



Texas Children's Global Health Network mourns loss of Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation partner and colleague **Phangisile Mtshali**

Monday, January 9, 2023

This week, Bristol Myers Squibb and the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation suffered the loss of a treasured colleague when longtime South Africa-based colleague Phangisile Mtshali was killed in Johannesburg. Texas Children's Global Health Network joins BMS and BMSF in mourning the loss of our partner.

Phangisile led the work of the BMS Foundation in Africa for 23 years. In 1999, Phangisile helped launch the BMSF program in sub-Saharan Africa called SECURE THE FUTURE, which was initially focused on HIV. Launched in the five hardest respective hit countries in sub-Saharan Africa, SECURE THE FUTURE was instrumental in the public-private partnerships that ultimately led to the establishment of Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundations and their respective Children's Clinical Centres of Excellence in Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Uganda and Tanzania. When BMS exited virology, Phangisile led the

transition of the Foundation's support to focus on non-communicable diseases such as cancer. She was key to supporting Texas Children's Global HOPE initiative, which focuses on pediatric cancer and blood disorders in partnership with Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine International Pediatrics AIDS Initiative at Texas Children's Hospital (BIPAI).

Over the decades Phangisile labored to create access to care, partnering with governments, NGOs, faith-based organizations and international agencies to strengthen and expand treatment facilities and provide training and education to health care professionals who then went back to their communities in the hopes of bringing a chance at survival where before there was none. She created the Multinational Lung Cancer Control Program (MLCCP), which today is improving access to early diagnostic services for lung cancer by working with communities and the Ministries of Health in regions of Kenya, Tanzania, Eswatini, South Africa, Lesotho and Ethiopia to address the barriers of cancer care.

Phangisile was a member of BOLD from its inception as the African American Affinity Group more than 20 years ago, serving as chair in 2008 and leading a breast cancer awareness program in the Kwa Zulu Natal Region of South Africa and the "I Promise" employee fundraising campaign that culminated in an internal exhibit in Lawrenceville. She was also the on-the-ground point person for the GBO Gives program, the Rutgers/BMSF Public Health Preceptorship and countless other programs that brought the passion and skills of our BMS employees to help support the Foundation programs on the continent.

Condolences and remembrances may be shared via:

<https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/XbgBAwOa>