Driven by Africa – for Africa

Improving cancer care on the African continent
Dear Friends of AAI,

Cancer incidence and mortality across Africa continue to grow at a rapid rate. Consistent and long-term investments and commitments from all health sectors are needed to adequately position African countries to manage their cancer patients and reduce mortality rates.

Through the African Access Initiative (AAI), BVGH has partnered with experts and key opinion leaders from industry, academia, governments, and non-governmental organizations to change the cancer narrative in Africa. More than 40 cancer hospitals across Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Senegal have joined AAI and continue to demonstrate their commitment to providing their cancer patients with the best possible care. Many more hospitals and research facilities have joined the African Consortium for Cancer Clinical Trials (ACCT) to strengthen and publicize their cancer research capabilities and priorities.

In 2021, BVGH continued to leverage technology to support the ongoing medical education and professional development of AAI hospital staff. Our programs included multi-week online lectures, small group discussions, and virtual mentorships through case presentations. The open nature of our digital platforms has enabled oncologists, nurses, pharmacists, medical physicists, pathologists, radiotherapy technicians, and more from across the globe to attend lectures and exchange knowledge with other passionate, world-class cancer experts.

The pandemic has continued to drain resources and test the resiliency of healthcare workers globally. In the face of these challenges, we commend our African oncology partners’ continued strength and dedication to providing compassionate and quality cancer care. Healthcare workers’ resolve was epitomized by Rwandan clinicians’ leadership in the Cervical Cancer Educate, Screen, and Treat program, which was co-developed and co-led by BVGH and the Rwandan Biomedical Center. Advancing this mass cervical cancer screening campaign through the COVID-19 uncertainties and ever-changing public-safety rules required ingenuity, flexibility, and dedication. Rwanda’s nurses, midwives, gynecologists, data managers, and laboratory staff overcame these challenges at every stage, resulting in nearly 7,000 women being screened for cervical cancer.

BVGH is improving cancer patient outcomes in Africa with the support of AAI partner country governments and healthcare providers, private industry partners – Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Johnson & Johnson, GardaWorld, and Faber Daeufer & Itrato PC – and academic and non-governmental organization partners. We are grateful for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dent
President & CEO, BIO Ventures for Global Health
Building Sustainable Access to Cancer Medicines in Cameroon

Mbingo Baptist Hospital (MBH) is one of nine hospitals and 82 health centers that comprise the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services, a non-profit mission organization serving nine of Cameroon’s ten geopolitical regions. Located in Bamenda, in the Northwest Region of Cameroon, MBH began as a leprosy settlement in 1952. Since its inception, MBH has expanded to offer comprehensive healthcare services and is the main cancer center within the Cameroon Baptist Convention network. Cameroon’s cancer patients often struggle to afford treatment, which has led MBH to prioritize securing affordable cancer medicines for its patients.

Without consistent access to quality, low-cost cancer medicines, many of Cameroon’s cancer patients abandon treatment or use counterfeit or substandard medicines that they procure from under-regulated marketplaces. Patient access to sustainable and affordable high-quality cancer medicines is a critical component of effective cancer patient management. To achieve this, MBH’s oncology pharmacy partnered with BVGH to implement direct purchase agreements between the hospital and multinational pharmaceutical companies. Beyond the reduced-cost access prices offered by the companies, MBH further decreased its costs by procuring directly from the drugs’ manufacturers – thus eliminating the unnecessary in-country price increases added by local intermediaries.

In addition to Cameroon, AAI hospitals in Côte d’Ivoire and Nigeria purchased affordable cancer medicines from trusted manufacturers. In 2021, more than 500 patients received cancer drugs and supportive medicines through AAI.

“Our partnership with BVGH has enabled our patients to access top-quality care. We can now budget for our orders and ensure a steady supply of quality and affordable medicines.”

