**DIVISION OF COMMUNITY ONCOLOGY**

***Taking Cancer Control Programmes to the door step of Rural Kerala***

The first Community Oncology Division in the country was started at the Regional Cancer Centre in the year 1985. The activities of the Community Oncology Division are designed to fulfill the first two objectives of the National Cancer Control Programme viz.

* Primary prevention of cancers by health education
* Secondary prevention i.e. early detection and diagnosis of common cancers viz. oral, breast and cervix

**Facilities/Services Provided**

The services offered by the Community Oncology Division are broadly classified into in-house and outreach activities

**In house activities include**

* Diagnostic evaluation of oral, breast and cervical cancers
* Management of oral and cervical pre cancers and benign breast lumps
* Guidance for tobacco habitués to quit the habit through services offered by the Tobacco Cessation Clinic
* Training programmes for doctors in cancer prevention and control
* Training in low cost cervical cancer screening strategies (VIA, VILI and Colposcopy) for doctors, nurses and BSc MLT students
* Training of post graduate medical and dental students in early cancer detection and management of oral pre-cancers
* Tobacco quit educator training programmes
* Providing opportunity for school students to visit the Centre; educate them on cancer prevention and control and motivate them to take up leadership activities in tobacco control and cancer literacy mission in the community;
* Exhibitions on preventable cancers for school students

**Outreach programmes**

* Cancer awareness programmes in the community
* Tobacco control programmes for school children
* Trainer- trainee programmes on prevention and control of common cancers for various groups viz doctors, nurses, BSc MLT students, paramedicals and health workers
* Cancer detection camps in various districts of Kerala targeted at common cancers
* Cancer detection camps for the vulnerable groups such as tribal settlements in Thiruvananthapuram district
* Community research in cancer prevention and control
* Implement life style modulation programmes through various apparoaches viz. support of women’s groups and National Services Scheme volunteers for tobacco free home initiatives, group counselling for tobacco cessation and community empowerment for cancer screening among high risk groups.
* Observance of World Cancer Day, World No Tobacco Day and the National Cancer Awareness Day
* Leadership roles in conducting Workshops/conferences viz. Kerala Preventive Onco Summit, 2022; LEAD – LEADership Training for Health Professionals in Cancer Prevention and Control 2022-21; Trivandrum District Cancer Control Programme

**Collaborative Programmes**

**Cross departmental collaboration** within RCC for training progarmmes and research and **intersectoral collaboration (**with Govt departments viz**.** with State Health Services Department, Educational Department, Local Self Governments, Tribal Welfare Development Department and Kerala State Electricity Board of the state) and NGO’s for enhancing cancer prevention and control activities in the state.

* **Cancer control activities at a glance (till Mar 2024)**

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| Cancer awareness programmes | 4193 |
| Cancer control training programmes | 854 |
| Early cancer detection programmes | 5699 |
| Persons screened | 12,20,738 |
| Pre-cancers detected | 4,30,529 |
| Cancers detected | 22,980 |
| General public trained | 80,950 |
| Doctors Trained | 11,038 |
| Other healthcare workers trained | 18,474 |

**Faculty**

Dr. Gigi Thomas

Addl. Professor & Head

Dr. Jayakrishnan.R

Additional Professor

Dr. Kalavathy MC

Associate Professor