

Challenges in Cancer Care in Africa.



Special thanks to Wilfred Ngwa and the conference organizers

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Challenges in Cancer Care in Africa -introduction



- Challenges are many and varied
- One of the challenge is lack of trained human resources in the field of cancer generally and specifically in medical physics.

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Challenges in Cancer Care in Africa.-Facts and Figures



Source-Globocan

- **Population:** 973,627,000
- Growth: 2.8% per annum.
- **In 2008 542,000 deaths were due to cancer**
- **29 out of 52 African countries have no Radiotherapy facilities**
- **Megavoltage machines 277**
 - **88 cobalt 60 and 189 Linacs.**
- **Brachytherapy machines -20**
- **58 Conventional Simulators**

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HR Challenges in Cancer Care .- Tanzania as an example

Source-Globocan



Population – 45 million people
New cancer pts /year – 45,000
Teletherapy units > cobalt 60 machines
– requirement 46 units -
Radiation Oncologists 14 –
requirement 84
Medical physicists 2 –requirement 45
Radiotherapy Technologists-16
requirement-144
A situation like this is alarming and
calls for an urgent action.

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The problem is loud and clear -Is there anything that AAPM can do?

YES



•The above figures speak for themselves.
•Training is required to fill the gap.
•Africa needs assistance to train the required human resources
• For medical physicists I would like to request AAPM to explore the possibility of scaling up on going global training initiatives such as VUCCnet, AVIL AMPERE and CARE

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What should African countries do to ensure success?

- Address Organizational obstacles which hinder health care delivery –mismanagement, corruption, accountability and transparency
- Recognize that cancer is a major public health issue and put it in the national health agenda.
- Prepare National cancer Control Plans and bankable project proposals to fund the projects in the plan.
- Invest adequately in cancer treatment facilities, infrastructure and IT

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What should African countries do to ensure success ?-cont.

- Invest in Research and development
- Convince development partners to fund cancer
- Improve infrastructure for e learning and other innovative learning approaches
- Maximize the use of mobile technology.
- Put in place mechanisms which train and retain trained staff
- Express appreciation and goodwill to collaborators

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SUMMARY

- African countries face a lot of challenges in providing cancer services
- Collaboration between National Governments and other players who have good intention to help is essential to improve cancer care in Africa.
- Sustainability of any realized improvement hinges on national government's political and economic commitment – The resolve to make change happen.

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CONCLUSION

- I beg each one of us in the audience as individuals and as members of AAMP to see what **YOU** can do to make a contribution in addressing cancer care globally – **YES YOU CAN.**

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ASANTE SANA - END



***THANK YOU
FOR
LISTENING***

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