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Network for Oncology Research in Sub-Saharan Africa

Short description of the network project:

The Network for Oncology Research in Sub-Saharan Africa (NORA) is a multi-disciplinary consortium composed of Addis Ababa University (AAU), Ethiopia; Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), Germany; the Wits Health Consortium (Wits), South Africa; the Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI), Tanzania; the Institute of Human Virology (IHVN), Nigeria; the African Cancer Registry Network (ACRN); and the Charité university hospital in Berlin, Germany. NORA aims to contribute to a significant

reduction in cancer-related morbidity and mortality in sub-Saharan Africa (with a primary focus on breast and cervical cancer) by generating scientific evidence for effective screening, early detection, and treatment and care pathways. It conducts multi-disciplinary research in African settings to inform policies on effective and sustainable cancer control strategies. In addition, NORA invests in capacity building, research infrastructure, and high-level mentorship to train the next generation of African leaders in cancer control research.



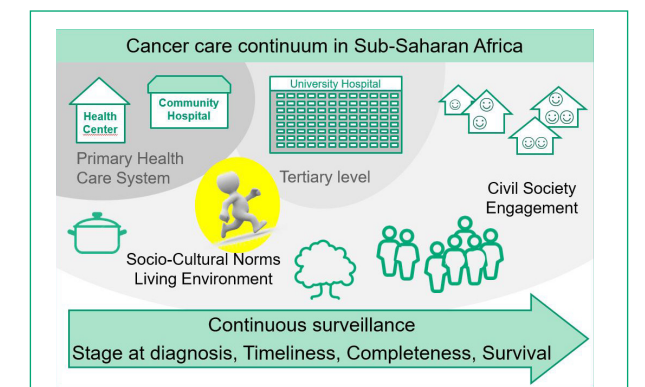
NORA Team Members Writing Workshop, February 2022

Challenge, approach and impact:

NORA's major research tasks include:

- Cancer surveillance: real-time surveillance through population-based cancer registries that have been strengthened to generate enhanced, high-quality cancer data for the partner countries and the surrounding region of Africa
- Community perspective: efforts to explore community understandings to co-create tailored approaches to empowering communities with regard to screening and palliative care
- Primary healthcare: comprehensive analysis of key barriers and enablers at the primary healthcare level for screening uptake, system navigation, and treatment access. High-performance precision triage tests are to be validated and evidence-based intervention co-implemented with multi-lateral policy and decision makers.
- Underlying tumour biology: genetic and genomic analysis of breast cancer for the identification of high-risk individuals and guidance of targeted treatment in African populations
- Clinical cancer care: real-time clinical surveillance data on breast and cervical cancer patients will be available and used to assess quality targets for diagnosis and treatment, as well as for monitoring purposes.
- Research infrastructure development and training of high-calibre cancer research fellows (Ph.D. and post-doctoral) in various thematic areas; establishment of strong networking with relevant regional and international actors in cancer research

NORA will help reduce morbidity and mortality in connection with breast and cervical cancers in the partner countries by providing scientific evidence for regional and national cancer control policies and strategies. NORA-trained fellows will emerge as leaders in cancer research and control in academia and ministries of health in Africa and continue to thrive in the field of cancer research on the continent.



Schematics of Cancer Care Continuum in Africa

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Link to Website:

<https://tinyurl.com/mr6fncp4>