

April 2026



The Breast Course for Nurses (BCN) is a registered NPO (NPO 147-129) and PBO (PBO 930050375) aimed at educating and upskilling healthcare workers in the breast care field.

*"If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together" African Proverb*

The last year has been a year of collaboration.

We have been invited to collaborate with several breast cancer societies: the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the Association of Breast Surgery (UK). We have also signed a memorandum of understanding with Curing Womens Cancer (USA).

Public-private initiatives continue to thrive. We have worked extensively with Novartis, the Tsiko Barberry Foundation and Nandos.

We have also collaborated with other community organisations: the Kwalata Community Development Initiative and Transfrontier National Parks.

We would like to wish Ms Gladys Bogoshi (outgoing CEO of CMJAH) a happy retirement, and our thoughts and prayers go to Mossie Mostert's family. He was a stalwart of the Charlotte Maxeke Community and sadly passed away in April 2026. Without him, our breast clinic would not have been built.

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2025 – 2026

The opening of the breast clinic at Charlotte Maxeke Hospital, Johannesburg, in February 2025 was a big highlight for us after a lot of hard work in getting it up and running. We have since launched a screening programme within the clinic. We will share more details about this later in this newsletter.



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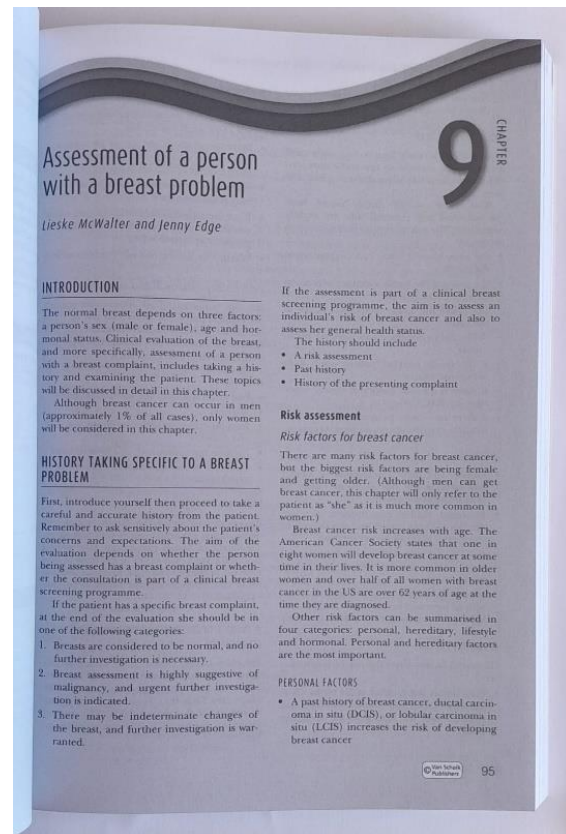
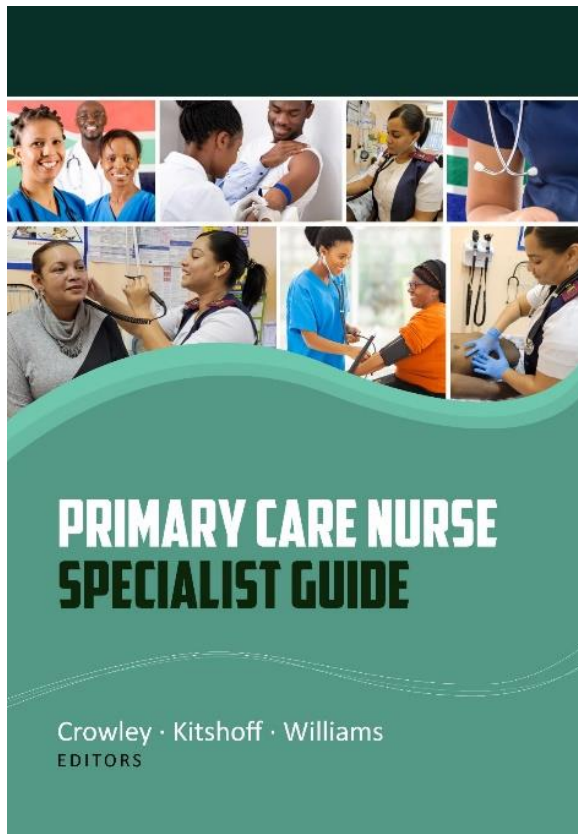


## May 2025

The Primary Care Nurse Specialist Guide was launched in May. Prof Jenny Edge and Sr Lieske Wegelin were invited to contribute a chapter in a book to be published for Primary Care Nurses.

