

## Gynaecological Oncology Training for Surgical Oncologists

Eight surgical oncologists in government tertiary care hospitals are being trained in advanced surgical techniques to treat cervical, endometrium and ovarian cancers under the TNNCD (Oncology) Project. This article shares what they went through in the months of August and September, 2024.

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### *Notable activities of August & September 2024*

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#### 1. OBSERVERSHIP TRAINING AT BIACH&RI

The eight surgical oncologists were in two batches attached to Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute (BIACH & RI) for an observership training to learn (1) laparoscopic staging and sentinel node biopsy for endometrium cancers and (2) cytoreductive surgery for ovarian cancers from 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024.



*BIACH&RI mentors and surgical oncologists from Tamil Nadu (Batch 1)*

Besides observing surgeries employing the specific techniques, they were also involved in routine activities of the institution including the regular tumour board meetings and daily lectures on specific topics. The institution also organised special lecture sessions for the groups to impart finer points of the skills that lead to improved outcomes of the patients.

With unreserved technical support of the BIACH mentors, the groups drafted a Standard Operational Procedures (“SOP”) on each of the techniques at the end of the training, to be refined through their routine practices back in their home institutions. The SOP, once finalised, will be a practical tool for mainstreaming these advanced procedures in the routine care for cancer patients in Tamil Nadu.

The surgical oncologists from Tamil Nadu continue communicating with the mentors at BIACH & RI to further develop their surgery skills, while actively sharing their experiences in application of the techniques at their home institutions.



*BIACH&RI mentor and surgical oncologists from Tamil Nadu (Batch 2)*



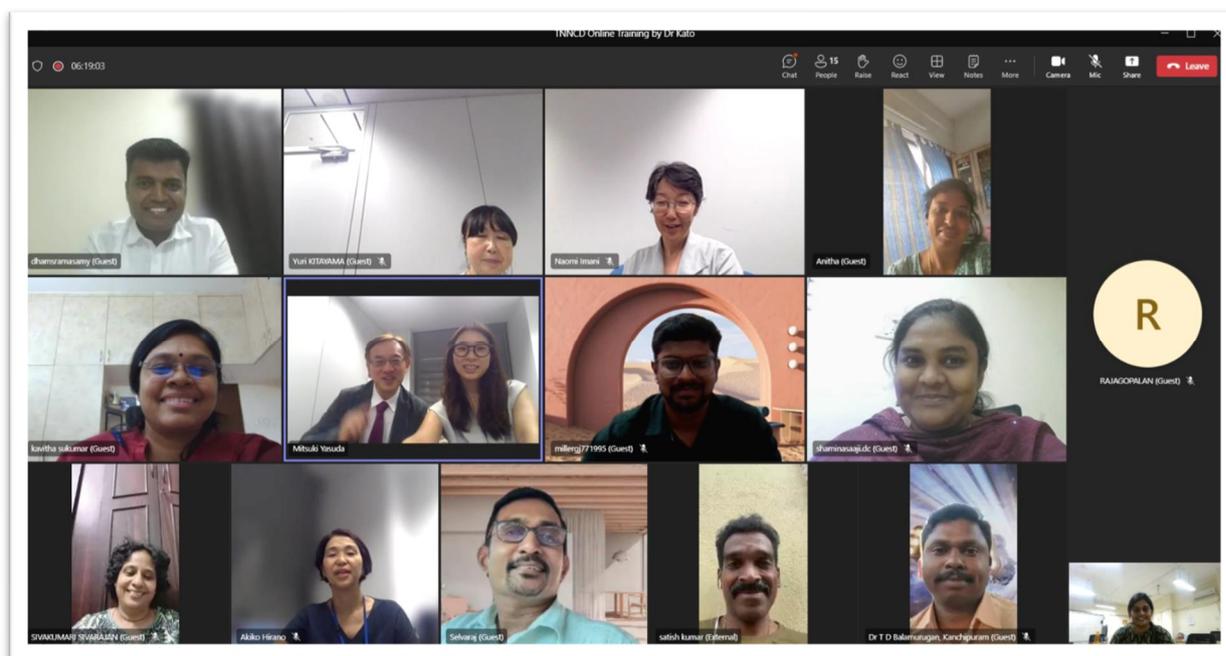
*Lecture on a gynaecological oncology topic by BIACH&RI professors (Batch 2)*

## 2.

## 2. ONLINE TRAINING BY A JAPANESE GYNAECOLOGICAL ONCOLOGY SURGEON

In the month of September, the Project organised an online training session on nerve-sparing radical hysterectomy for cervical cancer, a sophisticated technique originating from Japan, with Dr. Tomoyasu Kato, the former head of the Department of Gynaecologic Oncology, National Cancer Centre Central Hospital, Tokyo, Japan.

The session started with the lecture about the history and concept of the technique, and Dr Kato explained the stepwise techniques in detail, followed by the Q&A session. Especially, nerve-sparing technique without sacrificing radicality is unique to Japan, and the surgical oncologists from Tamil Nadu were very enthusiastic to learn the skill. Lastly, A video demonstration was given and Dr Kato answered questions raised by surgical oncologists regarding the details of the technique presented.



*An online training session with Dr. T. Kato*

The Project is planning to bring Dr. Kato over to Tamil Nadu early next year, for more detailed discussion on the finer points of this delicate procedure, which would improve the quality of life of the patients after the surgery. Meanwhile, the prominent expert of the technique will be providing his advice on videos of the surgeries performed by the Tamil Nadu surgical oncologists as and when applicable cases are presented.

The Project continues working with the dedicated surgical oncologists of Tamil Nadu, to ensure the knowledge and skills enhanced through the training will bring maximum benefits in improved cancer care in Tamil Nadu.