



**World Cancer Congress**  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
1–4 Oct 2018

**Strengthen  
Inspire  
Deliver**



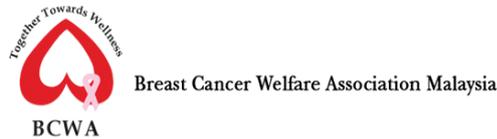
## 2018 World Cancer Congress Master Courses

### Master Course N°2: From peer support to policy change: Strengthening capacities of patient groups across the health system

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#### Course description:

Support groups have emerged globally as a way for patients and their families to access support and connect with others. The model of community-led peer support groups provides an accessible, low-cost, and valuable option for some cancer patients to link into basic psychosocial support. As groups grow and develop, some expand their role into areas such as access to treatment and policy change: from helping patients navigate cancer services to bringing the patient's perspective to promote change at policy level, the work of patient support groups can be felt across the health system. Cancer agencies and group leaders have a crucial role in leading the delivery of peer support groups and maximising their impact as the representative broker of patients and their needs.

This course will guide you on how to develop effective individual peer support groups on a local level, explore other functions the groups may take in their development along with their organisational implications. An overview of established knowledge in the field will be provided. Variations in group formats, structure, and delivery will be investigated along with potential challenges and opportunities. The use of technology in peer support groups and the emergence of online communities will be discussed with the aim of sharing best practices.

The role of the group leader will also be explored to include the necessary knowledge, skills, and attributes for the role. Guidance will be provided on how to effectively identify and prepare potential group leaders utilising consensus-based standards and available resources. Sharing of experiences and knowledge will be a core component of the entire course with a paired buddy-system introduced to facilitate meaningful peer learning amongst participants.

**Union for International Cancer Control**  
31-33 Avenue Giuseppe Motta,  
1202 Geneva, Switzerland  
[www.worldcancercongress.org](http://www.worldcancercongress.org)

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## Course objectives:

### After completion of this course participants will be able to:

1. Appreciate how support groups operate globally, what support is currently provided in local communities, and approaches to coordination and delivery
2. Learn how technology is being used in delivery of peer support
3. Understand the requisite qualities and specific knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary for the cancer support group leader role
4. Learn how to conduct effective selection processes and identify development needs of support group leaders
5. Identify challenges and opportunities in the delivery of peer support groups
6. Understand implications and opportunities for patient groups to advocate for the patient's perspective to be heard at the policy level
7. Participate in peer networking and shared knowledge amongst course participants

## Target audience:

The course is for support group leaders, patient advocates, workers of cancer agencies or community organisations involved in patient support groups, and for cancer control professionals relevant to psychosocial support. This is an introductory course with no assumed prior training.

## Teaching methods:

The Master course comprises 20 hours of private study time over a three-month period from June to September 2018, culminating in a one-day face-to-face workshop on 1 October 2018 at the World Cancer Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The distance learning will be facilitated by an online e-learning platform – UICC eCampus - hosting different learning approaches including self-assessment surveys, reading materials, webinars, monthly peer networking (assigned 1:1 peer participation) etc.

## Course leader:

Amanda Pomery, Director, Support & Community Outreach, Prostate Cancer Foundation, Australia

## Other faculty:

Ranjit Kaur Pritam Singh, President, Breast Cancer Welfare Association, Malaysia  
Vandana Gupta, Founder, V Care Foundation, India



### Amanda Pomery

Amanda is a registered Psychologist, with over ten years' clinical experience in counselling, assessment and training. She has worked in a range of government, not-for-profit and private settings including disability and rehabilitation, private practice, organisational and staff support services.

She is the Director of Support & Community Outreach for Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA). Amanda is responsible for the implementation and development of national community and evidence-based strategies for support and awareness. She is also completing a PhD with The University of Melbourne on cancer support group leadership and has published several papers on her study. Furthermore, Amanda is involved in various survivorship projects and professional committees, along with being an Affiliate of the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Prostate Cancer Survivorship.



### **Ranjit Kaur**

Ranjit, a breast cancer survivor since 1998, has a basic qualification in Physiotherapy, and a Master of Science degree in Community Disability Studies (University College London, UK).

She is a Patient Advocate for the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). Currently she is the President of Breast Cancer Welfare Association Malaysia and Chairman of Together Against Cancer (TAC) Malaysia. Ranjit conducts peer psychosocial support training for cancer survivors in the Asian region. Ranjit is a Board Member of Reach to Recovery International and member of the Executive Committee of the ABC Global Alliance.

She has held the following positions in the past: President of Reach to Recovery International (2003-2007) and Board Member of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) (2006-2010). Ranjit received the 2004 Outstanding UICC Volunteer Award and the Terese Lasser Award conferred by Reach To Recovery International in 2011. Her article on *Cancer - My Personal Account* was published in The Lancet, Issue no. 9472, May 14th 2005, Vol 365, Page 1742.



### **Vandana Gupta**

Vandana Gupta is a cancer survivor since 1993. Following treatment and getting into remission, Vandana decided to use her personal experiences in coping with the disease to benefit other cancer patients and care givers. She founded V Care Foundation in 1994, providing primarily emotional support to cancer patients and care givers.

She has a Masters in English Literature, and has done a three-year course in Child Development. She was one of the first fellows of the International Partner Program by American Cancer Society.

V Care is a voluntary organisation with over 60 dedicated volunteers working towards the organisation's goals and objectives. It is affiliated with the American Cancer Society, International Kidney Cancer Coalition, and Lymphoma Coalition, among others. Vandana has served on three ethics committees and won awards for her work in the field of cancer support.