Celebrating African Access Initiative (AAI) Milestones

at the

2018 BIO International Convention

Boston, MA | June 4-7, 2018
Hello Boston!

2018 BIO International Convention

At this year’s BIO International Convention, BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH) celebrated the one-year anniversary of the African Access Initiative (AAI).

Launched at the 2017 BIO International Convention, AAI made tremendous progress in its first year. In recognition of the achievements made, BVGH convened AAI partners and global health change-makers in a series of meetings and events focused on publicizing Africa’s cancer crisis and the need for innovative solutions to address this serious health emergency.

BVGH’s events at the 2018 Convention showcased the important role local healthcare providers, the pharmaceutical industry, academic institutions, and governments play in stemming Africa’s rising cancer epidemic.

AAI EVENTS

**BIO Buzz Show Interview:** Jennifer Dent, BVGH President, highlighted AAI milestones

**AC3T Steering Committee Meeting**

**BIO Buzz Show Daily AAI Article:** “Things Have Turned Serious in Africa”

**Africa Bilateral Meeting:** Conducting Cancer Clinical Trials in Africa

**Panel Session:** By Africa, for Africa: Cancer Clinical Trials Driving Access to Medicines & Saving Lives in Africa

**Panel Session:** Market Driven Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Building Sustainable Access to Cancer Treatments in Africa
Clinical trials offer African cancer patients access to life-saving cancer treatments, while generating important efficacy and safety data in populations underrepresented in typical investigational drug studies.

Representatives from Côte d’Ivoire’s and Kenya’s Ministries of Health; Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.; Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Henry Ford Health System; and other leading global oncology organizations discussed the benefits of augmenting current clinical trial capacity in Africa and working in partnership to conduct cancer clinical trials on the continent.

BVGH convened world-renowned cancer researchers and clinicians to speak directly about their experiences treating patients and conducting clinical studies in Africa. Africa’s existing clinical trial capabilities were described and pharmaceutical companies were encouraged to leverage these capabilities in their upcoming clinical trials.

Panelists:
- Professor Innocent Adoubi, National Cancer Director, Côte d’Ivoire Ministry of Health
- Dr. Howard Krein, Chief Medical Officer, StartUp Health; Board Member, Biden Cancer Initiative
- Dr. Anne Ng’ang’a, Head, National Cancer Control Program, Kenya Ministry of Health
- Dr. Timothy Rebbeck, Professor, Medical Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Dr. Chris Reddick, Vice President, Global Patient & Scientific Affairs, Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd
- Ms. Jennifer Dent, President, BVGH (Moderator)

“I want to debunk the myth that we don’t have the capacity for clinical trials in Africa. We are not starting from zero. There is already work that has been going on from the HIV field and other communicable diseases. Groups can come in and build on what is already existing.”

- Dr. Anne Ng’ang’a, Head, National Cancer Control Program, Kenya Ministry of Health
Ensuring access to cancer medicines and treatments is a complex, yet necessary, component of saving the lives of African cancer patients. Innovative models – such as PPPs – are needed to address these complexities in a sustainable manner. Panelists from Africa’s leading economies emphasized the necessity of African ownership of these initiatives, and lauded AAI as an important model for achieving their countries’ national cancer control strategies.

Panelists:
- Dr. Freda Lewis-Hall, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Pfizer
- Mr. John Nevergole, CEO and Co-Founder, The ABD Group
- Dr. Anne Ng’ang’a, Head, National Cancer Control Program, Kenya Ministry of Health
- Ms. Jennifer Dent, President, BVGH (Moderator)

"Pfizer is proud to support and participate in the BVGH African Access Initiative, a public-private partnership working to expand access to innovative cancer treatments in Africa."

- Dr. Freda Lewis-Hall, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Pfizer

With AC³T’s goal of leveraging clinical trials to foster access to cancer treatment in Africa, BVGH began mapping cancer clinical trial interest, experience, and capacity across the African continent. At its inaugural AC³T Steering Committee meeting, BVGH and Committee members discussed AC³T’s next steps to encourage Africa’s involvement in companies’ clinical trials, and to build and augment clinical trial capabilities across Africa.

Special thanks to our AAI event participants including our AAI Partner Companies:

Pfizer
Takeda