Providing Physicians and Healthcare givers from Developing Countries with the tools they need to win the Global War on Breast Cancer
Dear Colleagues, Sponsors, Partners, Fellow Philanthropists,

Thank you for taking an interest in our great cause.

WHO WE ARE

The National Consortium of Breast Centers (NCBC) is a not-for profit association of over a thousand physicians and allied health care experts devoted to breast cancer prevention, detection, treatment and patient support. The NCBC is proud of its 28-year history of promoting the best multi-disciplinary breast cancer care that has resulted in a significant decrease in breast cancer mortality in North America.

The NCBC has now answered an urgent call from the World Health Organization and the International Prevention Research Institute to use its combined expertise and accumulated experience to also help fight breast cancer on the global stage, specifically in developing countries beyond our borders where breast cancer mortality continues to rise at a rapid rate.

WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

The NCBC’s mission now includes providing international breast health care givers from developing countries with a unique opportunity to acquire the tools and training they need in their respective countries. Within the first two years, the program has already recruited 53 Delegates from 45 countries. Those Delegates from developing countries are eligible to compete for the available funding required to complete their breast cancer education and training by participating both in the Annual 5-day NCBC Breast Cancer Conference along with the 1-month long Mini- Fellowship Program offered in one of the over 500 NCBC’s affiliated North American Breast Centers. On the other hand, Delegates from developed countries are not eligible for funding but have a mandate to provide solutions, including offering training opportunities and exporting requested expertise and technology to those Delegates from developing countries who will in turn ensure that these projects result in significant benefits for their patients.

ENSURING RESPONSIBLE PHILANTHROPY

The NCBC ensures responsible philanthropy and the biggest impact per funds raised. Conference fees, training and education are all provided pro-bono by the NCBC expert hosts, while airfare, housing and board are firmly negotiated with local suppliers to keep the total costs for each funded Delegate to a minimum. Current average costs for both the Conference and the Mini-Fellowship are only $7,500 U.S. In addition, the NCBC’s Global Network fosters optimal personal interaction between all Delegates to explore, assess and export information, technology and education specific to international projects and insures responsible oversight of implementation. This additional quality-control procedure will ensure that all funds are used only to improve access to best breast care in participating countries.

WHY NOW?

We urgently need the help of past, present and future donors, to accumulate the required funding for each future year. Early funding is essential to award and prepare each of the eligible Delegates from developing countries who submitted specific solutions to overcome obstacles to breast care. The NCBC’s International Delegate Program already has a long list of interested Delegates from close to 50 countries, such as Samoa, India, Haiti, Nigeria, Burundi, Senegal, and Kosovo waiting to benefit from our program.

FUNDING REQUESTS

Support from Individuals, Associations, Foundations, Industry, etc., that could include:

A: Funding in full of an eligible Delegate, even one from a specific country, to attend the Annual Comprehensive NCBC Cancer Conference and the Mini-Fellowship. In this case the Delegate will be identified as sponsored by funding entity.

B: Funding of an eligible Delegate, even one from a specific country, to attend either the Annual Comprehensive NCBC Cancer Conference or the Mini-Fellowship. In this case the Delegate will be identified as sponsored by funding entities.

C: Any funding provided to the International Delegate Program to support its educational and training activities and technology to improve breast care in developing countries.

The NCBC, with the help of our members and partners like you, will continue to press on with our mission and this daunting task. All sponsorship and donations of any amount to the International Delegate Program will be appreciated and a tax deduction form will be emitted.

Best Regards,

Dr. John R. Keyserlingk
Surgical Oncologist & Chair International Liaison Committee - NCBC

Dr. Jennifer Gass
Surgical Oncologist & President - NCBC

Kimberly Samuels-Bolin
Executive Director – NCBC

*International Liaison Committee
Dr. John Keyserlingk, Dr. Yuri Parsky, Dr. Ernie Bodai, Dr. Sangeeta Sandhu, Dr. Michael Thirlwell, Dr. Kevin Pope, Jill Schultz, MBA, Dr. Terek Hijal, Dr. Mauricio Costa, Colleen Sullivan-McAuley, RN, Dr. Atilla Soran
Our core idea is to **promote awareness** and provide **feasible solutions** to global breast care challenges.

The NCBC is taking action and we need your help!

