

Prashanti Cancer Care Mission
Reaching out with excellence



NEWSLETTER

July

2021

1. BreastGlobal Conference in June 2021

1st BreastGlobal e-Conference took place 25th -27th June 2021, a joint collaborative initiative hosted in association with several of our partner societies from across the globe. The theme of the meeting was “Crux to Consensus”.

Our objective for BreastGlobal platform is to address geographical disparities in breast cancer care provision through evidence-based discussions, sharing of data-driven innovations in treatment and arriving at an acceptable consensus by considering local patient cohorts and infrastructure.

The e-conference agenda inclusive of orations, debates, videos, and lectures was delivered by over 60+ highly reputable international faculty, the conference faculty roster includes global luminaries such as Dr. Gail Lebovic (President, SOS, USA), Prof. Isabel Rubio (President ESSO, Spain). Prof. Benjamin Anderson (WHO Cancer Control). Prof. Mauricio Magalhaes Costa, (President SIS, Brazil) to just name a few.

We also gave out Lifetime Achievement Awards to two extraordinary personalities Prof. Melvin Silverstein, USA, and Prof. Maurizio Nava, Italy for their invaluable contributions to the field of Breast Cancer. We had over 2200 registrations for the conference.

It was truly a global e-conference and an academic feast for anyone and everyone interested in Breast Cancer Research and Treatment.

Website link: <https://breastglobal.org/>





BREAST GLOBAL

BREAST RESEARCH EDUCATION AND SURGICAL TRAINING

Equity Evidence Education



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BreastGlobal is delighted to announce

1st BreastGlobal Conference

Theme From Crux to Consensus

June 25th - 27th, 2021

Co-chairs



Dr. C.B Koppiker



Dr. Ashutosh Kothari



Prof. Chintamani

Provisional Programme

www.bit.ly/bgc21-agenda

Registrations Now Open and are Free

[Click here to Register](#)

Partners



www.breastglobal.org

2. Article by Ms. Laleh Busheri published in Blooms Magazine and the manuscript was published in the “South Asian Journal of Cancer Care”

Ms. Laleh Busheri’s article on “Coping with pandemic at Prashanti Cancer Care Mission” was published in Bloom’s magazine in June 2021.

The article addressed the steps taken at Prashanti Cancer Care Mission during the pandemic according to the lockdown guidelines in the city. The article also states the paper published by PCCM in the “*South Asian Journal of Cancer Care*”.

Coping with the pandemic at Prashanti Cancer Care Mission

Laleh Busheri, CEO, Prashanti Cancer Care Mission
Pune, India



Laleh Busheri

Prashanti Cancer Care Mission (PCCM), a cancer-focused NGO in Pune established in 1996, went on in 2008 to establish India's first stand-alone breast cancer unit called Orchids Breast Health Clinic, a dedicated Centre of Affordable Excellence in Breast Health. This state-of-the-art breast unit has unmatched diagnostic tools such as Contrast Enhanced Digital Mammography with 3-D Tomosynthesis, 3-D Ultrasound, Vacuum Assisted Biopsy (VAB) for removal of fibroids and cysts, and Mammotome Biopsy. It also houses a 10-bed day care for chemotherapy and an in-house oncopharmacy. In addition, Orchids Clinic has been a pioneer in the establishment of a Breast Oncoplasty unit, the first of its kind in Asia, which offers multiple options in breast conservation surgery to avoid mastectomy (i.e., total removal of the breast). This Centre also has in-house radiodiagnosis, precision biopsy, surgery consultancy, chemotherapy and genetics departments which serve the needs of many cancer patients from Pune and surrounding areas. With these comprehensive facilities and services, PCCM has been able to provide concessional and free cancer treatment and support to thousands of patients and their families in the past decade.

The unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic has affected virtually every country in the world including India. Given the rising number of COVID-19 positive cases in March and April of 2020, Pune was declared as a “red zone” for disease containment. As a result, all hospitals and clinics in Pune were on high vigil.

