

GOOD SAMARITAN CANCER HOSPITAL

IFAKARA, MOROGORO, TANZANIA



HABARI@GSCH

CREATING HORIZONS FOR NEW HOPE

Q2 2022



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From the Managing Director

EXPANSION OF SERVICES THROUGH COLLABORATIONS

GSCH is envisioned to make its contribution to cancer diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research. Second quarter of 2022 witnessed more of strengthening cancer prevention activities through Rural Outreach Programs (ROP) and collaboration with other Institutes/NGOs in the Health Sector. We have entered into a memorandum of understanding (**MOU**) with **SolidarMed Tanzania** for free cancer education and screening program in the districts of Malinyi and Mahenge of Morogoro Region. We have also entered into another **MOU** with **St Benedict Referral Hospital, Ndanda, Mtwara Region** for patient referrals, pathology services, cancer screening programs in Mtwara Region, staff capacity building, etc.

Joining of GSCH into the prestigious **IFAKARA CLUSTER**, a forum of collaboration among the health Institutes established in the Catholic Diocese of Ifakara was a landmark in leveraging Research explorations and strengthening other healthcare services. Currently IFAKARA CLUSTER consists of St. Francis Referral Hospital (SFRH), IHI (Ifakara Health Institute), TTCIH (Tanzania Training Centre for International Health), St Francis University College of Health and Allied Sciences (SFUCHAS), Edgar Maranta School of Nursing (EMSN) and Good Samaritan Cancer Hospital (GSCH).

Together we are stronger.

May God bless our endeavours to improve Cancer Care in Africa.

Fr Shibin James Thuniampral

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Glimpses of GSCH Day – May 5, 2022

GSCH Day is celebrated on the 5th of May every year, to celebrate the birthday of **Fr Jose Kaimlett (1941 - 2018)**, the Founder of GSCH.

GSCH thanks the **staff** and recognizes the best workers of the previous year on this day. Congratulations to the best workers of 2021: **Ms Agas Ndunguru (Non-clinical)** and **Mr Egdi Mlwilo (Clinical)**.



Ms Agas Ndunguru



Mr Egdi Mlwilo

*GSCH wishes
all staff the
very best for
the year
ahead.*



Rev Jose Kaimlett (1941-2018)



Prayer Service



Employee Recognition



GSCH Staff

The Deputy Health Minister Visits GSCH

GSCH had the privilege of welcoming the Dr Godwin Mollel, Deputy Minister of Health, Ministry of Health, The United Republic of Tanzania on May 1, 2022.

Dr Mollel was accompanied by a large delegation of dignitaries including the **District Commissioner (Kilombero District)** and the **District Medical Officer (Kilombero District)**.



Good Samaritan Cancer Hospital (GSCH) has been providing cancer care from investigations to treatment of pre-malignant and malignant cases since February 2020.

The Minister and other dignitaries toured the modern cancer care facilities available at GSCH. The refreshed **Pathology Laboratory**

maintains a turnaround time of 72 hours for Histopathology investigations and 48 hours for Cytology investigations.

GSCH takes this opportunity to thank hospitals across several regions for referring tissue and cell samples for biopsy testing.



GSCH is the first rural cancer hospital in Tanzania, and provides modern **Radiotherapy** treatment using 3D-Conformal radiotherapy (3D-CRT) and Intensity modulated radiotherapy (IMRT) with the Halcyon LINAC machine (first in rural Tanzania, third in Africa) and also 3D Brachytherapy for cervical cancer treatment (first in Tanzania). The Managing Director thanked the Bishop of Ifakara, Deputy Minister, DC and DMO for their support.

The dignitaries met with employees and discussed the current state and trends in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment services in Tanzania. The dignitaries were impressed with the range of world class cancer care services offered by GSCH to rural communities.



Subsequent to the discussions, our guests helped GSCH record the event for posterity through a group photograph.





Partnership with SolidarMed

GSCH is pleased to announce a partnership agreement with **SolidarMed Tanzania**. SolidarMed is a Swiss organization with a charter to improve healthcare in Africa in close cooperation with hospitals, health centres, partners and health authorities. SolidarMed strengthens healthcare across **7 countries**: Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe by focusing on four core areas: (1) strengthening hospitals and health centres, (2) training medical personnel, (3) protecting

mother and child health, (4) fighting communicable and non-communicable diseases such as Diabetes, HIV/AIDS,



Hypertension, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

GSCH is the first and only rural cancer care hospital in Tanzania, serving several regions in Southern and Western Tanzania, and nearby countries such as Malawi, The Comoros and Zambia. The innovative **GSCH Rural Outreach Program (ROP)** has enabled GSCH to understand cancer prevalence in Kilombero District, and is now poised for growth across Morogoro and other regions.

