Chatham House.

Air pollution has been classified as a cancer-causing agent with evidence showing an increased risk of lung cancer associated with increasing levels of exposure to outdoor air pollution and particulate matter. Air pollution is also known to increase risks for other diseases, especially respiratory and heart diseases, and studies show that levels of exposure to air pollution have increased significantly in some parts of the world; mostly in rapidly industrializing countries with large populations.

In coordination with London Global Cancer Week partner organizations, this Chatham House Members Event outlined the evidence linking air pollution and cancer rates in London and other major cities. Panellists provided a comprehensive picture of the impact of the rising incidence of cancer across the world, the challenges the cancer pandemic poses to the implementation of universal health coverage and the existing UK contribution to strengthening capacity in cancer management and research in developing countries.

DAY FIVE – Thursday 28 November

Cancer screening in a middle-income country: The idealist versus the pragmatist

Host: C3 Collaborating for Health
Venue: CAN Mezzanine, 7-14 Great Dover Street London, SE1
Timing: 8.30 am – 10.00 am



Dr Feisul Mustapha, Consultant Public Health Physician and Deputy Director (NCDs) at the Ministry of Health Malaysia described how, historically, delays in presentation have been commonly found among cancer patients most developed and developing countries, Malaysia is experiencing an epidemiological transition where noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in particular cardiovascular diseases and cancers have progressively become more prevalent. In cancer, early detection and prompt treatment improves the chances of cure. Almost 60% of cancers in Malaysia are detected late (stage III and IV) despite the availability and accessibility of cancer screening. Although the core concepts of cancer prevention and control programmes should be applied universally, implementation of screening programmes in a middle-income country such as Malaysia requires distinct considerations. It must be an iterative process with realistic interventions taking into consideration cultural values and belief systems, beyond healthcare systems. Working in a resource-constrained setting, yet with the involvement of various stakeholders and players, Dr Feisul Mustapha described how Malaysia is moving

forward and will continue to engage new partners for potential collaborative work to address the various challenges.

**Cancer in the Commonwealth:
The case for collective action
on cervical cancer**

Host: Commonwealth
Secretariat
Venue: Marlborough House
Pall Mall, London SW1
Timing: 10.30 am – 1 pm



Under the heading Health officials urge action amidst rising cancer cases in Commonwealth the Commonwealth Secretariat released the following report:

29 November 2019

Leading health officials are calling for urgent action to reduce the number of cancer cases in the Commonwealth, which are above global averages. Cancer rates in the Commonwealth have risen by 35% over the past decade, including three of the most common forms: breast, cervical and prostate cancer.

This analysis was presented at a Commonwealth event as part of the first London Global Cancer Week. Attendees included officials from high commissions, academic institutions, health organisations and development agencies. In 2018, around three million cancer cases were reported in the Commonwealth, equivalent to one new case in every 10 seconds. Of those three million cases, about 1.7 million people died, equivalent to one death every 18 seconds. The analysis predicts a further 35% rise in the incidence of cancer by 2030. Health officials have therefore urged governments to realign their health priorities to provide training and improve access to early detection and treatment of tumours.

Professor Isaac Adewole, a specialist in female cancer and former Nigerian Minister of Health, presented the Commonwealth's collective action on cervical cancer. "I want Commonwealth leaders to declare war on cervical cancer. It is almost 100% preventable," he said. "The most efficient formula for cervical cancer prevention is a combination of two strategies: vaccination plus screen and treat. The prevention and defeat of cervical cancer is a challenge worthy of the Commonwealth and is well within its capabilities, as demonstrated by the collective global action on reducing persistent, high levels of maternal mortality, which has been a success."

It is estimated that without collective action, cervical cancer deaths will rise by 62% by 2030 causing one death every three minutes in the Commonwealth. The analysis highlights the worrying impact of cancer on productivity. In 2015, cancer accounted for more than 200 million work days lost worldwide due to people missing work to attend medical appointments.

