

2023

Year in Review



CONTACT US

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About the Global Cancer Program

Mission

Accompany our partners to reduce the global cancer burden through innovative research, education, and collaboration.

Vision

Eradicate the global inequities in cancer research and care.

Our Values

- **Partnership & Accompaniment:** We aim to work together as equals, with a commitment to bi-directional collaboration, through providing support and empowerment for the self-realization of goals and desired outcomes
- **Responsiveness to Partner Priorities:** We strive to make decisions with LMIC leaders that prioritize their goals, needs, and interests
- **Innovation:** We seek to develop new or improved systems, services, technologies, or other products that improve people's health in the form of improved efficiency, effectiveness, quality, safety, and/or affordability
- **Empowerment:** We aim to enable investigators from both UCSF and our international partner sites to develop and thrive as authentic, values-driven leaders in global cancer control
- **Cultural Humility:** We strive to embody a mindset of continual learning, awareness of bias, and esteem for others
- **Impact:** We aim to inform and change cancer care practices, policy, and outcomes
- **Equity:** We strive to equip individuals with comprehensive tools and resources for equal success
- **Sustainability:** We intentionally foster progress that can independently continue

Why we Exist

- **The burden of cancer is rising disproportionately in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)**

Although the overall incidence of cancer in adults is lower in LMICs compared with high-income countries (HICs), total cancer-related mortality is significantly higher in LMICs.

- **Most of the world does not have access to life-saving cancer screening and treatment, resulting in millions of preventable deaths every year.**

The field of global oncology aims to address disparities in cancer worldwide through scientifically rigorous approaches and international cooperation. Evidence suggests that a shift to LMIC-led research and research capacity strengthening will drive improvements in health and science-led economic transformation

- **Over 80% of children with cancer in HICs survive, compared to only 10-40% of children diagnosed with cancer in LMICs**

While many factors contribute to this heightened burden and subsequently poor outcomes, coordinated regional efforts in LMIC settings have demonstrated that survival may be significantly improved with comprehensive programmatic approaches focused on education, training, research, data management, clinical management, and familial support.

- **Addressing cancer is a global priority**

The Sustainable Development Goals published by the United Nations reflect global awareness of the escalating burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In particular, the World Health organization's NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 outlined global targets to reduce mortality due to four major NCDs, including cancer. In response to these global calls to action, the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center (HDFCCC) established the UCSF Global Cancer Program (GCP) in 2015.

2023 IN NUMBERS

29

Active **research studies** across 7 countries

35

Mentorship teams supporting trainees and early career investigators in LMICs and at UCSF

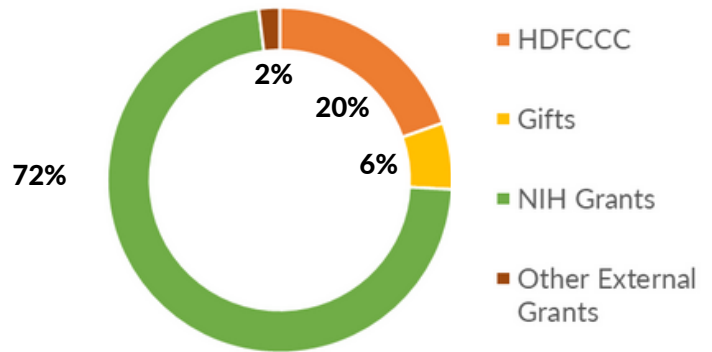
26

Publications authored by Global Cancer Program faculty and scholars, 61% led by LMIC authors

\$88,000

Total funding support provided for innovative pilot awards and fellowship projects

FUNDING SOURCES (FY23)



WHERE WE WORK



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Sarah Kutika Nyagabona: Advancing research and care for patients with HIV and breast cancer

Dr. Sarah Kutika Nyagabona is a Clinical Oncologist and Adjunct Faculty at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) in Tanzania. Dr. Nyagabona initially started working with the Global Cancer Program in 2019 as a Clinical Research Coordinator with the MUHAS-Ocean Road Cancer Institute-UCSF Cancer Collaboration. In 2021, she was selected as a PhD Scholar in the “Cancer Research Training Program in Tanzania” co-led by MUHAS and UCSF, where she completed rigorous coursework at UCSF for a year before returning to Tanzania to complete her research dissertation.