Through this partnering, SolidarMed would add Cancer education, screening and treatment to its portfolio while GSCH would leverage SolidarMed's experience in running large scale multi-country healthcare programs.

The Rural Outreach Programme (ROP) Expands Coverage

The flagship Rural Outreach Program (ROP) was launched by GSCH in November 2020, focused on the objectives of bringing cancer awareness, prevention, screening, early detection and prevention of late stage presentation. GSCH has conducted 14 health education and free cancer screening camps in Kilombero District, Morogoro region.

Based on screening data from ROP camps in Kilombero District, an observation is that the most prevalent cancers in the area are Cervical, Prostate and Breast cancer.

GSCH has added several dimensions to the Rural Outreach Program lately, as described in the Q1 edition of the Habari@GSCH Newsletter.

1 Corporate Outreach

Illovo Sugar factory in Ruaha town (3-hours drive from Ifakara) was identified by GSCH for corporate partnership.



Under the GSCH Rural Outreach Program (ROP), cancer health education and free cancer screening camps was held over two days (May 19 & 20) for employees of the Illovo Sugar factories.

Some members of the farming community also participated. Screening was performed for breast and cervical cancer for adult females, and for prostate cancer for males 50 years and greater. Those who were detected to require further care have been treated at GSCH.

The partnership between GSCH and Illovo would enable GSCH to sustainably serve communities in and around Ruaha town adjoining the Kilombero River. GSCH gratefully acknowledges support from the CEO and Management of Illovo Sugar and seeks support in future.

2 Rural Community Outreach

Based on patient trends at GSCH, Kidodi town (near Mikumi National Park) was identified as a location which needs health awareness and cancer screening camps to be conducted.



The Health Centre in Kidodi town caters to a rural population mainly consisting of farmers across four wards spread across a geographic expanse spanning hills and valleys, not very easy to reach.

The GSCH ROP team has observed that general awareness of cancer is quite low in rural areas. Amongst those who have some level of awareness there is a high degree of apprehension to get screened due to several reasons including fear of the unknown and the possible inability to afford cancer treatment.

Most Prevalent Cancers In Kilombero District, Morogoro, Tanzania

Jyotinath Ganguly

Healthcare Consultant, Good Samaritan Cancer Hospital, Ifakara

Introduction

Good Samaritan Cancer Hospital (GSCH) is a non-profit, private hospital in Ifakara, Morogoro, Tanzania, providing cancer care from investigations to treatment of pre-malignant and malignant cases since February 2020.

GSCH is the first rural cancer hospital in Tanzania, provides modern Radiotherapy treatment using 3D-Conformal radiotherapy (3D-CRT) and Intensity modulated radiotherapy (IMRT) with the Halcyon LINAC machine (first in rural Tanzania, third in Africa) and also 3D Brachytherapy for cervical cancer treatment (first in Tanzania).

Methods

GSCH Rural Outreach Program (ROP) teams conducted cancer awareness and free cancer screening camps across Kilombero District between November 2020 and May 2022.

Cervical cancer screening was performed using Visual inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) and Visual Inspection with Lugol's Iodine (VILI).

Breast cancer screening was performed for women and prostate cancer testing (PSA) was done for males as per screening protocols.



Results

GSCH screened over 1300 adults at 14 ROP health education and free screening camps consisting of two socio economic segments.

At Rural Camps (sample size 1046, 75.2% (787) female, 24.8% (259) male), 15.9% (125) of women had suspected pre-malignant cervical lesions, 1.4% (11) of women had suspected malignant breast lumps, 9.3% (24) of men were suspected with prostate cancer.

At Factory Worker Camps (sample size 280, 52.5% (147) female, 47.5% (133) male), 14.3% (21) of women had suspected pre-malignant cervical lesions, 2% (3) of women suspected malignant breast lumps, 0.8% (1) of men were suspected with prostate cancer.

To provide a perspective, data from 2021 and Q1 2022 indicates that the most prevalent malignancies treated at GSCH were cervical, breast and prostate cancer, accounting for 67% of all malignancies.

Conclusion

In light of these results, there is a need to increase rural cancer education and free screening. GSCH priority is to serve rural communities through early detection of cancerous lesions and treatment. GSCH focuses on social and national health objectives, aims to grow and modernize cancer care in rural Tanzania.

Advantages Of Cell Block Technique Against Cytological Smears In Cytological Diagnosis

Alphonse Pancras

Health Laboratory Scientist, Good Samaritan Cancer Hospital, Ifakara

Cell block is a technique which enable the preparing **cytology** material so that it can be processed, sectioned, stained and viewed as a histology section. It provides diagnostic information additional to information obtained from cytology smears. Easier to perform techniques like Immunohistochemistry and special stains than smears which require adaptations of staining protocol and controls. Cell block is prepared from the material remaining after the smears have been prepared.