The COVID-19 crisis presented huge challenges in cancer management not only to the Oncology fraternity but also to the cancer patients and their families. Cancer patients are among those at high risk of serious illness from an infection because their immune systems are often weakened by cancer and its treatments. Given the high risk of COVID-19 infections, cancer patients had to be handled more diligently by achieving a pragmatic balance between cancer treatment schedules and mitigating COVID-19 risk.

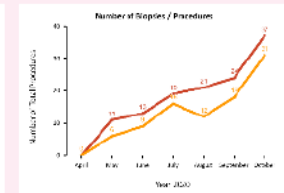
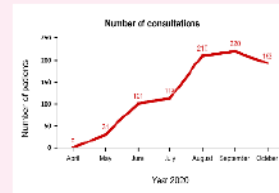
Based on the national and international guidelines and in the medical interest of cancer patients undergoing treatment at Orchids Clinic, PCCM decided to continue providing emergency support and treatment support to its patients mainly affected with breast cancer. To this

effect, the onco-clinician team at PCCM led by Dr. C. B. Koppiker published a detailed advisory for the safety and well-being of the cancer patients during the lockdown and the fast spread of COVID-19 infection. The advisory described various important topics in detail regarding several aspects of cancer management during the pandemic including consultation for radio-diagnosis, surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy. In addition, the advisory also elaborated on the topic of diet/nutrition on cancer patients during COVID-19 crisis as well as use of traditional medicines (Ayurveda and Homeopathy), stress management, exercise and mental health issues.

Services at Orchids Clinic were offered as per the Pune Municipal Corporation guidelines for every phase of the lockdown. With measures to curb the exposure to COVID-19, the number of patients visiting the clinic varied through the lock-down phases. The highest number of consultations were in the month of September 2020 as the regulations were relaxed. We also witnessed a steady rise in the number of biopsies performed at our clinic after resumption of normal services.

After the relaxations in the guidelines, PCCM onco-clinicians as well as paramedical professionals have been providing the best possible services to cancer patients. Telephonic consulting services that served as an important mode of communication during the lockdown have been integrated into our regular practice post COVID. The PCCM pink-ribbon support group of cancer survivors is actively involved in communication with cancer patients and their care givers to check-up on their well-being and other needs. Ration supplies have been provided to needy families as part of the PCCM food bank program.

During the COVID-19 crisis, Dr. Koppiker was inducted as a member of Pune Platform for COVID-19 response (PPRC). PPRC was a group co-ordinated by Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MCCA) which is helping Pune healthcare organisations from public and private sector with their requirements in the COVID-19 crisis. Through PPRC, Dr. Koppiker was instrumental, with the help of generous donations from philanthropies and Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives of corporate sector entities, in



the procurement of a large-scale supply of Personal Protection Equipment such as N95 masks and ventilators, as well as hospital supplies and consumables.

Considering the current spike in COVID-19 in the country, especially Pune, it is likely that the ongoing COVID-19 crisis may continue for an extended period into the future. In light of this, PCCM remains committed to providing the best possible services and care to its cancer patients as per international advisories and guidelines from the Government of India.

PCCM established a Centre for Translational Cancer Research in 2017 to conduct research on Indian breast cancer. Our research has evolved into national and international collaborations where we have collaborated with scientists from institutes like the Indian Institute of

Science Education and Research, Pune (IISER), National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Council of Science Education and Research, UK, Indiana University and National Institute of Health. Our main focus is research on triple negative breast cancer (TNBC), an aggressive subtype common in Indian women. In this effort, Indian TNBC research has led to better understanding of genetics, molecular pathways, drug therapy outcomes and surgery planning paradigms. CTGR has recently spearheaded the establishment of the Indian Cancer Genome Atlas project to create multomics profiles of Indian Cancers.

The measures and methods employed at Prashanti Cancer Care Mission are accepted for publication in *South Asian Journal of Cancer Care* and will serve as a

reference to follow optimal standard of care for cancer patients during the pandemic.

