

CRI QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER:

April- June 2020

Welcome to the second CRI quarterly newsletter for 2020. The newsletter showcases the many cancer-related research activities in the Faculty of Health Sciences to research colleagues, clinicians, funders and the public. The quarterly newsletter is available via email and published on the [CRI website](#):

In South Africa, lockdown regulations have been eased, while COVID-19 cases continue to surge. We feature some of the COVID-related activities that our researchers are involved in.

News & events

• How COVID-19 is affecting the Gynaecological oncology services at GSH. Update by Dr Tracey Adams

The Gynaecology team has had to balance sustaining oncology services with minimizing patient and health care workers COVID-19 risk.

- Theatre lists in gynaecology have been cut dramatically to provide beds for COVID-19 cases. As a result, the turnover in theatre has decreased substantially.
- All surgeons in gynaecology have been trained on safety in preparation for COVID-19.
- Alternative treatment options are being considered for high risk women.
- Greater use is being made of telemedicine.
- Changes in how patients access services at L Block, GSH.

It is a different and challenging experience for any woman newly diagnosed with cancer in the COVID-19 era. Despite these constraints, most gynaecological services continue to be rendered.



- The African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC) hosted a series of webinars on cancer and COVID-19. Dr Zainab Mohammed discussed strategies for optimising cancer patient care in Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic.



• CRI Cancer and COVID-19 weekly summaries

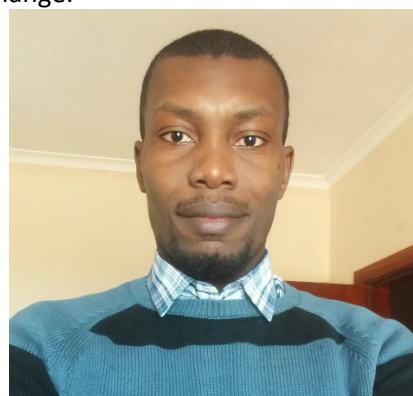
The CRI has been summarizing key findings and recommendations from selected emerging research articles, clinical practice guidelines and news related to cancer and COVID-19. We hope that insights from these pieces of evidence will help guide how we rethink cancer prevention, treatment and care in the context of the ongoing pandemic, in view of its unprecedented implications for patients, healthcare providers and the community in general. We are keen to include research and guidelines from African and other low- and middle-income settings and will feature these as they become available. Previous and future editions can be found on the [CRI website](#) and [Twitter page](#).

Database feature

The CRI is supporting 2 new cancer databases: the urology database and the dermatology database. The urology database is a collaborative initiative between Dr Hue-Tsi Wu (Division of Anatomical Pathology) and A Prof John Lazarus (Division of Urology). This database has just passed the development and testing phase and will be starting with data collection. The dermatology database led by Dr Sandra Pather is still being tested and validated.

Congratulations

Congratulations to CRI's Dr Chukwudi Nnaji for being nominated as a World Economic Forum (WEF) [Young Global Leader](#) for the class of 2021. This initiative aims to nurture a proactive multi-sectoral, global community of the world's next-generation leaders to influence decision-making, facilitate transformation and drive positive change.



Upcoming events

The PG CRI is a peer mentorship programme that aims to build interdisciplinary collaborations and develop new skills to enhance the goal of the CRI., PG CRI is planning some exciting online events. For more information please have a look at our [web page](#) and if you have any other questions, comments, suggestions and, if you would like to update your contact details please email Saif Khan at khnsai002@myuct.ac.za.

For details on events and more visit [CRI website](#) and [Twitter page](#)

Recent Cancer Publications

- Hofmeyr R, Llewellyn R, Fagan JJ. Multidisciplinary difficult airway challenges: Perioperative management of glottic and supraglottic tumors. Operative Techniques in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. 2020 (Available online 12 May 2020) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.otot.2020.04.008>
- Fagan JJ. Salivary Gland Surgery in Developing Countries. Ch 55, pp 360-363 in Surgery of the Salivary Glands. Robert Witt (Ed) 1st Edition Elsevier 2020 Hardcover ISBN: 9780323672368 eBook ISBN: 9780323672375 Potent Anti-Cancer Agents, Journal of Organometallic Chemistry, in press.
- [Head and Neck Cancer International Group \(HNCIG\)](#) including Fagan JJ. Recommendations for head and neck surgical oncology practice in a setting of acute severe resource constraint during the COVID-19 pandemic: an international consensus. Lancet Oncology 4 Published online June 11, 2020 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045\(20\)30334-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(20)30334-X)
- Douglas-Jones P, Biadgelign MG, Burrows S, Fagan JJ. Parotid Tumours: A Conservative Investigative and Surgical Approach. 2020 J Surg 5: 1282. DOI: [10.29011/2575-9760.001282](https://doi.org/10.29011/2575-9760.001282)
- Patterson RH, Fischman VG, Wasserman I, Siu J, Shrimme MG, Fagan JJ, Koch W, Alkire BC. Global Burden of Head and Neck Cancer: Economic Consequences, Health, and the Role of Surgery. Otolaryngol HN Surg. 2020. 1-8 <https://doi.org/10.1177/0194599819897265>
- Sharma N, Fagan J, Wallace M, Joubert E, Greef L, Konney A, Simonds H, Vanderpuye V, Sewram V, Young T, Mehanna H. Prioritisation of research topics for head and neck cancer in Africa – Report of the International Collaboration On Improving Cancer outcomes in low and middle income countries – ICONIC Africa. Oral Oncol. 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oraloncology.2019.104503>
- Douglas-Jones P, Biadgelign MG, Burrows S, Fagan JJ. Parotid Tumours: A Conservative Investigative and Surgical Approach. 2020 J Surg 5: 1282. DOI: [10.29011/2575-9760.001282](https://doi.org/10.29011/2575-9760.001282)
- Zafereo M, Yu J, Onakoya PA, Aswani J, Baidoo K, Bogale M, Cairncross L, Cordes S, Daniel A, Diom E, Maurice ME, Garba M, Biadgelign MG, Koné FI, Itiere A, Koch W, Konney A, Kundiona I, Macharia C, Mashamba V, Moore MG, Mugabo RM, Noah P, Omutsani M, Orloff L, Otiti J, Randolph G, Sebelik M, Todsén T, Twier K, Fagan JJ. African Head and Neck Society Clinical Practice guidelines for thyroid nodules and cancer in developing countries and limited resource settings. Head & Neck. 2020;1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hed.26094> <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/hed.26094>
- Patterson RH, Fischman VG, Wasserman I, Siu J, Shrimme MG, Fagan JJ, Koch W, Alkire BC. Global Burden of Head and Neck Cancer: Economic Consequences, Health, and the Role of Surgery. Otolaryngol HN Surg. 2020. 1-8 <https://doi.org/10.1177/0194599819897265>
- Sinkala, M., Mulder, N. & Martin, D. Machine Learning and Network Analyses Reveal Disease Subtypes of Pancreatic Cancer and their Molecular Characteristics. *Sci Rep* **10**, 1212 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-58290-2>
- Sinkala, M., Mulder, N. & Patrick Martin, D. Metabolic gene alterations impact the clinical aggressiveness and drug responses of 32 human cancers. *Commun Biol* **2**, 414 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-019-0666-1>

Please send any cancer-related news, events, publications and conference information for the period July-September 2020 for inclusion in our next quarterly newsletter to:

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