– Dr. Signang Alberic, Clinical Pharmacist, Mbingo Baptist Hospital
Increasing Cancer Awareness to Promote Earlier Diagnosis in Côte d’Ivoire

Located in Abidjan, the economic capital of Côte d’Ivoire, University Hospital Center (CHU) Treichville and the Alassane Ouattara National Radiotherapy Center (CNRAO) are responsible for managing the majority of the country’s cancer patients. Oncology staff balance their time between the two hospitals and employ histology, immunohistochemistry, external beam radiotherapy, chemotherapy, hormone/targeted therapies, and immunotherapies to manage upwards of 1,400 cancer patients each year. Patients treated at the hospitals routinely present with late-stage disease, which the hospitals’ leaders have attributed to poor public education about cancer. Recognizing that late-stage malignancies are more difficult to treat successfully, CHU Treichville’s leaders are determined to increase their community’s cancer awareness.

Responding to Côte d’Ivoire’s cancer awareness needs, BVGH engaged MSD* global health fellows and health communications experts to design education materials for the public, cancer patients, and healthcare providers. Representatives from CHU Treichville and AAI hospitals in Nigeria joined forces to arrange focus groups and conduct community, patient, and physician surveys to gather key information on local healthcare gaps and challenges. These insights led to the creation of breast, cervical, and prostate cancer education booklets and public awareness pamphlets for the hospitals to distribute to patients and community members. A companion self-guided e-learning platform for healthcare professionals wishing to strengthen their communications with patients was also launched by BVGH. Available in French and English, the seven-part training program covers the basics of health literacy, treatment decision making, and more. The booklets and pamphlets have been distributed to more than 2,000 individuals across Côte d’Ivoire and Nigeria.

* MSD is a trademark of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, United States of America

“In Côte d’Ivoire, there is a great deal of misinformation about where and how to seek care, which contributes to late diagnosis. We have learned that better public awareness encourages an earlier start to treatment, and improved clinician/patient communication can increase a patient’s understanding that treatment side effects are unpleasant but survivable. It encourages patients to complete the full curative regimen and bring about a more successful outcome.”

– Dr. N’Da Marcelin Homian, Head of Chemotherapy Unit, CHU Treichville
Creating a Strong Foundation for Cancer Research in Kenya

Located in Kisumu, Kenya, the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital (JOOTRH) has positioned itself as a cancer center of excellence by offering high-quality health services, medical training, and research programming. The hospital treats approximately 4,000 cancer patients per year, providing access to curative surgery, chemotherapy, and hormone and targeted therapies. With a mission to offer cancer patients the best treatment options, JOOTRH and its partner, Maseno University, are expanding their research capabilities and infrastructure to position the sites as leading contributors to Kenya’s evidence-based healthcare decision making and as emerging players in the global oncology research field.

BVGH connected staff from JOOTRH and Maseno University with experts from Harvard University and the United States National Cancer Institute to build and test a context-appropriate cancer data system for use at JOOTRH. With funding from the African Consortium for Cancer Clinical Trials (AC³T) Study Pool, the Kenyan team performed a landscape analysis to understand best practices and challenges for data collection systems in low- and middle-income countries. Based on this information, the team will design a context-appropriate system that is accessible and meets quality thresholds for collection, coding, and presentation. Once built, the system will house data essential for epidemiological, clinical, and translational research; evaluation of cancer control measures; and monitoring standards of clinical care at JOOTRH.

“The funding from BVGH’s AC³T Study Pool and their support connecting us with external collaborators has enabled us to create one of the first cancer data systems in Kenya. We will be able to use these data to refine treatment practices at our hospital and inform policymaking at the county and national level. High-quality data give us the means to save our patients’ lives.”

– Dr. Benson Nyambega, Senior Lecturer, Maseno University
Launching Brachytherapy Services in Lagos, Nigeria

Based in Lagos, Nigeria, the NSIA-LUTH Cancer Center (NLCC) is one of only three Nigerian facilities offering comprehensive cancer treatment. Funded by the Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA), NLCC is built upon a foundation of partnership with the goal of offering cancer patients cutting-edge care. The center, which opened in 2019, has treated more than 4,900 cancer patients with chemotherapy, targeted therapy, and external beam radiotherapy. NLCC aims to be West Africa’s leader in radiotherapy and a key training hub for the continent’s growing oncology community.

