



THE ISSUE *Cancer is already a major cause of death in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), particularly in middle-income countries, and will increase as a percentage of deaths in all LMICs, driven by population aging and faster declines in other causes of death. More than 70 percent of all cancer deaths now occur in developing countries.*

- The field of radiation oncology is at the threshold of taking on a substantial global leadership role and is in a position to help address a crisis—**of epic proportions**—in access to cancer care.
- The need, opportunities and interest in global oncology in Low- and Middle-Income countries (LMICs) are apparent with a surge in passion and leadership from the radiation oncology residents and young faculty.
- Universities are increasingly focused on internationalization. Attracting and retaining individuals to our institutions, depends on our ability to offer global projects.
- The magnitude of the cancer care gap, as reported by the UICC Global Task Force for Radiation for Cancer Control in *Lancet Oncology*, is significant.
- Significant surge of interest is exemplified by increase in literature including special issues in the *Red Journal*, *Seminars in Radiation Oncology* and *Clinical Oncology*.
- There exists an enormous gap between the interest to work in global health and the ability to fill the need. To date, little to no financial support for and value given to the time and effort.
- No recognized structure exists to support the pursuit of Global Health as a bona-fide academic career path.
- No well-defined infrastructure exists to facilitate **sustainable** efforts in addressing both local and indigenous cancer disparities.
- Oncologists, recognize the link between infectious diseases and cancer, although many individuals not familiar with the science, do not yet appreciate this relationship.

OUR STRATEGY

- Creation of the International Cancer Expert Corps, Inc. (ICEC) a 501(C)3 (www.iceccancer.org) by Dr. Norm Coleman and others making up an outstanding multi-dimensional group of advisors, partners and volunteers.
- Though NCI Center for Global Health provides some research funding, it cannot provide the support needed for global cancer treatment, ICEC developed a **unique sustainable mentorship model** of ICEC “Experts” mentoring “Associates” and academic medical centers and private healthcare systems service as knowledge “Hubs” for in-country healthcare systems or “Centers” (described in detail on the ICEC website).
- ICEC partners with and supports new and ongoing programs, people and resources to pioneer this unique approach. Innovative teamwork and mentorship supports local health care providers endeavoring to improve cancer care where they live.
- ICEC partners include radiation oncology, medical oncology, medical physics, other global cancer programs and allied health workers, international health ministries, and US agencies including NIH and the Department of Energy.
- ICEC’s program model supports time and effort for mentors and mentees to build cancer programs with the goal of their being able to deliver guideline and protocol-based cancer care at international quality standards.
- The mentorship model has potential to **completely change the standards of global health** by focusing on sustainable mentorship and partnership to form an ever-expanding global network to deliver cancer care specifically, and health care generally, at world class levels.
- ICEC’s support offers value to academic programs as it further strengthens the ability to offer global projects.

YOUR ACTION

- **Apply to become an ICEC Expert** or recommend a resident working in Global Health to apply online at
- <https://www.iceccancer.org/icec-expert-mentor/>
- **Personally support ICEC financially.** Your generous gift will provide opportunities to practitioners interested in Global Health and will help improve the quality of cancer care in LMICs. ICEC offers multiple ways to support ICEC including planned giving.
- **Ask your institution to make a financial contribution to ICEC.** Through ICEC grant opportunities, ICEC resources are available to your Departments to use to support academic global health programs.

ICEC seeks financial support using a multi-pronged campaign including:

- radiation oncology professionals,
- academic programs, and
- private practice practitioners and retirees.

The window of opportunity is now for a substantial global effort involving academia, private practice, industry, philanthropy and government. Help ICEC join the efforts of many to transform global cancer care. Go to www.iceccancer.org/donate.