



UICC Fellowships available to support the training of dedicated cancer professionals

Despite progress in diagnostics, early detection and treatment, cancer remains the second-leading cause of death worldwide. COVID-19 and the measures enacted to contain it have placed further pressure on cancer organisations to deliver their essential services.

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](#) to broaden its capacity to develop the skills of cancer professionals around the world.

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 training, networking and collaboration opportunities across institutions and countries, essential to strengthening cancer care and patient outcomes.

“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

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, as UICC plays a wider supporting role in facilitating connections with relevant experts from its network. For the Technical Fellowships, a response to each application will be given within 60 days and Fellowship visits can be planned shortly after an application has been accepted. The call for applications for both opportunities remains open till 31st December.

Typically, Fellows are required to identify an expert in their field to provide in-person training and tailored advice in the form of a one-month international visit. In the case of the virtual format, UICC lends its support to identifying an expert and organising the series of video calls with the Fellows. Due to the pandemic, in-person fellowship visits are mostly planned for next year.

“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

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.

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

UICC is grateful to the following partners for their generous continued support of UICC Fellowships: *Swedish Cancer Society, Cancer Society of Finland, Chinese anti-cancer association, Israel Cancer Association, Japanese National Committee for UICC, Swiss Cancer League, National Cancer Center Korea, Prevent Cancer Foundation and Sanofi*

