

Building Capacity to Study the Molecular Basis for Colorectal Cancer in Northern Tanzania

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BACKGROUND

- Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third leading cause of cancer deaths globally with a mortality rate of about 4 per 100,000 in Tanzania^{1,2}.
- The incidence of CRC, especially Early Onset CRC (EOCRC), is increasing globally, particularly in low and middle income countries (LMICs)
- There are few molecular epidemiologic studies in LMICs due to limited cancer research capacity and training, which hamper control efforts.
- Prevalence of genetic syndrome is unknown
- We developed a mentored research program to address these gaps in collaboration with Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC) and Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC).

EVALUATION METHODS

- Biweekly virtual meetings between sites
- Weekly meeting of the local team

APPROACH

We constructed a mentored research program with the following objectives:

- To enhance local research skills in particular study design, hypothesis testing, instrument design and data collection skills.
- To build capacity to study the molecular basis of colorectal cancer in Northern Tanzania.
- To assess the feasibility for the establishment of a prospective molecular data collection infrastructure.



Fig. 1 Map of Tanzania in the Eastern region of Africa

MILESTONES

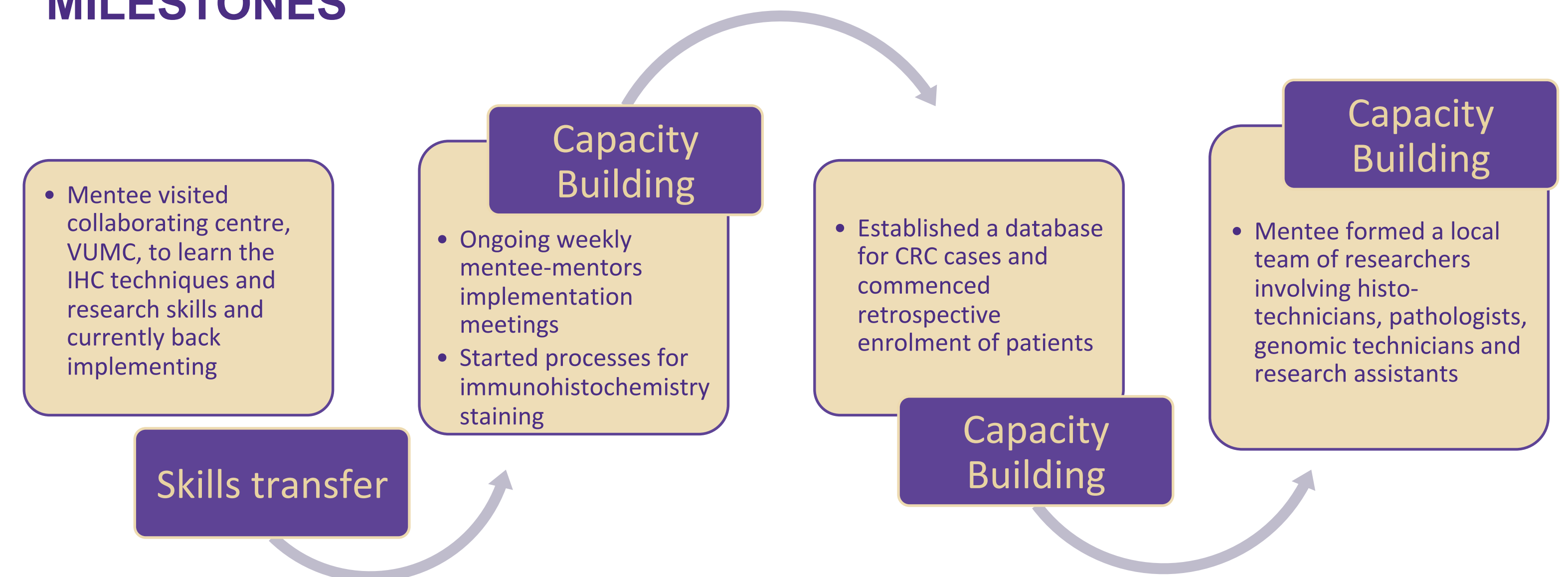


Fig. 2 Project milestones

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

On completion of this program,

- The mentee will be an independent researcher and able to acquire future grants to advance CRC research in Tanzania
- The results will form the basis for cancer control activities such as screening, genetic counseling and guide treatment strategies
- Strengthen research capacity at KCMC and enhance and optimize a CRC registry for planned and future CRC research
- Program will shed light on the molecular characteristics of the tumors and answer some questions regarding EOCRC in Tanzania

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