



Working Together: Uniting the voices for Equitable Cancer Care



Network India

ORGANIZED BY **VOTH** VOICE OF HEALTHCARE

Working Together :
Uniting the Voices for Equitable Cancer Care

POWERED BY **zydus** Dedicated To Life

Dr. Ankur Bahl
SENIOR DIRECTOR
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY,
Fortis Memorial
Research Institute, Gurugram

Dr. Nitesh Rohatgi
SENIOR DIRECTOR
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY,
Fortis Memorial
Research Institute, Gurugram

Dr. K Madan Gopal
SENIOR CONSULTANT HEALTH,
Niti Aayog

Dr. Somnath Singh
Moderator
LEAD - Centre of Excellence
for Governance,
Ethics and Transparency at
UN Global Compact Network- India -

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4th Feb 2023 | **03:00pm - 04:00pm**

SUPPORTED BY **UN GLOBAL COMPACT** Network India

Executive summary

The 2023 theme for World Cancer Day was ‘Close the Care Gap” and the call to unite our voices and take action. It is a day to promote awareness on cancer as a public health issue and to strengthen actions towards improving access to quality care, screening, early detection, treatment and palliative care. According to WHO report, almost 734 000 individuals are diagnosed with cancer every year and in 2040 it is predicted that the number of people being diagnosed will be about 50% higher.

Studies say that in India, 1 in every 9 people are likely to develop cancer in their lifetimes. Therefore, awareness and early detection is extremely important to curb the criticality of the issue at maximum extent. With this in mind, United Nations Global Compact Network India conducted an online discussion forum on ‘Working Together: Uniting the voices for Equitable Cancer Care’, organized by Voice of Healthcare and powered by Zydus: Dedicated to Life.

Eminent Speakers

1. Dr. Somnath Singh, Deputy Director, UN Global Compact Network, India (UN GCNI).
2. Dr. K Madan Gopal- Senior Consultant Health, Niti Ayog
3. Dr. Nitesh Rohatgi- Senior Director Medical Oncology, Fortis Memorial Research Institute.
4. Dr. Ankur Bahl- Senior Director Medical Oncology, Fortis Memorial Research Institute.

Aim

To bring together voices from various sectors for discussion on the importance of collaboration and equitable access to cancer care for all.

Topics discussed

- **Disparity of cancer care among patients:** Disparity lies in both private-public care and rural-urban care. However, the biggest disparity is the disparity of accessibility.
- **Latest innovation in cancer diagnosis:** Diagnosis has gone beyond traditional biopsies. Today's diagnosis is extremely precise. Liquid diagnosis is one such tool that detects tumor DNAs and relapses through a blood sample for better and faster analysis, which has been a great advancement in the medical world of today.
- **Means of increasing accessibility in rural India:** The decision makers and health organizations to invest in research and data management to ensure early detection, early treatment, timely tests, innovations, command centers, decentralization of care and centralization of skills.
- **Disparity between the Southern and Northern India's approach towards cancer care:** Biggest problem has been deemed to be psychological. The mindset of the northern doctors is highly competitive. While, South has created a collaborative and informative approach. There is need for cross learning platform.
- **Government initiatives in the rural healthcare sector-** Inefficient number of health professionals /workers placement/recruitment.

- **Role of Collective Action to strengthen healthcare and mitigate corruption challenges:** The Government, Public & Private sector's health organizations, Corporates and Civil Society Organizations need to work collectively to fight corruption in healthcare sector. Focused interventions are required.

Key takeaways

- Regular cancer screening is important to incur early diagnosis and thereby earlier treatment with less cost. The delayed response ensures greater criticality and invariably leads to unwanted expenses in healthcare sector.
- The future technology of digital pathology and artificial intelligence will lead to precision oncology and a culmination of both will take the medical advancement to a great level of heights.
- Potential sectors need to come out with a roadmap for strengthening transparency and ethical business practices in healthcare ecosystem.

Recommendations

- Innovations have stopped in National Cancer Control Program since 2005. On paper and implementation progress lags immensely.
- Incorporate cancer as a 20th subject in medical academics. It should be a big subject, rather than a chapter in every organization.
- People who are screening must get a tax reduction by the government.
- Use fear as a powerful tool to act efficiently and in the right manner to get to the right doctor for right treatment and diagnosis.
- Knowledge of cancer should be disseminated among people for immediate consultation.
- Unity among oncologist doctors for knowledge sharing and faster decision making is important.

- Say no to smoking as tobacco causes cancer and first detect to protect.
- Raise awareness. Build capabilities and practice transparency to root out corruption from healthcare sector.

About UN Global Compact Network India

UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI), founded in 2000 and registered as not – for - profit society in 2003, has been acting as Indian Local Network of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), New York, and providing a robust platform for Indian businesses, academic institutions and Civil society organizations for strengthening responsible, transparent and ethical business practices across the sectors.

As a sole Indian arm of the UNGC, UN Global Compact Network India, with active engagement of its over 500 members and potential stakeholders from across the sectors (Businesses/Corporate, PSU, CSO, Academia etc.) has been implementing UN Ten Principles (Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other sister initiatives of UNGC.