2017 Africa Pavilion & African Access Initiative Launch

BIO International Convention
San Diego, CA | June 19-22, 2017
**2017 Africa Pavilion**

**BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH)** coordinated the third Africa Pavilion at the 2017 BIO International Convention to showcase African life sciences capabilities and foster collaborations at the world’s largest partnering event. Over 16,000 industry, academic, and government leaders had the opportunity to meet with exhibitors from 24 African countries—a veritable tour of the continent in just three days!

In conjunction with the Pavilion, BVGH held a media event featuring BIO President and CEO James Greenwood, arranged site visits for exhibitors to local companies and research institutions, and organized an exhibitor presentation on African investment opportunities for the Convention’s Global Innovation Hubs session track.

BVGH hosted representatives from Nigeria at the 2014 Convention. The Africa Pavilion debuted in 2015 with exhibitors from five countries, and expanded in 2016 with new and returning exhibitors from 16 nations. The Pavilion is now a fixture at the Convention, representing more than half of the continent.

BVGH launched a new program focused on cancer in Africa during this year’s Convention. The **African Access Initiative (AAI)** will develop and implement solutions to address a growing epidemic that already kills 60% more people in Africa than malaria. AAI programming included release of a **white paper** on Africa’s cancer crisis, a panel on Africa’s cancer burden, and a meeting of African leaders and company executives on oncology medicines access.

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**Africa Pavilion Exhibitors**

**Cameroon:** University of Buea  
**Ethiopia:** Addis Ababa University - Center for Innovative Drug Development and Therapeutic Trials for Africa (CDT-Africa)  
**Ghana:** Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine (KCCR)  
**Ghana:** Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR)  
**Nigeria:** Redeemer’s University  
**South Africa:** AfricaBio  
**Eastern Africa:** East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC)  
**Pan Africa:** African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC)  
**Southern Africa:** Trials of Excellence in Southern Africa (TESA)  
**Western Africa:** West African Network of Excellence for TB, AIDS, and Malaria (WANETAM)

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**Prof. Abebaw Wassie, Addis Ababa University**

“The BIO International Convention was an eye-opener and a huge inspiration for me. In addition it was an excellent opportunity to speak with representatives from a variety of established research institutes – across for-profit, academic, nonprofit, and government sectors – to apply their valuable insights towards our development and implementation of a drug development center of excellence.”
Partnering Meetings

One-on-one partnering meetings are a core component of the Convention. Africa Pavilion partnering meetings have the dual purpose of catalyzing mutually beneficial collaborations that advance the exhibitors’ research and strategic objectives, while also expanding industry’s awareness of Africa’s innovations and understanding of African markets.

Before every Convention, BVGH assesses each exhibitor’s capabilities and partnership interests, identifies attendees with complementary needs and objectives, and reaches out to those attendees to arrange meetings.

During the 2017 Convention, exhibitors explored new partnerships in pre-scheduled meetings with industry leaders and representatives from academic institutions, funding organizations, government agencies, and more. Returning exhibitors also advanced collaborations initiated in prior years. Exhibitors further engaged in many unscheduled discussions at the Pavilion and at Convention networking events.

Africa Pavilion exhibitors were uniformly positive about the partnering meetings and expect that the conversations initiated at the Convention will lead to new research alliances, grant proposal submissions, and other joint activities.
Publicity and Media

- Africa Pavilion Media Event and Press Releases
- BIO Breaking Buzz: “A Peek at Pavilions: Sub-Saharan Africa”
- BVGH Newsletter - 2017 BIO International Convention Special Edition
- WIPO Re:Search Partnership Hub Snapshot - June 2017
- Social Media: LinkedIn and Twitter (@BIOVentures)
- BIO Buzz Digital Daily Interview: BVGH President Jennifer Dent
- White Paper: “Africa’s Emerging Cancer Crisis: A Call to Action”
- BIO Buzz Show Daily: “Equipping Africa to Fight Cancer”
- BioWorld: “Mobilizing Global Public-Private Partnerships to Address Africa’s ‘Cancer Crisis’”
- Devex: “Q&A: How the African Access Initiative plans to mitigate Africa’s cancer burden”

“Partnerships and cooperation are the foundation of the East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC), an institution of the East African Community (EAC). Partnerships with organizations outside of the EAC are pivotal to the EAHRC’s success. The Africa Pavilion afforded us the opportunity to highlight East Africa’s achievements and meet new partners from around the world that can work with the EAHRC to support our mission of improving the health and wellbeing of the people of East Africa.”

Prof. Gibson Kibiki,
East African Health Research Commission

“The Africa Pavilion was an invaluable experience for myself and my institution. Having participated in the Africa Pavilion before, I was able to not only establish new connections and partnerships, but also reconnect with the Convention attendees I had met with previously and advance our partnership discussions.”

Prof. Fidelis Cho-Ngwa,
University of Buea

WANETAM and TESA exhibitors

Prof. Adeyewa and Prof. Happi (Nigeria)
African Access Initiative (AAI)

AAI is a partnership of companies, governments, healthcare providers, and non-governmental organizations focused on improving cancer patient management and providing affordable, sustainable access to essential cancer medicines and technologies. Beyond access, AAI will strengthen healthcare infrastructure and build healthcare provider and cancer researcher capacity in Africa.

AAI was launched at the 2017 BIO International Convention as the centerpiece of BVGH-organized programming that included release of a white paper on Africa’s cancer crisis, a panel session on cancer in Africa, and a bilateral meeting between African and industry leaders on access to oncology medicines.

AAI sponsors Pfizer Inc. and Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., oncologists, industry executives, and representatives from governments, nonprofits, and academic institutions joined BVGH for lively discussions of the African cancer crisis and how to address it.

African oncologists shared stories of patients they could not help—patients who might have survived had they lived in high-income regions. Participants agreed that public-private partnerships are vital to ensuring that “where you live does not determine whether you live.” Improving access to preventive, diagnostic, and treatment options is critical, as is investing in local clinical trials networks, capacity building, and research on African patients’ unique tumor biology. Initiatives must be driven by local priorities and incorporate sustainable, mutually agreeable pricing models. Attendees also emphasized the importance of cooperation, flexibility, and leveraging complementary initiatives to avoid duplication of efforts.

BVGH and partners are currently rolling out the first phase of AAI in Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, and Nigeria.

Thank you to AAI & Africa Pavilion funders