

Siemens Healthineers expands partnership with City Cancer Challenge

- **Siemens Healthineers pledges 5 million Swiss francs (\$5.9 million) over five years**
- **Expands partnership globally to support C/Can city projects in low- and middle-income countries**
- **Aims to improve access to cancer care and health equity through collaboration with local stakeholders**

Siemens Healthineers and City Cancer Challenge (C/Can) are expanding the geographical and technological scope of their partnership for the long term, building on their existing collaboration to enable more timely cancer diagnosis and treatment, and increase survivorship for patients in low- and middle-income countries.

Global medical-technology company Siemens Healthineers is committing CHF 5 million over the next five years to help close gaps in the pathway from first cancer symptoms to diagnosis to treatment, improving access to quality cancer care and gender health equity. C/Can works with city stakeholders from the public and private sectors to improve access to cancer care from the ground up in low-and middle-income countries, and currently has projects in 14 cities in the Americas, Africa and Asia. Siemens Healthineers will contribute its expertise in technology infrastructure and digitalization to improve patient management and track the quality of cancer care, linking cities to share knowledge gained as the projects progress. The expansion of the partnership builds on a long-standing collaboration between C/Can and cancer-care provider Varian, which is now a Siemens Healthineers company.

“It is only by committing to locally driven, globally supported cancer solutions over the long term that we can come closer to making equitable access to quality cancer care a reality for everyone,” said Siemens Healthineers Chief Executive Bernd Montag.



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The partnership aims to improve cancer treatment outcomes and equity in four main ways: minimizing the time gap from first symptoms to diagnosis; workforce training; patient-management technology; and helping more women to attain leadership roles in healthcare.

Great strides have been made in reducing cancer deaths in high-income countries, with a fall of 40 percent in breast-cancer deaths alone between 1990 and 2020¹. But this progress has left behind low- and middle-income countries, where mortality rates are rising, according to the World Health Organization, as populations grow larger and become older. To address this, it is crucial to partner with local players who best understand their particular needs and challenges.

“What works in one place in the world doesn’t work in another place so we need to come up with contextualized solutions,” said C/Can Chief Executive Isabel Mestres.

The partnership has expanded over the years to include cooperation in cancer treatment, diagnostics, digital health and patient management, and real progress is evident towards our goal in the Colombian city of Cali of reducing the time from first symptoms to cancer diagnosis. In this first phase, diagnosis will be confirmed sooner so treatment can be initiated earlier, which can make the difference between life and death.

The extended partnership, signed by Montag and Mestres on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos on Wednesday, is also focusing on women’s cancers and female leadership in cancer care to improve health equity. Women on average spend 25% more of their life in poor health than men, according to a new WEF [report](#), limiting their participation not only in society but also the economy.

In addition, the two organizations will develop training programs in diagnostics and radiotherapy to ensure healthcare professionals have the skills needed to deliver quality care. They will also expand the Cali project into the surrounding Valle de Cauca region, and insights gained will be used to inform existing and future projects.

¹ REF: Siegel, R. L., et al. (2022). "Cancer statistics, 2022." CA Cancer J Clin 72(1): 7-33.

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Further information on C/Can’s city challenges can be found [here](#).

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Siemens Healthineers pioneers breakthroughs in healthcare. For everyone. Everywhere. Sustainably. The company is a global provider of healthcare equipment, solutions and services, with activities in more than 180 countries and direct representation in more than 70. The group comprises Siemens Healthineers AG, listed as SHL in Frankfurt, Germany, and its subsidiaries. As a leading medical technology company, Siemens Healthineers is committed to improving access to healthcare for underserved communities worldwide and is striving to overcome the most threatening diseases. The company is principally active in the areas of imaging, diagnostics, cancer care and minimally invasive therapies, augmented by digital technology and artificial intelligence. In fiscal 2023, which ended on September 30, 2023, Siemens Healthineers had approximately 71,000 employees worldwide and generated revenue of around €21.7 billion. Further information is available at www.siemens-healthineers.com.

City Cancer Challenge Foundation (C/Can) supports cities around the world as they work to improve access to equitable, quality cancer care. C/Can leads a city-based partnership initiative that aims to improve access to quality cancer care in cities around the world by transforming the way stakeholders from the public and private sectors collectively design, plan, and implement cancer solutions. The approach is built on the core principle that cities can drive impact at national level by crafting data-driven solutions with the support of a network of global, regional, and local partners that reflect an understanding of the unique local context. C/Can was launched by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) at the 2017 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos. It was established as a standalone Swiss foundation in January 2019. Further information is available at www.citycancerchallenge.org.