December 2019

**Disrupting the Cancer Crisis in Africa**

Dear AAI Partners and Friends,

Prompt, coordinated responses by governments, private industry, experts, and clinicians are critical to stemming the tide of Africa’s cancer epidemic and expanding access to lifesaving cancer treatments across the continent.

Through the African Access Initiative (AAI), our African partners are seeing steady progress in advancing access to quality, affordable cancer medicines. Cancer experts, hospital practitioners, and researchers are working together to build clinical capacity. Sites are expressing interest in conducting their own cancer clinical trials.

BVGH’s efforts in our AAI countries — Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Senegal — are helping them to achieve their cancer control goals.

Please share this AAI newsletter with your colleagues and reach out to us with any suggestions or ideas of how we can work together to improve cancer patient outcomes in Africa.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dent, President & CEO
BIO Ventures for Global Health
Senegal Builds Partnerships to Bridge Cancer Control Gaps

BVGH is thrilled to have Senegal on board as our sixth AAI country partner. Senegal presents an important opportunity for BVGH to expand AAI’s reach and impact in Francophone West Africa.

Senegal joining AAI signifies the Ministry of Health and Social Action's commitment to achieving the country’s national cancer control goals, including sustainably accessing affordable, lifesaving cancer drugs and technologies; coordinating fellowships and workshops to share best practices for patient care and research; and implementing cancer clinical trials.

Televised Interview Broadens Cancer Awareness Across Nigeria
Jennifer Dent sat down with Nigeria’s “Arise News” for a live, televised interview to discuss the African cancer crisis and how AAI is improving cancer patient outcomes in Africa. She noted that cancer is gaining a lot of attention at the government level and AAI is helping to catalyze solutions, especially around providing access to quality, affordable cancer drugs.

BVGH and ASCO Kick Off Partnership to Tackle Prostate Cancer in Africa

Men of African descent are disproportionately impacted by prostate cancer and have poorer outcomes. In Africa, prostate cancer is the leading cause of cancer mortality among men.

BVGH partnered with the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) along with Côte d’Ivoire’s Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene and the National Cancer Control Program to deliver a three-day training program on multidisciplinary prostate cancer patient management. Based on the priorities defined by Côte d’Ivoire’s National Cancer Control Program Director, Professor Innocent Adoubi, the training addressed the interests and needs of participating oncologists, pathologists, pharmacists, primary care physicians, radiologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, and nurses. Trainers led the program in both French and English for 95 participants from eight African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Senegal.

ASCO trainers and the Côte d'Ivoire team gather in Abidjan.

(From Left, Dr. N’da Marcelin Homian, Dr. Joe el Khoury, Vanessa Eaton, Dr. Simon Hughes, Dr. Timothy Gilligan, Prof. Innocent Adoubi, Callie Weber, Prof. Timothy Rebbeck)
At this year’s AORTIC (African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer) Conference, BVGH brought together African oncologists, pathologists, healthcare leaders, international companies, governments, and NGOs to review the progress BVGH has made toward its AAI goals of (1) sustainably expanding access to cancer medicines and technologies, (2) improving healthcare infrastructure, and (3) building clinical trial capacity in Africa.

AAI partners and global health change-makers engaged in workshops focused on expanding the AAI cancer drug access program across six African countries and operationalizing the African Consortium for Cancer Clinical Trials (AC³T).

Read a briefing on the BVGH workshops.

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**Oncology Education for All**
ecancer.org is a completely free online platform and journal that allows everyone to share and benefit from new discoveries and developments in cancer care. Recent publications include a special issue highlighting some of the major problems faced by the oncology community in Africa and an online training course in palliative care contextualized to the sub-Saharan cancer profile and resource setting.

People Are Talking About AAI

BIOtechNOW Blog

Jim Greenwood, President and CEO of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) and Chairman of BVGH’s Board of Directors, wrote about the AAI program in Nigeria in the BIOtechNOW blog post, “Calling Industry: The Door is Open to Tackling Cancer in Africa.”

Fogarty NIH Global Health Matters Newsletter

Fogarty highlights a BVGH commentary on global cancer research funding.

BIO Podcast

Advancing access to innovative cancer medicines through AAI is featured as part of the podcast series, Buzz at BIO, at the 2019 BIO International Convention.

ecancer Video

Jennifer Dent sat down with ecancer at the 2019 Global Health Catalyst Summit to discuss how AAI is making inroads in partner countries.

Click here to download BVGH’s latest AAI summary.
Join the Fight

To learn more about AAI and to get involved, please contact Katy Graef.

Thank you to our AAI Partners

Don’t miss these opportunities!

**UICC Technical Fellowships (UICC-TF)**
Application Deadline: December 31, 2019

**ASCO Long-term International Fellowship**
Application Deadline: January 15, 2020

**CaPTC and AC3 Prostate Cancer Global Scholars Program**
Application Deadline: April 15, 2020

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