**Outreach Programmes by Radiotherapy Department, KGMC**

The fight against cancer starts long before diagnosis i.e. with screening for diseases and continues long after a patient’s treatment has been completed i.e. into long term follow ups. Awareness regarding the same is lacking in most people who are visiting our hospital. Department of Radiotherapy, K.G.M.C has, over the years, actively conducted several outreach programmes to educate the masses about their health, various screening programmes, treatment modalities available, their complications and follow up. Every year ‘World Cancer Day’ is celebrated on the 4th of February by our department. This year, ‘Breast Cancer Screening’ was also offered to nearly a hundred women, both to public visiting the hospital and employees of the hospital along with talks by leading specialists in the field on Screening and management of carcinoma breast, given that it has become a major health burden. Talks on Cervical cancer awareness have also been given by our esteemed faculty over Radio to listeners and on another occasion at the Police Commisionerate. Every day, interactive sessions are held between noon and 1:00pm among residents and patients undergoing treatment regarding different aspects of cancer care to raise general awareness and bust common cancer myths among the public. Weekly interactions were held via online meets between resident doctors and ASHA workers to raise awareness about common cancers like breast, cervical and head and neck cancers so they can further dispense this information among their local community. In November, 2021 ‘Pancreatic Cancer Day’ was observed with an ‘Awareness Programme on Gastrointestinal Cancers’. Distinguished faculty from different departments interacted with the general public and talked various modes of therapy and how to improve their lifestyle to live a better life. A play was also held by students to dispel common myths related to cancers and was much appreciated by the public. Road Safety Week was celebrated with awareness programmes for the public with plays, posters and personal interaction with drivers to promote adherence to traffic rules in December of 2021. During the trying times of COVID pandemic, several training sessions were held for all departmental staff and doctors to safely navigate their roles without compromising patient care and safety. Every year the, University Environmental Department along with Department of Radiotherapy organize training sessions on ‘Biomedical waste disposal’ for all staff and doctors. Recently, Cancer Palliative Unit, K.G.M.C launched home care services for patients living withing 35 km of KGMC to provide essential palliative care services. Over the last few years, several such outreach programmes have been successfully conducted by our department under the able guidance of our honourable faculty and with the active participation of resident doctors and our efforts shall continue in many such future endeavors.