



Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre

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EDITORIAL

CANCER RESEARCH IN INDIA

We are facing revolution in medicine. The essence of this revolution involves biomarkers and the prospect of a predictive, personalized cancer treatment. With predictive biomarkers, practitioners will one day be able to predict the right drug at right time to the right patient. But the research on this subject is still in infancy.

Research does not only mean lab science or human drug trial, it may include research in the field of epidemiology; public health research (analysis of pattern of diseases etc.); evaluation of health care interventions & medical record research etc. Medical research may also involve doing research in biochemistry, microbiology, physiology, oncology, surgery, diabetes and cardiac diseases etc. Tens of thousands of Americans die each year from medical errors in the hospital and research has provided valuable information for reducing these medical errors by implementing health IT solutions such as e-prescriptions. It has been demonstrated that preventive services (mammogram) substantially reduce mortality and morbidity at reasonable costs. It has been established that a causal link exists between the nursing shortage and patient health outcomes by documenting that patients in hospitals with fewer registered nurses are hospitalized longer and are more likely to suffer complications such as UTI, wound sepsis etc. So any medical professional could be involved in research.

Both clinical and pre-clinical research phases exist in Pharma industry's drug pipelines, where the clinical phase is denoted by the term clinical trial. The most basic medical research is

rapidly evolving area that owes much to basic biology. A new paradigm to biomedical research is called Translational research which loops between basic and clinical research i.e. from bedside to bench. It is important to comprehensively study the biological processes at cellular levels. We should initiate studies on common cancers of India by combining epidemiological and basic science work. The aim of such studies should be to correlate epidemiological risk factors with molecular, cellular and biochemical changes indentified through sensitive modern biological tools.

Every clinician must invest part of his/her time in lab. Some oncologists are interested only in drug trials for reasons best known to them. Clinicians do not want to enter the labs. On the other hand, the researchers prefer to sit in labs and ask for the biopsy or fluid samples from clinicians. Basic scientists need to marry the clinicians. Clinicians must collaborate and do basic science work or epidemiological research themselves. In India we need to form new strategies for clinical trials e.g. to form collaborative groups for innovative research.

Let us not Re-Search (reinvent the wheel what is already known). Let us get involved in true Research. Let us invest in Research in terms of money, manpower and time.

Dr. Dewan AK
Medical Director

RGCON 2015 – “CHANGING LANDSCAPES IN HEAD & NECK ONCOLOGY : FUTURE & BEYOND”



RGCON is the flagship international oncology conference hosted every year in New Delhi, India, by Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre. Over the years, RGCON has come to be known as the largest platform for exchange of ideas on Cancer in this part of the world, where leading academicians and pioneers in the field of oncology come together to share path breaking knowledge with their peers.

At RGCIRC, we are very proud of this achievement, and view it as a privilege to provide an opportunity to brilliant minds from all over the world to present and discuss their opinions.



RGCON was established in the year 2001, and February 2015 saw the fourteenth edition of this academic extravaganza. RGCON 2015, was held from February 27th to March 1st, 2015, and was centered on “**Changing Landscapes in Head & Neck Oncology : Future & Beyond**”.

Eminent faculty from India and abroad participated in the programme. International faculty invited this year included the renowned Dr Gregory Weinstein, Dr Chris Holsinger and Dr Yoon Woo Koh, who are legends in robotic head and neck surgery, Dr Cai Grau and Dr Eugen Hug who are considered leading pioneers in newer avenues of Radiation Therapy such as Proton therapy, and the well known Dr Sat Parmar and Dr Vincent Gregoire. Dr Weinstein delivered the keynote address on 28th Feb while Dr Vincent Gregoire delivered the Dr Raman Chaddha Memorial Oration. For the first time in India, a live workshop on robotic head & neck surgery was organized, as part of the conference. The live workshops on robotic surgery, IMRT contouring and Brachytherapy were relayed to a packed house of over 300 doctors.



The conference aimed at providing comprehensive and up-to-date perspective on head & neck cancers. Rapid strides have been made in understanding these kind of cancers, their diagnosis and their treatment, especially so in the past decade. RGCON provided an opportunistic moment to revisit the facts once again so as to ensure that the benefit of these newer developments



percolates down to better care. The scientific programme was thoughtfully prepared and participants found it intellectually stimulating. It also proved to be a great learning experience for young students of medicine who enthusiastically presented their research and participated in various competitions. The conference saw enthusiastic participation from 529 delegates from all parts of the country, and had 109 faculty members from 5 countries.



RESPONSES TO RGCON 2015

“I have just returned from India where I performed live surgery and delivered a lecture to the RGCON2015 Conference at the Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre. From my perspective my visit to India was spectacular on all levels and many thanks to conveners of the meeting...It was clear to me that they have developed a world class TORS program...The hospitality that I was afforded was wonderful and will certainly be long remembered.” – Dr Gregory Weinstein, USA

“Thank you for your hard work in the successful meeting. I would also like to thank you for looking after me so well” – Dr Sat Parmar, Birmingham, UK

“Robotic surgery is relatively new in the world and India is next only to US in successfully using this technology effectively.” – Dr Chris Holsinger, USA

“Thank you for inviting me to participate in the prestigious RGCON. The proceedings were enlightening and the arrangements, excellent.” – Dr Sapna Nangia, Delhi

“Congrats on doing a wonderful conference! I really enjoyed it. Thanks for everything” – Dr Ashok Shenoy, Bengaluru

“The conference was most engaging - and all did enjoy themselves. It was certainly educative. My congratulations” – Dr Alok Thakar, Delhi

“RGCON 2015 was a very well organized conference with scientific deliberations of high standard. Appreciate your warm hospitality as well.” – Dr Rajendra Toprani, Ahmedabad

“We had a full house for our panel. Testimony to the fact that we had a illustrious panel. It was a pleasure to be part of the program... it was well structured” – Dr Anil D’Cruz, Mumbai

CME - IMA, WEST TOWN



RGCIRC organized a CME on Oncology in association with IMA, West Town on Saturday 31st January 2015. Dr. Vineet Talwar, Sr. Consultant – Medical Oncology delivered a talk on “Head & Neck Cancer Recent Advances” & Dr. Sheh Rawat, Sr. Consultant – Radiation Oncology spoken on “Recent Advances in Radiotherapy Management of Oral Cancers”. The talks were attended by more than 90 doctors.

30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE – IMA, DELHI NORTH ZONE



RGCIRC participated in 30th Annual Conference organized by IMA, Delhi North Zone on Sunday, 01st February 2015 at Tivoli Garden Resort Hotel, Delhi. Dr. A. K. Dewan, Medical Director & Sr. Consultant – Surgical Oncology delivered a lecture on “Recent Advances in Oncology” & Dr. Vineet Talwar, Sr. Consultant – Medical Oncology spoke on “Recent Advances in Carcinoma Lung Targeted Therapies”. The talks were attended by more than 230 doctors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. VINEET TALWAR



Congratulations to Dr. Vineet Talwar, Sr. Consultant – Medical Oncology on being awarded the prestigious Dr. G. S. Sainani Oration 2015, for excellence in field of Medicine, under the auspices of the Association of Physicians of India Conference (APICON 2015), held on 22nd February 2015, at Gurgaon, Haryana. The APICON 2015 is an apex physician meet of India which was attended by over 13,000 physicians from all over India with excellent deliberations in all the branches of medicine.

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