Global Collaboration in Bolivia promotes advancement of oncology nursing

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In South America, Bolivia is the poorest country.

Over 45% of new cancer cases

37% of cancer related deaths are related to cervical and breast cancer
Bolivia
New cancer cases (all ages), Females
Total: 5892

- Cervix uteri: 1831 (31.1%)
- Breast: 765 (13.0%)
- Ovary etc.: 261 (4.4%)
- Colon and rectum: 247 (4.2%)
- Stomach: 246 (4.2%)
- Corpus uteri: 188 (3.2%)
- Thyroid: 134 (2.3%)
- Oral cavity: 114 (1.9%)
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma: 108 (1.8%)
- Other: 1998 (33.9%)

GLOBCAN 0, IARC
Bolivia
Deaths (all ages), Females
Total: 3638

- Cervix uteri: 987 (27.1%)
- Breast: 357 (9.8%)
- Stomach: 214 (5.9%)
- Colon and rectum: 162 (4.5%)
- Ovary etc.: 151 (4.2%)
- Lung: 89 (2.4%)
- Leukaemia: 85 (2.3%)
- Liver: 77 (2.1%)
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma: 76 (2.1%)
- Other: 1440 (39.6%)

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Mission

- To empower the people of Bolivia
- Improve oncology practice
- Collaborate with existing groups, organizations
Background

- Inadequate knowledge related to cancer diagnosis and care
- Bolivian culture
  - Newly formed support group (AVE)
  - Need for global collaboration regarding oncology practice and resources
Interventions

- Written information in Spanish
- Instructional CD’s on breast self-examination
- Community screening
- Family support seminars
- Health-care provider seminars
- Instructional workshops to health care providers
- Informational educational program taped for repeat broadcast
Evaluation

- Limited formal evaluations
- Informal reports
  - Support groups
  - Public, family groups
  - Health care providers
- Partnerships Development
Locally

- Enabled open communication between patients, family, clinicians
- Reduction in the amount of fear and stigma attached to cancer diagnosis
- Filmed a 1-hour long educational program on cancer beliefs and awareness
Outcome

Academically

- **School of Nursing**
  - Investigating offering a Master’s in Oncology Nursing
  - Core Curriculum from ONS provided as a model

- **Medical School**
  - Oncology topics to be added to curriculum
  - Increase networking between physicians
Internationally

- Establishment of Cochabamba’s 1\textsuperscript{st} Oncology nurses chapter
  - 3 nurses attended training in America
  - Chapter president is networking with Peru and Spain
Nurses can make a difference through collaboration, coordination, and flexibility to enhance knowledge and practice through global collaboration.