NCG Newsletter

NATIONAL CANCER GRID
COLLABORATION FOR CANCER CARE

Issue Jan – Jun 2026

Message from NCG

Dear Members,

In the first half of 2026, the NCG has conducted multiple events and started several new initiatives. This year, three events were viz., conferences were endorsed and supported by NCG. NCG also added and redeveloped webpages. It also initiated a peer review process for an NCG member. This issue provides a glimpse of these activities.

NEW MEMBERS (National)

1. Advika Care Foundation, , Bangalore Karnataka
2. AIG Hospitals, HYDERABAD, TELANGANA
3. AIIMS, Bilaspur, Noa, Himachal Pradesh
4. AIIMS, Gorakhpur, Gorakhpur Uttar Pradesh
5. Chandan Cancer Institute (Chandan Hospital), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
6. Banas Cancer and Research Institute, Palanpur, Gujarat
7. Butterfly Cancer Care Foundation, Kochi, Kerala,
8. Good Samaritan Cancer and General Hospital, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh
9. KARO trust, Mumbai, Maharashtra
10. Malla Reddy Narayana Multispecialty Hospital, Hyderabad, Telangana
11. Max Super Speciality Hospital, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
12. MOC Cancer Care Foundation, Category Mumbai Maharashtra
13. Patel Hospital, Jalandhar, Punjab
14. Plus Medicare Hospitals Private Limited (Paras Health), Srinagar,
15. Sachin Sarcoma Society, Delhi,
16. Sant Gajanan Maharaj Rural Hospital and Research Centre, Mahagaon Maharashtra
17. Solar Hospital (Grace GPS Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.), Ahmedabad, Gujarat

International Member

1. The Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center (HICCC), Columbia University, New York, United States

NCG Activities

Activities

EQAS

The EQAS webpage was launched in February 2026 as consolidated and user-friendly platform for NCGEQAS program. This will support , MP QAP, Clinical Biochemistry QAP, tissue processing , Immunohistochemistry, and H & E Diagnosis. The webpage includes enhanced registration and login features. The updated EQAS schedule has also been released. Full deployment of the webpage is expected by the end of the month. The table below provides overview of participation, reflecting increasing participation and sustained interest in the current year's modules.

NCG EQAS program details	Status / Count
Centres registered for NCG EQAS	398
Service requests placed	391
Centres participating in tissue processing run	270
Centres completing tissue processing run	257
Good pass rate achieved	76.2%

The EQAS program for the year commenced with the tissue processing run. Neuroendocrine tumour sections were circulated to assess variations in histological processing across participating centres. Recommendations for improving tissue quality were included in the final report shared with the participants.

The second run scheduled for the year is now available on the webpage. An orientation webinar was conducted on 30 April 2026, and a step-by-step video guide was circulated to support centres in navigating the run flow

Publisher:- National Cancer Grid
Frequency of Newsletter: Twice a year
Contact us: - ncg@tmc.gov.in
Suggestions and contribute write-ups for NCG newsletter: joshi.mva@gmail.com

circulated to support centres in navigating the run flow and completing online submissions within the specified timelines. Preparations for the ER and PR runs are currently underway.

NCG Peer Review

NCG organised and facilitated a two-day, in-person peer review visit at Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute (BBCI), Guwahati, Assam during 28–29 April 2026. The visit assessed institutional quality systems, patient safety, clinical services, infrastructure, and governance, while reinforcing continuous quality improvement across NCG member institutions.

The multidisciplinary review was conducted by experts from surgical oncology, medical oncology, radiation oncology, pathology, radiology, nursing, palliative care, quality management, and hospital administration. The review covered clinical services, laboratory services, nursing, quality systems, infrastructure, patient safety, and academic activities.



NCG EQuIP India (Enable Quality Improve Patient Care) – QI program 2026

The NCG EQuIP Programme is a 7–10 month, QI programme improving cancer care in India and internationally. Teams solve institutional problems using the A3 Methodology and other QI tools through virtual learning, mentorship and workshops.

Each team's Senior and Junior Mentors guide its project, helping turn learning into sustainable improvements.

The EQuIP 2026 cohort began in June 2026 with 15 Classical New Teams and 3 Hub-in-Making Teams, alongside QI Hubs and teams across India. It also included two international teams, an international mentor, 60 faculty members and mentors. This enables diverse healthcare teams to exchange QI experiences and approaches.

The programme trains clinical teams and strengthens QI Hubs that mentor teams and build institutional capacity.

The cohort opened with mentor training, led by Mr. Jake Mickelsen, Director, Stanford Health Care University and Faculty Fellow, Stanford Center for Innovation in Global Health. It covered management of stakeholder engagement, resistance to change and building QI culture.

Two in-person workshops provided hands-on learning, project review and mentorship.

At KMC Manipal, 8–9 August 2026, 18 Classical New Teams refined plans, QI tools and shared learning with faculty and mentors.

At HBCHRC, Muzaffarpur, on 31 July 2026, 21 Hub teams reviewed progress, addressed challenges and strengthened projects.

These activities strengthen collaboration and patient care across India and internationally. The network now includes 100+ trained faculty members and 14 QI Hub centres.

Publisher:- National Cancer Grid
Frequency of Newsletter: Twice a year
Contact us: - ncg@tmc.gov.in
Suggestions and contribute write-ups for NCG newsletter: joshi.mva@gmail.com

NATIONAL CANCER GRID
COLLABORATION FOR CANCER CARE

NCG - International Collaboration for Research Methods Development in Oncology (CReDO)



CReDO
Shaping research ideas

CReDO Workshop 2026

LDA, Lonavala
March 1 - 7, 2026

The ninth International Collaboration for Research Methods Development in Oncology (CReDO) workshop at the Larsen and Toubro Leadership Development Academy at Lonavala, near Mumbai between 2nd and 7th March 2026.

