

THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR CANCER TREATMENT AND RESEARCH - ADDRESSING THE NEGLECTED PROBLEM OF CANCER IN LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES (LMIC)

ABOUT INCTR

The International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR) was established in Brussels in 1998 as an international, not-for-profit, non-governmental organization to address the ever-increasing problem of cancer in LMIC. Its vision is to work with colleagues in LMIC to build capacity for cancer prevention, treatment, palliative care, and research to improve access to care in such countries. These actions are built on education and training by raising awareness among both health professionals and the public that leads to prevention and early diagnosis of cancer, hence improving the survival rates and quality of life.

CHALLENGE/SITUATION

Cancer is the leading cause of economic loss from disability and mortality with the global cost approaching a trillion dollars per year. It is anticipated that 84 million people will die from cancer by 2015, which is more than those who will die from heart disease or infections combined. Of the anticipated cancer-related deaths, 70% of those will be in LMIC. Unfortunately, healthcare stakeholders in LMIC have grossly inadequate resources to deal with the increasing burden of cancer, a result of both demographic changes and greater exposure to cancer-related risk factors. Specialized disciplines (epidemiology, pathology, oncology, etc) that are essential to controlling cancer are grossly under-represented in LMIC because of a low number of trainees and a high migration of trained personnel.

APPROACH

CTIS, as part of its commitment to health disparity internationally in clinical research, has provided INCTR with solutions that would centralize data collection; connect key stakeholders; and enable the stakeholders to facilitate training, capacity building, and increase resource throughput globally. The solution that CTIS developed addressed the issue of advanced cancer research in developing countries while improving patient diagnosis, management, and treatment outcome.

SOLUTION

CTIS is an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) partner of INCTR and has provided a worldwide, web-based portal that connects key stakeholders, facilitating collaboration, connectivity, communication, and information-sharing processes. The web-based portal provides access to information domestically and internationally, which helps for effective collaboration among the teams, reducing redundancy and information and decision-making fragmentation. In particular, CTIS has developed an Electronic Case Report Form (eCRF) and a clinical trial and data management system focusing on the Treatment and Characterization of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) in children, adolescents and young adults, which includes registration, eligibility check, pre-treatment, on-treatment, and off-study components.

BENEFITS

- Four Centers participated in the treatment of the ALL Study group in India and has accrued about 450 patients
- Provides access to a wide range of data
- Reduces operating costs
- Increases organizational effectiveness, process efficiency, and human productivity
- Enhances communication and workflow productivity among medical staff
- Reduces human error risks related to paper-based direct data entry
- Improves efficiency of patient tracking and follow-up
- Strengthens clinical research data quality and accuracy