The chapter is about the assessment of a person with a breast problem. Planning of this book was started towards the end of 2021 and is now available for purchase through Van Schaik Publishers. The editors, T. Crowley, D. Kitshoff and M. Williams, have a wealth of knowledge and experience and it shows in this informative guide.

It will be of immense value to any nurse or healthcare professional, especially those in the primary care setting.



## June 2025

The Breast Course for Nurses were a part of 'Hope on Stage - a Playback Theatre event' that took place at the Labia Theatre in Cape Town. The GroundSpring Playback Theatre Company, through the art of playback theatre, trained actors and musicians; transformed real experiences, shared by the audience, into improvised performances. The event was open to patients, care givers, medical professionals and anyone involved in the breast cancer field.

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The Breast Course for Nurses NPO were honoured to be involved in this event and to be the beneficiaries of the proceeds.

This unique production was put together by Heather Schiff. Sponsors and organisers of the event included the Breast Course for Nurses team, Dr Britta Dedekind, Michelle Norris, the Labia theatre, Chin & Partners, Morton & Partners Radiologists, Antarus, Gknowmix, Tosca from 'The M Store' and many individual donors.

It was a very special evening filled with a lot of emotion and a fantastic experience for those that shared their stories.



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## August 2025

Conrad and Elaine Wegelin, long time supporters of the Breast Course for Nurses, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in August. What made this occasion even more special was that they asked guests to donate towards the Breast Course for Nurses instead of giving physical gifts. Sr Lieske gave a talk at their celebratory event about the Breast Course for Nurses and the work that we do.

On the 20th October, we had an online get-together for the donation handover. The event was attended by Prof Jenny Edge and Sr Lieske Wegelin representing the Breast Course for Nurses, and Charity Mutetwa - a nurse from Zimbabwe that is a part of our latest collaborative project - a mental health and breast nursing course.

A number of the guests that attended the anniversary celebrations as well as made a donation, also attended the handover event. We are extremely grateful for the donation and would like to say a huge thank you to Conrad and Elaine, as well as each and every guest that donated.

Donations such as these keep our NPO on the go. With every healthcare worker that we can educate and upskill, many women (and men) will benefit! The funding received from this occasion will be used for our breast and mental health project.

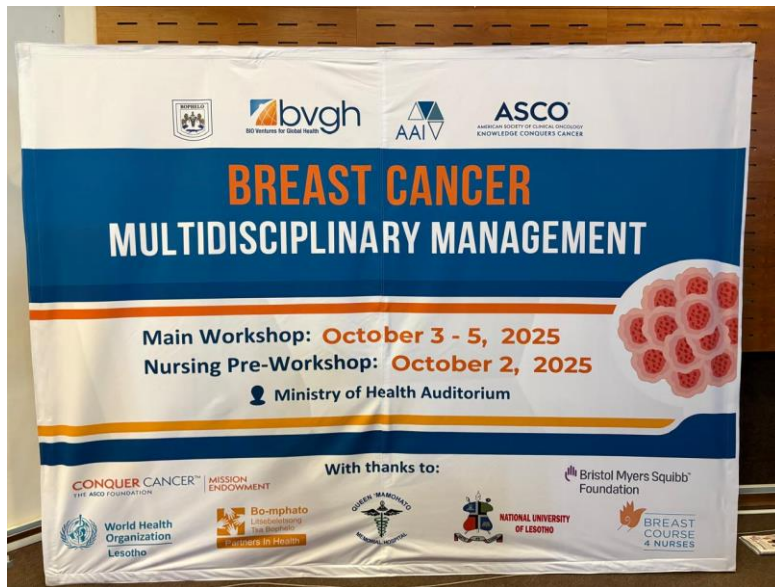


## October 2025

In October, ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncology), ran a workshop in Lesotho that concentrated on the multidisciplinary management of breast cancer. We, as the Breast Course for Nurses, were asked to participate in a nursing pre-workshop before the main event. Nurses are an integral part of breast cancer management: from diagnosis in the primary setting through to the delivery of palliative care. Prof Jenny Edge travelled to Lesotho to run the nurses workshop.

