Comment on: Global Cancer Consortia: Moving from Consensus to Practice

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TO THE EDITORS:

We read with great interest the article by Ilbawi and Anderson.¹ The authors provide a detailed and clear description of the opportunities and challenges associated with global efforts aimed at reducing cancer inequities in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). They highlight the importance of joining forces, as in today's complex world individual efforts can produce only limited accomplishments. Tables 1 and 2 are particularly enlightening as they provide key definitions and emphasize the importance of collaboration among multiple sectors including health ministries, national cancer institutes, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, and patient organizations.

We would like to mention some key additional participants and partners: First, the World Bank (WB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which support global cancer control projects by providing loans to LMICs around the globe (in the case of WB) or Latin America (in the case of IDB). Secondly, the Global Initiative for Cancer Registries (GICR: <http://gicr.iarc.fr/>). GICR is a unique partnership that brings together almost all types of organizations and consortia including: (1) international agencies [e.g., World Health Organization (WHO), International Agency for Research in Cancer (IARC), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)], (2)

governmental [e.g., National Cancer Institute (NCI), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)] and (3) nongovernmental organizations [e.g., Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), American Cancer Society (ACS)], and (4) academic societies and member organizations [e.g., African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC), International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR)]. The goal of GICR is to increase knowledge for the purpose of informing cancer prevention and control and to improve the ability to plan and evaluate cancer programs in the world's poorest regions. This is accomplished by establishing cancer information systems based on cancer registries.

We would also like to emphasize the relevance of private-sector foundations with their increasingly active role in supporting cancer control initiatives around the globe (e.g., Mopani Copper Mines PLC in Zambia). Finally, public-private partnerships also play a critical role in improving the performance of public health systems worldwide; for example, a public-private research and development consortium was formed between Argentina and Cuba to develop new targeted therapies for cancer.

REFERENCES

1. Ilbawi AM, Anderson BO. Global cancer consortia: moving from consensus to practice. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2015;22:719-727.