Updates and more information are available on the websites below:

www.prashanticancer.org

www.orchidshhealth.in

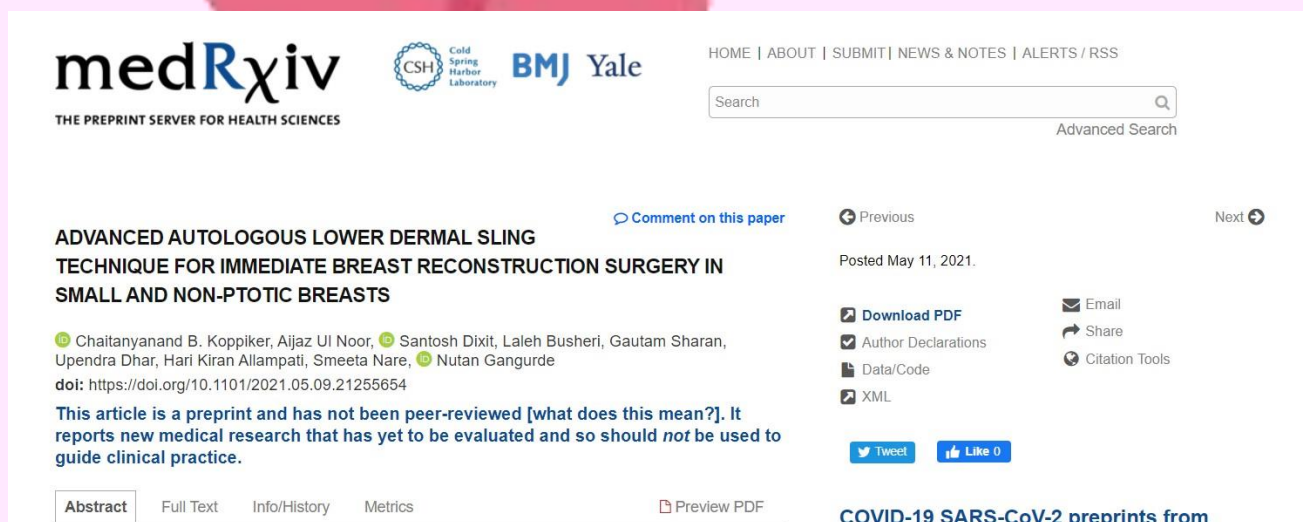
www.breastoncoplasty.org

www.ctgr.in

www.tlgs.ctgr.in

3. Manuscript “ADVANCED AUTOLOGOUS LOWER DERMAL SLING TECHNIQUE FOR IMMEDIATE BREAST RECONSTRUCTION SURGERY IN SMALL AND NON-PTOTIC BREASTS” by Dr. Koppiker and team was uploaded on MedRXIV

Manuscript “ADVANCED AUTOLOGOUS LOWER DERMAL SLING TECHNIQUE FOR IMMEDIATE BREAST RECONSTRUCTION SURGERY IN SMALL AND NON-PTOTIC BREASTS” was accepted to be uploaded on MedRXIV as a pre-print. MedRXIV is an online archive of pre-prints in medical, clinical and healthcare related subjects. medRxiv provides a platform for researchers to share, comment, and receive feedback on their work prior to journal publication. The manuscript addresses the type of technique used by Dr. Koppiker, the father of Oncoplastic surgery, in immediate reconstruction surgery in small breasts. It describes the advantages of the technique that includes good cosmesis and lesser complications.



