



**Susan G. Komen  
Research Grants – Fiscal Year 2014**

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**UNC-CIDRZ Proposal to Conduct a Comprehensive Assessment of Current Breast and Cervical Cancer Control in Zambia**

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**Lead Organization:** The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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**Public Abstract:**

UNC-CIDRZ Proposal to Conduct a Comprehensive Assessment of Current Breast and Cervical Cancer Control in Zambia. In December 2011 Zambia was chosen as the first Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon partner country, largely because of its flagship cervical cancer prevention program, which was built on an effective HIV/AIDS service delivery platform [1-3]. Implementing strategies to further expand early detection and treatment of cervical and breast cancer is a high priority for the Zambian government. The goal of this baseline assessment of breast and cervical cancer in Zambia is to support this expansion by enumerating existing capacities and services, identifying critical gaps, and analyzing current priority areas. As described below in detail, we propose a comprehensive approach to deliver this assessment by a dedicated team with unmatched experience and expertise in Zambian women’s cancer control. Our strategy includes extraction and analysis of existing data, primary facility assessments, and a survey of outreach and education efforts. Our on-the-ground team has developed substantial relationships and collaborations over the past decade and can ensure access to the relevant data sources, in addition to our own substantial service dataset [4]. Our team is experienced in conducting this type of assessment and analysis and can reliably deliver the baseline analysis within the requested timeframe. Because of their high incidence and mortality rates in Zambian women [5, 6], these two malignancies are among the four characterized as “priority” cancers in the Zambian National Cancer Control Strategic Plan. A rapid baseline assessment will enable planning for the implementation and scale up of services and monitoring of future national progress. The assessment should identify key gaps and recommend evidence-based solutions that are useful to the Zambian government in its decision-making. Our preparatory activities for the baseline assessment will include a literature review, health system review, and drafting of a health facility assessment (HFA) tool: The literature review will encompass peer reviewed literature. We will produce a summary of the existing analyses and models of the impact of breast and cervical cancers in Zambia. The health system review will use available public reports as well as consultation with the MOH and MCD-MCH; our team will prepare a background summary of the public health system in Zambia, including number and type of facilities, existing health care providers, and new health care worker training programs. We will also review current national plans and strategy documents, including the recent National Cervical and Breast Cancer Control Strategy as well as the overarching National Cancer Control Strategy. The HFA tool will be based on our clinical experience and expertise as well as available international guidelines and best practices. These include the Breast Health Global Initiative’s Guidelines for International Breast Health and Cancer Control and guidelines of the Alliance for Cervical Cancer Prevention. The deliverable of this project is a comprehensive baseline assessment of breast and cervical cancer in Zambia, to be titled “State of Breast & Cervical Cancers in Zambia.”