

International collaborations in cancer control and the Third International Cancer Control Congress

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Contents

1. Introduction
2. Building the collaboration between the European Union and African Union
 - 2.1. On domains where the AU-EU collaboration might be implemented
 - 2.2. Pap smear diagnosis via satellite for Africa
 - 2.3. Psychosocial morbidity and quality of life in cancer patients: the Southern European psycho-oncology study - an international collaboration at the EU level
 - 2.4. A community work model for a cancer survivor driven support network in South Africa
 - 2.5. Cancer survival in Eastern Libya: preliminary data from the Benghazi Cancer Registry
3. Cancer control collaboration in Latin American and Caribbean countries
 - 3.1. Breast cancer control in Brazil
 - 3.2. Medicine consumption and spending for chemotherapy of the most prevalent tumors in Brazil

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4. Cancer control experiences and collaborations in the Eastern Mediterranean area
 - 4.1. A model for international and regional scientific collaborations in the King Hussein Cancer Center
 - 4.2. Initiating a psychosocial treatment program for cancer patients in Turkey
 5. Cancer control: the World Cancer Declaration promoted by UICC
 - 5.1. Results of a comparison between 10 national cancer plans (NCPs) in Europe
 - 5.2. The 1st international tele-health palliative care symposium
 - 5.3. Survivors: living through and beyond cancer: an Italian study on rehabilitation for cancer patients
 6. World-wide study of cancer survival (CONCORD); an example of international collaboration
 7. Cancer control experiences and collaborations on the epidemiology of cancer in young adults
 - 7.1. Cancer survival differences between European adolescents (15-19 years) and young adults (20-24 years)
 - 7.2. Adolescent cancer in El Salvador
 - 7.3. Adolescent cancer in Guatemala
 8. Cancer Control: international collaboration on clinical practice guidelines (CPGs)
 - 8.1. Patient self management for women with breast cancer
 - 8.2. Bridging the gap – linking cancer management with cancer care: the role of the oncology social worker in South Africa
 9. Conclusions: ideas for future cancer control international collaborations
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Abstract

Over the past few decades, there has been growing support for the idea that cancer needs an interdisciplinary approach. Therefore, the international cancer community has developed several strategies as outlined in the WHO non-communicable diseases Action Plan (which includes cancer control) as the World Health Assembly and the UICC World Cancer Declaration, which both include primary prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, and palliative care. This paper highlights experiences/ideas in cancer control for international collaborations between low, middle, and high income countries, including collaborations between the European Union (EU) and African Union (AU) Member States, the Latin-American and Caribbean countries, and the Eastern Mediterranean countries. These proposals are presented within the context of the global vision on cancer control set forth by WHO in partnership with the International Union Against Cancer (UICC), in addition to issues that should be considered for collaborations at the

global level: cancer survival (similar to the project CONCORD), cancer control for youth and adaptation of Clinical Practice Guidelines. Since cancer control is given lower priority on the health agenda of low and middle income countries and is less represented in global health efforts in those countries, EU and AU cancer stakeholders are working to put cancer control on the agenda of the EU-AU treaty for collaborations, and are proposing to consider palliative care, population-based cancer registration, and training and education focusing on primary prevention as core tools. A Community of Practice, such as the Third International Cancer Control Congress (ICCC-3), is an ideal place to share new proposals, learn from other experiences, and formulate new ideas. The aim of the ICC-3 is to foster new international collaborations to promote cancer control actions in low and middle income countries. The development of supranational collaborations has been hindered by the fact that cancer control is not part of the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MG-Gs). As a consequence, less resources of development aids are allocated to control NCDs including cancer.