



NEW HORIZONS
IN INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION



NAFSA
2015

Annual
Conference
& Expo

MAY 24-29, 2015
BOSTON, MA USA

Developing an oncology program from
scratch

PIH and DFCHCC collaboration in Rwanda

Leslie Lehmann

NAFSA
Association of
International Educators

Rwanda: Inshuti Mu Buzima



Micro-twinning

- Novel model to deliver oncology care in settings lacking physician specialists
- Based on close partnership with designated, longitudinally committed oncologist, pediatrician trained in high-resource setting and local generalist physicians
 - DFCI sponsored RN/NP presence
- Requires basic infrastructure: pathologic diagnosis, drug supply, supportive care, nursing care, family support
- Constantly evolving process with case by case group discussion about who can/should be treated

- Weekly phone calls/tumor board between US and Rwandan clinicians and US oncologists:
 - Each member of the team provides specific expertise
 - All oncology patients are reviewed with emphasis on diagnosis, therapeutic plan, and supportive care
 - Additional daily individual patient care issues are addressed by email as needed



Butaro Hospital

This Cancer Center of Excellence was officially opened by

President William J. Clinton,

42nd President of the United States of America

July 18th, 2012

With appreciation to the Jeff Gordon Children's Foundation





1ST NATIONAL BASELINE CANCER TRAINING

MARCH 31ST - APRIL 6TH 2012

RWINKWAVU TRAINING CENTER, RWANDA



Obstacles

- Operational
 - Maintaining “standard” practice without standard resources
 - Blood bank, antibiotics, radiation therapy
 - Revolving door personnel
 - Local and International
 - Cultural differences
 - Hierarchy, primacy of data

Obstacles

- Psychologic
 - Communication methods
 - Adequacy of consent process
 - Difficulty of decisions
 - Balancing risk/benefit for patient, family, team
 - Cultural differences about interventional model
 - What does “doing everything” mean

Cancer Center of Excellence



“Before I came here, I thought that I was going to die any day from cancer, but then I came to Butaro and I started to receive treatment. I am still alive because of the treatment I am receiving here. I appreciate the Butaro [NCD] team and everything they are doing for me and people like me” – Nyirarusisiro Veronique, breast cancer patient