The screenshot shows the MedRxiv preprint page. At the top, the MedRxiv logo is displayed with the tagline 'THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES'. To the right of the logo are logos for CSH Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and BMJ Yale. Navigation links include HOME, ABOUT, SUBMIT, NEWS & NOTES, and ALERTS / RSS. A search bar is located on the right. The main title of the preprint is 'ADVANCED AUTOLOGOUS LOWER DERMAL SLING TECHNIQUE FOR IMMEDIATE BREAST RECONSTRUCTION SURGERY IN SMALL AND NON-PTOTIC BREASTS'. Below the title, the authors are listed: Chaitanyanand B. Koppiker, Aijaz Ul Noor, Santosh Dixit, Laleh Busheri, Gautam Sharan, Upendra Dhar, Hari Kiran Allampati, Smeeta Nare, and Nutan Gangurde. The DOI is provided as https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.05.09.21255654. A disclaimer states: 'This article is a preprint and has not been peer-reviewed [what does this mean?]. It reports new medical research that has yet to be evaluated and so should not be used to guide clinical practice.' On the right side, there are links for 'Comment on this paper', 'Previous', and 'Next'. Below these, it says 'Posted May 11, 2021.' and lists options to 'Download PDF', 'Author Declarations', 'Data/Code', 'XML', 'Email', 'Share', and 'Citation Tools'. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Tweet' and 'Like 0'. A link to 'Preview PDF' is also present. A banner at the bottom right reads 'COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 preprints from'.

4. EMBER research project

The research study aims to investigate the association between gut microbiome, estrogen hormone metabolism and risk of breast cancer.

Healthy and breast cancer affected pre-menopausal and post-menopausal women between the age group 25 and 70 can volunteer for this project. The study can generate crucial findings for understanding risks of breast cancer and will also be helpful in designing diagnostic tests.

In the first phase of the project, Shaheen and Dr. Nutan from the PCCM team has successfully recruited 16 premenopausal healthy women, 12 post-menopausal healthy women, 6 premenopausal breast cancer affected women and 16 postmenopausal breast cancer affected women. All the affected women were patients of Dr. Koppiker and the recruitment was done after taking their consent for the same.

The second phase calls for 30 volunteers from each group namely; pre-menopausal healthy, post-menopausal healthy, pre-menopausal breast cancer affected, post-menopausal breast cancer affected.



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Orchids
BREAST HEALTH

Ember

PROJECT EMBER

Call for Healthy Women as Volunteers for Research Project

Prashanti Cancer Care Mission, Pune is conducting a medically - supervised clinical research study

Titled: Estrogen and Microbiome in Breast Cancer Epidemiology and Risk [EMBER].

This study aims at investigating links between gut microbiome, estrogen metabolism and risk of breast cancer.

In this study, we plan to compare data of Breast Cancer patients with that of healthy volunteers. We invite the participation of healthy women volunteers for this purpose. This research project may generate findings crucial for understanding risks of Breast Cancer and designing tests for early detection.

Your participation can make the difference!

You are eligible for this study if:

- You are a woman in age group **25-60 years**
- You have no major health conditions
- You have not taken any **antibiotics** for past one week
- You are ready to **provide written consent**

From eligible study volunteers, we will:

- Arrange counseling sessions
- Collect health-related data
- Collect stool samples*
- Collect 10 ml blood samples[§]
- Collect saliva samples*

*Kits will be provided for home-based collections

[§]By trained paramedical professionals

Please note:

- Your information will be kept confidential and will be used only for research purpose.
- There is no apparent harm in this study. Being an observational study, we are NOT going to give you any medicine.
- The study needs your one hour as a one-time session.
- There is no cost involved for participants for any study related activities. No monetary compensation will be provided for being a study volunteer. However, we will share the results of your investigations.

