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Welcome Note

Dear Reader,

We are delighted to bring to you an all new edition of OnChronicle. As the newsletter enters into its fourth year, we thought it would be worthwhile to give it a fresh look and feel and make it more engaging.

In the pages that follow, you will see a more visual story telling approach for our readers.

We achieved two remarkable milestones in the last quarter – Ranchi Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (RCHRC) was inaugurated and Sri Venkateswara Institute of Cancer Care and Advanced Research (SVICCAR) celebrated its first anniversary. We have put up brief excerpts on both the events, do read.

Centre for Oncopathology (COP) is our star institute run by a group of icons in the field of pathology. The group, led by Dr. Anita Borges has been engaged in training pathologists and sharing their experiences with them. Hope you find the note on OTPPGP interesting.

As COP and our hospitals are gaining momentum, the institutes are engaging in multiple initiatives with patient care and early detection of cancer at the heart of their endeavours.

Last, but not the least, we are elated to share that Alamelu Charitable Foundation has been renamed 'Tata Cancer Care Foundation'. The name change has brought us immense pride and accountability to stay committed in our efforts to transform cancer care in India. Our patient navigator’s story reflects exactly that.

Happy reading!
Inauguration of Ranchi Cancer Hospital and Research Centre

On May 12, 2023, Tata Trusts took one more step towards making quality and affordable care accessible for the people of our country. As a part of this commitment, Ranchi Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (RCHRC), a unit of Tata Cancer Care Foundation, was inaugurated by Shri Hemant Soren, Chief Minister, Government of Jharkhand.

Also present at the occasion were, Shri Banna Gupta, Health Minister, Government of Jharkhand; Mr. Noel Tata, Trustee, Tata Trusts, and Vice-Chairman, Tata Steel; Mr. Siddharth Sharma, CEO, Tata Trusts; Mr. T. V. Narendran, MD & CEO, Tata Steel, and other senior representatives of Tata Trusts and Tata Steel alongwith officers of the Government of Jharkhand.

The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of the Trusts for setting up the state of art hospital in the state and called it an important milestone for the people of the state. Talking about the increasing burden of cancer, he highlighted the importance of scaling up cancer care efforts.

The Health Minister dwelt on the importance of strengthening early detection efforts and on making cancer care accessible.
Mr. Noel Tata, said that the hospital is an important milestone for Tata Trusts in their efforts in transforming cancer care in India and making world-class cancer care accessible to patients. He also added that the hospital has been made possible by the efforts of multiple people and is a testament to the spirit of cooperation and collaboration.

Mr. Siddharth Sharma presented the memento to the Chief Minister.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Chanakya Chaudhary, Vice-President Corporate Services, Tata Steel.

Tata Steel, Tata Capital, Voltas, Tata Communications and Exim Bank have partnered with the Trusts in setting up of the RCHRC. Pfizer India, has been contributing towards outreach activities of Tata Cancer Care Foundation.
The team of doctors, nurses and hospital staff came together to share their thoughts on the one-year journey.

A few patients were invited to share their stories on how comprehensive and compassionate care provided at SVICCAR, Tirupati, so have helped them in their treatment journey, without having to travel long distances.

Towards the end of the event, everyone who was part of this historic moment signed the board commemorating the event.

The event was attended online by teams of Ranchi Cancer Hospital and Research Centre and Tata Cancer Care Foundation.
Centre for Oncopathology is changing paradigms in teaching methodologies

In 2020, when most of the world went into lockdown due to the pandemic, the use of technology grew in manifolds and all of us learnt and adapted new ways of functioning.

Most of the Post Graduate colleges were shut for formal conduction of PG teaching. The Post Graduate students were largely deployed in handling samples from COVID-19 patients, in vaccination drives or other COVID related activities.

All physical meetings and conferences were cancelled and a dire need for a substitute modality of teaching without physical contact emerged.

It was during this period, when a group of pathologists from the Centre for Oncopathology and Tata Memorial Hospital collaborated and initiated the Online Training Programme for Post Graduate students in Pathology (OTPPGP).
OTPPGP is a curriculum-based long term pathology learning portal. The programme endeavoured to plug the gaps in the existing PG teaching program. It exposed the PGs to the best teachers and a wide range of teaching material.

Soon thereafter, pathologists in private practice as well as faculty members of medical colleges also started to participate in these sessions. As it gained momentum, global experts in the field, were engaged to share from their experience and practice.

OTPPGP received tremendous response from the medical fraternity and witnessed a participation of over 2000 people per class in multiple sessions.

As the world evolved and overcame COVID-19, OTPPGP also evolved. Even though the students returned to physical classes, there were requests to keep the online programme running.

From lectures and discussions, the programme evolved to workshops, debates, symposia, career planning, journal club discussion.