Dr. Nyagabona’s research focuses on how HIV infection affects the health-seeking behaviors

of patients with breast cancer and exploring strategies to involve patients with HIV and breast cancer to improve timely detection of breast cancer and advance cancer care in Tanzania. In June 2023, Dr. Nyagabona received a Global Oncology Young Investigator Award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) which has provided funding for Dr. Nyagabona to conduct in-depth, substantive interviews with patients as well as facilitate collaboration across health care providers delivering care, as HIV and cancer care are often siloed. We look forward to seeing the results of Dr. Nyagabona’s research and their impact on care for patients living with HIV and breast cancer.

“Seeing the impact of my research-informed interventions on patient outcomes brings me a sense of fulfillment and motivation. Knowing that my efforts have directly improved the lives of the patients I am working with is incredibly rewarding, and it reaffirms the significance and impact of my research.”

RESEARCH

Our Objective: To perform innovative research and quality improvement that addresses the disparate burden of cancer in LMICs

Global Cancer Program receives milestone award to improve implementation of cancer control interventions in Mexico

María Fernández, University of Texas, Houston
Martin Lajous, INSP
Michael Potter, UCSF
Karla Unger, INCan



The UCSF Global Cancer Program received a five-year U54 grant, awarded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to support research and training in implementation science, with a focus on improving cancer control efforts in Mexico and Latin America. The grant brings together researchers from UTHealth Houston, the Mexican National Institute of Public Health (INSP), the Mexican National Cancer Institute (INCan), and the University of California San Francisco (UCSF).

The grant will fund a new center, LISTOS for Cancer Control – Leveraging Implementation Science To Optimize Strategies for Cancer Control. The initial phase of the LISTOS Center will include two studies aimed at implementing colorectal cancer screening and the interation of rapid breast cancer diagnosis. The goal of the colorectal cancer screening project in LISTOS is to adapt evidence-based interventions (patient education, patient reminders, and patient navigation), design implementation strategies to deliver these interventions, and evaluate the effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and implementation outcomes.

The UCSF Global Cancer Program has a longstanding history partnering with INSP and INCan through its UCSF-Mexico Cancer Initiative, with the aim of strengthening regional cancer research capacity and expanding the institutional cancer research portfolios and training activities in Mexico. As part of this work, the UCSF-Mexico Cancer Initiative has launched projects focused on colorectal cancer screening implementation in several community-based settings that form the foundation of the LISTOS project in Monterrey. UCSF faculty will collaborate with Mexican researchers on the colorectal cancer screening project in LISTOS and participate in the overall leadership of this new initiative.

“In low- and middle-income countries, there is much that can be done to improve cancer control, yet the translation of evidence-based interventions into real-world practice lags behind what we know works. Our research aims to enhance cancer control in the region, reducing the burden of breast cancer and bolstering prevention and early detection of colorectal cancer.”
~ Dr. Martin Lajous, INSP in Mexico.

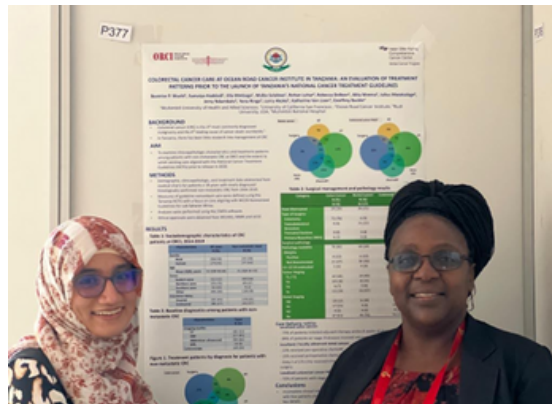
RESEARCH



Global Cancer Program Presents Research Findings at the AORTIC Conference







Members of UCSF's Global Cancer Program attended the 14th International Conference on Cancer in Africa November 2-6, 2023 in Dakar, Senegal. More than one thousand participants from all over the world attended the 2023 African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC) conference with the theme "Implementation, Workforce, Opportunities."

