

Zainab Mawji

BHS Honours Health Management

School of Health Policy and Management.

Host organization

The Caribbean Cancer Research Initiative (CCRI) is a not-for-profit organization, created to bridge the gap between research, practical medicine and patient experience. It was created after the recognition that the Caribbean region knows very little about cancer in its population.



Figure 1: Port Of Spain Trinidad Tobago.

My role in the organization

- Remote internship during the Pandemic 2021.
- I was a research intern on a project entitled “Mapping Breast Cancer Clinical Care Pathways (CCPM) in the Caribbean”.



caribbeancancer Join us in welcoming our lovely intern Zainab to the CCRI team!

“My name is Zainab Mawji, I am a 4th year student at York University, in Toronto, Canada. I am studying Health Studies, Majoring in Health Management.

Currently I am working in a practicum with CCRI. My role is to conduct literature review, synthesize information, design a research proposal and conduct stakeholders interviews towards my project methodology, and finally write up a final report on my topic.

So far, it's been an amazing experience working for CCRI, my team members and supervisor are very warm and welcoming, we are like a small family working together to achieve success”

Thank you Zainab for sharing we appreciate you and the work you do!

Figure 2: CCRI Instagram feature post screenshot.

Overview of my project

- Conducted a literature review on CCPMs
- Developed a research proposal to investigate if there is any existing CCPMs in use in the Caribbean
- Developed interview questions
- Conducted and transcribed the interviews
- Created flow charts representing the current CCPM for breast cancer patients

Interviews

The team and I conducted interviews with the following people:

- An Oncology Registrar at Sangre Grande Hospital, Trinidad and Tobago.
- A breast cancer patient survivor and Founder of Faces of Cancer St Lucia
- A founder of the Guyana Cancer foundation

Purpose of the interview: to create a detailed map of the cancer care continuum for breast cancer patient.

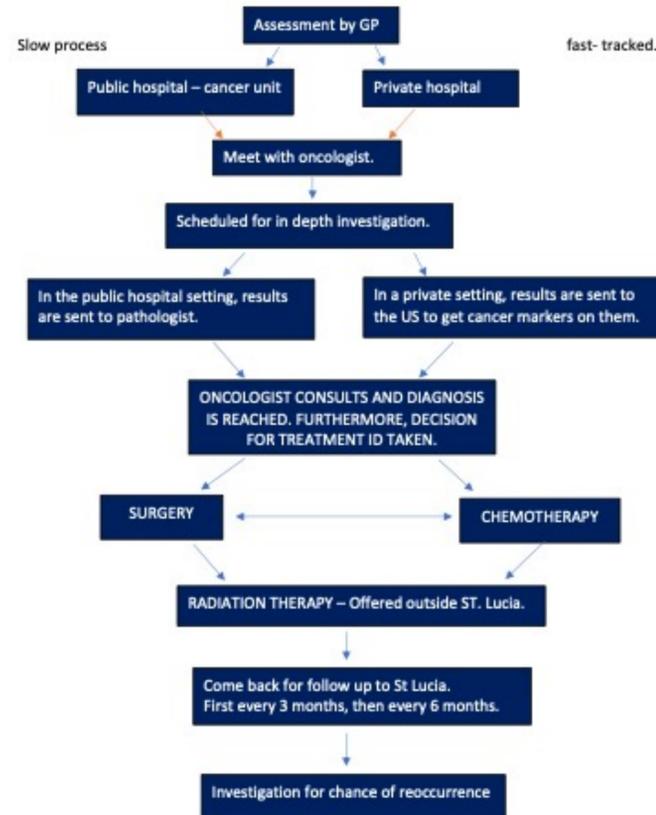


Figure 3: Flow chart created by Zainab Mawji from interview with Dorothy. P. From the transcriptions of the interviews, I created a flow chart of the current care process. It includes the steps in caring for a breast cancer patient from referral through diagnosis and follow up care.

Value of my role at CCRI

- A CCPM helps in standardizing care delivery, ensuring it is timely and in-line with best practices
- With the results of our interviews, the team will be able to continue to map the current CCPM for breast cancer patients in the region

My personal reflection

1. Strengthened my hard and soft skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature reviewing skills • Research proposal writing skills • Interview skills • Presentation skills • Time management • Teamwork skills • develop clear and concise oral and written communication skills
2. Learnt more about cancer and pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a further understanding of Breast Cancer and its treatment • Learnt more about the health system in the Caribbean and the gaps in treatment of cancer
3. Effectively supplemented concepts learned as a Health studies student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flow of care/continuum of care (HLST 3400) • Health system performance (HLST 4250) • Health care quality and safety (HLST 3400) • Applied research approaches in Health (HLST 4200)
4. Able to work with an extremely supportive team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I took constructive feedback in a positive manner and always remained open to guidance
5. Taught me a lot about professionalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learnt about goal setting and time management skills that are important in an actual workplace

- ☐ I took the initiative of creating a zoom background for our interviews and meeting which were held on zoom



Figure 4: Zoom meeting screenshot during one of the interview

My message to future students

Be confident, believe in yourself and in your abilities. Don't be afraid of the practicum, it is the best opportunity you can get as a 4th year student. You will gain invaluable experience and skills required for an actual workplace. Always remember, It's okay to be anxious, do it with confidence, and know that reflection is necessary.