

# INCTR PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY PROGRAM REPORT 2007 – 2008

AZIZA SHAD, MD  
LOMBARDI COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER  
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL  
WASHINGTON DC

# Pediatric Oncology Program

- The last 20 months were very productive for the INCTR Pediatric Oncology Program
- We participated in several International oncology meetings and workshops, some of which we helped organize with other international agencies and groups.
- Efforts were concentrated on Supportive Care, Solid Tumors and Pediatric Palliative Care.
- Training and education in general pediatric oncology were also incorporated into these workshops and meetings.

# Pediatric Oncology Program

- 1<sup>st</sup> INCTR Pediatric Oncology Strategy Group Meeting  
Brussels November 2008
- Purpose: discuss future INCTR initiatives in pediatric oncology.
- Participants: Pediatric oncologists from Brazil, Mexico, Nigeria, Tanzania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Turkey, Jordan, India, Pakistan and USA

# Pediatric Oncology Strategy Group

- All participants expressed a desire to work on areas of common interest
  - Nasopharyngeal carcinoma
  - Wilms tumor
  - Supportive care
  - Retinoblastoma
  - Osteosarcoma?
  - AIDS associated malignancies?

# Pediatric Oncology Workshops

- Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma
- Wilms Tumor
- Supportive Care
- Bone Tumors
- Palliative Care



# Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma

- Presentation of epidemiological and clinical data on NPC
- Discussion on potential collaborative projects
- Agreement to work collectively on a questionnaire
  - Identifying factors contributing to delay in diagnosis and treatment
  - Genetic epidemiology of NPC
- There is very little information on NPC in developing countries – especially in children

# The INCTR Study of Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma (NPC)

- Proposed Study:
  - Part I. Determinants of Late Diagnosis and Presentation in NPC
  - Part II. Consanguinity and Familial History in NPC
- Special thanks to Marilys Corbex and Melissa Adde for putting together the revised proposal, questionnaires and data forms for the study

# The INCTR Study of Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma (NPC)

- Collaborating institutions from Brazil, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, India, Pakistan, and Malaysia have already agreed to participate
- Collaborating institutions in Nigeria, Tanzania, Vietnam and the Philippines will also be approached
- Dr Iyad Sultan from Jordan will be the Clinical coordinator of this study
- Details of the study will be presented at the 'Meet the Experts' session on 24<sup>th</sup> March



# Wilms Tumor Workshop

- Participants:
  - Pediatric oncologists from Brazil, Mexico, Nigeria, Tanzania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Turkey, Jordan, India, Pakistan and USA
  - INCTR
- Outline of a treatment protocol for metastatic and non-metastatic Wilms tumor was discussed
- Dr Sameer Bakshi has incorporated all the recommendations into an INCTR Wilms Tumor Study
- Details of the study will be presented at the 'Meet the Experts' session on 24<sup>th</sup> March

# Supportive Care Workshops

- INCTR Focused Workshop on Cancer Control
  - Ocean Road Cancer Institute, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, July 2007
  - Supportive Care Manual
  - Transfusion Medicine
- 2 day Focused Supportive Care Workshop
  - Brussels November 2008
  - Participants: INCTR Strategy Group
  - Purpose: Continue the work on the Supportive Care Manual for developing countries

# Supportive Care Manual

- Essential guidelines for the management of common complications related to cancer treatment
- Special attention to the problems encountered in different developing countries
  - Helminthic infections, malnutrition and co-existent HIV infection, psychosocial issues
- Section on Transfusion Medicine
- Section on Palliative Care - from the INCTR Palliative Care Manual
- 3 topics covered in the manual will be open for discussion at the 'Meet the Experts' session on 23<sup>th</sup> March

# Palliative Care Workshops

- Training and education in Palliative Care continues to remain an important part of the INCTR Pediatric Oncology Program.
- We continue to work successfully with our partners in palliative care - MECC and APPNA.
- The Palliative Care Handbook has been endorsed by MECC and APPNA.

