

OnChronicle

AN EXCLUSIVE NEWSLETTER OF ALAMELU CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, SUPPORTED BY TATA TRUSTS



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Welcome Note

Dear Reader,

We are indeed delighted to bring to you the second issue of the third volume of OnChronicle. As we bring out this issue, we have multiple reasons to be joyful. Every organisation likes accolades and awards and more so, when these come to our own team members, especially to someone whose life is dedicated to a cause. Dr. Anita Borges, Director, Centre for Oncopathology is one such professional. Do read about her recent recognition.

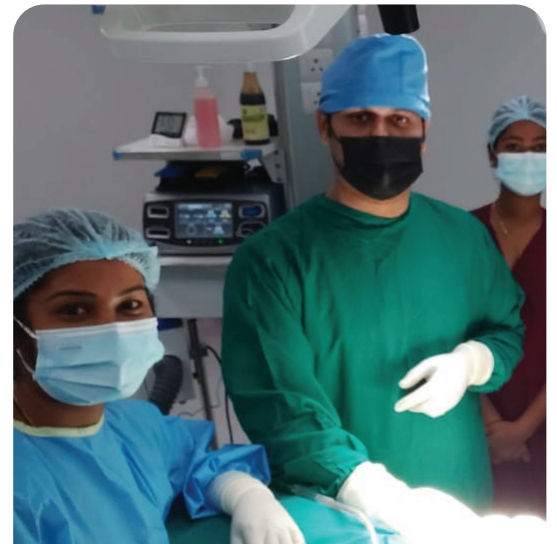
Every first is always special. When it is about saving lives and improving quality of life, the first becomes extra-

special. Check out about SVICCAR's recent first. When you get the opportunity to work towards your objective, your happiness reaches another level. RCHRC has initiated day care services and is providing compassionate care, so is CCCF day care chemotherapy centre.

Here's wishing you abundance of happiness, joy and the best of everything.

Happy reading.

Team OnChronicle!



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Dr. Anita Borges gets featured in 'The Power List 2022'

Accurate grading and staging of the disease is paramount for treatment and management of cancer. Dr. Anita Borges, Director, Centre for Oncopathology, has been doing exactly that and more for last four decades and thus serving and helping cancer patients and their families with her relentless work.

Passionate about her profession, Dr. Borges is as engaged in imparting her skills as she is in cancer diagnosis. The Centre for Oncopathology also doubles up as a

training centre where pathologists are trained by Dr. Borges and her team as onco-specialists.

Dr. Borges' commitment to her work has made her not only sought after in India but also an International figure. Rewards and recognition have always followed her. Recently, she got recognized by a reputed international magazine, The Pathologist. The magazine, featured her in 'The Power List 2022' in the 'Voyage of Discovery' category.

Earlier 'The Pathologist' had featured Dr. Borges amongst the 100 most powerful pathologists of the world, in 2015.

Described as a 'passionate mentor whose heart and soul is dedicated to pathology,' Dr. Borges often advises her trainees 'work like a pathologist but think like a clinician.'

OnChronicle salutes Dr. Borges on this proud achievement. She indeed is a 'Power House' empowering many!

First surgery at SVICCAR

The famous adage 'a journey of a thousand steps begins with a single step' holds as true for organizations as for individuals.

Sri Venkateswara Institute of Cancer Care and Advanced Research (SVICCAR), has been moving towards fulfilling its objective of providing access to quality care services to patients and their families closer home.

The institute has taken multiple steps towards this objective since it's conceptualization – day care services in 2020, community outreach for awareness and early detection of cancer, launch of out-patient

and in-patient services earlier this year in May 2022.

The institute achieved a big milestone in August 2022 by initiating onco-surgical services within three months of opening up for patient care services. The first surgery comprised a frozen section which confirmed breast cancer followed by a successful surgical procedure.

The success of the surgery filled the entire team with the confidence to provide access of enhanced services to patients requiring care. The team has since performed around 15 successful surgical procedures.





