The International Cancer Expert Corps (ICEC) has accelerated its efforts to improve access to cancer care globally in 2023. This includes expanding collaboration with radiation oncologists at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) and initiating monthly Zoom sessions to provide expert guidance to the Bugando Medical Centre’s brachytherapy team in their treatment of patients with prostate cancer.

ICEC enlisted help from radiation oncologists at the KUMC, specialists who are members of the American Brachytherapy Society International Committee, to initiate monthly Zoom sessions to provide expert guidance to the Bugando Medical Centre’s brachytherapy team in their treatment of patients with prostate cancer. This partnership was able to increase accessibility to cancer expertise and encourage global collaboration across medical specialties.

Presentations over the two-day roundtable emphasized the need for collaboration between the disciplines. Participants shared partnerships and mentorship programs between ICEC and Chartrounds, a virtual platform designed to increase access to RT technology in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), and advanced global initiatives to link health and professional development for medical professionals.

Participants from the Access to Radiotherapy Technologies Study (ART) meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, discussed opportunities for training and education, infrastructure challenges and regulatory requirements that must be met to increase access to RT. The report provides important insights into the challenges faced in transitioning from Cobalt-60 to external beam radiation therapy machines to linear accelerators (LINACs), including the needs and considerations of stakeholders from Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The report aims to address the minimal presence of RT accessibility to cancer expertise and encourage global collaboration across medical specialties.

In October, ICEC presented at several sessions of the World Institute for Nuclear Safety and Cancer care-Focused Organizations. The presentation emphasized end-users’ needs in efforts to produce an updated and detailed list that reflected the needs of various stakeholders. This list would help in guiding the development of LMICs’ strategies to optimize the use of RT technologies. The list would also support the development of strategic plans for RT in LMICs, identifying areas of opportunity for training and education, infrastructure challenges and regulatory requirements that must be met to increase access to RT technology.

ICEC’s partnerships and collaborations have greatly supported our scholars’ IRB evaluated growth. Knowledge scores are modeled as a function of exposure groups and have been shown to increase access to RT technology in LMICs. If you are interested in contributing to this program, contact info@iceccancer.org.