

CURRENT STATE OF CANCER CARE IN BELIZE

In Belize, cancer is responsible for more than 12% of all deaths every year! Statistics indicate that number of cancer deaths is increasing. Cancer therapy is extremely limited in Belize, with most patients having to access treatment abroad, at catastrophic costs to themselves and their families. A key issue is the lack of information on cancer which is necessary to lobby for resource, and to plan a coordinated response.

At the moment, the Belize Health System identifies only about 36 to 40 cases each year – usually when the cancer has progressed to a stage where it is difficult to treat. The World Health Organization estimates that the average number of new cases of cancer each year in populations similar to Belize should be approximately 143 for every 100,000 population – the implication is that the Belize Health System may be simply missing many of these cases. (Source: Ministry of Health, Local Government, Transport and Communication)

The launching of the Belize Cancer Center is a significant step in capturing those missing cases and is consistent with our mission of quality, accessibility and affordability. Bringing together the collective strength of supporting organizations (Belize Ministry of Health, Belize Medical & Dental Association, World Health-Pan American Health, Belize Cancer Society & Non-Governmental Agencies) is a critical strategy in our response to this major public health challenge.



PERMANENT CLINICAL STAFF

Sister Carolyn Obi, RN (only Chemotherapy Certified Nurse in Belize)

Business Office Manager (Volunteer)

Physician Volunteer

Note: Partnership with Bristol University, UK to send medical students during their 5th year who wish to do an "elective" rotation at the Center has been established.



Our clinical staff (Clockwise): Ver Rodriguez, Sr. Carolyn Obi, Dr. Alisha Ireland, Kate McMaster and Ed Watson (1st Medical Volunteers, Bristol University Medical School, UK)

TARGET POPULATION

Patients and families living with cancer in Belize

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Belize Ministry of Health
 Belize Medical & Dental Association
 Belize Cancer Society
 Southern Regional Medical Center, Dangriga
 Belizean Women's Wellness Foundation-California

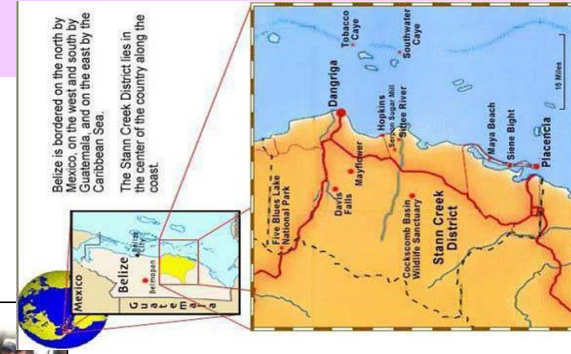
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Opening ceremony on October 1, 2008.

APPEAL for DONATION of EQUIPMENT NEEDED for CANCER CENTER

- 2 Intravenous Infusion Pumps (single channel)
- 1 – 12 Lead EKG Machine
- 1 Ultrasound Machine
- 2 Dinamap Vial Signs with SAO2 Module (Pulse Oximetry)
- 2 MP 30 Cardiac Monitors
- 4 CADD Pumps (Continuous In-Home 48 Hrs Outpatient Chemo-therapy Infusion)
- 2 Lifepak 20 Defibrillator/Transport Monitors
- 5 PCA Pumps (Outpatient Pain Management)
- Wheelchair Accessible Van
- Ambulance with Advanced Life Support capabilities



Belize is bordered on the north by Mexico, on the west and south by Guatemala, and on the east by the Caribbean Sea.

The Stann Creek District lies in the center of the country along the coast.

Making A Difference Through Valued Contributions

[] Clinical Volunteers (with expertise in cancer care):

____ Nurse _____ Physician

Name: _____ Phone: _____

- [] \$ 500.00
- [] \$ 400.00
- [] \$ 300.00
- [] \$ 200.00
- [] \$ 100.00
- [] \$ 50.00
- [] \$ 25.00
- [] \$ Other _____

Donations may be in the form of cash, check or money order.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

BELIZE CANCER CENTER
#11 Pine Street
Dangriga Town, BELIZE



"This is the best thing that has happened to Belize. This Center is very much needed." - Mr. Frivicklin



Pictured (L>R): Ver Rodriguez; Arthur Roches, MOH (State); Dr. Peter Allen, CEO-MOH; Pablo Marin, Minister of Health; Dr. Ellsworth Grant, BCCD Medical Director; Sr. Carolyn Obi and Dellone Pascasio, BCCD Director .



Laminar Flow Hood for mixing chemo.

SCOPE OF SERVICES PROVIDED

The cancer center receives referral for care nationwide. Patients are referred from varied sources including self referrals. The cancer center is an equal opportunity care facility and prides itself in providing the very best in customer service for patients and their families

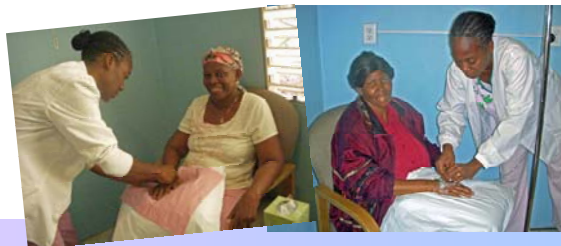
- Chemotherapy to adults
- Hematology (Sickle Cell crisis management)
- Pain-Symptom Management
- Social and Family Counseling
- Community Outreach and Referral
- In-Home Consultation and Treatment
- Nutritional Counseling
- Patient and Family Education

ACCESS to BELIZE CANCER CENTER SERVICES

Patients access services at the Belize Cancer Center Dangriga in a variety of ways:

- Direct Referral by a physician
- Self Referral (phone or walk-in)
- Belize Cancer Society
- Referral by the Belize Cancer Society
- Referral by friend or family member

Most patients contact the Outpatient Cancer Center after a diagnosis has been made. Some patients may be sent for consultation following a surgical procedure, where gross tissue examination may be highly suspicious for cancer, pending the histopathology results. The Oncologist performs an initial consultation with the patient and selected family member to initiate elements of what eventually becomes the cancer treatment plan.



BELIZE CANCER CENTER
Dangriga



CANCER CENTER LOCATION

The Belize Cancer Center Dangriga falls within the large envelope of the Southern Health Region (Stann Creek and Punta Gorda Districts) and is physically located in Central Dangriga Town. The Center is 108 miles from the Karl Hueshner Memorial Hospital, the only tertiary care facility in the national health system. It is 53 miles from the Western Regional Hospital, a 50-bed facility in the inner city of Belmopan. Clinic currently occupies approximately 1200 sq feet of consultation and treatment space.

MISSION

The mission of Belize Cancer Center Dangriga is to provide accessible and affordable cancer treatment services to persons and families living with cancer in Belize.

11 Pine St., Dangriga Town, Belize

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