Acquisition of tissue for cell block can increase both **diagnostic sensitivity and specificity** (through both cellular morphology and ancillary testing). It requires minimal effort and is cost efficient. Moreover, tissue preserved in cell block can be readily shared for **second opinions and research** without fear of losing the original diagnostic smear specimen

When adequately cellular, cell blocks serve as a source of **multiple additional sections** that are valuable in the evaluation of more cells and for performing ancillary studies, such as: Special staining, Immunostaining, Ultra structural analysis and Molecular testing.

Most ancillary testing platforms are developed on formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue and the commonly used fixatives include the neutral buffered formalin (NBF) and Bouin's solution. So cell blocks processed in this way generally do not require additional validation, and when performing immunostaining, the same slides serve as **controls for surgical specimens and cell blocks**.

Cell blocks, like histology blocks, can be **archived** and can provide tissue for future diagnostic and research purposes, thereby preserving the original smears. Non-traditional and future applications for cell blocks include microarray construction and the ability to **scan images** and review them. Fluid samples or tissue fragments can be preserved in a refrigerator (8°C) for 72 hours before processing into cell blocks. Cell blocks prepared from glutaraldehyde can be used for **electron microscopy**. Important residual material is salvaged, this is generally not available in cytology smears. Diagnostic yield is increased by 5% in cancer cases in the case of residual fluid. **Storage** of cell block is easier than unstained slides.

Below are some pictures showing microscopic view of various cytological diagnosis employing the use of cell block against cytological smears.

Exhibit 1:
Cytological
Smear stained
by PAP stain

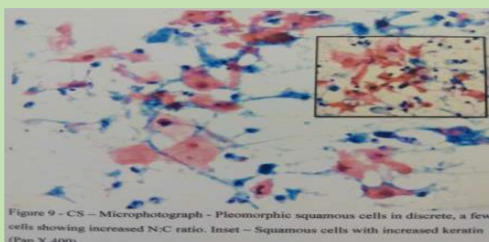
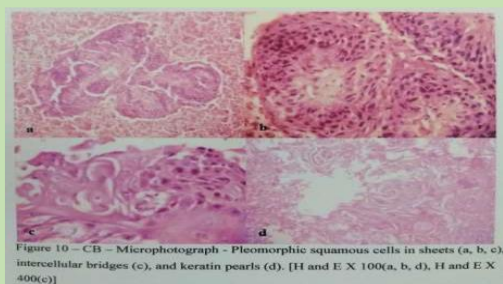


Exhibit 2:
Tissue Block
section stained
by H&E stain



Q2 Events and Initiatives at GSCH

Several events and initiatives marked Q2 2022. Besides celebrating **GSCH Day** which was described on Page 4, other events and initiatives included **employee skill development, service standardization projects and academic outreach.**

- 1 A one-week practical training on **Cervical Cancer Screening** was conducted by the **Ministry of Health** during the month of May, the attendees consisted of GSCH Doctors and Nurses.
- 2 **SafeCare Accreditation** is an independent, internationally recognized certificate of excellence demonstrating **standardized provisioning of healthcare services**. GSCH has achieved **Level 3** and is now poised for Level 4 assessment. In addition, GSCH has initiated a project to extend service standardization beyond SafeCare Level 4, with the objective of providing standardized, repeatable and high quality end to end services to patients from admission to discharge.
- 3 The **Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU)** visited GSCH along with the Principal and Professors of SFUCHAS on June 8, 2022, in view of the partnership between GSCH and SFUCHAS.
- 4 GSCH participated in the **panel discussion** at the First Annual **SFUCHAS Scientific Conference** held on May 22, 2022 and also submitted an **abstract** describing experiences with cancer education and screening among rural communities.

Welcome aboard

Dr Paul Senga has a Degree in Medicine from the University of Dar es Salaam. Between 1978 and 2005 Dr Senga served in the Tanzanian military and thereafter in the UK as a private practitioner.

Dr Senga has specialized in **Medical Insurance** since 2005, and he has joined GSCH as a Medical Claims Consultant.



Yvonne Mbaga has a Diploma in Diagnostic Radiography from the Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences, Mwanza.

Yvonne has worked in a Polyclinic, Town Council Hospital and District Hospital in the past and she performs **Radiological and Ultrasound** examination at GSCH.



We are hiring

SN	POSITION
1	Assistant Nursing Officer (RN)
2	Enrolled Nurses
3	Nurse Anaesthetist
4	Medical Attendants
5	Medical Record Officer
6	Laboratory Technician
7	Assistant Laboratory Technician
8	Assistant Pharmacy Technologist

Please email CV and other required documents in PDF format to hr@gschifakara.org latest by 1700 HRS (5 PM), Friday, July 15, 2022.



Connect with GSCH

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