



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

BHGI publishes implementation strategy for improving breast cancer care globally

SEATTLE — April 30, 2020 — Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer in women worldwide with more than 2 million new cases each year. Worldwide, women face obstacles to accessing timely, effective and high-quality breast cancer care and estimates suggest [5.8 million](#) women will die from breast cancer by 2025, with a disproportionate number of these deaths occurring in low-resource settings. To curb these deaths and improve access to care, the 70th World Health Assembly called for “stepwise and resource-stratified guidance and toolkits in order to establish and implement comprehensive cancer prevention and control programmes.”

Today, the Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI) publishes its latest supplement in [Cancer](#) proposing phased implementation as an evidence-based methodology to translate resource-stratified guidelines into practice. “While guidelines are important”, says Dr. Miriam Mutebi, Breast Surgical Oncologist, Aga Khan University Hospital, Kenya, “what is critical to improving patient care is how these guidelines translate into clinical practice. We need strategies and solid clinical guidance to ensure evidence based, resource and culturally appropriate guidelines are implemented in our different settings. Phased implementation requires reflection on the needs of the system and focused efforts to progressively address deficits and strengthen systems.”

Building on the foundational work of the previous five BHGI Global Summits, BHGI and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) convened a multi-disciplinary group of 150 experts from 35 countries to dialogue and reach consensus on how phased implementation can provide meaningful and realistic pathways for change in breast cancer management and outcomes in all resource settings. This *Cancer* supplement is the culmination of months of collaborative work by experts in breast and women’s health, cancer control, implementation science, economics, disparities, policymaking, public health, patient advocacy and health systems with authors representing all resource settings across 5 continents.

The supplement begins with consensus articles outlining phased strategies for advancing breast cancer treatment, early detection, and integration of breast healthcare into health systems. This is followed by individual manuscripts on phased implementation methodology, assessment, harmonized guidelines, BI-RADS, pathology and the role of advocates. The final section presents case studies from Jamaica, India, Uganda and the United States. Throughout this supplement, we stress the importance of ensuring health planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders including clinicians, educators, community members and advocates be versed in the health system requirements as well as overall costs of these approaches to breast cancer early detection, in order to develop and implement effective investments, plans, and policies.

“It has been an honor and privilege to engage with each contributor in the creation of this supplement,” says Dr. Benjamin O. Anderson, Director of BHGI and professor at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and University of Washington. “This consensus process has produced a collaborative publication the total of which is more than the sum of its parts. The opus contains both broad concepts and critical detail delineating the critical concepts of phased implementation. This publication is the culmination of BHGI’s mission going back the first Global Summit in 2002. We are so grateful for the dedication and commitment of everyone who contributed”. This work supports the goals of the [BCI2.5 campaign](#) to make breast health a global priority and reduce disparities in breast cancer outcomes.

Funding for the BHGI 2018 Global Summit and for the BHGI 2020 Global Summit publication came from the following partners: Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Susan G. Komen, National Comprehensive Cancer Network, US National Institutes of Health National Cancer Institute Center for Global Health, American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Society of Clinical Pathology, Journal of Global Oncology, National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc, pH Trust, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, Union for International Cancer Control, and University of Washington Department of Global Health. Additional support was provided by the following corporate partners through unrestricted educational grants: Cepheid, GE Healthcare, Novartis, Pfizer Inc., and UE LifeSciences. Publication costs were provided by GE Healthcare and Novartis.

More information about BHGI is available online at [Website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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About BHGI

BHGI develops, implements and studies evidence-based, economically feasible, and culturally appropriate [Guidelines for International Breast Health and Cancer Control](#) for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), to improve breast health outcomes and access to breast cancer screening, detection and treatment for women. In 2002, we were jointly founded by Fred Hutch and Susan G. Komen as an innovative alliance and network of individuals, health organizations, government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and corporations. We share a dedication to improving breast health care and cancer treatment for women in economically disadvantaged countries. BHGI began by defining best practices with limited resources and creating consensus guidelines for early detection, diagnosis, treatment, health care systems and public policy. Through our global alliance, public health research and international implementation and pilot projects validate and operationalize these guidelines.

About Fred Hutch

At [Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#), home to three Nobel laureates, interdisciplinary teams of - renowned scientists seek new and innovative ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer, HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening diseases. Fred Hutch's pioneering work in bone marrow transplantation led to the development of immunotherapy, which harnesses the power of the immune system to treat cancer with minimal side effects. An independent, nonprofit research institute based in Seattle, Fred Hutch houses the nation's first and largest cancer prevention research program, as well as the clinical coordinating center of the Women's Health Initiative and the international headquarters of the HIV Vaccine Trials Network. [Private contributions are essential](#) for enabling Fred Hutch scientists to explore novel research opportunities that lead to important medical breakthroughs. For more information visit fredhutch.org or follow Fred Hutch on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [YouTube](#).

About NCCN

The [National Comprehensive Cancer Network](#)[®] (NCCN[®]) is a not-for-profit alliance of 30 leading cancer centers devoted to patient care, research, and education. NCCN is dedicated to improving and facilitating quality, effective, efficient, and accessible cancer care so patients can live better lives. By defining and advancing high-quality cancer care, NCCN promotes the importance of continuous quality improvement and recognizes the significance of creating clinical practice guidelines appropriate for use by patients, clinicians, and other health care decision-makers around the world. NCCN programs offer access to expert physicians, superior treatment, and quality and safety initiatives that continuously improve the effectiveness and efficiency of cancer care globally.

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