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Global Colon Cancer Association’s 2023 CRC Health Equity Grants Awardees Announced


Background
The GCCA CRC Health Equity Grants program seeks to provide financial assistance to fill specific unmet needs in underserved communities around the world. Priority is given to members in low-and middle-income countries (LMIC) that build an evidence-based impact, design and test solutions, or interventions. Other examples of funded projects may include—but are not limited to—exploring local needs, validating feasibility of activities, and testing initial ideas. Areas of focus include equity driven screening programs, educational opportunities, patient support, and policy initiatives to increase equitable access to screening, testing, and treatment. In 2023, GCCA received grant applications from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. After extensive review, GCCA has selected 10 grant awardees whose projects work towards health equity in their respective communities.

"It is an honor for GCCA to support advocates and organizations already positively impacting their communities,” said Candace Henley, GCCA’s Director of Equity and Partnership. “The people most knowledgeable and skilled in recognizing and tackling health disparities faced by colorectal cancer patients in their local communities should be the ones to lead. Our goal is to provide the tools necessary for individuals to prevent and overcome this illness.”

Awardees and Projects

**The Cyprus Association of Cancer Patients and Friends (PASYKAF) – Cyprus.** PASYKAF will develop and administer a training course on stoma care to oncology nurses. By improving the quality of oncology nursing care, they aim to improve stoma patient self-care education and, therefore, quality of life.

**Institute for Gastroenterologic Tumors (IGET) – Croatia.** IGET will provide support from nutritionists and psychologists to patients suffering from gastrointestinal tumors. Their investment in prehabilitation care aims to increase survivorship of CRC.

**Instituto Oncoguia – Brazil.** Instituto Oncoguia will host an event at their annual Oncoguia Policy Forum to highlight service and access inequalities and challenges faced by patients living with colorectal cancer from diagnosis to treatment and care.

**MAS Clinic & Hospital – India.** MAS Clinic & Hospital will engage healthcare providers, volunteers, survivors, and family members to promote CRC awareness and support and improve the lives of people living with metastatic CRC. They will hold educational camps for all stakeholders and provide direct support to patients and families.
Niola Cancer Care Foundation (NCCF) – Nigeria. NCCF will hold its annual health education event, Ijoya, aimed at using dance, exercise, and wellness talks to promote CRC awareness. Addressing issues of access disparities, they will offer free and subsidized CRC screening tests through Ijoya, mobile screening through a “Bowel Screening Bus”, and supplies for CRC patients, like ostomy bags and disposable gloves.

Project PINK BLUE – Health & Psychological Trust Centre – Nigeria. Project PINK BLUE will create a documentary short film on the health inequities in colorectal cancer control in Nigeria. They will put a face to colorectal cancer awareness and support, and advance awareness, knowledge, and communication about access to CRC screening.

SAID NGO – Lebanon. SAID NGO will organize free diagnostic colonoscopy for patients who had a positive FIT screening as part of a prior SAID NGO screening initiative. This will address equity problems in access to colonoscopy.

St. Cyril Cancer Treatment Foundation – Nigeria. St. Cyril Cancer Treatment Foundation will provide CRC screening for Nigerians living in low- and middle-income communities by financing FOBTs and follow-up colonoscopies upon positive FOBT.

Tanzania Oncology Society (TOS) – Tanzania. TOS will hold a session at a national cancer conference. Their objectives include providing a forum for multidisciplinary collaboration, contributing to healthcare professional knowledge, and addressing health disparities in CRC screening, treatment, and care.

Women’s Coalition Against Cancer (WOCACA) – Malawi. WOCACA will carry out a needs assessment of CRC prevention, screening, treatment, and survivorship in the Lilongwe District and develop a policy brief for advocacy and awareness building.

Sponsorship
GCCA would like to thank the sponsor of the CRC Health Equity Grants program, Bristol Myers Squibb. For information on sponsoring this program, contact nicole@globalcca.org.

About GCCA
The Global Colon Cancer Association (GCCA) advocates for equitable access to quality colorectal cancer screenings, testing, treatments, and care, because where you live should not determine whether you can prevent or survive colorectal cancer. As both a membership-based umbrella organization and a direct patient advocacy organization, GCCA works toward this goal by amplifying and supporting the efforts of our member organizations, by developing adaptable advocacy and educational materials for our members, and by conducting our own advocacy, education, and initiatives that ensure patients are at the heart of all policy discussions. For more information about the Global Colon Cancer Association, please visit www.globalcca.org.

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