The objective of this workshop was to train researchers in oncology in various aspects of clinical trial design and to help them to develop a research idea into a structured protocol. Participation was open to researchers with training in surgical, medical or radiation oncology or any branch related to oncology with preference being given to early and middle-level researchers working in an academic setting, who demonstrate commitment to continuing research in oncology.

The format of the workshop included protocol development group sessions, didactic talks, small-group breakaway sessions, office-hours (one-to-one direct consultation with experts) and “homework”. This was supplemented by pre - and post- workshop virtual sessions.

About 44 National and 30 International Participants were trained in the program. Some of the research proposals developed at past CReDO workshops have received funding by the National Cancer Grid.

Publisher:- National Cancer Grid
Frequency of Newsletter: Twice a year
Contact us: - ncg@tmc.gov.in
Suggestions and contribute write-ups for NCG newsletter: joshi.mva@gmail.com

NATIONAL CANCER GRID
COLLABORATION FOR CANCER CARE

The NCG Guidelines in collaboration with Department of Health Research

The development of the NCG Guidelines for 12 cancer subtypes treatment and prevention is progressing steadily

- Regular meetings were held with the Centre for Guideline Development (CGD) to review overall progress and coordinate ongoing activities.
- PICO question finalisation and matching were completed for six Guideline Development Groups (GDGs).
- A brainstorming workshop on "Building a Guild of Methodologists for Evidence-Based Guidelines" was organised in collaboration with DHR and held in New



TCC - Tobacco Control & Cessation Programme

The second cohort of the Certificate Course, conducted during 7 April 2026 to 7 July 2026 trained 51 healthcare professionals through expert-led, lectures, interactive sessions and practical training on tobacco prevention, health impacts , cessation strategies, counselling techniques, and programme implementation. The cohort introduced a NCG TCC counselling video to help healthcare providers effectively deliver tobacco cessation in routine healthcare.

NCG-KCDO

- KCDO initiatives progressed across tele-oncology, digital health implementation, grants, biobanking, virtual tumour boards, reporting platforms, and imaging systems.
- Tele-oncology Pilots
- The Intelehealth Proof of Concept at Tata Memorial Hospital concluded successfully, delivering more than 140 consultations.
- The 10 Bed ICU model expanded into the Breast Disease Management Group and supported the management of more than 45 patients from Manipur, with strong clinical outcomes and patient impact stories highlighting improved access and reduced financial burden.
- Digital Health and Onco-EMR Implementation
- The Onco-EMR initiative scaled to 17 onboarded hospitals, of which 8 are currently live.
- New go-lives included Axis- Bank CSR supported centres such as Rajkot Cancer Society Hospital (January 2026).
- Targeted Digital Health Foundation Course trainings were conducted at Mahatma Gandhi Cancer Hospital, Miraj, (February 2026), and Malabar Cancer Centre in November 2025.

Publisher:- National Cancer Grid
Frequency of Newsletter: Twice a year
Contact us: - ncg@tmc.gov.in
Suggestions and contribute write-ups for NCG newsletter: joshi.mva@gmail.com

- Grants, Biobank, and Knowledge Platforms
- Processing of grant amounts for the AI CATCH Grant winners has begun
- The Tumor Biobank completed its foundational setup, with 50 paired tumour-normal samples collected. Procurement of the required software is underway.
- The Virtual Tumor Board library moved into implementation on the upgraded Akshara platform, with development commencing in March 2026.
- Digital Infrastructure and Reporting Systems
- The Synoptic Reporting Platform retendering process is now in the advanced stages and is expected to complete by this year end.

NCG Information services

- NCG information services renewed subscriptions to e-resources and the NCG discovery tool Akshara. The NCG Information services have added EMBASE database to its subscriptions and search services are provided upon request.
- The Akshara tool is being further customized to meet the information needs of faculty, staff, and students at NCG member institutions. It is accessible at https://ncgakshara.jgatenext.com/. On-site training programmes are being organised at each centre to support easy and effective use of the tool. To arrange a training programme at your centre, please write to joshi.mva@gmail.com.
- Two online writing skills seminars—Case Report Writing and Grant Writing—were conducted in 2025, with additional sessions planned for 2026. More than 55 participants from various NCG member institutions attended these webinars. Recordings of the past sessions are available in the NCG learning resources library at https://www.ncgindia.org/learning-resources/library-resources.
- Case Report Writing Meeting Recording, Sep 2025
- Proposal and Grant Writing Meeting Recording, Apr 2025

APPEAL

- Update your membership details – All members are requested to submit updated Annexures (I, II, and III) and forward these to - ncg@tmc.gov.in Annexure templates are available at https://www.ncgindia.org/hospitals-and-institutions/membership-process
- Verify your institutional details at - https://www.ncgindia.org/hospitals-and-institutions/membership-process For any changes / corrections write to joshi.mva@gmail.com
- Write to us at joshi.mva@gmail.com, if you wish to have a special webinar on how to search and / use databases, Akshara – NCG Discovery tool, and other resources. You may also send requests for full text of articles.

Publisher:- National Cancer Grid
Frequency of Newsletter: Twice a year
Contact us: - ncg@tmc.gov.in
Suggestions and contribute write-ups for NCG newsletter: joshi.mva@gmail.com