Presently, the program is in its third year. It is run on a new platform with more focus on PG learning and special emphasis on basic biology and general pathology case illustrations.
Learning and sharing for better treatment outcomes

While the term ‘remain students for a lifetime’ holds true for each individual, for those in the area of disease diagnosis and treatment, it is a life mantra. For this reason, the doctors and members of the medical team at all the units of Tata Cancer Care Foundation regularly engage in scientific programmes.

IMSOS 2023

Doctors from the Centre for Oncopathology, participated in IMSOS 2023. The Annual Conference of the Indian Musculoskeletal Oncology Society (IMSOS) is a prominent national conference in the field of bone and soft tissue tumors attended by leading national and international experts in the field. This is a multidisciplinary meeting of orthopedic onco-surgeons, radiologists, pathologists and medical oncologists who interact on recent updates, challenging cases as well as guidelines in oncology with regard to bone and soft tissue tumours.

Dr. Vinita Pant and Dr. Vivek Parameshwar were invited as faculty at this conference and represented the Centre for Oncopathology. They presented an interesting case each at the Pathology workshop.

Dr. Pant presented an intriguing case of an osteosarcoma whereas Dr. Vivek presented a rare presentation of a classic chondroblastoma.

In addition, Dr. Pant gave a lecture on ‘Reclassifying Round Cell Sarcomas, the Modern Way’ in the main conference. The Centre of Oncopathology was well represented and its participation was well received in the conference.

Mid – JASICON 2023

Dr. Amitesh Anand, Consultant, Surgical Oncologist, RCHRC participated in the mid-term conference by the Jharkhand State Chapter of Association of Surgeons of India (JASICON). Dr. Anand also represented the hospital and Tata Cancer Care Foundation at the Jharkhand Hepato-Biliary Summit. Along with presenting his surgical experience, he also spoke about the work done at RCHRC.
Engaging young adults in cancer control efforts

Tata Cancer Care Foundation initiated a ‘Students Programme’ earlier this year. The objective of the programme is to make young adults aware about cancer, highlight risk factors, treatment options and role of regular cancer screening in early detection of cancer & saving lives.

With this objective, students pursuing Senior Secondary Education or a Undergraduate Degree/ Diploma, are invited for a tour of the hospital.

The students are taken around the hospital, where they are briefed by department specialists on services offered at the hospital.

Showcasing a few students’ groups who visited RCHRC:
Ranchi Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, collaborated with Aarambh Foundation, Ranchi to conduct a cancer awareness and screening camp for the staff of Birsa Munda Airport, Ranchi.

154 employees of the Birsa Munda Airport came forward and got themselves screened for diabetes, hypertension, oral cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer.

The camp received a lot of appreciation as cancer awareness and screening was a novel experience for most of the participants.
SVICCAR awarded on the occasion of World Environment Day

On the occasion of World Environment Day, SVICCAR, Tirupati received an award for implementing sound environment practices at an event organised by Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Vijaywada.

Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) i.e. municipal corporations, Health Care Entities (HCEs) and Industries running their operations in the region were judged on the basis of initiatives taken up by them, on conserving and preserving the environment and reducing the use of plastic.
Anita received a second lease of life

Anita Tambe’s (Name changed to protect) privacy story is a great example of how screening helps in early detection of cancer and timely treatment enables in disease recovery and saves lives.

Earlier this year, she attended a special awareness and screening camp at Sonegaon Health & Wellness Centre (HWC) by the Chandrapur outreach team of Tata Cancer Care Foundation. During the screening process a small lump was discovered in her left breast.

Thanks to the proactive staff nurse at the camp, Anita, was counseled and advised to visit the referral hospital in Chandrapur for further diagnosis. Her details were passed on to Manisha, the Patient Navigator (PN) of the team, who helped Anita navigate through the medical processes, ensuring she received timely treatment and care.

Anita visited the Chandrapur Cancer Care Foundation’s Screening and Awareness Kiosk, ‘Swasth Chandrapur’ at the Government Medical College (GMC), Chandrapur, where she was re-screened by another staff nurse, who suspected the lump to be malignant.

The Patient Navigator, Manisha assisted her with a doctor’s appointment who advised an FNAC test. The test indicated a benign breast disease, and a lumpectomy was recommended. Manisha provided vital counseling to Anita and her family, explaining the procedure and gaining their consent. The lumpectomy was successfully performed and a tissue sample was sent for biopsy. The biopsy report revealed Papillary Carcinoma of her left breast. Upon consultation with the surgeon, a mastectomy was advised.

Yet again, the Patient Navigator counseled and convinced the patient and her family for the surgery. The surgery was successful and currently, Anita is healthy and on a regular follow-up plan.

Anita’s story highlights the importance of consistent follow-up and counselling leading her on the treatment pathway and transforming her life for the better.
Glimpses

World No-Tobacco Day
Glimpses

Nurses’ Day