With your help, the NCBC International Delegate Program can continue to build an **Efficient Global Network of International Delegates** who are all involved with optimizing breast cancer in their respective countries. We currently have over 80 designated from nearly 50 countries and another 20 countries with a designated Delegate. These Delegates from developed countries are offering much-needed training, support and technology to their International Delegate colleagues from developing countries, who in turn will use their newly acquired expertise to urgently provide their patients with the dignified access to breast cancer care they deserve. Within its first two years, this new program has already provided educational and training opportunities for 12 International Delegates from developing countries to help them wage their respective wars against breast cancer.
Dr. Zahid Al-Mandhari took over the Division of Breast Radiotherapy at the Royal Hospital in Muscat after completing his Radiation Oncology training in Canada. He is actively involved with initiating a major breast cancer screening program for Oman. In accepting to serve as the Omani NCBC International Delegate, Dr. Al Mandhari stated: “It would be an honour to join the NCBC with its noble aims. I am sure it will be most beneficial for our breast cancer patients. It will also be an eye opener on different challenges the various countries are facing, and an opportunity to share the innovative ideas to try and tackle these challenges.”

Dr. Deborah Pfeiffer, MD, FASBP is a breast physician, Secretary of the Australasian Society of Breast Physicians and Medical Director of the public Breast Screen Queensland Sunshine Coast Service. This service screens over 30,000 women a year at six permanent sites, plus one mobile van. It performs over 2,000 diagnostic assessments per year with digital mammography, ultrasound and percutaneous biopsy within a multidisciplinary team environment comprising breast physicians, radiologists, surgeons, pathologists, radiographers, sonographers, and nurse counselors. Women diagnosed with breast cancer are referred externally for definitive treatment.

Dr. Elvis Ahmedi became a member of the NCBC and was a 2014 International Delegate from Kosovo. As a surgical oncologist, he has extensive interest in breast cancer management, including oncoplastic surgery. He is a founding Member of the Balkans Breast Cancer Initiative, a Coordinator of the Mammography Teaching and the Donation Project to Kosovo and Honorary Member of H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, and a leader in initiating breast cancer screening in his country. He is currently the Kosovo State Coordinator on Cancer Control and Head of Kosovo National Board for Cancer Control. Dr. Ahmedi stated: “I would be honoured to become an NCBC International Delegate from Kosovo. Information exchange is crucial in promoting best breast care, especially in resource-limited countries such as Kosovo.”

Dr. Hilda Fernandes (Left) is Professor and Head of Pathology, and Dr. Clement R S D’Souza (right) is a Professor of Surgery at the Fr Muller Medical College in Mangalore, a major Medical School complex in India. Dr. Fernandes has a particular interest in Breast histopathology and immunohistochemistry and has extensively published on the importance of Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology which she introduced into her clinical setting. Dr. D’Souza is actively involved in breast cancer care for the last 20 years, including post-graduate training, particularly in onco-surgical techniques and breast cancer comprehensive management. Both are involved with setting up breast health awareness camps in rural Indian communities to promote early detection.

Dr. Hannah Simonds has been both a clinical and radiation oncologist at the Groote Schuur hospital, and part of the faculty of the University of Cape Town. Involved with breast cancer detection, treatment and management, she is particularly interested in providing input regarding breast care policies for South Africa. These include finding reasonable and pertinent adjuvant breast cancer treatment taking into consideration costs, limited resources and variable rural traditions. Hannah is now taking over a new 1-2 year breast oncology mandate in Ghana. She will provide our NCBC membership with an “in the trenches” view of African Breast Care in both countries.

Dr. Kausik Chatterjee completed his residency in Nuclear Medicine at the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, and then moved to Central India where he introduced Radioisotope Mammography and runs the only PET-CT unit in the entire area serving over 15 million people. He has been advocating usage of the gamma probe for sentinel lymph node detection in breast cancer and has applied for Government funds to buy the necessary instrument for his Oncology department. When offered to become an NCBC International Delegate he replied: “Thank you very much for offering me the complimentary membership on the National Consortium of Breast Cancer in North America, and accepting me in the advisory role. I feel deeply honored. I believe that the NCBC financial support would be of immense help for your overseas members who look forward to both share their experience as well as learn from the very esteemed members of your organization. I can speak of myself that I would very much appreciate an opportunity to attend the annual conference and Mini-Fellowship and share my experience. I look forward to gaining experience with your oncology protocols for different cancer patients, and have some hands-on training with the experts in Nuclear Medicine and PET-CT.”
positive impact of the International Delegate Program’s North American training opportunities have had on some of our sponsored Delegates from developing countries.

**Nigeria** (Issac Alatise, Surgical Oncologist)

“During my NCBC Mini-Fellowship under Dr. Gass and her team, I participated actively in the medical and surgical breast clinics and operating theatre at the Women and Infants hospital in Providence, Rhode Island... this hands-on experience will help me establish a dedicated breast fellowship in Nigeria... as a trainer at one of the leading centres in Nigeria, I will make sure this new information will be integrated into our training program... my patients will have a well-informed doctor to treat them, and my students a better informed teacher to teach them.”

