## Pankaj Kumar Panda

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Dr Panda is currently working as Senior Research Officer at the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS). Dr Panda did his Masters in Clinical Research from Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai in 2016. He was working as a Medical Research Fellow at TMH (2017-18) whereby he was involved in several prospective clinical trials in surgical, medical and radiation oncology, cancer epidemiological studies and clinical audits. He has worked extensively on conducting pharmaceutical and investigator-initiated clinical trials, clinical research methodologies, regulatory affairs (Indian, US-FDA, and European Medicines Agency), bioethics and patients' rights and safety in clinical trials. Prior to joining NCCS, Dr Panda was instrumental in setting up the Clinical Research Secretariat at South Asia's first proton therapy facility at Apollo Hospital group's Apollo Proton Cancer Centre (APCC) in Chennai. He also successfully coordinated a multi-institutional molecular tumour board during this period. He is a faculty and steering committee member for the Australia and Asia-Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development (ACORD) initiative in Australia and has been awarded the Duke Scholar fellowship for Accelerating Anticancer Agent Development and Validation (2017) in Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

**Topic: Drug Development in Low and Middle Income Countries**

The LMIC group is a fairly diverse one; it includes more than 100 countries with a wide range of disease presentation/characteristics, needs, resources, standards, capabilities, and aspirations. Adequate representation of study populations in low- and middle-income countries in global anticancer drug development trials is critical to develop affordable and accessible cancer care with optimal outcomes. Cooperation between cancer researchers/ investigators from low- and middle-income countries and high-income countries must be strengthened to conduct clinical trials that represent the true global cancer burden in terms of sharing the responsibilities and benefits. This calls for an overhaul of the anticancer drug development ethos in LMICs by ramping up developing anticancer drugs through suitably designed clinical trials that keep in mind the diverse LMIC patient population and incorporate study endpoints relevant to this particular group. Concerted efforts by drug developers, corporates, and medical centers to develop biosimilars are crucial to increase affordability and accessibility of anticancer drugs in LMICs.