

# INDIAN CANCER SOCIETY KARNATAKA BRANCH

NEWSLETTER
JUL-SEP & OCT-DEC 2021

#### **NEW INITIATIVES**

Besides Emotional Counselling, we also look at some important aspects of post treatment support. Hair wigs, prostheses distribution and 'After Completion of Treatment' (ACT) Clinics are two of our recent initiatives in this direction.





Free-of-cost wigs and breast prostheses for women from needy sectors to help regain the pretreatment look



### **1ST ACT CLINIC INAUGURATED**

Karnataka's first ACT clinic was inaugurated on 25th Sep 2021 at Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital (SSCHRC), backed by BPCL. A clinical psychologist handholds pediatric survivors at the clinic to rehabilitate them into their daily lives after they have undergone rigorous cancer treatment.

#### **REVIEW**

- Kishore Rao Chairperson Karnataka Branch

Let me extend warm wishes to each and every one of you for a bright, happy & healthy 2022.

We realise that there is a certain (often unstated) stigma around cancer which is very real, especially for women battling the disease. To mitigate this to some extent we decided to offer support to women in under-privileged families, by way of free wigs and prostheses to rebuild their self-confidence during the rehabilitation period. The initiative has got a good response.

We are happy to announce that ACT clinics have started in Paediatric Wards of two hospitals in Bengaluru, on the lines of the ACT clinics of ICS Mumbai. These clinics focus on giving psychological, emotional and educational support to children recovering from cancer. We are glad that these two initiatives now support two very vulnerable sections of society – women and children.

Awareness activities have been going on in a big way, especially the IIT-Mumbai Breast Cancer event which reached out to students across India. Oncologists from Bengaluru, Kalaburgi and Mangaluru participated in the 3-day online event.

As I finish writing this, there is news of fresh curbs due to rising cases of Covid 19, which means recasting field work schedules. Stay safe, everyone.



# AT-HOME CLINICAL CARE SERVICES

To lighten the load of the financially and emotionally burdened caregivers, ICS is providing trained nursing support, doctor consultation, telecounselling and physiotherapy services at home supported by LTTS.



# **AWARENESS DRIVES**

Happy to note that our online Awareness sessions are much in demand. Recently we have had a good response to sessions in Kannada and Hindi as well. Shubha Jaiprakash, one of our Emotional Support Volunteers has taken a lot of initiative to conduct sessions for workers groups, women's groups and for the youth.







- 1 Awareness session by Gururaj Kulkarni for ASHA workers at Kodli PHC, Kalaburgi.
- 2 Sensitization of ASHA workers at Anganwadi Centre, Kapikadu PHC, Mangaluru.



- **3** Session on Awareness and Sensitization for Community Health Workers of Sampark NGO by Dr Guru Suhas at Bengaluru.
- 4 Awareness program on health and nutrition for cancer survivors and caregivers at Mangaluru.
- 5 Pictorial, awareness leaflets (in Kannada and English) about breast cancer and cervical cancer designed in-house by ICS Team, Bengaluru.









- **6** Volunteer Shubha Jaiprakash explaining about breast cancer.
- 7-Creating awareness about oral self-examination during house-to-house survey in Achalu village, Kanakapura Taluka.















# **SURVEY & SCREENING ACTIVITIES**

Alongside Screening Camps, we also conducted Population-Based Cancer Surveys (PBCS). These helped identify high-risk individuals for cancer screening. Besides Bengaluru, Screening Camps were conducted in Mangaluru and Kalaburagi as well.



Dr Guru Suhas Medical Officer



# members at camp site. VISUALS OF SCREENING ACTIVITIES











Motivating messages for cancer patients created by Gratitude Group led by Jayanthi Sridhar





# **WELCOMING NEW TEAM MEMBERS**



Shravya Devadhar is a licensed clinical psychologist, she works with pediatric cancer survivors at ACT clinic at Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital and Mazumdar Shaw Medical Centre.



Amarinder Kaur has varied experience of working with corporates, school children and NGOs. She is currently handling Social Media and Communications at ICS, Bangalore.



# **EMOTIONAL COUNSELLING**



Counselling services restarted with the help of our volunteers from mid-Oct at Apollo Hospital, Bannerghatta Road and Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital. Shortly, we hope to start counselling at St John's Hospital and ESI Hospital, Rajajinagar.

With the recent upsurge in covid cases in the city, we may have to temporarily hold back in-person counselling. We would of course continue with telephonic counselling.

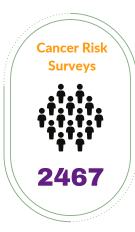
- Alpa Dharamshi, Counsellor

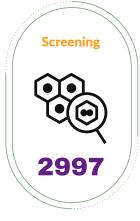


**Volunteer Counsellors** 

### **BENEFICIARIES AT A GLANCE**











**UPCOMING...** 

Second ACT Clinic to become operational at Mazumdar Shaw Hospital

Online campaigns to spread awareness

February 4 - World Cancer Day Events

Extend Emotional Support services to more hospitals



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