NCG Newsletter

Issue 5   June 2023

Activities

- NCG in collaboration with Centre for Global Development conducted a hands on workshop for guideline development methodology on 17-18th March 2023.
- Palliative Medicine -The First EQuIP India Conference QICON 2023, 14-15 March 2023 at St Johns Medical College hospital Bengaluru
- NCG - KDCO initiated the evaluation process for empanelment of EMR vendors.

Message from NCG

Dear Members,
Welcome NCG members to another issue of NCG Newsletter. This issue provides a snapshot of activities in the last few months. To promote the quality improvement processes, first of its kind meeting with deliberations to enhance QI culture in India was conducted.
This issue also features the Dharamshila Hospital (NCG Member) and highlights NCG's Initiatives about Digital Health Supported by the Koaita Foundation.

NEW MEMBERS (National)

- Aster International Institute of Oncology, Aster CMI, Bangalore, Karnataka
- HCG Cancer Centre, Borivali, Mumbai Maharashtra
- HCG Panda Cancer Centre, Cuttack, Odisha
- HCG Hospitals, Hubli, Karnataka
- HCG- ICS Khubchandani Cancer Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- HCG Hospitals, Kalburgi, Karnataka
- HCG Hospitals, Vijayawada, Karnataka
- Lisie Cancer Centre, Lisie Hospital, Ernakulum
- Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church Medical College and Hospital (MOSC Medical College & Hospital), Ernakulum, Kerala
- ONCOCARE Human Welfare Trust (Binayak Multispecialty Hospital & Oncocare Cancer Centre), Kolkata, Wet Bengal
- Prathima Cancer Centre, Warangal, Telangana
- Ranchi Cancer Hospital & Research Centre (Tata Trusts), Ranchi, Jharkhand,
- Shankus Hospital Pvt. Ltd. Jamnagar Unit, Gujarat
- Siddharth Gupta Memorial Cancer Hospital - A Unit of Acharya Vinoba Bhave Rural Hospital, Wardha, Maharashtra
- Starlit Cancer Centre, Ahmedabad
- St. Thomas Mission Hospital and Institute of Medical Sciences, Alappuzha Dist, Kerala.

NEW MEMBERS (International)

- · Universiti Malaya, Kaula Lumpur, Malaysia

The First EQuIP India Conference QICON 2023

The first International Quality Improvement Conference - QICON 2023, was held on the 14th and 15th of March 2023, was organised and conducted by the QI Hub of the National Cancer Grid - India, at the St John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka. The alumni from the five EQuIP cohorts since 2017 actively participated in the event and contributed to a dynamic plan – going forward.

The conference deliberated up on three specific domains of QI development relevant to India; i) the way-forward for the standard QI training & QI Hub that envisioned enhancing the culture of QI through increased access to competency training for NCG institutions while maintaining the quality of educational outcomes, ii) Multicentric QI – Quality Improvement Collaborative (MQuIC) towards accelerating the oncology-care outcomes through intentional QI projects on high-priority quality concerns prevalent in the Indian scenario; and iii) Enable QI related Research and dissemination of the concept and value of methodological QI amongst the oncology community (EnQIR). A panel of editors of oncology-associated journals in India (Ind J Cancer, South Asian Journal of Cancer, Ind J Med Paed Onc, Cancer Research, Statistics, and Treatment, Ind J Surg Onc, Ind J Pall Care), pondered upon the relevance of research on Quality Improvement for our country and ways of disseminating the key concepts and the projects to their readers. The conference got approval for two KMC credits for the participants.

The conference has resulted in three groups planning actively to actualise the three themes and also invitations from oncology journals for contributing as in editorials, thematic articles and QI projects. The NCG leadership is considering upgrading the back-office support to enhance the coordination, organisational strength, visibility, and access to the completed QI projects by clear categorization of the graduation videos and access links. The first step would be to identify QI friendly NCG centres and acknowledge their contribution through a letter of appreciation from NCG for the projects completed and also by including project-summary presentations during NCG annual meetings. NCG may consider Grant support to support the future directions as in MQuIC, EnQIR, Website upscale.

NATIONAL CANCER GRID - KOITA CENTER FOR DIGITAL ONCOLOGY (NCG-KCDO)

The National Cancer Grid in collaboration with Koita Foundation has established the NCG Koita Centre for Digital Oncology (NCG-KCDO) in August 2022 with the objective of transforming cancer care in India using digital technologies. This is a major step towards fulfilling NCG's vision to deliver uniform cancer care, reduce costs of treatment, build capacity by training and education, drive cancer research and frame cancer policy across India.

The broad set of focus areas for NCG-KCDO include:

- Enabling digital health initiatives within NCG centres and across the patient journey e.g., cancer prevention, screening, early detection and diagnostics, in-patient care, outpatient & ancillary care, palliative care and survivorship.

- Supporting foundational digital health capabilities across NCG centres e.g., data management, analytics, consumer health/telemedicine and training & capacity building.

- Driving digital engagement and collaboration with ecosystem partners including government and regulatory agencies.

- The team at NCG-KCDO is being led by Dr. Nikesh R. Shah who has joined as CEO, from April 2023. Dr. Shah is a medical doctor and has spent over 20 years in healthcare consulting, operations and technology across US and India. The NCG-KCDO is building a core team of professionals with strong background in healthcare and technology to drive the conceptualization and delivery of digital health in cancer.

