Title: Delayed diagnosis of cancer in low and middle income countries: The UK-Southeast Asia-Middle East psychosocial and cultural cancer research network

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WHO reported that 70% of all cancer deaths occurred in the Low and Middle Income countries. Of these, 40% are preventable if diagnosed early. Delayed diagnosis, due to patient, doctor and health system is a major cause of poor survival. Existing studies in the Middle East revealed that at least 70% of breast cancer was diagnosed in regional or distant stage of the disease (advanced stage) and around 40% of women delayed their first doctor appointment for more than 3 months. Lower incidences (30 - 60%) were reported in 3 urban hospitals in Malaysia, but this might not reflect the overall situation where cancer services are not evenly distributed. In Singapore, despite better healthcare and a more educated population, about 25% of breast cancer diagnosed since 1997 were at advanced stage. There is a growing awareness that these delays are not only cognitive-related, but also socio-cultural. However, these factors and their impacts on health-seeking decisions and behaviours in patients have not been systematically investigated in the UK, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

In November 2010, the first psychosocial and cultural cancer research network between 4 universities in the UK (Leeds), Middle East (United Arab Emirates) and Southeast Asia (Malaysia and Singapore) was formalised. The network aims to promote applied qualitative research and mixed-methods research to investigate delayed presentation and diagnosis of cancer, as well as to provide knowledge transfer activities on research methodology within partner universities. In this seminar, the speaker will talk about the work involved in setting up this network, current research and capacity building activities, and achievements to date.

Time & Place: Tuesday, April 9, 2013
11:30 a.m. in the Rogers Faculty Council Room (M/48)
3640 University St., Strathcona Anatomy & Dentistry Bldg.

Small lunch served. All are welcome. Host: Dr. Jocelyne Feine at (jocelyne.feine@mcgill.ca)