Strengthening advanced breast cancer care in Rwanda through care coordination

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Short description
Development of an innovative, cross-cutting breast cancer care coordination system with particular attention for the most high-risk, advanced staged breast cancer patients.

Abstract
Through local and international partnerships, incredible sustained advancements have been made in cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and advocacy in Rwanda. The growing burden of the disease challenges the health care system’s development, however, and there is concern that patients may become lost to follow up. Rwanda’s Ministry of Health through the Rwanda Biomedical Center has developed an innovative, cross-cutting Breast Cancer Care Coordination System, which will reach across governance areas, clinical settings, and community care to prevent loss of patients from adequate follow up and to bring back those disengaged with care.

Through a Breast Cancer Directory, patients will be tracked through care coordination, which will attempt to predict and mitigate barriers to care, prevent loss to follow up, and maintain patients in the high-quality cancer care they deserve. Structured calls with practitioners and hospital-based meetings will allow the discussion of ongoing techniques to centralise the coordination of Rwanda’s cancer care system across its decentralised providers, services, and patients.

Focus areas
Patient navigation

Stakeholders
Patients

“\This grant means a lot to me and my organisation; it will complement ongoing efforts towards improving and standardising the care provided to patients with advanced breast cancer. We are also anticipating that lessons learnt on the national care model for breast cancer patients will also be applied to other cancer diseases at large.”