- Learn more about NCG-KCDO's focus areas on our new website - http://www.kcdo.in

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

The NCG-KCDO will drive much needed innovation in cancer care. It will help hospitals, healthcare professionals and patients through novel, widely applicable and accessible solutions to ensure equitable and uniform cancer care.

Dr. C S Pramesh
Director, Tata Memorial Hospital & Convener, NCG

KCDO is a significant step forward for NCG and the cancer care ecosystem in India. We are working closely with the member centres and all the partners to understand the gaps, needs and opportunities to develop country relevant digital health initiatives.

Dr. Nikesh R. Shah
CEO, NCG-KCDO

CURRENT INITIATIVES

NCG EMR Initiative

The NCG conducted a technology assessment survey across all NCG centres in 2022. In the survey, NCG hospitals identified Electronic Medical Record (EMR) as one of their biggest needs. Based on this feedback, NCG -KCDO have initiated the NCG EMR initiative - a first-of-its-kind initiative in India. Its primary objective is to assist NCG hospitals in selecting, deploying, and meaningfully using EMR. Successful roll-out of the NCG EMR will create a solid foundation for seamless collaboration and information exchange in cancer care with high data security and privacy standards. Most importantly, it will empower patients through ease of access of their own health records.

Key milestones achieved include:

- Oncology Specific EMR Requirements – A team of experts in Oncology and Technology collaborated to create a comprehensive set of EMR requirements, encompassing over 200 essential features to align with the specific needs of NCG hospitals. Below is a link to the NCG EMR Requirements (NER) V2.0 (see Downloadable files at the bottom left of the webpage) https://tmc.gov.in/m_events/Events/TenderDetail?tendId=22132

- EMR Vendor Empanelment – NCG-KCDO received a highly favorable response to the Request for Empanelment (RFE) and is currently in the process of empaneling EMR vendors that have a strong product and client base, and can commit NER 2.0 requirements.

- Early Adopter Program for NCG Centres – NCG is announcing an Early Adopter Program that will enable participating NCG centres to receive EMR selection support, implementation support and overall guidance from NCG-KCDO

NCG Website Revamp

https://www.ncgindia.org

The NCG website will be relaunched under a new domain in the next few weeks. The new website has a dynamic and user-friendly interface that provides easy navigation and access to vital information to various end users including Healthcare Practitioners, Hospitals and Institutions, Patients and Partners. The new website has been thoughtfully curated to provide intuitively categorized information on NCG programs, services, and events.

Key features include a comprehensive directory of NCG hospitals and institutions, organ specific cancer care guidelines, access to knowledge resources and research, and earmarked sections with the latest NCG news and insights. Going forward, the NCG website will be enhanced to provide more capabilities for collaboration within NCG centres (e.g., for different types of cancer), and will be an important focus of KCDO.

UPCOMING INITIATIVES

Digital Asset Library

- This initiative is focused on compiling information about the digital tools utilized throughout the NCG member centres in a centralized repository. This comprehensive library will enable easy access and sharing of valuable resources, promoting collaboration and efficiency across hospitals, doctors and researchers. Over time, this can become a source of sharing best practices and learning across NCG centres

Digital Health Webinar

KCDO will conduct a series of webinars on digital health to provide valuable insights and knowledge on digital oncology, allowing participants to stay informed about the latest trends and developments shaping the oncology digital health space in India and globally. These events will also provide an opportunity for NCG member centres to showcase best practices in digital health that are deployed at their centres.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Individuals and/or organizations interested in supporting NCG-KCDO's initiatives can send an email to ceo.ncgkcdo@gmail.com with a cc to ncg@tmc.gov.in, indicating the area of interest and we will connect with you to have a more specific discussion about engagement opportunities.

Learn more about NCG-KCDO's focus areas on our new website - http://www.kcdo.in

News from Members

Dharamshila Cancer Foundation and Research Centre, New Delhi

- Although means of diagnosing and treating early cases of cancer have improved considerably. Very little has been done to improve the quality of life of patients and their families, who are fighting with problems associated with serious life threatening diseases like cancer, obstructive lung diseases, end-stage failure of heart, liver and kidney, dementia, Parkinson's disease, strokes, and disabilities. All these patients need relief from pain and other distressing physical, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual problem. This is possible by providing Dedicated Palliative Care.

- Palliative care is specialized medical care to relieve, suffering and improve quality of life of these patients so that they can lead a symptom free, comfortable and dignified life from years to decades. About 60 lakh patients in India require palliative care, but it is available to only 2% of patients.

- The fulfill the gap between need and availability, Dharamshila Cancer Foundation and Research Centre Centre has commissioned Dharamshila Rahat Medical Centre in June 2022.

This is North India's first standalone, multidisciplinary, holistic, supportive and palliative care centre located in East Delhi. This is a 37 bedded facility managed by a multidisciplinary team.

Dr. S Khanna

APPEAL

- Write to us, if you wish to have a webinar on how to search and / use databases and resources

- Do contribute to the column - "News from Members"- Share activities related to NCG mandate at your centre, and /or announcements of upcoming events, achievements of centres, and similar matters. We will be pleased to publish these in our next issue of e-newsletter.

- To access Akshara – NCG Discovery tool across your campus, please share the static IP addresses. Remember to also share any changes / updates of IP addresses for your centre.

- Visit the list of centres on NCG website and verify your institutional details and revert for any changes / corrections.

- Do submit/update all membership details. Use Annexures (I, II, III) and forward these to - ncg@tmc.gov.in. Annexures are available at https://tmc.gov.in/ncg/index.php/ncg-members/become-a-ncg-member.