



High-Level Political Summit: Equity in Action – Driving Progress in Cancer Care

Date: 20-21 February 2025

Venue: SHUATS, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India

Theme: Advancing Political Leadership for Equitable Cancer Care

Objectives and Outcomes

The Asia-Pacific region, home to over half of the world's population, is defined by diverse healthcare systems, socio-economic contexts, and cancer challenges. High-income countries lead in advanced diagnostics and treatments, while low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) face significant inequities in access, late-stage diagnoses, and limited infrastructure. These disparities translate into preventable suffering and loss of life for millions.

Set against the historic **Kumbh Mela** in Prayagraj, symbolizing unity and shared purpose, this summit seeks to transform cancer care by leveraging collaboration, innovation, and resources across the region. By bridging divides, the event emphasizes solutions that utilize expertise from high-income regions to address the unmet needs of LMICs.

The "**Equity in Action: Driving Progress in Cancer Care**" summit unites political leaders, healthcare experts, patient advocates, industry representatives, and researchers, driven by a shared vision of achieving equity in cancer care. This event provides a platform to address these disparities through meaningful dialogue, innovative solutions, and sustainable partnerships.

Objectives

- **Strengthen Regional Collaboration:** Develop actionable frameworks to address inequities in cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment across diverse healthcare settings.
- **Promote Innovation:** Leverage cutting-edge technologies such as AI, precision medicine, and translational research to improve diagnostic and treatment outcomes.
- **Mobilize Resources:** Foster sustainable financing mechanisms and public-private partnerships to build capacity and scale cancer care solutions.
- **Empower Patients:** Center the voices of patients and advocates to ensure ethical and patient-centered innovations drive healthcare policies.
- **Formalize Commitments:** Unite stakeholders to adopt the **Asia-Pacific Declaration on Cancer Care**, reinforcing shared responsibility and accountability.

Expected Outcomes

- Establishment of a **regional task force** for cancer care collaboration and policy alignment.
- Concrete recommendations for integrating advanced diagnostics and innovations into national healthcare systems.
- Strengthened partnerships between governments, NGOs, and industry to address gaps in access, affordability, and infrastructure.
- A formal declaration of commitments through the **Asia-Pacific Declaration on Cancer Care**, ensuring sustained efforts toward equitable care.
- Empowerment of patients and communities as key stakeholders in cancer care and policy discussions.

This summit, inspired by the symbolic unity of the **Kumbh Mela**, seeks to foster mutual growth, shared accountability, and measurable progress, ensuring that advancements in cancer care benefit all.



PROGRAM
(DAY-1) 20 February 2025

Guard of Honour (NCC): H.E. Ambassador Kevin Kelly (Ireland)

9:00 – 09:30: Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:30 – 12:00: Opening and Keynote Session

- **Welcome Address:**
 - **Most Rev. Prof. (Dr.) Rajendra B. Lal**, *Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS), Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India.*
 - **Dr. Sasmit Patra**, *Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha, Odisha)*
 - **Kunwar Ujjwal Raman Singh**, *Member of Parliament, (Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh)*
 - **Mr. Praveen Patel**, *Member of Parliament (Phoolpur, Uttar Pradesh)*
 - **Dr. Man Singh Yadav**, *Member of the Legislative Council, (Prayagraj & Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh)*
 - **Er. Harsh Vardhan Bajpai**, *Member of the Legislative Assembly, (Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh)*
 - **Mr. Hakim Lal Bind**, *Member of Legislative Assembly, (Handia, Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh)*

Discussion: Q&A

- **Keynote Address:** *H.E. Ambassador Kevin Kelly (Ireland)*
- **Setting the Scene:**
 - **Overview of the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Cancer Care:**
 - **Prof. (Dr.) ir. Jonathan A. Lal**, *Pro-VC Academic Affairs, SHUATS & Board Member, International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC)*
 - **Prof. (Dr.) Denis Horgan**, *Secretary General, International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC) & Executive Director, European Alliance for Personalised Medicine*
- **Success Stories:** Highlights of impactful regional collaborations in cancer care.
- **Interactive Segment:** Live polling session to capture audience priorities for the summit.

Discussion: Q&A

Group Photo

12:00 – 13:00: Political Roundtable and Signing Ceremony: Regional and Global Collaboration

- **Participants:**
 - Members of Parliament and regional policymakers.
 - International partners, Scientific, Research institution, Industry and patient advocacy representatives.
- **Focus:** Formal adoption of the **Asia-Pacific Declaration on Cancer Care**, accompanied by public commitment statements.

Group Photo



13:00 – 14:00: Networking Lunch

- **Facilitated Networking:** Thematic tables with moderators guide focused discussions on topics like AI in Cancer Care, Public-Private Partnerships, and Patient-Centered Innovations.
- **Resource Sharing:** Discussion prompts and resource materials are provided at each table to deepen engagement.

14:00 – 16:00: Action 1 – Charting a Unified Path for Equity in Cancer Care

Establish political frameworks for addressing disparities in cancer care through regional collaboration.