"Cancer is not just a health issue, it is also a development issue," said Deputy Secretary-General Arjoon Suddhoo at the event. He added: "We are working on developing a Commonwealth price-sharing and information-sharing database for essential medicines such as the HPV vaccine. The database will help member countries improve citizens' access to prevention approaches and negotiate fair prices for the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, which helps protect teenage girls against cervical cancer."

The analysis identifies tobacco, excessive alcohol consumption, poor diet, lack of exercise and obesity as the five major cancer risk factors. Prevention of these factors, the report shows, could reduce cancer incidences.

"It is all about the political will," said Princess Dina Mired of Jordan, immediate past President of the Union for International Cancer Control. "If leaders decide to focus on health, it will bring hope. We see it actually happening in Rwanda which has provided universal health coverage to 90% of its citizens and that by public funding."

The analysis also reveals that a longer duration of ultraviolet rays has increased cancer incidences and the indirect effect of climate change has disrupted the delivery of health services, particularly in small island states. Officials recommended people to carry out regular screenings to help detect early signs of the diseases which they said, "raises the chances of survival."

**Oncology in the global setting:
Improving access to quality
radiotherapy and radiology**

Host: Royal College of
Radiologists
Venue: 63 Lincoln's Inn Fields,
London, WC2
Timings: 1.30 pm – 5.30 pm



Hosted by the Royal College of Radiologists, this global cancer event provided the chance to hear from innovative individuals who are improving cancer services in LMIC settings. Globally, diagnostic radiology and radiotherapy are essential components of cancer management. Imaging is required in virtually all cases, while radiotherapy is an essential but sometimes forgotten modality of cancer treatment. It is estimated that approximately half of new cancer patients should receive radiotherapy as part of their curative treatment. Despite the key role of radiology and radiotherapy there is a paucity of functional services and infrastructure outside of high-income settings. The Royal College of Radiologists may play a key role in improving equitable access to cancer treatment as it offers both credibility and a rich resource of expertise.

Outcomes of London Global Cancer Week 2019

London Global Cancer Week fulfilled its primary purpose of drawing attention to the global cancer pandemic and providing the opportunity for multisectoral/multidisciplinary discussions, engagement and networking. During the Week, expert speakers reflected on the costs and challenges arising from the spread of cancer in LMICs and what it will take to address their growing global cancer burden. Presentations highlighted UK-LMIC partnerships that were building capacity for sustainable cancer control in the emerging countries through training and research.

There were three immediate outcomes of the inaugural London Global Cancer Week.

Commonwealth support

In her Sky TV interview on World Cancer Day (4 February, 2020) the Commonwealth Secretary General Baroness Patricia Scotland QC restated the case for supporting collective action on the elimination of cervical cancer that had been presented at the Marlborough House meeting on 28 November 2019.



"We know that if we don't do something together it is likely in the next ten years there will be a further 35% rise (in Commonwealth cancer incidence). And so the Commonwealth health ministers came together last year in May, and they are going to come together again this May, to say "What can we do about it? How can we share the knowledge? How can we make sure that what works and what doesn't work gets to be transferred? And the great news is... that cervical cancer is preventable. We have seen that in Australia, but we have also seen that in the developing country of Rwanda. Making the knowledge available, making the vaccine available has... virtually eradicated cervical cancer in those two countries. So they are exemplars of what we can do if we work together and share the best practice and actually get these prices down in terms of the HPV vaccine. We know that it works but we've got to start early and there's a lot that we can do. And the Commonwealth is absolutely committed to doing it."