# MECC and INCTR

- Larnaca, Cyprus      June 2007
  - Workshop on 'Stress and Burnout in Oncology Caregivers'
- Larnaca, Cyprus      May 2008
  - Workshop on 'Difficult Decisions and Choices'
- Participants:
  - Physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains from Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Turkey, Cyprus, Egypt, USA
- INCTR Palliative Care Manual given to all participants

## MECC and INCTR

- International Art Exhibition of artwork collected from children with cancer from MECC countries
  - A collaborative effort between the Art therapy program at Georgetown, Tracy's Kids and MECC countries
  - Tracy Council was an INCTR representative at the 2008 MECC meeting

# INCTR and APPNA

- Alliance established in June 2007
- Collaborative activities to promote palliative care in Pakistan
  - Training workshops held in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad
  - Health Ministry lobbied for release of morphine

# INCTR and SIOP

- Muscat, Oman February 2008
- SIOP Asia meeting
- INCTR special symposium “ Pediatric Palliative Care in Developing Countries: Problems and Solutions”
  - INCTR Faculty from USA, Canada and India
  - Funding: OIA, NCI
  - 100 participants

# Bone Tumor Workshop

- Lahore, Pakistan      February 2009
- SKMCC Annual meeting
- INCTR special symposium “ Bone Tumors in Developing Countries”
  - INCTR Faculty funded by OIA, NCI
  - Participants included pediatric and adult oncologists, orthopedic surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, rehab medicine, psychologists

# Fellowship Program

- Pediatric Oncology Visiting Fellowship
- King Hussain Cancer Center, Jordan and Lombardi Cancer Center, USA
- 4 month program at Lombardi
  - Rotations in molecular diagnostics, cytogenetics, pathology, transfusion medicine, radiation oncology, hematology and oncology clinic
  - Active participation in all educational activities, including presentations at Tumor Board
  - 6 senior fellows from KHCC at Lombardi 2005 - 2008

## Collaboration with other Oncology Groups

### Texas Children's Cancer Center:

- Pediatric oncologists – Dr Margolin, Dr Mehta and Dr Murali participated in INCTR activities in 2008.
- INCTR Pediatric Strategy Group Meeting
- Supportive Care Manual

# Collaboration with other Oncology Groups

## MECC

- MECC Steering Committee meeting in May 2009
  - Curriculum for formal training in Palliative Care will be finalized
  - Input from members of INCTR PAX Program

# Collaboration with other Oncology Groups

## SIOP

- Berlin                      September 2008
- Annual SIOP Meeting – PODC Symposium
- INCTR Special session:
  - Structuring a Pediatric Oncology Unit in a Developing Country
  - Training of Pediatric Oncologists in Developing Countries
- Funding:                      OIA, NCI.

# Collaboration with other Oncology Groups

## APPNA

- Introduction of Palliative care in medical school curriculum
- Met jointly with Deans of Medical Universities in Karachi and Lahore
- Establish palliative care units in cancer centers

# Collaboration with other Oncology Groups

## Lance Armstrong Foundation

- INCTR is now represented on the Lance Armstrong Foundation International Advisory Board
- The foundation is initiating a major awareness cancer campaign in several African, latin American and European countries

# Collaboration with other Oncology Groups

## UICC – „My Child Matters‘

- INCTR will serve as the mentor to two programs in Pakistan that received grants from the UICC
  - Pediatric palliative care: Dr Agha Shabbir, Lahore
  - Training in Pediatric Oncology in rural areas: Dr Shamvil Ashraf, Karachi

# Invited Meetings

- INCTR faculty was invited to participate in several international meetings and Grand Rounds in 2008:
- SIOP Asia, Muscat, Oman.
- Penn State University, McKeesport, PA.
- MECC, Larnaca, Cyprus
- APPNA, Washington DC.
- SIOP, Berlin, Germany.
- POB, NCI, Bethesda, MD
- Netherlands Embassy Seminar, Washington, DC
- SKMCC Annual meeting, Lahore, Pakistan

# Future Plans

- Continue ongoing training programs
- Palliative Care Initiative
  - MECC, APPNA
- Supportive Care Manual
- Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma Study
- Wilms Tumor treatment protocol
- Collaboration with SIOP
  - Establish guidelines for different levels of Pediatric Oncology Units in Developing Countries
  - Certification of these units?