**Haiti** (Bette Gabbrien, Oncology Nurse)

“...it is not enough to express my heartfelt appreciation for the personal and financial support that made possible my participation in the annual NCBC Breast Cancer Conference as an International Delegate... shared experiences by learning from the Delegates from other countries provided new insights into the programs and solutions to international problems regarding access, medical training and palliative care... the burden of cancer is shifting from the First World to the Third World... by the end of the conference, practitioners in surgical centers, outpatient clinics, university settings, hospital breast Centers were already offering their collaboration in Haiti itself... offers were forthcoming for CBE training, ultrasound technology and imaging training came rolling in... we do not have a national breast health program... It is time to expand services, engage national and visiting professionals to improve education, screening, diagnostics, surgery and treatment... I have no doubt that my project for a new breast center in Haiti will come to pass with the help of the NCBC International Delegate Program, and all those who I met at the Conference...”

**South Africa** (Carol-Ann Benn, Surgical Oncologist)

“I would like to thank the NCBC for the privilege of being accepted for their International Delegate program... the content, networking opportunities and academic standards of the Annual NCBC Breast Cancer Conference were exceptional... It has been a dream to set up a formal navigation program for patients in South Africa. By receiving this award, I was able to sponsor a qualified nursing sister to attend the conference, as well as the post-conference clinical navigation program. She has passed the exam and now is the only formally qualified navigator in South Africa... this allows us the opportunity to run navigator courses and train other navigators... this meeting was pivotal in allowing like-minded specialists to set up a network of clinicians who can communicate about the problems faced and possible solutions for breast cancer in Africa, as well as look at collaborative research between different countries... I have returned inspired, humbled and determined to continue the work in South Africa and Africa for better patient care.”

**United Arab Emirates** (Mohammed Bashir, Surgical Oncologist)

“...there is no doubt that your conference helped me to lead our own breast center through the accreditation process... we have recently invited the NCBC experts to come to our Center to develop our survivorship program.”

**China** (Ying Zhang, Medical Oncologist)

“Having attended the NCBC conference as an International Delegate, and having learned of the disparity in breast cancer care between China and North America, I would like to do my best to improve the care of women with breast cancer in China... starting by introducing a Navigator education program based on what I learned at your conference... I thank the NCBC for having broadened my knowledge of breast cancer care... I will bring this knowledge to my Chinese colleagues and look forward to further collaboration with the NCBC International Delegate Program.”

**Colombia** (Jose Caicedo, Surgical Oncologist)

“As president of the Federación Latinoamericana de Mastología, it was a great experience and a great opportunity, not only to participate in the wonderful interdisciplinary sessions on breast cancer diagnosis and treatment with a great Faculty, but also having the chance to share opinions with them... as breast cancer is the first cause in mortality in Colombia, it was very important to me to learn from the other International Delegates that there are many different obstacles to adequate breast care in different parts of the world... but at the end, there is always a way to do things better locally in each location with your help and advice... I congratulate the NCBC for this initiative... you have to continue with the International Delegate program so that many other international colleagues can take back to their own countries this wonderful experience for the benefit of their breast cancer patients.”

**Turkey** (Burçak Karaca, Medical Oncologist)

“It was such a great experience for me to meet so many colleagues at the NCBC annual Conference, many of whom I will be collaborating with in the future... far beyond what I could imagine by the help of this wonderful organisation... all of my colleagues at home were very happy to hear that I was able to present our own data from Turkey at a North American Conference. We will push for a screening program and will talk with the Governor of İzmir about this project to get his support... I believe that this international collaboration is very important...”

**India** (Kausik Chaterjee, Radiation Oncologist)

“It was a great pleasure to participate, as part of the NCBC International Delegate Program, in the NCBC Annual Breast Cancer Conference and a Mini-Fellowship at the Ville Marie Breast & Oncology Center in Montreal. I got the opportunity to work with Dr. Keyserlingk and his interdisciplinary team of medical, radiation and surgical oncologists, pathologists, and radiologists to get a first-hand experience and hands-on training in patient examination, screening, counselling and investigations, including interpreting mammography, ultrasound and MRI findings, and image-guided biopsies, surgeries and patient follow-up. Attending both the Conference and a one-month Mini-Fellowship have immensely boosted my confidence to train our social workers and nurses regarding patient navigation so we can gradually implement international quality breast cancer care to the needy and poor patients of remote areas of India. I would like to express my gratitude for giving me this opportunity.”

