



Persistent Systems co-organizes first TCGA conference and workshop in India in collaboration with Prashanti Cancer Care Mission (PCCM) and IISER Pune

A collaborative effort between cancer scientists, researchers, clinicians and technology providers to bring a paradigm shift in precision medicine and improve translational research in cancer care in India

September 23rd, 2019; Pune

Persistent Systems in collaboration with Prashanti Cancer Care Mission (PCCM) and IISER Pune announced the 1st TCGA Conference and Workshop from September 21-25, 2019 at IISER Pune.

The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA), is a landmark [cancer genomics](#) program that molecularly characterized over 20,000 primary cancer and matched normal samples spanning 33 cancer types. This joint effort between the National Cancer Institute and the National Human Genome Research Institute began in 2006, bringing together researchers from diverse disciplines and multiple institutions.

TCGA has generated more than 2.5 petabytes of genomic, epigenomic, transcriptomic, and proteomic data over the years. The data, which has already led to improvements in the ability to diagnose, treat, and prevent cancer, will remain [publicly available](#) for anyone in the research community to use.

Modeling upon the NIH led TCGA initiative, Persistent Systems, Prashanti Cancer Care Mission (PCCM) and IISER Pune will be launching a TCGA India initiative on cancer data collection, analysis, and management. This initiative will play a critical role in advancing Indian health care.

The TCGA Conference and Hands-on Workshop (for more information, visit <http://tcga.ctcr.in/>) in India is aimed to encourage the community of Indian researchers and clinicians to actively participate and accelerate cancer research discoveries to translate into clinical outcomes. Attendees include Dr. Jean Claude Zenklusen, Director - The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA), USA along with his senior colleagues; Prof. Sunil Badve, a senior clinical researcher in USA, who is coordinating between TCGA and Pune group and a large number of cancer researchers from across the globe. The Wellcome Trust -DBT India Alliance, a major biomedical funding agency in India has partnered with the Pune group in this important conference, highlighting the importance given by the Indian community to the need for a TCGA India initiative.

Dr. Anand Deshpande, Chairman – Persistent Systems

“TCGA has helped the global cancer research community work towards prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the disease. TCGA India proposes to build a similar India centric data set that will extend upon and integrate with global genomic initiatives. Software is fundamental to the TCGA initiative as an unprecedented amount of complex biological data needs to be collected, handled, and managed. The India data set will help refine and discover treatments for Indian cancer patients.

Persistent is delighted to be co-organizing the first-ever TCGA India conference in Pune to bring together global experts working in this area which will result in collaboration and innovation amongst researchers.”

Dr. Jean Claude Zenklusen, Director - [The Cancer Genome Atlas \(TCGA\)](#)

“It is very encouraging that there is a willingness of performing large-scale genomics programs locally in India. I hope the results will be widely and openly distributed as the TCGA data was, and not restricted to commercial use.”

Dr. C.B. Koppiker, Breast Onco-surgeon, and Medical Director – Prashanti Cancer Care Mission

“With the declining cost of genomic technology, molecular/precision oncology is fast becoming mainstream in the cancer management in India. In my breast onco-surgery practice, I have seen the significant impact of tumor molecular profiling on better surgical and clinical management decision making. However, Indian cancers have uniquely different molecular attributes than their western counterparts. Hence, taking motivation from the TCGA project, it is timely and pertinent that the onco-community joins hands to initiate high impact, large scale, multi-disciplinary initiatives that are relevant to the Indian context. Prashanti Cancer Care Mission is committed to playing a pro-active role in this effort”.

Prof. L.S. Shashidhara (Professor- IISER Pune)

“Considering human and microbiome diversity in India and our distinctive identities compared to the rest of the world, it is imperative that more we share clinical data, better we can manage cancer at the clinical level and thereby reducing health burden in the society. TCGA India initiative provides an opportunity for Indian researchers to generate quality data and share them freely on a single platform. This initiative will also impact entire South-East Asia, given our shared biological history.”

Prof. Sunil Badve, Joshua Edwards Professor of Experimental Medicine, Indiana School of Medicine, Indianapolis, USA

“To make any headway against a complex disease like cancer, one has to use all the tools one can garner to understand its strength and weaknesses. Having large databases that catalog all aspects of cancer is critical in this endeavor. TCGA-India could provide such a library and make a difference to the management of cancer patients in India and Indian diaspora which together amounts to approximately 20% of the world population.”

About Persistent Systems:

[Persistent Systems](#) (BSE & NSE: PERSISTENT) builds software that drives the business of our customers; serving software product companies and enterprises with software at the core of their digital transformation.

Forward-looking and Cautionary Statements: For risks and uncertainties relating to forward-looking statements, please visit [FLCS](#)

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