

coordinating the decommissioning work in the country.”

Iraqi and IAEA experts discussed these and other areas of technical cooperation during a meeting held in Vienna in August 2016 to chart a new plan of enhanced collaboration, said

Abdulghani Shakhashiro, Programme Management Officer at the IAEA.

Meanwhile, scientists and researchers like Abdulrazzaq are working to help Iraq move a step closer to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. “ Sometimes,

Iraq gets forgotten. But with more involved stakeholders and an improved security situation, the story can always change,” Howell said.

— *By Laura Gil*

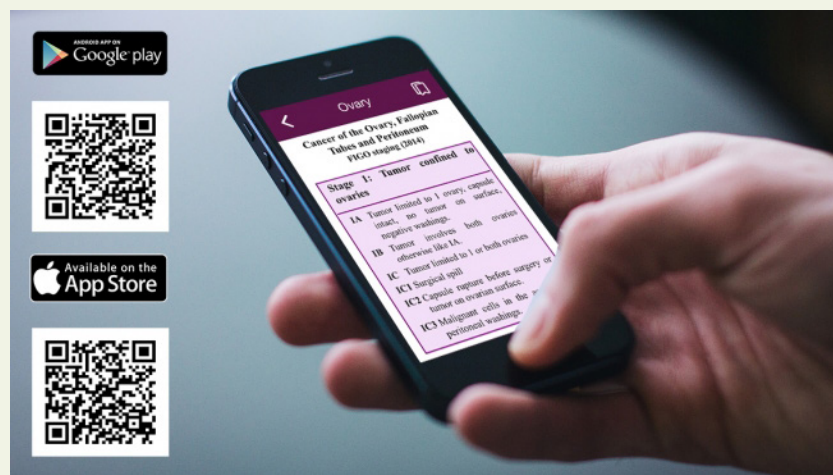
## New mobile App to help doctors evaluate cancer in women

Optimizing cancer care for women is the aim of a new mobile app designed to help doctors evaluate more quickly and accurately the extent of cancer in female reproductive organs and select the most appropriate treatment. The FIGO Gyn Cancer Management app is available for use on iOS and Android devices.

“One of the major challenges faced by clinicians is to determine the most effective treatments for their patient, ensuring optimal conditions at minimal risk,” said Diana Paez, Head of the Nuclear Medicine and Diagnostic Imaging Section at the IAEA. “Technological innovations like this gynaecological cancer staging app help to address that challenge by bringing key information right to a doctor’s fingertips.” The app also includes investigation and management strategies based on best practices as endorsed by the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO).

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death worldwide, with approximately 14 million new cases and 8 million cancer-related deaths each year. Gynaecological cancers encompass a diverse group of tumours originating in the female reproductive organs — the vulva, vagina, cervix, uterus, fallopian tubes and the ovaries. It is estimated that every year over 1 million cases and half a million deaths worldwide are due to gynaecological cancers.

“Pivotal elements for addressing the cancer burden worldwide are early detection and accurate diagnosis, precise evaluation of disease extent and appropriate selection of a treatment approach,” Paez said.



(Photo: IAEA)

If cancer is diagnosed, doctors can use the new app to further plan treatment according to the globally recognized cancer staging and management guidelines published by FIGO. These guidelines represent a standardized system based on expert consensus and are regularly updated to reflect evolving medical knowledge of gynaecological cancers. They constitute a system of criteria that draw on a wide range of medical tests and key variables related to the tumour, including its size and location and whether the cancer cells have spread to the lymph nodes or other parts of the body (metastasis).

These key variables are considered together, giving particular consideration to any spread outside the original location of the tumour. The results are typically expressed as stages ranging from one to four, with several substages. The doctors then use the stages to decide whether surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy or any other form of treatment is most appropriate for the patient.

The new app is useful for a range of medical specialists, including gynaecologists, oncologists, pathologists and surgeons.

“Physicians can plug in the key details about a patient’s tumour into the app, even when the app is offline, and interactively and quickly find the information they need,” said Neerja Bhatla, a gynaecologist from FIGO. “While it’s a small step, it’s an important one, because it helps to further shorten the gap in access to quality care worldwide.”

Cancer management is an important strand of the IAEA’s work worldwide. It contributes to helping countries achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and, in particular, the target of reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, by one third by 2030.

— *By Nicole Jawerth*