

3 March 2021

Dear International Network Colleagues

The International Network met in January 2021. Miss Chagla welcomed the group and updated members of the latest news concerning the members of the group. To summarise:

- The IF would be looking for 3 new members to join them (see call for nominations on ABS website for details)
- Lynda Wyld, member of the network, was successfully elected as ABS trustee in the recent trustee elections.
- Mike McKirdy member of the international forum has become president elect of RCPSG
- Leena Chagla was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship by Rotary International for the work of the IF.
- Vidya Raghavan has been appointed the ISTP lead for breast at RCS (England).
- Jane Macaskill has put forward a call for BCNs volunteers on behalf of Medical Aid to volunteer for MDTs with Palestine (See IF section of ABS website)
- Denise Coates, patient from Luton has written a book "Conquering cancer together", proceeds of which will be shared with the IF and the local breast unit. find the book here.
- The needs analysis in Zimbabwe funded by THET has been completed. They were impressed by the quality of the study and the ABS was invited to write a blog in their THET bulletin which is available on our website.

There were 4 excellent talks as follows:

- THET project: Richard Rainsbury, co-chair of the forum, talked about the completed THET project and the submitted report. He also talked about the plans to apply for future THET funding grants
- Experience of the USS course for the non-radiologist: Mr Simon Cawthorn, Bristol, shared his experience of the USS course for the non-radiologist and its usefulness in the developing countries. He is working with Prof Jerome Pereira and his team from UEA to get the course onto an on line platform to make it more easily accessible to all.
- Mr Rajiv Dave, Manchester, talked about introduction of a breast module into the medical student curriculum in Kenyan universities. This is being developed in collaboration with Manchester University and he has asked for volunteers from the group to help with the delivery of the modules.
- Epidemiology of Breast Cancer as a Global Health concern: Our final speaker, Miss Toral Gathani from Oxford, gave an excellent overview of Epidemiology of Breast Cancer as a Global Health concern – interesting to note that tobacco, poor diet, obesity, lack of activity, and alcohol are common factors in all non-communicable



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diseases, including cancer. This was a very important topic considering just this month WHO has confirmed that breast cancer is now the most common cancer globally and has overtaken lung.

Other updates for the Network:

ABS IF along with UEA are offering another free place on their Masters course for sub Saharan Africa. This time we had 25 applicants though only 13 were actually from SSA, the rest were from India, Middle-east, Europe and even Australia!

The successful candidate was Mr Abdulrazzaq Lawal from Nigeria. He will be our third candidate, previous award holders were from Kenya and Zimbabwe. We are hoping to get these candidates to form a support network and help each other spread the knowledge they have acquired on the course to others in Africa, hence our early recipients have been experienced trainers from teaching hospitals in different countries in Africa.

Date of next meeting will be in June/July and the date will be circulated nearer the time.

Look forward to hearing from you and please continue to stay safe.

Best wishes,

Leena Chagla

Honorary Secretary

Co chair, International Forum



These are from Mr Rajiv Dave's collection.