African Access Initiative (AAI)

February 2019
Driven by Africa - for Africa - the African Access Initiative (AAI) is a partnership of companies, governments, healthcare providers, and nonprofit organizations focused on building sustainable access to cancer treatments. Using data generated at the country level by African hospitals and governments, AAI is expanding access to cancer medicines and technologies, strengthening healthcare infrastructure, and building clinical oncology capacity in Africa.

### AAI Goals

- Provide access to prioritized cancer medicines and technologies
- Strengthen laboratory capacity to diagnose and monitor cancer patients
- Build oncology healthcare provider and researcher expertise
- Increase access to new and established cancer medicines and technologies through clinical trials

### Our Partners

![Ministries of Health](image)

- Cameroon
- Côte d’Ivoire
- Kenya
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal

### AC³T: Access through Clinical Trials

Under the purview of AAI, BVGH launched the African Consortium for Cancer Clinical Trials (AC³T) to foster and implement cancer clinical trials led by investigators in Africa. AC³T is designed to build clinical trial capacity and address the cancer data gap in Africa while increasing access to prioritized cancer diagnostics, medicines, and quality treatment for African patients.

### AC³T Goals

- Increase access to new and established cancer medicines and technologies through clinical trials
- Address the cancer data gap in African ethnicities
- Galvanize support for African investigator-initiated cancer clinical trials at “ready now” cancer centers and hospitals
- Build clinical trial capacity in “ready soon” cancer centers and hospitals
- Empower pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to conduct investigational cancer drug studies in Africa

### Kickoff in Kigali

AAI partners and global health leaders gather in Kigali, Rwanda, to launch AC³T.
AAI Milestones

By Africa, for Africa

Needs Assessments
AAI Hospital Needs Assessments ensure that AAI is driven by Africa, for Africa by generating country-level data on cancer burden and current practices, treatment gaps, capacity building needs, and technology and drug priorities.

AC³T Checklist

AC³T Checklists assess a hospital’s cancer clinical trial infrastructure, experience, and “readiness.”

Defining Capacity

Data gathered from Needs Assessments and AC³T Checklists define hospital capacity and direct AAI and AC³T priorities.

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AAI Hospital Needs Assessment and AC³T Checklist Findings

Top Five Cancers

Breast (7,476)
Cervical (4,990)
Prostate (3,931)
Lymphoma (2,257)
Colorectal (2,042)

Numbers in parentheses represent the adult patients diagnosed annually at 26 AAI hospitals

Kenya
Rwanda
Cameroon
Nigeria
Côte d’Ivoire
Senegal

Clinical Trial Capabilities

GCP Certifications
Quality Assurance
Protocol Development
Pharmacology
Logistics
Finance Management
Ethics/Regulatory Affairs
Data Management
Data Analysis
Clinical Trial Management

AAI Hospitals with Capability

Pathology Laboratory Equipment Needed

81% Flow Cytometer
75% Fume Hood
73% IHC Machine
72% PCR Machine
67% Spectrophotometer
65% Grossing Station & Biosafety Hood

AAI hospitals prioritizing specified laboratory equipment

Oncology Human Resources

Medical Oncologist
Surgical Oncologist
Radiation Oncologist
Pediatric Oncologist
Imaging Specialist
Pathologist
Laboratory Technician
Oncology Nurse
Oncology Social Worker
Psychiatrist
Dietician/Nutritionist
Palliative Care Specialist
Pharmacist
Other

Human Resource Capacity Filled

AII Hospital Needs Assessment and AC³T Checklist Findings

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BVGH Activities and Deliverables: Driven by AAI Hospital Needs Assessments

**Expediting Access to Medicines**
- ✔ Held stakeholder meeting on “Cancer Drug Access and Harmonized Treatment Guidelines” to align Nigerian oncologists on treatment regimens
- ✔ Launched cancer drug request for proposals to pharmaceutical companies with Nigeria’s Federal Ministry of Health

**Strengthening Diagnostic Laboratories**
- ✔ Placed high-value laboratory instruments, donated by Pfizer, to enhance the diagnostic pathology laboratory at Nigeria’s Federal Medical Center
- ✔ Held diagnostic pathology workshops in Côte d’Ivoire and Nigeria to teach local pathologists advanced skills and techniques
- ✔ Placed Merck & Co., Inc. experts at the University Teaching Hospital of Kigali in Rwanda to support the international accreditation of the hospital’s diagnostic pathology laboratory
- ✔ Coordinated laboratory equipment donation and in-depth training to improve the diagnostic capacity of Côte d’Ivoire’s University Teaching Hospital Treichville

**Building Clinical Oncology Expertise**
- ✔ Organized a multidisciplinary management of prostate cancer training workshop in Côte d’Ivoire
- ✔ Placed Merck & Co., Inc. experts at Moi Teaching & Referral Hospital in Kenya to improve the hospital’s cancer clinical trials site appeal
- ✔ Coordinated breast cancer surgery and hematology training for Cameroonian and Ivoirian clinicians
- ✔ Supported the University of Buea’s successful application for World Bank funding to expand its training of obstetrician-gynecologists in Cameroon

**Broadening Cancer Education and Awareness**
- ✔ Held Biden Cancer Initiative community breast cancer summit in Nigeria to increase women’s understanding of breast cancer and techniques for early detection
- ✔ Launched breast and cervical cancer screen-and-treat program in Rwanda

**BVGH Activities in Development**
- Radiation therapy technician certification
- Prostate cancer research
- Cancer immunology research training
- Radiotherapy training workshop
People are talking about AAI

Devex - “How the African Access Initiative Plans to Mitigate Africa’s Cancer Burden”
“…AAI [is] a cancer-focused program that brings together oncology companies with African governments and hospitals to enhance healthcare capacity, foster cancer research, and increase the availability of life-saving cancer medicines.”

This Day - “FG, BVGH Conduct Needs Assessment on Cancer in 15 Hospitals”
“[AAI Partner Companies] are committed to ensuring that drugs and equipment provided are affordable and safe.”

BIO Buzz: Official Show Daily - “Things Have Turned Serious in Africa”
“By engaging leading biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, AAI is working to make cancer drugs and technologies available, accessible, and affordable to patients in Africa.”

Biden Cancer Initiative - Biden Cancer Summit
“We are at an inflection point in the understanding and treatment of cancer and are starting to break down barriers and change the culture in ways that are needed to deliver what patients deserve – a cancer research and care system that puts saving lives above all else. The commitments we have received, including AAI, bring us closer to developing the right systems, the right culture to get us there.” - Vice President Joe Biden

STAT - “Patients of African Descent are Being Denied the Benefits of Cancer Breakthroughs. We’re Changing that.”
“ACT seeks not only to eliminate existing disparities in our current understanding of cancer but also close the growing cancer mortality gap.”

The Atlantic - “Cancer in the Community”
BVGH participated in a discussion on how researchers and practitioners in Seattle can collaborate with the larger science and tech communities to provide innovative cancer care.

MEDICAID Cancer Foundation - Twitter Chat: “Challenges of Cancer Management in Low/Middle Income Countries”
“AAI’s approach focuses on establishing sustainable partnerships based on collaboration, mutual respect, understanding, and the common goal of improving cancer patient outcomes in Africa.”

Thank you to our AAI Partners

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