

# CANCER CARE PROVIDER COLLABORATIONS WITH LOW- AND MIDDLE- INCOME COUNTRIES: THE EXPERIENCE FROM THE UK'S TWO LARGEST COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTRES

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## BACKGROUND

The global burden of cancer continues to increase with disproportionately high mortality in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC)<sup>1</sup>. Global oncology is increasingly recognised as a career path and in 2020, the UK Global Cancer Network was founded<sup>2</sup>.

## METHODS

Employees at the Royal Marsden Foundation Trust (RM) and Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) in London and Surrey, UK and The Christie NHS Foundation Trust (Christie), Manchester were invited to complete an online survey via email or internal hospital website. Questions explored the respondents' previous and/or current work and collaborations with LMIC. We also explored interest in future work in the field of global health.

## RESULTS

We received 513 responses across the 2 centres between July-August 2019 (The Christie, n = 242) and November-December 2020 (RM and ICR, n=271). At The Christie, this represents approximately 8% of the workforce of approximately 3200 staff. Our responses were from a multi-disciplinary group of staff, as displayed in Table 1.

At the Christie, 64% of respondents said they would like to hear more about opportunities to support global cancer care.

At RM and ICR, 89% of respondents said they would be interested in joining a collaborative group working on global oncology initiatives.

Fifty-three respondents from The Christie (22%) had experience working overseas. This included 51 different countries that are represented according to region in table 2. Some respondents had experience in more than one country.

Staff Group	Number of people
Nursing staff	131
Doctors	86
Non-Clinical	77
Allied Healthcare Professionals / Clinical Support Workers	72
Administrators	69
Physics/Engineering	28
Pharmacy Staff	25
Scientists	17
Others	8
Total	513

Table 1. Staff group of respondents from The Christie (n=242) and RM / ICR (n = 271).

Conflicts of Interest: None.

## RESULTS CONTINUED

Region	Number of countries	Number of staff experiences working overseas
Sub-Saharan Africa	13	19
Latin America and the Caribbean	5	5
Middle East and North Africa	8	8
Europe and Central Asia	10	13
South Asia	3	14
East Asia and Pacific	10	18
North America	2	6
Total	51	83

Table 2. Number of respondents from The Christie with previous experience working overseas, described according to World Bank region (n=53)

Of the 271 RM and ICR respondents, 34 (13%) reported current collaborations or links with LMICs. 23 respondents stated which individual LMIC this collaboration was with, this is depicted according to world region in figure 1.



Figure 1. Reported links with individual LMICs from n=23 RM/ICR employees.

## CONCLUSION

Our results highlight a body of willing, interested individuals keen to work with colleagues in LMICs to improve cancer outcomes. These data support cancer centres that seek to form and strengthen collaborations with colleagues in LMIC.

## REFERENCES

1. World Cancer Report, International Agency for Research on Cancer, 2020 2. www.ukgcn.org