At NLCC’s request, BVGH coordinated a digital and hands-on training program to support the center’s commissioning of 3D high dose-rate (HDR) brachytherapy services for gynecologic cancer patients. Through its partnership with Rayos Contra Cancer, BVGH engaged experts from Kaiser Permanente and Calvary Mater Newcastle to advise NLCC staff on their HDR brachytherapy preparations. Once the equipment and infrastructure were in place, BVGH arranged for two experts from Varian and the Ahmad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Center for Cancer Treatment to provide hands-on training to NLCC’s radiation oncologists, medical physicists, and radiation therapy technicians. Following the commissioning of the HDR brachytherapy program, BVGH coordinated digital discussions between the NLCC staff and an expert from the University of California, San Diego to support NLCC’s refinement of its brachytherapy practices. Following the launch of HDR brachytherapy in late 2021, NLCC has provided brachytherapy to 81 gynecologic cancer patients and began the process of expanding its brachytherapy services to cover prostate cancer patients.

“Collaboration with external experts has been critical to NLCC’s success. We have leveraged BVGH’s network to secure digital and hands-on training that have refined our practices and expanded our services. Our goal is to share NLCC’s experience and successes with oncology professionals across Africa to strengthen the continent’s cancer management practices while positioning Nigeria as a leader in cancer treatment and training.”

– Dr. Lilian Ekpo, Center Director, NLCC
The University Teaching Hospital of Butaré (CHUB), located in the Southern Province of Rwanda, is one of the East African country’s largest teaching and referral hospitals. Opened in 1928, clinical staff at CHUB provide care to patients with communicable and non-communicable diseases, including cancer. The hospital is home to the National University of Rwanda Laboratory – Rwanda’s first anatomic pathology laboratory. With targeted therapies, such as trastuzumab for HER2+ breast and gastric cancers, becoming more readily available in Rwanda, CHUB began taking steps to offer immunohistochemistry (IHC) diagnostic services – a necessary procedure to correctly prescribe targeted therapies – to its cancer patients.

To help the hospital improve the diagnostic services available to southern Rwanda, BVGH organized a four-week virtual knowledge exchange program between the Head of the Anatomic Pathology Service at CHUB, Dr. Elisée Hategekimana, and 2021 American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Global Health Fellow, Dr. Kelsey Hummel. Dr. Hummel, a pathology resident at the Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), and Dr. Hategekimana evaluated different IHC launch strategies, as well as mechanisms to increase specimen numbers and ensure the financial sustainability of the new diagnostic service. Recognizing that research awards can fund the launch of IHC and produce data to inform scale-up of the service, Dr. Hategekimana and Dr. Hummel applied for an American Society of Cytopathology award and an AC’T Study Pool grant. With funding from these two sources, Drs. Hategekimana and Hummel have launched IHC at CHUB and evaluated the percentage of HER2+ gastric tumors seen at the hospital. In addition, they are working to establish a mobile cytology clinic to detect early-stage cancers and obtain more IHC specimens.

"Together with collaborators from BCM, BVGH, and ASCP, we have launched IHC services at CHUB. Our large population of patients will be able to receive this critical diagnostic service close to home, making it more likely that they will receive earlier diagnosis and treatment."

– Dr. Elisée Hategekimana, Head of the Anatomic Pathology Service, CHUB
Ensuring Access to the Highest Standards of Cancer Care in Senegal

Named after the creator and first director of the French West Africa medical school, Hospital Aristide Le Dantec (HALD) in Dakar, Senegal treats 80% of the country’s cancer patients each year. Through its Joliot Curie Institute, HALD staff provide cancer patients with holistic care – from diagnosis to treatment and survivorship. The oncology team at HALD is committed to providing Senegal’s cancer patients with access to the highest standards of care by upgrading its equipment and protocols, ensuring availability of cancer drugs, and providing continuing education opportunities for its staff. Healthcare providers across the hospital’s medical units have leveraged BVGH’s training programs to stay informed about the latest cancer practices and techniques.

Alongside systemic therapies and surgery, radiotherapy is a critical component of cancer care. New radiotherapy techniques – such as intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT) and volumetric modulated arc therapy – enable oncologists to deliver precise radiation to tumors while minimizing effects on surrounding healthy tissues. HALD intends to launch use of IMRT in 2023 and encouraged its radiotherapy unit staff to refresh and upgrade their IMRT practices.