**Senegal** (Sidy Ka, Surgical Oncologist)

“As the General Secretary of Senegalese Breast Cancer Study Group, and a breast surgeon in a teaching hospital, I am now more able to teach at a clinical and performing level. Evaluation and accreditation of breast centers and breast care practice is necessary for best performance. During the Mini-Fellowship tutored by Dr. Kevin Pope and his team at the Breast Center of Northwest Arkansas in Fayetteville, I met many physicians and they all share one preoccupation which is how to do better for patients with breast cancer. People in Senegal really need their physicians to also work in a multidisciplinary center to save more lives... I will particularly work to implement the notion of a nurse navigator and will address the Senegalese Breast Cancer Study Group to talk about my experience as an International NCBC Mini-Fellow, its program and what I learned about it.”
The “State of Oncology 2013” report by the International Prevention Research Institute (IPRI), warns that the global number of new cancer cases WILL HAVE DOUBLED BETWEEN 2008 AND 2030.

The vast majority of these increased cases are coming from low and middle-income countries which would have been victims of absent, or delayed access to breast cancer care. The IPRI report emphasizes that improving access to better breast cancer management in developing countries will be a daunting task. This endeavor will require, in addition to major funding and funding from supportive individual donors, committed partnerships among medical organizations, foundations, pharmaceutical and technology companies.

The NCBC International Liaison Committee has been mandated to ensure that ALL donated funds are both exclusively and cost-consciously used to cover the Program’s travel and room & board expenses. Thus the average cost of the combined Conference/Mini-Fellowship per Delegate is only $7.5 K per designated Delegate, a small amount when considering the immediate impact on improving breast care in these countries. The Program is also collecting funds for specific imaging and diagnostic technologies that can be of great importance for Delegates to provide best care.

Collaboration is Happening

The NCBC is collaborating with other International Associations such as the “Federation of Latin American Mastology” to achieve the best possible outcomes by bringing all breast health professionals together to improve quality of care. Breast Centers all over the world are struggling with how to implement quality metrics, patient navigation, genetic services, and survivorship programs. Sharing the acquired NCBC expertise in these areas across the world constitutes a major solution to national and global breast care challenges.

NCBC Mini-Fellowships in 2015 provided the International Delegates from India, Senegal and Nigeria with the hands-on training they require to optimize their breast cancer care at home.

Attending the Annual NCBC Breast Cancer Conference provides the International Delegates with an excellent educational opportunity.

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The NCBC is committed to responsible philanthropy

Health care providers from underserved countries and their patients need your help NOW!

If you are in any way involved with breast cancer care, are a breast cancer patient, or just well informed and empathetic, you already know how breast cancer can affect patients and their families even in developed countries...then multiply the devastation 10-fold in developing countries where it is now ravaging entire populations, so many of them young patients with young families, who present with such delayed detection and advanced tumours that they would require palliative care that does not exist.

Attending the annual NCBC comprehensive 5-day Breast Cancer Conference and a one-month Mini-Fellowship will provide the educational and training tools that our Delegates from developing countries urgently need to help their patients win their war on breast cancer.

As our list of Delegates waiting for the required training grows, so does the global breast cancer epidemic. We need to train as many Delegate-Soldiers as possible, and as quick as possible to ensure that our sisters from less fortunate countries finally also have access to dignified breast cancer care.

Donate today and be able to say, “I know what happened to my donation dollars.”

While any amount will be most appreciated, the following funding options are proposed:

$7,500 to sponsor an International Delegate from a developing country to attend both the NCBC Annual 5-day Breast Cancer Conference in the USA, preceded by a one-month Mini-Fellowship at one of the participating NCBC Breast Centers. The sponsor may choose a specific country and/or Delegate who will be identified by the sponsor’s name. Please indicate details at online funding site.

$5,000 to sponsor an International Delegate from a developing country to attend a one-month Mini-Fellowship at one of the participating NCBC Breast Centers. The sponsor may choose a specific country and/or Delegate, who will be identified by the sponsor’s name. Please indicate details at online funding site.

$2,500 to sponsor an International Delegate from a developing country to attend the NCBC Annual 5-day Breast Cancer Conference in the USA. The sponsor may choose a specific country and/or Delegate, who will be identified by the sponsor’s name. Please indicate details at online funding site.

$500 to fund room and board for a Delegate from a developing country to attend the NCBC Annual 5-day Breast Cancer Conference in the USA.

$________ to help the International Delegate Program to provide educational and training opportunities, and/or technology to help our International Delegates to provide dignified breast cancer care for their patients.

Tax deductible forms will be provided for any contribution.

Payment may be made online at www2.breastcare.org/donation