

INTERNATIONAL GYNECOLOGIC CANCER SOCIETY

International



GLOBAL
OVARIAN
CANCER
CHARTER
a World Ovarian Cancer
Coalition initiative

As Strategic Advocacy Partners, the International Gynecologic Cancer Society and the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition collaborate on initiatives that provide tangible benefit to gynecologic cancer survivors worldwide. The Charter is a cornerstone of that partnership, a call-to-action with the potential to effect substantive improvements in ovarian cancer outcomes globally. IGCS is pleased to champion the Charter as a significant effort in the global fight against ovarian cancer.

IGCS



INTERNATIONAL
GYNECOLOGIC
CANCER SOCIETY



BEST POSSIBLE CARE

Global Curriculum and
Mentorship Programme

..... CHARTER
CHAMPION

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CHAMPION PROJECT: GLOBAL CURRICULUM AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

This comprehensive two-year programme provides invaluable training and support for regions that do not currently have formal training in gynecologic oncology (surgery, chemotherapy, and prevention services).

Many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) do not have specialty trained clinicians yet bear the greatest burden of incidence and lowest survival rates for gynecologic cancers. In 2015, a study showed that there were just 0.7 physicians per hundred thousand population in low-income countries compared to almost 57 in high-income countries. The prevalence and high fatality rates of cervical cancer in LMICs has been a major challenge and was the initial driver of this programme, but as the incidence of ovarian cancer is set to rise 50% by 2050 with the greatest burden being felt in LMICs, there is an even greater critical need for specialty trained local clinicians. Without this sort of programme, women have no chance of accessing specialty care.

Each training site is paired with one or more international mentors who review case logs, undertake bi-annual evaluations, and provide formal learning opportunities. Twice yearly, mentors also travel to provide hands-on education and surgical training on site. Fellows likewise travel to their mentors for a 1- to 3-month placement. Additionally, fellows are given opportunities to present cases to their mentors, colleagues, and other IGCS members via monthly virtual tumour boards. At the end of the programme, there is an oral examination by an IGCS assessor with the plan that graduating fellows become future mentors.

There are currently training sites in Nepal, Vietnam, Fiji, Mozambique, Zambia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Qatar, Uganda, Jamaica, the Bahamas, and Guatemala.

The Coalition chose to showcase this programme because it directly addresses access to surgery, one of the most critical aspects of care that is not available to many women in LMICs. It is a vital programme to develop and nurture talent and commitment. While there are enormous challenges in these settings, including major infrastructure issues, the two-way nature of this programme, with both fellows and mentors visiting each other, allows the best opportunity and flexibility to implement practicable solutions in local settings.

In 2019, over 1,000 women were operated on by 29 fellows, and more than 300 cases were presented to the virtual tumour boards.

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