In response, BVGH and Rayos Contra Cancer organized a 21-week digital IMRT training program for radiation oncologists and medical physicists. A 17-week companion course for radiotherapy technicians (RTTs), which was taught in French at the request of hospitals from Côte d’Ivoire and Senegal, was held shortly thereafter. Experts from Belgium, France, and Morocco enabled the RTTs to refresh their skills in the comfort of their preferred language. A total of 301 radiotherapy providers attended the two digital courses – including 18 staff from HALD. Combined, these two training programs have empowered healthcare providers from 19 institutions across Africa to refine their IMRT practices and continue to offer safe and highly effective radiotherapy.

“Having access to this training, especially in our primary language, has been incredibly beneficial. Our team is now able to treat patients with IMRT more safely and confidently.”

– Dr. Magatte Diagne, Chief Medical Physicist, HALD
Cervical cancer can be eliminated through vaccination and screening, yet it is still the most common cause of cancer death among women in sub-Saharan Africa. In an effort to combat this trend, the First Lady of Rwanda tasked BVGH and the Rwandan Biomedical Center (RBC) with introducing cervical cancer screening and treatment services in the Bugesera District of Rwanda.

Since the launch of its human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign in 2011, Rwanda has successfully surpassed target number one of the World Health Organization’s cervical cancer elimination initiative — i.e., 90% of girls fully vaccinated against HPV by age 15. With the support of experts worldwide, BVGH and RBC led the Cervical Cancer Educate, Screen, and Treat (EST) program to launch the screening and treatment services needed to position Bugesera District to achieve the WHO’s other two elimination targets, namely 70% of women screened and 90% of women with cancer/precancerous lesions treated.

Through the EST program, BVGH and RBC placed screening and treatment instruments, equipment, and consumables at the 16 health facilities serving Bugesera’s urban and rural communities. More than 650 healthcare professionals — including nurses, midwives, community health workers, and data managers — were subsequently trained on cervical cancer and the use of the instruments. BVGH, RBC, and EST program partner, GardaWorld, produced posters, flyers, note cards, and GardaWorld vehicle car wraps to raise awareness of cervical cancer and the screening services to be launched.

Nearly 7,000 women were screened for cervical cancer as a result of the EST program. Participants who required additional care, including colposcopy, loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP), and biopsy at the district hospital and cancer diagnosis and treatment in Kigali, were provided with free transportation by GardaWorld to eliminate a known barrier to follow-up care.

After the launch campaign, RBC and the health facilities took over management of the program. By building the screening activities into existing health services and structures, BVGH and RBC positioned the District to sustain the momentum generated and achieve cervical cancer elimination.

One Step Closer to Eliminating Cervical Cancer in Rwanda

“One Step Closer to Eliminating Cervical Cancer in Rwanda”

Marc Hagenimana, Director, Cancer Diseases Unit, Non-Communicable Diseases Division, RBC

“Cervical cancer is a deadly disease that is preventable with the right tools and services. We have had great success with HPV vaccine coverage in girls, yet cervical cancer is still impacting women who are above the vaccine age. The EST program successfully launched screening services for these women in the Bugesera District and is allowing us to move into more sustainable services in Rwanda.”

EST Program Statistics:
- 6,706 women screened
- 348 women treated with thermal ablation
- 34 women treated with LEEP
- 46 women referred for cervical biopsy
- 1,065 women received clinical breast exam
- 155 women referred for breast ultrasound
- 200 women referred to Kigali for urgent treatment of suspected cervical or breast cancer
- 4,700 copies of educational materials distributed to 581 villages
- 52 nurses and midwives, 17 data managers, 3 gynecologists, 581 community health workers, and 15 laboratory technicians trained
- 5 sample transport routes
- 8 GardaWorld drivers and 5 GardaWorld vehicles
- 368 specula, 323 tablets, 5,040 sample collection kits, 16 thermal ablation machines, 1 LEEP machine, 1 colposcope, and 5,000 HPV test kits supplied
Erasing the Cancer Data Gap and Empowering African Researchers

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network advises that the best possible method of managing cancer patients is through clinical trials. Despite this guidance, individuals of African descent are dramatically underrepresented in cancer clinical trials. African cancer patients’ enrollment in cancer clinical trials is critical to ensuring that oncology medicines, technologies, and practices are safe and effective against African patients’ unique tumor biology.