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Maseru, the capital of Lesotho, is busy building up its cancer services. This had prompted the workshop with the focus on multidisciplinary management of breast cancer. The diagnostic cancer services are decentralized where possible, but the treatment centers are mainly in Maseru. The oncology clinic, Senkatana, gives the chemotherapy, and surgery is performed at Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital.

The day before the main ASCO workshop on the multidisciplinary management of breast cancer, the Breast Course for Nurses ran a workshop specifically for nurses. Sr Mutetwa and Prof Edge ran the day. It was attended in-person by over 50 people with many more attending online. Topics discussed included the normal breast, what changes occur that are normal, who should be referred for investigation, and who can be reassured.

For the afternoon session, the attendees broke up into 2 groups for focused discussions. One was about the barriers to care for breast cancer patients, and one of how it is possible to advocate for change.



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## October 2025

In February 2025, we launched the new breast clinic on the grounds of the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH). This project was done in collaboration with Novartis and Barberry Holdings.



From this...



...to this!

## Shaping the Future of Breast Cancer Treatment



Within 3 days of launching, the new clinic was in action and 45 patients were seen and assisted on that specific day. The clinic has been set up for many uses, not only for breast patients but also for other departments, as well as research and education. This is a space for all.

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After the exciting launch of this breast clinic, October brought the launch of the first big project being run within the clinic – the Tsiko Barberry Foundation CMJAH Breast Screening Clinic. The clinic has been set up to offer clinical breast screening to the female employees working at the hospital.

It is also set up with a space to educate healthcare workers employed at the hospital about how to pick up breast cancer in patients attending the hospital for other problems.

This is a private-public partnership and one that will hopefully go some way to improving wellness for the staff at the hospital. An exciting initiative!

We have since had meetings with the various stakeholders and will be making adjustments to the screening project as the need arises.

A big thank you to Dr Naidoo, Ms Maruma, Ms Bogoshi, Prof Luvhengo, Jeanette Nkabinde and Thando Tyutu for all their support in making this project a reality. It was inspired by Derrick Ellan from Novartis and is being sponsored by the Tsiko Barberry Foundation.

## CMJAH Staff screening clinic: opening 14/10/25

09h00 - 09h10	Opening and Welcome	Prof J. Edge
09h10 - 09h20	Brief Overview	Dr. T. Naidoo
09h20 - 09h30	Message of Support	Ms. K. Maruma Prof Luvengo
09h30 - 09h40		Norvatis
09h40 - 09h50	Message of Support	Tsiko Barberry Foundation
09h50 - 10h00	Showcasing of booking system	Dr. T. Naidoo
10h00 - 10h10	Ribbon cutting	CEO: Ms. G. Bogoshi
10h10 - 11h00	Registration & Screening	CEO & EXCO



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At present, Dr Sabrina Naude and Jeanette Nkabinde are running the staff screening project.

In February 2026, 52 staff members were seen in the clinic for the screening project. 3 were referred into the breast clinic for further investigation. In March 2026, we saw a significant increase in the number of staff attending the teaching sessions which reflects the importance of these sessions and our commitment to expanding this project.

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## December 2025

We held a Breast Course for Nurses 3-day course at the CMJAH in December. This course was led and run by Sr Mpho Msiza. Sr Mpho works at the CMJAH and she will be completing her oncology training in 2026. We look forward to working with her again once she has completed her studies.

This course was generously sponsored by Nandos, the Tsiko Barberry Foundation, Pink Drive and the Breast Course for Nurses.

As part of a bigger picture, this course was run specifically to train the occupational health nurses in breast care as they will be involved with the screening and education project at the breast clinic.



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**December 2025**

A big congratulations to Prof Jenny Edge who received the WOW (Women of Wonder) award for her significant work in the healthcare community!





**HEREBY CONGRATULATES WOW GAUTENG RECIPIENT  
2025**



**PROFESSOR JENNY EDGE**

- MB BCH (London University), BSc, BSc (Med) Hons, MMed (surg), FRCS (Edin), FCS (RSA).
- Head of the Breast and Endocrine unit at CMJAH. She has been involved in Breast Nurse education for the last 10 years and in the last few months, that has taken her to both Bulawayo (with the Association of Breast Surgery) and Lesotho (with ASCO).






