



The Road Ahead

Additional projects for the coming year:

- ***A book concerning the compilation of cancer myths.***
- ***A school project to educate and motivate keen learners from primarily disadvantaged communities, to use a microscope attached to a digital camera and computer, to learn more about cancer.***
- ***A Lymphoedema programme will be established in the coming year at all stoma care units as well as interim homes to address the current acute shortage.***

CANSA Research

During the past year the Research department of CANSA has gone through a number of fundamental changes. The concept of CANSA initiating research projects has developed further and now there are four categories of research funding as shown in the table below:

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Type A	Projects initiated and executed at institutions such as universities and parastatals
Type B	Projects initiated by CANSA but research conducted by professionals concerning environmental carcinogens.
Type C	Projects initiated by CANSA but research conducted by professionals concerning services of CANSA
Type D	Research consortium focused on one theme with multiple principal researchers from multiple institutions. Chosen and funded by CARISA (Cancer Research Initiative of South Africa - a partnership between CANSA and the Medical Research Council)

Research continued

Type B

Environmental Carcinogen Projects

- Plasticisers in cling wraps
- BPA in baby bottles
- Acrylamide in potato crisps
- Margarine and trans fats
- Trans fats in fast foods
- Heavy metals pollution in the west rand of Johannesburg
- Rooibos tea as an anti-carcinogen
- Natural alternatives for Lindane hair lice shampoo
- Purity of tap water

The Research Committee of CANSA (RESCOM) committed over R3.7 million to Type A projects in November 2008. Plus the Board committed R1 million of research funds for the Type D Consortium which will focus on challenges concerning cervical cancer. Over R400 000 has been budgeted for Type B and C projects.

The Information Resource Centre based in Cape Town, has been renamed the CANSA Science and Resource Centre (CS&RC). The toll free line info service is based here and the hours have been extended.

A further fundamental initiative was the decision of CANSA to take a stand on environmental issues related to the causes of cancer. In essence, we proposed that 90% of all cancers were caused by environmental factors involving tobacco smoke (30%), infections (20%) excessive sunlight (5%), and environmental pollution (20%) mainly with man-made chemicals, diet (15%) and other minor factors (10%).

If all the environmental factors could be neutralised, cancer would be conquered. In order to facilitate the understanding of the new initiative at grassroots level, a two-hour DVD "Position Statement On cancer and the Environment" - was made by Edge-Media and distributed widely - in which the then NED, Sue Janse van Rensburg interviewed Dr Carl Albrecht about the environmental causes of cancer.

The first cancer research conference organised by CANSA in 10 years was held from the 20th - 22nd August 2008 at the Emperor's palace in Johannesburg. This was a resounding success and did much to raise the profile of CANSA as a serious cancer research supporting organisation. All CANSA Type A grantees attended and delivered 36 presentations, with Prof Peter Jones (previous CANSA research grantee)



CANSA awarded Prof Jones the coveted A. G. Oettle Memorial medal for his work on epigenetic therapy of cancer.

and Steve Baylin, world leaders in epigenetics and cancer, and delivered groundbreaking presentations.

It was found that over a 10 year period CANSA grantees had published 570 peer-reviewed papers concerning 192 projects with a high mean impact factor of 3.8. Analysis also showed that most of the research concerned therapy and less than 10% focused on prevention or care. This insight influenced the establishment of Type B and C funding channels for CANSA initiated research.

Type C

Cancer Research

A Dignity Scale Project sponsored by CANSA (Type C) was presented at the CANSA Research Conference. The aim of

the project is to assess optimal palliative care given to cancer patients by CANSA volunteers.

Introduction of this scale has enabled caregivers to make qualitative assessments and statements of patients and there also is preliminary evidence that the use of the scale in itself enhances the dignity of the patient.

CANSA formed partnership with the University of Johannesburg on sponsoring of cancer projects type B and C. Based on the shortage of care and treatment of lymphoedema, agreements were reached with Stellenbosh University as well as Tshwane University of Technology to train staff and volunteers in lymphoedema care and treatment.