Conferences like AORTIC provide critical opportunities for collaboration to improve care across the continent. UCSF faculty, scholars, and partners presented seven oral lectures and six posters showcasing the variety of projects of the Global Cancer Program, such as esophageal cancer detection and treatment, head and neck cancers, and breast cancer. Notably, four of the presentations were from the Masters-level students in the "Cancer Research Training Program in Tanzania," co-led by UCSF and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences. The program provided dedicated research mentorship to support scholars through the development of their research dissertation, and we congratulate Dr. Mathias Banzi, Dr. Angela Karia, Dr. Glory Makupa, and Dr. Eulade Rugengamanzi on their first presentations at an international conference!



RESEARCH

Global Cancer Program members produced field-leading research in 2023 that's advancing cancer care worldwide. We highlight a sampling of them below. [View the full list here.](#)

Title	Author(s)	Link
A Roadmap to Establishing Global Oncology as a Priority Initiative within a National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center	Van Loon K, Breithaupt L, Ng D, DeBoer R, Buckle G, Bialous S, Hiatt RA, Volberding P, Hermiston M, Ashworth A.	
Radiation safety in an era of diagnostic radiology growth in Africa: Lessons learned from Tanzania.	RSakafu L, Kiango V, Khasim Z, Shoo A, Ndossa M, Kagaruki G, Manyama D, Magandi J, Lee AY.	
Feasibility and Clinical Acceptability of Automation-Assisted 3D Conformal Radiotherapy Planning for Patients With Cervical Cancer in a Resource-Constrained Setting.	Muya S, Ndumbalo J, Kutika Nyagabona S, Yusuf S, Rhee DJ, Mushi BP, Li B, Zhang L, Grover S, Feng M, Hsu IC, Mmbaga E, Van Loon K, Court L, Xu M	
Rapid Onsite Evaluation for Specimen Adequacy and Triage of Breast Masses in a Low-Resource Setting	Kimambo AH, Vuhahula EA, Philipo GS, Mushi BP, Mmbaga EJ, Van Loon K, Ng DL.	
The Cervical Cancer Treatment Gap in Mexico Under Seguro Popular, 2006-2016	McClellan SP, Unger-Saldaña K, Espinosa-Tamez P, Suazo-Zepeda E, Potter MB, Barquet-Muñoz SA, Torres-Ibarra L, Lamadrid-Figueroa H, Lajous M.	
Barriers to Effective Safe Handling of Chemotherapeutic Drugs Among Healthcare Workers in Vietnam: Needs Assessment by Electronic Survey	Nguyen C, Abramovitz L, Nguyen KL, Truong B, Hermiston M	

EDUCATION

Our Objective: To empower leaders in global cancer care and research through education, training, and mentorship for trainees and early career faculty in LMICs and at UCSF

Highlights from our education activities in 2023 include:



Training our 4th and 5th cohorts of Fellows in the Vietnam Pediatric Hematology Oncology Program



Hosted Clinical Research Scholars from Tanzania to participate in the Designing Clinical Research Course at UCSF

Vietnamese Pediatric Hematology Oncology Fellows presented abstracts on their fellows' projects at the Viva St. Jude Forum



Joined the Global Oncology Lecture Series as a hosting institution

Establishing Global Oncology as a Priority Initiative within an NCI-Designated Cancer Center



Katherine Van Loon, MD, MPH
Director, Global Cancer Program
Professor of Clinical Medicine, GI Oncology
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Monday, Sep 25, 2023
10:00am – 11:00am PT / 12:00pm – 1:00pm CT / 1:00pm – 2:00pm ET
[Zoom link](#)
Meeting ID: 854 1830 9178
Password: 945144





Hosted Values Based Leadership Workshop for Female Faculty at MUHAS



Received award from the International Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP) to train nurses in Vietnam on Nursing Baseline Standards

