



## **Dr. Jonas Nsengiyumva, Ministry of Public Health, Burundi**

Host Institution: Ocean Road Cancer Institute, Dar es salaam, Tanzania

### **Exchange experiences with Ocean Road Cancer Institute staff on the feasibility of setting up the first oncology service center in Burundi**

#### **Abstract**

Burundi is the only country in East Africa where cancer treatment is almost non-existent. The country has only one public pathology laboratory and another for the private sector. Human resources in cancer field remains a big challenge. Planning and creation of a cancer care centre in Burundi is urgent as cancer cases continue to rise daily. According to Global Cancer Observation Report produced in December 2020, cancer is a reality in Burundi with 7,929 new cases, 5,701 deaths and a 5-year prevalence of 11,915 cases. For all these cancer cases, cervical cancer comes first with 1581 cases, followed by breast cancer with 802 cases, prostate cancer 754 cases then by Kaposi's sarcoma with 477.

Dr Nsengiyumva is a motivated and hardworking doctor, who runs the oncology department and works at the Ministry of Public health where he oversees a population-based cancer registry since two years. He intends to set up a cancer registry, put cancer drugs on the list of essential drugs and plans to conduct a follow-up evaluation of cancer control activities in Burundi.

Dr Nsengiyumva wants to develop a national cancer control plan and to establish comprehensive cancer care in his country based on prevention, awareness, early detection, screening, diagnosis, treatment, palliative care, and research.