

BVGH AAI Capacity Building Workshop

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Lemigo Hotel Conference Room, Kigali, Rwanda

BVGH conceived and developed the [African Access Initiative](#) (AAI) to engage pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, ministries of health, and hospital administrators and oncology and pathology teams to improve cancer patient management in Africa. The goal of AAI is to provide affordable, sustainable access to essential cancer technologies and therapeutics, strengthen healthcare infrastructure, and build healthcare provider and cancer researcher capacity.

BVGH, in collaboration with leading experts in clinical pathology and oncology, cancer research, and healthcare delivery in Africa, published a [white paper](#) describing Africa's escalating cancer crisis and the continent's key clinical needs. Notable insufficiencies include inadequate numbers of trained healthcare providers to administer quality cancer education, screening, and early detection services; **a dearth of pathology capacity** to diagnose and stage cancers, guide surgical resections, and track responses to therapy; and an **overall shortage of trained medical, radiation, and surgical oncologists** to treat cancer patients. Building clinical capacity in the latter two areas is a major focus of AAI.

Many groups are working to build clinical pathology and oncology capacity across the African continent. To ensure efficiency and maximize impact, it is prudent to catalog programs, share best practices, and coordinate activities.

This workshop will focus on aligning AAI capacity building activities with others' capacity building programs, highlighting complementary efforts and areas of overlap, mapping synergies and coherence across programs, and identifying training gaps. Leveraging initial results of BVGH's AAI hospital needs assessments and participants' experience, the workshop will map expertise across programs and within Africa, and explore new training program opportunities. The following questions and topics will be covered during the capacity building workshop:

1. Mapping clinical pathology and oncology expertise and training needs in Africa
2. Review of workshop attendees' clinical pathology and oncology capacity building activities – training type, location, skills, and goals
 - a. What training styles work for what skills and topics?
 - b. How and from where are the trainers recruited to participate in workshops and training? Is it the right mix of expertise? Is it a cost-effective approach?
 - c. How can training programs be scaled to reach more healthcare professionals?
 - d. Measuring impact, building on skills taught, and further developing newly-acquired skills
 - e. Infrastructure needed to use skills – is infrastructure evaluated prior to the training? How to identify funding sources to support equipment acquisition and use.
 - f. Leveraging existing equipment. What are the needs and gaps? What are the solutions?
3. What skills are needed, but have no relevant training program?
4. Clinical pathology and oncology capacity building priority setting
5. Leveraging current clinical pathology and oncology capacity building activities for AAI participants

BVGH AAI Clinical Trials Workshop

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

12:30pm – 3:30pm

Lemigo Hotel Conference Room, Kigali, Rwanda

Compounding Africa's cancer crisis is the lack of cancer clinical trial data in African ethnicities. Research has highlighted the mortality gap between Caucasian and African American cancer patients, with inherent biological and genetic tumor differences contributing to this discrepancy. **Cancer clinical trials are urgently needed** to not only provide much-needed access to new and innovative cancer therapies but also to assess their efficacy and safety in the biologically- and genetically-distinct cancers and patient populations in Africa.

Launched in June 2017, the [African Access Initiative](#) (AAI) targets the growing cancer crisis in Africa by bringing together pharmaceutical, diagnostic, and life science companies; government, academic and nonprofit organizations; and clinical care experts to sustainably expand access to medicines and diagnostic technologies, improve healthcare provider capacity, and strengthen healthcare infrastructure. Under the purview of AAI, BVGH will establish and support the management of a unique public-private-partnership (PPP) – **the African Consortium for Cancer Clinical Trials (AC³T)** – dedicated to fostering and facilitating the conduct of cancer clinical trials in Africa.

As a core program of AAI, the goal of AC³T is to support the cancer clinical trial and data priorities of African ministries of health and their national cancer control programs. AAI and AC³T will not only invest in clinical trial programs, but also in laboratory and healthcare professional capacity building in order to safely and confidently implement the trials.

Playing a pivotal and catalytic role, AC³T will facilitate and fund partnerships between African ministries of health; American and European government organizations, oncologists, and healthcare professionals; pharmaceutical companies; and other stakeholders working to improve cancer patient management in Africa.

The goal of this workshop is to obtain feedback on AC³T, as well as agree on deliverables and short-, medium-, and long-term tasks and accountabilities. The following questions/topics will be covered during the clinical trials workshop:

1. AC³T structure, participants, and implementation strategies and timelines
2. What qualifies a hospital as “ready now” vs. “ready soon”? Identifying and assessing participating hospitals.
3. What needs to happen for a “ready soon” hospital to become a “ready now” hospital?
4. Beginning with observational/feasibility studies
5. Navigating country and regional regulatory approval and procurement processes
6. Clinical trial priority setting – diseases and drugs
 - a. Introduction to breast cancer feasibility study in Nigeria
7. Training priority setting
 - a. Clinical trials mentorship and training –structure, goals, partner responsibilities, etc.
8. Clinical trials funding source(s)