- **Prof. Daniela Chieffo**, *Head of Clinical Psychology at Fondazione Policlinico Gemelli IRCCS, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, Italy*
- **Dr. Saurabh Gupta**, *Director, Unit Head Surgical Oncology, Fortis Hospital Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, India*
- **Dr. Maricar Sabeniano**, *Division of Supportive, Hospice, and Palliative Medicine, Philippine General Hospital, Philippine*

Discussion: Q&A

16:00 – 16:15 Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:45 Action 2 – Advancing Innovation for Early Detection

Objective: Explore the role of AI and translational research in cancer diagnostics.

- **Dr. Sunil K. Gupta**, *Director & HOD Haemato Medical Oncology & Bone Marrow Transplant, Venkateshwar Hospital, New Delhi*
- **Prof. Karim Lekadir**, *Research Professor, Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies, University of Barcelona, Spain.*
- **Dr. Latatendu Sarangi**, *Medical Director, Bagchi-Sri Shankara Cancer Center and Research Institute, Bhuvneshwar, India*
- *Representative, AstraZeneca. TBD*
- **Dr. Sathish Kumar Anandan**, *Surgical Oncologist, Apollo Lucknow, India*
- **Dr. (Col.) Abhishek Pathak**, *Consultant Medical Oncology, Command Hospital, Lucknow, India*
- **Dr. (Col.) Arnab Bandyopadhyay**, *Senior Advisor Surgery and Surgical Oncology, Head, Oncology Department, Command Hospital Central Command, Lucknow, India*

Discussion: Q&A

END OF DAY ONE



(DAY 2) 21 February 2025

Guard of Honour (NCC): *H.E. Ambassador Maya Jaouhari Tissafi (Switzerland)*

9:00 – 9:30: Opening Tea

9:30 – 11:30: Action 3 – Building Sustainable Cancer Care Through Partnerships

Keynote address: *H.E. Ambassador Maya Jaouhari Tissafi (Switzerland)*

Highlight innovative funding models and capacity-building strategies.

- **Dr. Zisis Kozlakidis**, *Head, Laboratory Services and Biobanking, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), France*
- **Dr. Radharani Ghosh**, *Head & Senior Consultant Oncologist, Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital, Prayagraj, India*
- **Dr. Do Huyen Nga**, *Head of Medical Hematologic Malignancies Department, National Cancer Hospital, Vietnam*
- **Dr. B.S. Srinath**, *Senior Consultant Surgical oncologist and Head of the Institution (Managing Trustee), Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital and Research Center, Bengaluru, India*

Discussion: Q&A

11:30 – 11:45: Coffee Break and Networking

11:45 – 13:45: Action 4 – Ethical and Patient-Centered Cancer Innovations

Objective: Showcase strategies for prioritizing patient-centered innovations in cancer care.

- **Dr. B. Paul**, *Advisor & Senior Consultant, Department of Radiation Oncology, Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital Prayagraj, India*
- **Dr. Sudhendu Shekhar**, *Director, Oncology Cygnus Hospital, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh India*
- **Dr. Sadhana Dwivedi**, *In-charge Palliative care unit and Pain clinic, Department of Radiation Oncology, Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital, Prayagraj, India*
- **Dr. Mandy Thoo**, *Deputy Director for Community Engagement at the National Cancer Society of Malaysia.*

Discussion: Q&A

13:45 – 14:45: Networking Lunch

- **Facilitated Networking:** Thematic tables with moderators' guide focused discussions on topics like AI in Cancer Care, Public-Private Partnerships, and Patient-Centered Innovations.
- **Resource Sharing:** Discussion prompts and resource materials are provided at each table to deepen engagement.



14:45 – 16:45: Public Health and Personalized Healthcare: Two side of the same coin

- **Dr. Shanta Sharma**, *Public health Expert, Department of Community Medicine, Devdaha Medical College and Research Centre, Kathmandu University, Nepal*
- **Dr. Delia Nicoară**, *Public Health and Management Specialist, Oncology Institute “Prof. Dr. Ion Chiricuță,” Cluj-Napoca Romania*
- **Dr. Varidmala Jain, PhD** *Public Health, Secretary, Trishla Foundation, Prayagraj, India*

Discussion: Q&A

16:45 – 17:00: Coffee Break

17:00 – 18:00: Closing Remarks and Group Photo

- **Patient Perspective: Dr. Sadhana Dwivedi**, *Senior Medical Officer & Patient Advocacy, Regional Cancer Center & Head, Department of Radiation Oncology, Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital, Prayagraj, India*

High level Closing Remarks:

- **Most Rev. Prof. (Dr.) Rajendra B. Lal**, *Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS), Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India*
- **Dr. Fauzia Khan**, *Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha, Maharashtra)*
- **Mr. Praveen Patel**, *Member of Parliament (Phoolpur, Uttar Pradesh)*
- **Dr. Vinod Kumar Bind**, *Member of Parliament (Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh)*
- **Dr. K. P. Srivastava**, *Member of Legislative Council (Prayagraj & Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh)*
- **Dr. Man Singh Yadav**, *Member of the Legislative Council, (Prayagraj & Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh)*
- **Mr. Hakim Lal Bind**, *Member of Legislative Assembly, (Handia, Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh)*

Summary of commitments by

- **Prof. (Dr.) ir. Jonathan A. Lal**, *Pro-VC Academic Affairs, SHUATS & Board Member, International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC)*
- **Prof. (Dr.) Denis Horgan**, *Secretary General, International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC) & Executive Director, European Alliance for Personalised Medicine*

Group Photo

END OF DAY TWO