



Media advisory for immediate distribution

UICC Fellowships continue to strengthen cancer care during the pandemic, building on its almost 60-year legacy.

- For almost 60 years, UICC's Fellowships programme has connected and developed the skills of cancer professionals around the world.
- The programme is also now offered in a virtual format, helping to strengthen the cancer control workforce during the ongoing pandemic.
- To date, over 4,000 Fellowships have supported individuals from all over the world, in all areas of cancer care.

Monday 28th June 2021. Geneva, Switzerland.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, there have been severe disruptions to cancer services, such as the suspension of or delays in diagnosis and treatment, including radiotherapy and surgeries considered elective, and a drop in referrals and preventive screening.

Recognising a greater need than ever to strengthen workforce capacity in cancer control, the Union for International Cancer Control ([UICC](#)) has now complemented its traditional [Technical Fellowships](#), which focus on in-person visits, with [Virtual Fellowships](#) in response to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"During the pandemic, visits to a standard radiotherapy centre outside the country have been almost impossible. UICC's virtual fellowship allowed me to engage with an expert from India and provided the opportunity to start a new, shorter protocol of radiation in prostate cancer management at my institute. This should allow me to address some of the disruptions due to COVID-19 and treat more patients, particularly those who deferred their radiotherapy due to the long duration of the treatment."

– **Dr Arman Reza Chowdhury** Consultant, Department of Oncology, Delta Hospital Limited Assistant International Affairs Secretary at the Oncology Club, Bangladesh

The [UICC Fellowships](#) were initiated in 1962 and are one of UICC's oldest and most established programmes. The programme facilitates the exchange of expertise and skills between cancer professionals from around the world, providing invaluable networking and collaboration opportunities across institutions and countries, essential to strengthening cancer care and patient outcomes.

The Fellowships welcome applications from professionals in all areas of cancer control – prevention, diagnostics, screening, patient support, policy, treatment and quality-of-life care – and support three types of project: public health, research or clinical. Projects must be relevant to the particular context of the applicant in terms of needs and resources where the applicant works as well as meet the strategic goals of the applicant's organisation.



Technical Fellowships are open to all applicants, while Virtual Fellowships are open only to professionals working at UICC member organisations.

Fellows identify an expert in their field who provides in-person training and tailored advice in the form of a one-month international visit or, in the case of the virtual format, a series of video calls. Due to the pandemic, the in-person fellowship visits are mostly planned for next year.

“The programme has adapted its format to a digital environment, maintaining its ability to deliver on its core ambition of improving cancer prevention, treatment and care through international training and knowledge-sharing. The Virtual Fellowships have ensured continued support to cancer professionals at a time when cancer care has been particularly challenging and will continue to offer support to those unable to travel or who would value this type of ‘in-situ’ training.”

– **Dr Kirstie Graham**, Director of Capacity Building, UICC

To date, over 4,000 Fellowships have supported individuals from all over the world, in all areas of cancer care. A recent survey revealed that 99% of Fellows would recommend a UICC Fellowship, with 84% reporting that the skills and knowledge gained during their fellowship proved useful to their work.

More information is available [at the UICC website](#).

MEDIA CONTACTS

Eric Grant

Communications and Media Manager

grant@uicc.org

Tel: +41 79 124 1523

Nicole Engelbrecht

Head of Communications and Marketing

engelbrecht@uicc.org

Tel: +41 79 547 0822

About the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) is the largest and oldest international cancer-fighting organisation. Founded in Geneva in 1933, UICC has some 1,180 member organisations in 172 countries. It enjoys consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and has official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UICC has some 58 partners, including associations, companies and foundations committed to the fight against cancer. UICC is a founding member of the NCD Alliance, the McCabe Centre for Law & Cancer and the International Cancer Control Partnership (ICCP) and established the City Cancer Challenge Foundation in January 2019.



UICC's mission is to both unite and support the cancer community in its efforts to reduce the global cancer burden, promote greater equity and ensure that cancer control remains a priority on the global health and development agenda. It pursues these goals by bringing together global leaders through innovative and far-reaching cancer-control events and initiatives, building capacities to meet regional needs and developing awareness campaigns.

www.uicc.org