RESEARCH

Medicines and fundamental biology dominate cancer research in high-income countries.

Cancer research spans all disciplines of science, from the social and humanistic to fundamental biology. ① Cancer research in wealthy countries dominates disease-specific biomedical research. ② However, most research funding is skewed towards fundamental biology and cost-effective screening. ③ There is also increasing global recognition that a national-level research is essential. For example, many countries in the Middle East and North Africa have begun to substantially engage in the cancer research agenda. However, global research remains far too exclusively centered in high-income countries.

How can we promote and drive equity in global cancer research in low- and middle-income countries? ④ Twinning partnerships between high-income and low- and middle-income centers have already proved effective and could be expanded. A global cancer fund would provide much-needed resources to link networks and centers to build capacity and research, training, and education in research methodologies always produces results. But ultimately, more research funding must be directed at global cancer research partnerships, and national cancer research capability needs to be built, particularly focused on orphan areas such as surgery.

Cancer research papers are dominated by the highest Human Development Index countries

Although cancer research continues to occur predominantly in high-income countries, many countries in the Middle East and North Africa have begun to substantially engage in the cancer research agenda.

India has now developed a partnership of 52 cancer centers (National Cancer Grid) dedicated to driving care quality and research across all states.

“In the temple of science are many mansions, and various indeed are they that dwell therein.” — Albert Einstein