

## **International Workshop on Cancer Registration Methods hosted by the Malawi Cancer Registry Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 to Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2012**

### **Introduction:**

9-13<sup>th</sup> July, the Malawi Cancer Registry (MCR) hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> AFCRN International Training Workshop 2012 on '[Cancer Registration Methods](#)'. The workshop was held at the College of Medicine, University of Malawi, Blantyre. The targeted audiences were experienced cancer registry staff from various African countries. The objectives of the course were to review methods and problems that cancer registry staff encounter; train the staff in extracting and recording details of stage (breast and cervix cancers), following up of patients, and determining and recording vital status. Additional training on CANREG-5 software was also undertaken. There were 14 participants, from the following registries: Malawi (3), Nigeria (3), Kenya (2), South Africa (2), Ghana (2), Zimbabwe (1), and Mauritius (1).

### **Traditional course skills:**

Specific skills taught included basic knowledge of the biology of cancer (staging and mode of spread of the disease, basics on cancer treatment and palliative care). The teaching also covered aspects of cancer registration methodology including the principles of registration, case finding, data abstraction, coding, record linkage and data entry. Principles of record linkages as well as definition of "multiple primary" cancers were also adequately covered. For this experienced team of staff, a review of methods of follow up and principles of survival analysis was also done. Other materials included data usage (measures of disease frequency, concepts of population at risk, incidence rates, standardization for age and measurement of survival). The participants were also taught on how to present data, tables and graphics, and produce an annual report. There was also a practical component on the use of cancer registry software, including installation, customization and use of the CANREG-5 software.

### **New skills:**

The new skills included: abstracting stage from clinical data in the medical record, coding of site (topography), morphology, behaviour, and basis of diagnosis according to ICD-O. Coding date of diagnosis and date of last follow up according to international rules was also covered. With regard to the CANREG-5 software, new skills were imparted on migration, tailoring, data entry, quality control, exporting and analysis.

### **Anticipated impact:**

In the immediate term, the trainees are expected to show competence in the various exercises that comprise part of the course material, including the practical exercises on the computer, using the CANREG software.

On return to their respective registries, the expected benefits are:

- Improved case finding and accurate coding
- An ability to abstract stage of disease for breast and cervix cancer cases from the medical record, more efficient data management
- A higher proportion of cases successfully followed up

- Better reporting of results (improvement in quality of reports)
- Improvement in job satisfaction and professional standing

**Organizing team and sponsors:**

The international host for the course was Dr Donald Maxwell Parkin, coordinator of the African Cancer Registry Network, Oxford, UK. The local host was Dr Charles Dzamalala, Director of the MCR, and his staff. Other course faculty members were Dr. Elisabete Weiderpass from the Cancer Registry of Norway and Karolinska, Institutet Sweden, Mr Morten Ervik from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Mr Eric Chokunonga from the Zimbabwe CR, Miss Cecile Ingabire from the Rwanda CR, Dr Elima Jedy-Agba from Institute of Human Virology, Nigeria. The course was sponsored by the AFCRN/INCTR, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF), GlaxoSmithkline Beecham (GSK) and the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).

On 13<sup>th</sup> July, participants finished the final practice of the use of CanReg5, followed by the ceremony of the certificates award and the celebration for the success of the course.

The Malawi Cancer Registry is grateful to all those who played a role in making this first AFCRN course a memorable one. Group photograph of faculty staff and participants:



**List of trainees:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>
Dr Dennis Odai Laryea	Specialist Public Health Physician	Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital	Ghana
Dr Iman Martin	Fogarty Global Health Fellow	Komfo Anokye Hospital	Ghana
Ms Gladys C. Chesumbai	Registrar	Eldoret Cancer Registry	Kenya
Mr Abdirahman Hussein Mohamed	Cancer Registrar	Kenya Medical Research Institute	Kenya
Mr Rechad Eddoo	Principal Medical Lab. Technician, Histopathology	National Cancer Registry of Mauritius	Mauritius
Mrs Lesley T. Banda	Veteran Registrar	Malawi Cancer Registry	Malawi
Ms Mada Chirwa	Assistant Registrar	Malawi Cancer Registry	Malawi
Mrs Dumisile Huwa-Kandoje	Registrar	Malawi Cancer Registry	Malawi
Ms Gloria Osubor	Abuja Cancer Registrar	Abuja Cancer Registry, National Hospital, Abuja	Nigeria
Mr Charles Ugiaweh Oamen	Cancer Registrar	U.B.T.H. Cancer Registry	Nigeria
Ms Fabowale, A. Oluwatoyin	Cancer Registrar	Ibadan Cancer Registry University College Hospital Ibadan	Nigeria
Dr Elvira Singh	Public Health Medicine Specialist	National Cancer Registry	South Africa
Miss Nomfuneko Sithole	Registrar	PROMECC Cancer Registry	South Africa
Miss Romalda Chireshe	Health Information Assistant	Zimbabwe Cancer Registry	Zimbabwe