



By Africa, For Africa – Advancing Access

In the last two decades, the West has made remarkable progress in the war on cancer. Death rates due to cancer have dropped by 27% since 1991, according to a [report](#) released by the American Cancer Society this year.

As we celebrate life-saving innovations in the oncology field, it is critical that we recognize that cancer remains a death sentence for most people living in Africa. Cancer mortality in Africa is expected to rise by almost [70%](#) by 2030. We must change this devastating statistic.

Through AAI, BVGH is working with the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health, oncologists at leading cancer hospitals across Nigeria, and pharmaceutical companies to ascertain the demand for various cancer treatment regimens and to establish sustainable drug access agreements. Cancer patients in Nigeria will receive state-of-the-art treatment in 2019!

BVGH is organizing capacity-building workshops to address the needs identified and prioritized by oncology experts in each AAI country. AAI workshops are currently scheduled to take place in Côte d'Ivoire and Rwanda. The training will build breast cancer pathology skills and provide a multidisciplinary approach to the management of prostate cancer. In addition to the workshops, we are again arranging fellowships for stays in Rwanda and Kenya this summer. Fellows will share their knowledge and experience developing and implementing pathology sample and cancer patient referral frameworks.

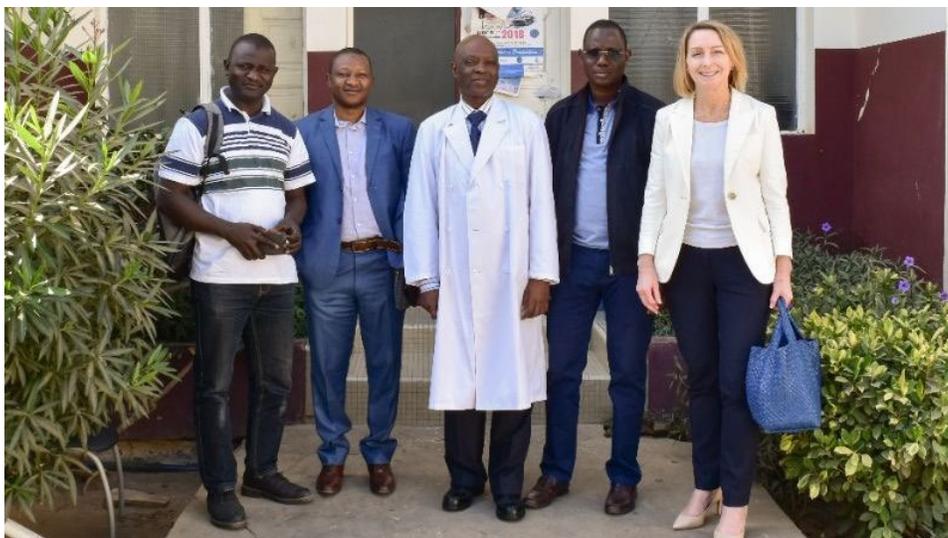
If you or colleagues want to contribute to improving cancer patient outcomes in Africa, reach out to us to schedule a call and get involved.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dent

President, BVGH

Connecting with Partners in Senegal



BVGH visited hospitals and met with oncologists in Dakar, Senegal.

BVGH presented AAI at the [59th Annual West African College of Surgeons \(WACS\) Scientific Conference](#) in Dakar, Senegal. While in Dakar, meetings were held with Senegalese government officials and hospital leaders to initiate Senegal's participation in AAI.

Stay tuned for a 'celebration' of AAI's launch in Senegal!

Building Diagnostic Expertise at CHUK in Rwanda



Operationalizing pathology lab equipment and training lab staff.

Three MSD* scientists participating in the [MSD Fellowship for Global Health](#) traveled to Rwanda last summer to volunteer for BVGH and build diagnostic laboratory capacity at the [University Teaching Hospital of Kigali \(CHUK\)](#).