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## February 2026

The Breast Course for Nurses team are collaborating with Curing Women's Cancer, an American-based organisation that are using AI to assist in the journey of the patient with a breast problem. We met with the team who were visiting South Africa to discuss various projects.

	Current Way	New Way
Timeline	Agonizing delays and Wait times	✓ Rapid detection, diagnosis and treatment - single visit
Imaging	Painful Mammograms, radiation exposure	✓ Ultrasound + AI - no pain, no radiation, all breast densities
Location	Hospitals, often several	✓ At point of care: local clinic
Treatment	Surgery	✓ Minimally invasive process
Feel	High anxiety, stressful	✓ One visit means less stress, less travel

Together with Curing Women's Cancer, the Breast Course for Nurses attended and ran a breast ultrasound workshop in Lesotho at the end of February. This workshop was hosted by ASCO and was a follow-on course due to the success of the workshop completed in October 2025.

The visiting faculty included 2 radiologists: Dr Susan Harvey from the Johns Hopkins University, Dr Elise Desperito from Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Centre, and our very own Prof Jenny Edge.

The workshop was mixture of lectures and practical sessions that were held at the Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital. Topics covered included clinical breast examination, the management of benign conditions and an introduction to ultrasound of the breast. There was a biopsy workshop illustrating biopsy techniques using jelly models and chicken breasts.



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## March 2026

In 2025, Prof Jenny Edge, at the invitation of Charl Pretorius (from the Kwalata Game Lodge) and Ezelle Schimper, visited Chikombedzi in Zimbabwe, for the first time, to improve breast care in the local area. Dr Kevin Mawana has since provided hugely positive feedback from that course - he had subsequently diagnosed 2 breast cancers using the skills he had learnt through being involved in the course.

As result of the continuing huge need in the area, and the desire of the local health workers for more education, a Breast Course for Nurses course was set up in Chikombedzi for the village and general healthcare workers.

The course was led by Prof Edge. She was joined by Dr Maria Bews-Hair (consultant surgeon), and Lis Grimsey (consultant nurse), who have been involved in the Matabeleland South Collaborative Project between the Association of Breast Surgery (ABS) and the local health workers. We were also joined by Dr Kevin Mawana from Masvingo.



The 3-day workshop was held in a very remote area, at the local Lutheran Church. The focus audience for day 1 were the village healthcare workers as they are the ones who promote health care by visiting homes. The group comprised of both men and women. Although the group was small (the weather had been very bad and there was a lot of flooding and mud in the local area), they were enthusiastic and ready to learn and engage! There was excellent interaction and discussion.

This course was hugely special as we were joined by the village Chief and his wife who gave their full support to the project. Various appropriate and relevant topics were covered including how to promote breast self-examination and who needed to be referred and who could be managed with follow-up visits.

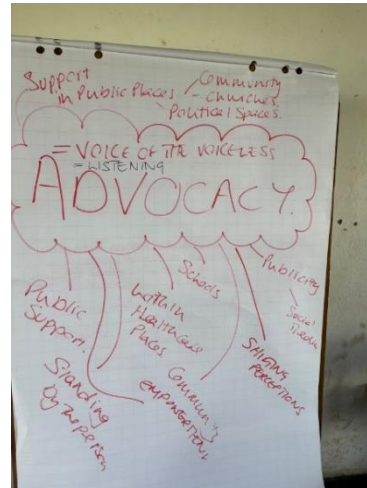
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On day 2, healthcare workers working in primary clinics attended as well as some of the village healthcare workers that had attended day 1's sessions. The Chief's wife also returned, and was accompanied by the Chief's sister.

Subjects covered included the principles of what cancer means, communicating with someone with the disease, referral pathways, and what treatment options are available. As a result of the discussion, it was proposed that Traditional Healers should be formally included in the pathway.

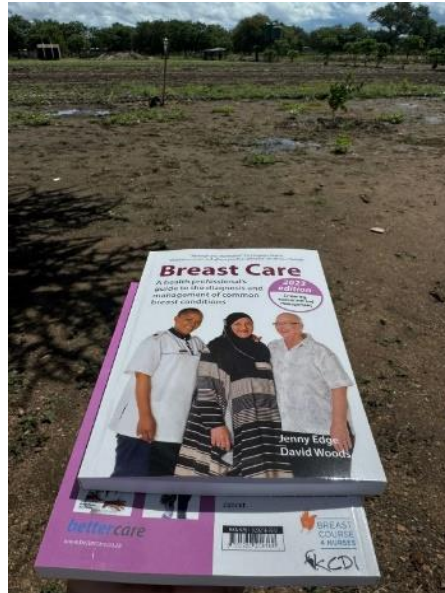


We had a lively breast awareness session with good group participation and an excellent session on advocacy. The multidisciplinary approach to breast cancer management stretched to the concept of 'multidisciplinary' as not just a medical team, but also to include policy makers, families and the community.

