Women’s Cancers in the Americas: Strategies for Synergy

October 5-6, 2016
University of Miami

Host Institution: The Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Institute for the Americas of the University of Miami (UMIA).

Collaborators: The Women and Health Initiative at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Tómatelo a Pecho, and the Unión Latinoamericana Contra el Cáncer de la Mujer.

The Challenge: Breast and cervical cancer are leading killers of women throughout the world. In most of Latin America and the Caribbean, breast and cervical cancer are among the most common causes of death for younger women. Both diseases are preventable or curable if diagnosed and treated early, yet responses have been fragmented, missing the tremendous opportunities for collective, hemispheric action agrees countries, disciplines, governmental and non-governmental actors, academia, clinicians and civil society.

The Response: Women’s cancers must become a mainstreamed priority of efforts to improve the health of women and to achieve universal health coverage and strengthen health systems. Integrated, diagonal, effective programs that integrate women’s cancer into broader health system initiatives engage all actors both governmental and non-governmental and take advantage of patient engagement. These synergistic strategies can improve women’s cancer care, close divides in access to health care, increase the efficiency of health systems and catalyze economic growth, defend the right to health care, promote sustainable development, and advance the cause of gender equity. Collaboration across the Americas offers tremendous opportunities for success and innovation and the growing civil society movement has a major role to play.

The Way Forward: Close collaborations between Latin America, the Caribbean and South Florida are critical to improving cancer care and outcomes for women in the region. The University of Miami is hosting Women’s Cancers in the Americas: Strategies for Synergy to initiate strategic dialogue to identify synergies that can be extended throughout the region. Working in collaboration with the Women and Health Initiative at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Tómatelo a Pecho and the Unión Latinoamericana Contra el Cáncer de la Mujer, the symposium will build platforms to integrate breast and cervical cancer initiatives, women’s health, health systems, and women’s rights and empowerment across the Americas.

Part of the University of Miami’s hemispheric platform, the Symposium is the second activity of the UMIA strategic initiative on women’s cancers in the Americas and follows the successful May 2016 workshop with the Pan-American Health Organization on women’s cancers in the English Caribbean.
Donors and Symposium sponsorship:

UMIA work on women’s cancers in the Americas, and the Symposium, is the result of catalytic and visionary seed funding provided by Patti and Allan Herbert, long-time supporters and dedicated, active members of the University of Miami community.

UMIA is also pleased to be receiving Symposium support from Susan G Komen for the Cure and from the American Cancer Society and to be working closely with both organizations.

Objectives: Contribute to improved women’s cancer outcomes across the Americas by:

- Identifying opportunities to reduce barriers to access and strengthen health system responses
- Developing ideas and projects to integrate women’s cancers initiatives into health systems and the women’s health and empowerment agenda
- Developing strategic partnerships for research, training, education, and advocacy
- Strengthening advocacy and patient engagement groups and networks in Latin America
- Engaging students, faculty, and clinicians in research and advocacy
- Building our work at the University of Miami on women’s cancers in the Americas

Audience: The event is open to the public. We expect a range of participants including students, faculty, researchers, representatives of civil society and patient engagement groups, clinicians, policy makers and South Florida community members concerned with women’s cancers. The event will draw widely from the University of Miami community, as well as from other South Florida academic and civil society institutions, and include representatives from some 15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Location and times:

- University of Miami’s Braman Miller Center for Jewish Student Life
  1100 Stanford Dr., Coral Gables, FL 33146.
  [http://www.bmcmiami.org/location#map](http://www.bmcmiami.org/location#map)
- October 5th – Full day, October 6th – half day, morning

Steering Committee: Members of the Steering Committee will take active roles as speakers, in addition to coordinating the symposium.

- **Felicia Marie Knaul (Chair),** Director of the UM Miami Institute for the Americas; Professor of Public Health Sciences, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine; President, Tómatelo a Pecho and Union Latinoamericana contra el Cáncer de la Mujer
- **Donette Francis,** Associate Professor and Director of American Studies, University of Miami College of Arts & Sciences
- **Erin Kobetz,** Associate Director for Cancer Control at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center; Senior Associate Dean for Health Disparities at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine; Member of the Symposium Steering Committee
Speakers:

Symposium speakers include leaders of national and international civil society leaders from throughout the Americas, patient advocates, public sector leaders, government officials, health systems experts, global researchers on women’s cancer and other health issues, and clinicians and researchers from UM and other leading cancer centers with expertise in breast and cervical cancers. Confirmed speakers include:

- **Julio Frenk**, President of the University of Miami and former Minister of Health of Mexico
- **Susan Love**, Chief Visionary Officer of the Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation and author of *Dr. Susan Love’s Breast Book*
- **Steven Altschuler**, CEO of UHealth - the University of Miami Health System, and Senior Vice President of Health Affairs, University of Miami
- **Judy Salerno**, President and CEO of Susan G. Komen (supporting organization)
- **Amb. Sally Cowal**, Senior Vice President for Global Health, American Cancer Society (supporting organization)
- **Ben O. Anderson**, Chair and Director, Breast Health Global Initiative; Professor of Surgery and Global Health Medicine, University of Washington; Board Member, Union for International Cancer Control
- **Didi Bertrand Farmer**, Senior Advisor on Community Health, Partners In Health
- **Maira Caleffi**, President-founder of the Brazilian Federation of Philanthropic Breast Health Institutions (FEMAMA); Head of the Breast Center at the Hospital Moinhos de Vento of Porto Alegre, Brazil; Board Member, Union for International Cancer Control
- **Jose Jeronimo**, Senior Advisor for Women’s Cancers, PATH
- **Gilberto de Lima Lopes**, Associate Director of Global Oncology, Co-Leader of the Thoracic Malignancies Site Disease Group, Medical Director of International Oncology Program at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
- **Marc Lippman**, Deputy Director of Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Professor of Medicine, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
- **Martha Murdock**, Project Director, Management Sciences for Health
- **Mona Saraiya**, Associate Director for International Cancer Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Steven G. Ullmann**, Professor and Chair, Department of Health Sector Management and Policy; and Director, Center for Health Sector Management and Policy, University of Miami
- **Tatiana Vidaurre Rojas**, Director, Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Neoplásicas, Ministry of Health of Peru