

# Building community-based awareness and navigating breast cancer and palliative care



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*I am delighted and grateful for being granted an opportunity to help breast cancer patients, who already have a lot of burden from the disease, and to address challenges they face when trying to navigate the health system in a low resource country like Ghana.”*

Read more on the SPARC MBC Challenge at [uicc.org/SPARC](https://uicc.org/SPARC)

## Short description

Building community-based structured patient network, navigation and breast health awareness programmes in Kumasi, Ghana.

## Abstract

Breast cancer is the most prevalent form of cancer in Ghana and the incidence continues to rise. Most patients report late, with up to 85% presenting with advanced disease in Kumasi, partly attributable to lack of knowledge on breast cancer and access to health care, and there are no community follow-up care or survivorship support systems for patients with advanced breast cancer.

Building structured patient network, navigation and breast health awareness programmes for metastatic breast cancer patients will improve treatment outcomes. These programmes will help reduce delays in accessing care, improve the quality of end-of-life care among patients with metastatic breast cancer and increase awareness on breast cancer. We will identify, recruit and train patient navigators comprising of primary healthcare providers and community volunteers (including breast cancer survivors). We will also create a social media networking and navigation platform for patients to share experiences and have their concerns addressed. Community navigators would establish direct in-person contacts with patients to offer support and enroll them onto the platforms. Community-based awareness campaigns will include talks to community groups, house-to-house visits and media campaigns.

## Focus areas

Patient navigation, community-based awareness, survivorship support system, peer online support

## Stakeholders

Patients



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