



Powerful Together: KolGoTrg recognized as Global Ovarian Cancer Charter Champion

12th September 2020, Kolkata, India- The World Ovarian Cancer Coalition has designated KolGo Trg (Kolkata Gynecological Oncology Trials and Translational Research Group) as a Champion of the newly launched Global Ovarian Cancer Charter which seeks to improve survival and quality of life for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer through the implementation of six Global Goals. The Charter builds on the Coalition's landmark 2018 Every Woman Study™, and was formally launched at the Presidential Plenary of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society xDigital Annual Global Meeting on 12 September 2020.

KolGoTRg has been recognised as a Charter Champion for its commitment to the Goals of the Charter, and because it already has/is starting new important work that speaks clearly to one or more of the Global Goals, that has the potential to inspire others. A full list of Charter Champions can be found on the Coalition's website; worldovariancancercoalition.org

KolGoTrg welcomes the Global Ovarian Cancer Charter because of its ability to highlight the challenges of progress for women with ovarian cancer in low and middle-income countries such as India where we are based and the need to close the gap with more affluent settings. We hope that the work we have undertaken to establish a patient focused clinical research group within a tertiary cancer centre in such a setting, will encourage others down this hard but rewarding path to driving much closer and fruitful engagement with patients and improvements in survival. When compared to high income countries, the survival of women with ovarian cancer in India is much more challenging. Whilst a small number of organisations undertake research in the country, it is very hard to initiate, regulate and maintain cancer research. A tertiary cancer centre seems an obvious setting, but even so, the lack of knowledge about research meant an intensive search for the right people who could be trained up. Setting up KolGoTrg in 2017, we began by identifying a small number of nurses, and a medical social worker and worked with them on research skills, genetic counselling and procedures specific to gynaecological cancer. The team has since grown considerably, and as we move towards our first major studies – including

targeted HIPEC (HR HIPEC), intermittent PARP inhibitors (IPIROC), hormonal treatment in recurrent ovarian cancer (HOTROC) and nurse led genetic counselling and awareness (NuGenA) in low income settings. Already we have seen a number of tangible benefits, including involvement with the Gynae-Cancer Inter Group (GCIG) who lead a number of important international collaborations.

Dr. Asima Mukhopadhyay, the Founder Secretary of the organisation, states, "We are an organisation representing our country on a global platform and we are the first group from India to start multicentric clinical trials on large projects such as PARP Inhibitors, HIPEC and nurse led genetic counselling, tailored to specific needs in low-middle income countries. But this is just the beginning of a long journey. The Global Ovarian Cancer Charter, an organisation dedicated to improving the survival and quality of life of women all over the world, has given us an opportunity to share our stories, listen to others' journey, encourage each other and learn new outcomes. Our patient survivor group, Sarbojaya, is named after the most worshipped Hindu female deity, Goddess Durga, who signifies power and strength, reminding us of what we have within us, and to never give up. With the Charter behind us, we, Sarbojaya, 'the one who always wins' feel even more determined to succeed and act as a source of support of many other organisations from various other countries."

Worldwide, incidence of ovarian cancer is set to increase by almost 50% by the year 2050 and remains the most lethal of female cancers. While significant advances in treatment have been made in very recent years, women's access to them is far from universal, especially in low- to middle-income settings, where the majority of women with ovarian cancer live.

Using the Charter as a framework for change, the Coalition is working with Charter Champions around the world to highlight inspirational projects or initiatives that may also foster global collaboration and sharing of good practice. Champions are mainly, but not limited to, patient and clinical organizations who have existing or upcoming programmes that speak directly to one or more of the Global Goals. The aim is to reduce variations between regions and countries and ensure that women with ovarian cancer have the best chance of survival and best quality of life, wherever they may live.

"We are thrilled to be able to showcase such a diversity of Charter Champions. " said Elisabeth Baugh, chair of the Coalition and CEO of Ovarian Cancer Canada, "We hope that their important work serves as an inspiration to collaborate and generate projects that speak to the Global Goals and, ultimately, to change the future of ovarian cancer for all women, no matter where they live."

About ovarian cancer

Ovarian cancer is the most lethal of the female cancers. Most women are diagnosed once the cancer has already spread, making it more difficult to treat. There are often delays in diagnosing the disease, as there is no early detection test, and symptoms are often confused with other, less severe, illnesses. Ovarian cancer is overlooked and underfunded – yet every woman is at risk of developing the disease. Ovarian cancer is cancer arising from the cells in and around the ovaries and fallopian tubes. It forms when there are abnormalities in normal ovarian cell growth. New cells grow unnecessarily, and old and damaged cells fail to die away, causing a build-up that forms a tumour or growth. Those growths have genetic mutations that cause them to multiply.

About the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition:

The World Ovarian Cancer Coalition is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to create a world where every woman with ovarian cancer has the best chance of survival, and the best quality of life – wherever she may live. With a stellar international Board of Directors, the Coalition builds on the success of World Ovarian Cancer Day (May 8) every year and the Every Woman Study as it looks ahead to further research, awareness raising, and policy work.

About KolGoTrg

KolGO Trg is an organisation which is involved in developing joint studies in women's cancer involving major tertiary referral cancer centres across Kolkata, India. Founded in 2017, and led by eminent clinicians and scientists across the region, KolGOTrg is motivated and driven by the purpose of promoting excellence in the quality and integrity of clinical and translational scientific research in the field of gynaecologic cancers to provide better ,alternative or innovative and affordable remedial solutions in the field.

For more information visit: www.kolgotrg.org

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