For further details, please contact :

Dr. Santosh Dixit/ Dr. Nutan Gangurde - 020-2565 0269/ 020-2565-6110

E-mail ID- researchadmin@prashanticancercare.org

*This clinical research study has been approved by the **Independent Ethics Committee** of Prashanti Cancer Care Mission and is funded by Tata Consultancy Services.*

5. PCCM welcomes Dr. Rupa Mishra to the research team

PCCM welcomed Dr. Rupa Mishra in the research team in April 2021. She completed her PhD in Cancer Biology from ACTREC-TMC in Mumbai and a four-year postdoctoral fellowship at IISER Pune. Since her joining, she has been working on the Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA). She described her work in her own words as, “ICGA is an effort to look at the cellular basis of Indian cancers starting with breast cancers. I have been a part of the team to work on Ethics Committee approvals for the same. The Ethics Committee is crucial to the ethical proceedings of any project according to the established guidelines. I have also been actively working on breast cancer genetics projects. My experience in PCCM has enabled me to understand the importance of genetic testing and the need for awareness about genetics in our community”.



6. A project on identification of biomarkers to indicate prognosis of triple-negative breast cancer project is spear-headed by Dr. Madhura Kulkarni and assisted by Ms. Pooja Vaid

The work started with samples from PCCM biobank, after appropriate ethical approval and patient consent, to identify biomarkers which can indicate the prognosis of breast cancer, especially the triple-negative (TNBC) subtype. These markers were understood to help determine the treatment decision taken by the clinician, for TNBC patients in an Indian context. The project focuses on identifying and estimating the level of immune cells in tumor samples (biopsy and surgery tissue) obtained from patients. These immune cells (tumor infiltrating lymphocytes – abbreviated as TILs), which are already present in tumor tissue, can be identified histologically by simple staining procedure in the lab (at IISER, Pune). Why are these cells important from a patient point of view? The reason being, in previous studies, it has been found that these TILs could indicate better response to chemotherapy regimens (neoadjuvant, NACT) and increase the time for relapses, after the surgery. We wanted to determine if TILs can be used as a good predictor of treatment response and longer time to recurrence for our cohort.

This study would help understand TNBC in the country, which is the most aggressive type of breast cancer, and lacks any targeted therapies, unlike other subtypes. The need for such study is urgent in India, since TNBCs are present in a bigger proportion among Indian breast cancers, when compared to the western population.

7. Freeships for Diagnostics, Surgery, Chemotherapy, Onco-Pharmacy, Clinical Procedures and Consultations at Orchids Breast Health in June 2021

❖ 15 PATIENTS RECEIVED FREESHIP AND MAJOR CONCESSIONS ON BREAST SURGERY



❖ 37 PATIENTS RECEIVED FREE CHEMOTHERAPY AND 122 PATIENTS RECEIVED MAJOR CONCESSIONS AT OUR DAY CARE CENTRE FOR CHEMOTHERAPY



❖ **195 PATIENTS RECEIVED FREE & CONCESSIONAL MEDICINES FROM OUR ONCO-PHARMACY**



❖ **57 PATIENTS RECEIVED FREE AND CONCESSIONAL MAMMOGRAPHY**



❖ **71 PATIENTS RECEIVED FREE AND CONCESSIONAL SONOGRAPHY**



❖ **14 PATIENTS RECEIVED FREE AND CONCESSIONAL BIOPSY & VAB PROCEDURES (FOR REMOVAL OF FIBROIDS ETC).**

8. PCCM appeals for support and donations to help save breast cancer patients

We are ever grateful for your generosity and donations over the years that have helped save the lives of over 1000 young girls & women annually.

Many of them are alive with their families & loved one because of your generosity and big heart. Last year, because of your contributions we have been able to successfully treat over 3000 unaffording women with breast cancer through full freeships and major concessions in surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, free biopsies, diagnostics and much more, enabling them through the bewildering maze of challenges the disease brings through its wake & hand holding them to lead a normal life after cancer.

This year the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges to the cancer patients and their families. Prashanti Cancer Care Mission has made every effort that no unaffording patient seeking our help is turned away.

This pandemic period has posed a huge challenge to needy patients, their care givers and Prashanti. We are striving to be able to take care of each and every woman coming for freeships and treatments.

We are now appealing to you for your support and generous donations, to help these young women battling with breast cancer to be able to get free treatment from us, so that no patient is turned away without help.