Visit to Ghana

As a result of the presentations that had highlighted the negative impact of cancer stigma on the early presentation of cancer – particularly women of African heritage? with breast and cervical cancer in both developed and developing countries – Dr James Newcome, The Anglican Bishop of Carlisle and Mark Lodge (Executive Director, international Network for Cancer Treatment and Research UK) were invited by Dr Beatrice Waife Addei, the President of Breast



Care International to visit Kumasi, Ghana, and to address church leaders and their congregations on the importance of early presentation. During their three-day visit, which was widely reported in the Ghanaian media, Dr Newcome met with the clinical staff at the Peace and Love Hospital, Kumasi, was interviewed on local radio about the importance of spirituality to cancer care and preached a sermon at St Cyprian's Anglican Cathedral at which he spoke out about the danger of erroneous teachings and of predatory pastors who preyed on the fears of families of cancer patients.

Development of the UK Global Cancer Network

Moves have begun towards establishing a UK network of individuals and institutions involved in cancer global health that will strengthen existing UK-LMIC partnerships and build upon the momentum generated by the success of London Global Cancer Week. Dr Susannah Stanway, Professor Richard Cowan and Mark Lodge have formed a core group that are reaching out to active participants in LGCW 2019. The inaugural meeting of the UK Global Cancer Network will take place on Sunday 15 November 2020. Further details are available on the London Global Cancer Week website www.lgcw.org.uk

London Global Cancer Week, 15-20 November 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has become a major disrupter of plans, requiring the widespread introduction of social distancing and causing the postponement of the NIHR 2020 Research and Improvement Conference (UK), World Cancer Congress (Oman), Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (Rwanda) and other key events. London Global Cancer Week is no exception and the 2020 meeting will be held virtually between 15–20 November 2020. The programme is set out below; for further details visit: www.lgcw.org.uk.

Schedule of online events

Sunday 15 November

11.15 am – 12.30 pm
2.30 pm – 5.30 pm

Mattins Service, Chapel Royal, St James's Palace
UK Global Cancer Network: Exploratory meeting

Monday 16 November

8.00 am – 9.00 am
9.00 am – 11.00 am
11.00 am – 1.00 pm
1.00 pm – 5.30 pm

African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC) *Cancer in Africa*
United Nations (IAEA, IARC): UN Global response to cancer
World Health Organization: WHO initiatives in cancer
Royal Society of Medicine Oncology Group: The impact of COVID-19 on cancer management in low- and middle-income countries

Tuesday 17 November

9.30 am – 3.30 pm
3.30 pm – 5.30 pm

UK ONS: The Global Power of Oncology Nursing
GCPA-Europe/SIDCER/INCTR: Research and Treatment of Paediatric Cancers During Covid-19: Global Perspectives

Wednesday 18 November

8.00 am – 10.00 am

10.00 am – 10.45 am

10.45 am – 12.45 pm
1.00 pm – 3.00 pm
3.00 pm – 5.00 pm

6.00 pm – 7.00 pm

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine: International breakfast webinar – Global surveillance of cancer survival CONCORD programme
Alliance Mondiale Contre Le Cancer: Reference centre for the diagnosis of childhood cancers in Senegal
African Cancer Registry Network: Cancer Surveillance in Africa
The Lancet Oncology: The Lancet Childhood Cancer Commission
LACOG / SLACOM / The Lancet Oncology: Emerging technologies and clinical research in Latin America
Royal Institute of International Affairs: Chatham House Members Event – Making the case for cancer control and prevention

Thursday 19 November

7.00 am – 8.15 am
8.30 am – 10.00 am

10.00 am – 12.00 pm
12.00 pm – 2.00 pm
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance: Cancer in the Eastern Mediterranean
C3 Collaborating for Health International: Breakfast Webinar Cancer Prevention with HRH Princess Dina Mired and Dr Bronwyn King
Commonwealth Secretariat: Cancer Prevention Session #1
UICC: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Cancer
Commonwealth Secretariat: Cancer Prevention Session #2

Friday 20 November

1.30 pm – 3.00 pm

3.00 pm – 5.00 pm

US National Cancer Institute Center for Global Health: International Collaboration to Advance Global Cancer Research and Control: The US National Cancer Institute Perspective
Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration (INCTR Canada): Bridging the cancer divide between two worlds – collaboration and partnership