Following this training, CHUK scored 100 out of 100 on a laboratory pre-accreditation evaluation performed by The Council for Health Accreditation of Southern Africa (COHSASA). This impressive accomplishment by CHUK's pathology team demonstrates the early impact of AAI and the commitment of the Fellows.

AAI's impact doesn't stop there. CHUK's needs went beyond training, including needing repairs to and installation of essential diagnostic laboratory equipment that had been broken or unused for years. In collaboration with the [American Society for Clinical Pathology \(ASCP\)](#), BVGH coordinated a visit by a Kenyan engineer to repair a broken tissue processor, install an unused grossing station, and operationalize two cryostats.

The CHUK lab team is making important strides to build on the Fellows' contributions and expand the hospital's capacity to more effectively diagnose cancer patients.

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Collaborating with Nigeria's First Ladies and Cancer Patient Advocates



Featuring AAI at the Medicaid Cancer Foundation Summit 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria.

As Africa's most populous country, Nigeria is at the forefront of the continent's cancer crisis. Through partnerships with the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health and local Nigerian NGOs, BVGH is helping to raise awareness of cancer in Nigeria and support the country's response to this deadly disease.

Dr. Zainab Shinkafi Bagudu gathered cancer leaders and international partners in Abuja, Nigeria for the annual [Medicaid Cancer Foundation Summit](#). The Summit, which featured partners and programs that are advancing the goals outlined in Nigeria's *National Cancer Control Plan (NCCP) 2018-2022*, energized state leaders and actors to take action.

BVGH participated in an active Twitter chat focused on cancer in Nigeria. Check out the hashtag [#MCFSummit2018](#) on Twitter to learn more.

First Francophone West Africa Pathology Workshop



Dr. Dan Milner (Chief Medical Officer, ASCP) with Professor Innocent Adoubi (Head, National Cancer Program, Côte d'Ivoire) and members of CHU Treichville's oncology team.

Calling all Francophone pathologists, lab technicians, bioengineers, oncologists, surgeons, and radiologists in West Africa: you're invited to a regional [French Breast Cancer Pathology Workshop](#), April 16-18, 2019.

BVGH, the [American Society for Clinical Pathology](#) (ASCP), and the [Ivorian Society of Pathology](#) (SIPath) will hold a three-day breast cancer pathology training workshop at the University Hospital Center (CHU) Treichville in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The workshop is open to healthcare providers in the region. Please email [Callie Weber](#) for more information or to RSVP.

[English agenda](#)

[French agenda](#)

Coming Up in Côte d'Ivoire



BVGH is also partnering with the [American Society of Clinical Oncology](#) (ASCO) to implement a multidisciplinary prostate cancer patient management workshop. Stay tuned for more updates on AAI capacity building programs in other AAI countries.

People are Talking about AAI



STAT News - "[Patients of African Descent are Being Denied the Benefits of Cancer Breakthroughs. We're Changing That.](#)"

"AC³T seeks not only to eliminate existing disparities in our current understanding of cancer but also to close the growing cancer mortality gap."



LinkedIn OpEd - "[We've reached an important milestone in addressing cancer in the U.S. – but success should not end there.](#)"

"Now, more than ever, partnerships between the pharmaceutical industry and African governments are critical to shaping a healthier future for Africa."

[Click here to download BVGH's latest AAI report.](#)

Join the Fight

To learn more about AAI and to get involved, please contact [Katy Graef](#).



Thank you to our AAI Sponsor Companies



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Forward



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Don't miss these upcoming oncology events!

[13th Meeting of the H3Africa Consortium](#)

April 7 - 12 | Tunis, Tunisia

[American Society of Clinical Oncology \(ASCO\) Annual Meeting 2019](#)

May 31 - June 4 | Chicago, USA

[European Society for Medical Oncology \(ESMO\) Congress 2019](#)

Sep 27 - Oct 1 | Barcelona, Spain

[AORTIC International Conference on Cancer in Africa 2019](#)

Nov 5 - 8 | Maputo, Mozambique



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