Discussions like these encourage the attendees to think out of the box and use what is locally available to promote the best awareness as is possible, as well as to involve the local communities.

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On day 3 of this course, we were joined by Alderman Abraham Sithole who was representing Dr Ginyai from Transfrontier National Parks. He gave a very enlightened and motivational speech about public awareness and community involvement in breast care and gave his support to the project. He was also an active participant in the course during the day. The theme of the day was treatment of cancer including palliative care and communication.

The Chikomedzi project was only possible due to many individuals and organisations working together! A big thank you to the following people: Dr Kwana, Lis Grimsy, Maria Bews-Hair, Ezelle Schimper, the Lutheran Church, Margaret and her team for the food, Charl Pretorius and Alderman Abraham Sithole (representing Dr Ginyai) from Transfrontier National Parks for his support.

And as always, the Breast Course for Nurses community without which we would not be able to provide and run these courses.



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## Website

We have been working on updating our website over the last couple of months. March saw us launch the updated and user-friendly, Breast Course for Nurses website!

### *Breast Course for Nurses*

Please go and visit our updated website for more information on who we are and the work that we do! There are links to the organisations that we have partnered with, and resources available for download under the "resources" tab.

## Woolworths MyDifference

Woolworths has recently updated their systems, rewards and loyalty programmes. What does this mean for the Breast Course for Nurses?

If you add us a cause on the MyDifference platform, every time you scan your barcode (on the app) at the till, a contribution is made towards our organisation as part of the MyDifference programme. There is no additional cost to you however, every rand received makes a huge difference to our NPO!

Please follow the instructions below to ensure that you add us a cause / beneficiary on the new 'MyDifference' platform:

1. Download the Woolworths app
2. Register or log in
3. Click on the 'Loyalty' tab
4. Select 'Causes'
5. Select 'Choose My Own'
6. Search for 'Breast Course for Nurses'
7. Click 'Add Cause'
8. The app will state 'Cause Added'



Remember, every swipe counts!

We remain grateful for the support that we have received over the last few years and would very much appreciate your ongoing support of our NPO through this easy method of donation.

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As April flies by, we are excited for the many projects that are underway and ahead of us. The screening programme continues to be a highlight and is growing as we speak.



A big thank you to Brigitta Kepkey (left) and Dr Sabrina Naude (right) who are currently working within the Breast Course for Nurses on various projects.



We are in the planning phase of running a pilot 1-day session of our first ever Breast and Mental Health Course which will be a collaborative effort between the Breast Course for Nurses and a mental health specialist team from Zimbabwe, along with input from Dr Nick Bass from London, England, as well as colleagues in Kenya. This will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and will be presented online.

To all of our supporters, we would like to thank you for your continued support of our NPO. The Breast Course for Nurses continues to be a sustainable organization which is ready to adapt to the needs of the healthcare professionals and patients that it serves. As we go forward, we continue to respond to changing needs within the healthcare system as well the private/public needs of patients and those that care for them.

Every single donation, big or small, monetary or in other ways, assists us in keeping the Breast Course for Nurses on the go and moving forward. Courses make a considerable difference to the knowledge of many primary healthcare workers and thus make a difference in the lives of the patients who come into contact with these healthcare workers.

We do not receive any funding through the National Department of Health and therefore rely fully on the support of the community. Projects take time and cost money. For the individuals that give of their time, thank you. And to all that continue to support our projects - whether courses educating healthcare workers or other projects in terms of research, improving referral pathways, and uplifting breast services within our healthcare system, we are hugely grateful for your ongoing support.

We are a registered PBO and can provide Section 18A tax certificates for any donations received.

On behalf of all of the healthcare workers and in turn, the patients, who benefit from the work of the Breast Course for Nurses, we thank you.



The Breast Course for Nurses team

Meet the Breast Course for Nurses team here: ['meet the team'](#)

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