Every small amount from you would help save the lives of these women and allow them to live a healthy life with their loved ones.

Following are the details through which you can donate to Prashnati

You may donate via either of the two options:

1. Through the donation page on the website:

<https://www.prashanticancercare.org/donations.php>

or

2. Send us a cheque in favour of “Prashanti Cancer Care Mission”

Address: 1,2 Kapilvastu, Senapati Bapat Road, Pune, Maharashtra 411016

Please mail your Full Name, PAN Card copy, Mobile Number and Address proof to accounts@prashanticancercare.org so as to enable us to courier or email to you the 80G tax exemption certificate and donation receipt.

Every donation will receive a Receipt, benefit of Tax Deduction under 80G of IT Act 1961 and a Thank you Letter within a week or two.

For any queries, please feel free to contact me personally on 9850251000.

A big thank you once again for all the support over the years. Without your help, it would be impossible to do what we do. God Bless and wishing you and your family a blessed life.

9. Testimonials of a few patients who were adopted for Freeship in June 2021

1. Anjum Kazi



Orchids Breast Health Centre, Pune is among the best in India. I am undergoing treatment at Orchids from January 2021. The entire team understand their job very well and are very kind and helpful towards the patients. The treatment here is affordable to all. Dr. Koppiker did not charge for my chemotherapy, surgery and radiation therapy. Prashanti Cancer Care Mission provided me free treatment considering my financial situation. Dr. Koppiker is one of the best doctors in the city and is a god to patients like me.

2. Meera Agarwal

My mother came in here to get a second opinion. However, after talking to Dr. Koppiker, we decided to go ahead with his treatment. His style of explaining things is simple and easy to understand. Our visit boosted our confidence through these tough times. The staff at Orchids has been top-notch, very professional and supportive in boosting the moral of the patient. They are always available on the call and I would like to thank Orchids team for their support.

3. Vasudha Kukde

I am very pleased with the service at Orchids since day one. My treatment by Dr. Koppiker and Dr. Chetan Deshmukh has been satisfactory. They have always been responsive and positive about any suggestions and questions asked. George brother is extremely helpful during the day care chemotherapy sessions. The other staff is also very cooperative. I wish they continue providing the same service in future. I would like to extend a special thanks to Smeeta sister and Rashmi for their valuable support. I wish all of them all the best for future.

4. Shobha Pawar

I am a senior citizen and I visited the clinic for the first time this month. In the first visit itself, the entire staff and Dr. Koppiker was very cordial and treated me with utmost care. The procedure was done smoothly with no pain. I am glad to have visited Orchids and to have chosen Dr. Koppiker for my treatment.

5. Shreya

Dear Dr. Koppiker,

Words can never be enough to express my gratitude towards you. Thank you for your kindness, patience, skills and expertise. During my treatment the only time I felt good was when I saw you. Your reassuring words still give me solace. You have a special gift both as a surgeon and a human being and I feel lucky and blessed to be in your care. Your kindness reflects on your staff too and is testimony to the treatment I received at Orchids. Thank you for the excellent care I received. Sending you a little souvenir, I hope you like it. It is from

Sachin Tendulkar which I had got for you when he had visited Raipur earlier this year. Thank you once again for being awesome.



6. Suman Mahamure

I visited the clinic for the first time in May 2021 after being referred by Dr. Kumbhar from Kolhapur. Dr. Koppiker answered all my queries patiently and is an experienced doctor in the field. The staff at the clinic is aware of their responsibilities and provide care to the in coming patients. Dr. Koppiker's genuine care towards all patients and his nature to explain and answer all the questions boosts the moral of the patients and their families. The treatment here is affordable to all which eases the financial pressure.

We would like to ~~THANK~~ our
Donors & Supporters

Prashanti Cancer Care Mission
Reaching out with excellence



Warm Regards,
Ms. Laleh Busheri
CEO

Prashanti Cancer Care mission

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<https://www.facebook.com/orchidsbreasthealth>