Dr. Asteria Kimambo and Dr. Sarah Kutika Nyagabona, PhD Scholars in the Cancer Research Training Program receive ASCO Global Oncology Young Investigator Awards



Continued hosting Future Global Cancer Leaders Seminars for early career investigators to present their works-in-progress for peer and mentor feedback



EDUCATION

MEET THE 2023-24 GLOBAL CANCER FELLOWS



David Asakitogum, MPhil, RN
PhD Candidate in Nursing, UCSF

Focus: Improve the quality of life of rural gynecological cancer patients and establish a cancer registry in Ghana



Melissa Carvalho, MPH
PhD Candidate in Global Health, UCSF

Focus: Integrate diagnostic technology into pediatric oncology care in Ghana to improve diagnosis and treatment planning



Priscilla Espinosa Tamez, MD
PhD Candidate in Epidemiology & Translational Sciences, UCSF

Focus: Design and implement context-appropriate cancer screening programs in Mexico



Willybroad Massawe, MD MMED
Otolaryngologist, Muhimbili National Hospital in Tanzania

Focus: Addressing malnutrition among head and neck cancer patients in Tanzania



Baraka Musimu, MD, MMED
Otorhinolaryngologist, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania

Focus: Evaluate factors for depression and anxiety disorders among head and neck cancer patients in Tanzania



Cham Nguyen, PharmD, MAS
Clinical Pharmacist, UCSF

Focus: Improve safe handling of hazardous drugs among healthcare workers in Vietnam.



Musliu Tolani, MD
Urologist, Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria

Focus: Develop strategies to improve care for patients with prostate cancer in Nigeria

COLLABORATION

Our Objective: To foster collaborations to sustainably impact the global cancer burden.

Expanded pediatric oncology partnerships in Vietnam

In 2019, the Global Cancer Program partnered with the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Ho Chi Minh City to establish a regional hub in Vietnam to address key facets of improving pediatric oncology outcomes. Since launching this hub, the Global Cancer Program has been collaborating with all the regional hospitals that provide pediatric cancer care in Vietnam. In 2023, we expanded our formal partnerships to include Blood Transfusion Hematology Hospital, Children's Hospital 1, Children's Hospital 2, Vietnam National Children's Hospital, and VinUni.

Established new partnership in Mexico with the National Social Security Institute



In 2023, the Global Cancer Program awarded a Global Cancer Pilot Award to support an e-Health symptom management intervention for patients with breast cancer in Mexico to provide the information, autonomy, and emotional support patients require. This effort is in partnership with the Instituto Mexicano de Seguro Social (IMSS) and led by Dr. Hannah Leslie (UCSF) and Dr. Svetlana Doubova (IMSS).



Joined ATOM Coalition

In 2023, the Global Cancer Program joined the Access to Oncology Medicine (ATOM) Coalition. This initiative is led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), in collaboration with over 40 global organizations. It aims to address the barriers to availability, affordability, and appropriate use of oncology medicines in LMICs.



SUPPORT THE GLOBAL CANCER PROGRAM

Donations are critical to supporting the Global Cancer Program's mission by providing funds for innovative projects that are responsive to local priorities.

Learn more at <https://globalcancer.ucsf.edu/giving>.

CHAMPION INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

Our researchers are working toward understanding the causes and impact of prevalent cancers affecting low- and middle-income countries. Funding research will support the development of prevention and innovative early-detection strategies and allow investigators to translate discoveries into better patient care.

IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES IN LOW-RESOURCE SETTINGS

As a recognized leader in biosciences, UCSF has conducted significant research on cancer treatment, screening, lifestyle modification, and culturally-appropriate care. Donor support will enable UCSF to share effective practices through workshops and training in prevention, diagnostics, and care.

EDUCATE AND MENTOR FUTURE LEADERS

We believe in the power of education and mentorship. Our Global Cancer Fellowship Program supports emerging leaders from UCSF and international partner sites to establish impactful careers in global cancer control.



Helen Diller Family
Comprehensive
Cancer Center

Global Cancer Program



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