

NARRATIVE

Cervical cancer is, second to the breast cancer, major cause of death in the world. There are about 600,000 new cases of cervical cancer per year and 380,000 women die, majority of them, in the developing world. Cervical cancer is completely preventable and curable disease IF detected on time with regular screening. Unfortunately, because of financial constrains, lack of infrastructure, non-accessibility and cultural barriers, in most of MLIC the outreach for cervical cancer prevention is very low and women unnecessarily die from a preventable disease in the 21st Century.

The WHO has recognized the situation and has recommended guidelines for resolution, and this RFA is following the same path. The Global Academy for Women's Health, a non-profit organization, the Applicant of this proposal, is working hard supporting development of low cost, simple medical devices, which are affordable, accessible, equitable, culture sensitive and infrastructure independent , which can help women all around the globe.

Cervical cancer is a major health problem in India. In spite of large investments, out of 300 million women, only 6% are protected. 280 million women living in rural India are left behind. This is why more than 70,000 women die per year in India from preventable cervical cancer.

This project is about introducing a new biomarker-based, telemedicine empowered, low cost, simple, accessible, culture sensitive, and infrastructure independent technology. It requires development of a Comprehensive IT Telehealth Center in India, with local centers who can support thousands points of care (POC) in rural India. There is no need of specialist at the Point of Care, what is very difficult to achieve in the foreseen future. However, telemedicine, diagnosis at distance that was employed in this proposal, enables things to happen we thought are impossible not long ago.

We have long-standing relation with Indian healthcare providers with whom we have conducted clinical trials, published papers together, with whom we were analyzing the Indian needs and ability to cope with the problem and have designed a new Strategy for fighting cervical cancer in India. President of the Apollo Telemedicine Networking Foundation In India, Immediate Past President of the Indian Telemedicine Society and world-renowned expert, will lead this effort in India.

The development of the Comprehensive IT Technology Center (C-ITTC-ICS), with possibility for treatment within one single day, is the objective of this project proposal. All details on the development, based on prior experience and preliminary data, millstones during UH2 and UH3 phase are described in details in the Application.