Day-care services at RCHRC

It is a well-known fact that cancer care in India is concentrated in urban centres, making it inaccessible and unaffordable for most. With the objective of making cancer care more accessible, the Cancer Care Programme has been setting up and upgrading cancer care facilities. State of Jharkhand is no different.

The Cancer Care Programme has been working on multiple projects in Jharkhand. In 2019, capacity was enhanced for Meherbai Tata Memorial Hospital (MTMH), Jamshedpur. Day care operations were initiated at Ranchi Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (RCHRC), Ranchi in September 2022.



The newly commissioned day care is providing medical oncology, radiation oncology and chemotherapy services along with diagnostic services – radiology comprising MRI, CT-Scan, USG, X-ray and mammography and pathology laboratory services. These services are being provided using quality equipment and technology and as per Central Government Health Scheme rates.

Patients and caregivers have already started availing the compassionate care that is being offered at RCHRC. Within a month of initiation, around 300 people have availed radiology, laboratory, medical, chemotherapy and radiation services as per standard treatment protocols.



Access to chemotherapy services at CCCF day care

Usha Rajeshwar Devgade, a resident of Mul near Chandrapur, Maharashtra was feeling unwell for an extended period when she decided to seek medical help. She was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and was referred to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) at Nagpur for treatment in 2020. Unfortunately, her disease relapsed 9 months later. All over again, she started undergoing the treatment. However, the long distance travel, side effects of treatment and associated costs started to take a toll on her and her family, and she stopped taking treatment. Usha's story is the story of many cancer patients in our country.

The Cancer Care Programme is working towards ensuring that cancer patients do not leave treatment mid-way.

Chandrapur Cancer Care Foundation (CCCF), supported by Tata Trusts started day care chemotherapy services at Government Medical College (GMC), Chandrapur in February 2022.

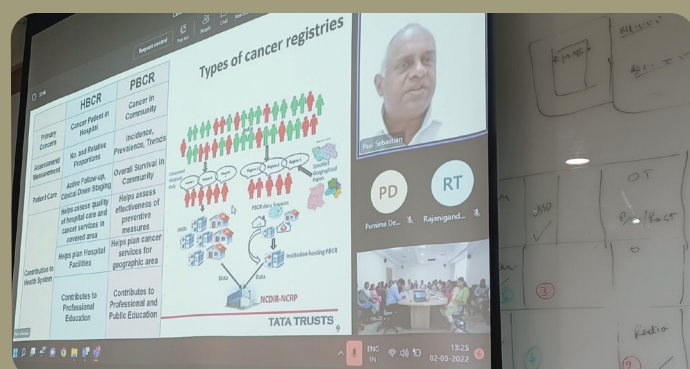


Ms. Devgade got to know about these services. She visited the centre, where she was consulted by the medical team and has been undergoing treatment ever since. Our day care services at GMC, Chandrapur have given Usha a new lease of life. She is at peace because she doesn't have to travel too far and the associated costs are not as high.

Recently, the day care chemotherapy services centre, completed administration of 150 chemotherapy sessions.



Scaling-up for early detection of cancer



The public health teams of the Cancer Care Programme are consistently working towards fulfilling the programme's objective of reversing the early to late detection ratio of the disease by creating awareness about common cancers, conducting cancer screening and training the frontline health workers.

To add impetus to Public Health efforts, it was decided to scale-up the team activities in Jharkhand. The teams comprising dentists, nurses, program coordinators, data manager, data entry operator, program assistant and patient navigator have been hired and trained to expand the screening, awareness and early detection work in Khunti and Saraikela districts of the state.



To ensure that the team is aligned to the programme objectives and making sustained impact, a rigorous training programme was conducted for the team. Topics ranging from overview of cancer, health system, role of public health team in control of oral, breast and cervical cancers, infection control and tobacco consumption control were covered during the training. The teams were given an overview on working of a cancer specialty hospital. The training was followed by field work, assessment sessions and presentations by the new incumbents. Assessment scores of all trainees showcased remarkable improvement vis a vis pre-training assessment scores.