In partnership with experts from Takeda, Harvard University, Oxford University, and other leading research institutes, BVGH launched a digital clinical research training program for African healthcare professionals. Over 14 successive weeks, more than 180 aspiring African researchers and oncologists were taught the basics of clinical research, including good clinical practice, research design, competitive grant writing, and more.

Following the training program, and with funding from Takeda, BVGH established the AC³T Study Pool to support research studies designed and led by African investigators. Seven oncologists from Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Senegal received funding to launch studies that will produce data to inform their countries’ healthcare decision making. Attendees of the digital clinical trial training program were also invited to submit applications for the inaugural AC³T Study Pool Mini-Grant, which awarded recipients $2,000 to conduct pilot cancer research projects. Composed of cancer leaders from the US and Africa, the AC³T Selection Committee awarded Mini-Grants to eight early- and mid-career oncologists from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda.

BVGH paired each Study Pool and Mini-Grant awardee with a mentor or thought partner to guide and support their research studies and the dissemination of their results. Experts from MD Anderson Cancer Center, Takeda, Queens University, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Harvard University, Weill Cornell Medical Center, Drexel University, Massachusetts General Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the International Cancer Institute have provided the awardees with guidance on study design, statistical analyses, research methods, and more.

This experience, and the data that they produce, will allow awardees to apply for larger, externally funded grants.

2021 AC³T Study Pool Grant Awardees:

**Awardee:** Dr. Adewumi Alabi, Clinical and Radiation Oncologist, NSIA-LUTH Cancer Center, Nigeria  
**Project:** Digitization of historical patient records to support retrospective studies  
**Partner Institution:** Massachusetts General Hospital

**Awardee:** Prof. Adama Faye, Director, Institute of Health and Development, University Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal  
**Project:** Implementation of a cancer registry  
**Partner Institution:** University of Illinois at Chicago

**Awardee:** Dr. Elisée Hategekimana, Head of the Anatomic Pathology Service, University Teaching Hospital of Butaré, Rwanda  
**Project:** Immunohistochemistry testing of HER2/neu and mismatch repair genes in gastric and colorectal carcinomas  
**Partner Institution:** Baylor College of Medicine

**Co-awardees:** Dr. Fidel Rubagumya (left), Clinical and Radiation Oncologist, Founder and Board Chair of Rwanda Cancer Relief (RCR) and Dr. Brandon Niyibizi (right), Executive Director and Board Member, RCR, Rwanda  
**Project:** Descriptive study of tumor board meetings  
**Partner Institution:** International Cancer Institute

**Co-awardees:** Dr. Benson Nyambega (left), Senior Lecturer, Maseno University, and Dr. Lilac Wattanga (right), Clinical Oncologist, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital, Kenya  
**Project:** Cancer data systems: drug access, health disparities, and decision making in Africa  
**Partner Institution:** Harvard University
2021 AC³T Study Pool Mini-Grant Awardees

“The AC³T Study Pool Mini-Grant made a huge impact in helping to accomplish this project. It is my expectation that on completing this research, we will be able to identify factors that influence cancer treatment abandonment at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH) and its environs, with a view to ameliorating these factors and ultimately improving the quality of life and outcomes for children with cancer.”

– Dr. Jamilu Faruk, Pediatric Oncologist, ABUTH

Awardee: Dr. Jamilu Faruk, Pediatric Oncologist, Ahmadu Bello University/ Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Nigeria
Project: Quality of life of children with cancers as a predictor of treatment abandonment
Mentor Institution: St. Jude Children’s Hospital

Awardee: Dr. Sharon Mweni (above), Director of Medical Services and Research, Machakos Cancer Center (MCC) and Mrs. Faith Mutisya (below), Asst. Director of Nursing, MCC, Kenya
Project: Socio-demographic characteristics and outcomes of patients diagnosed with cancer
Mentor Institution: Weill Cornell Medical Center

Awardee: Dr. Adewumi Alabi, Clinical and Radiation Oncologist, NSIA LUTH Cancer Center, Nigeria
Project: Leveraging mobile technology on physician education on total delay in presentation of breast cancer patients
Mentor Institution: MD Anderson Cancer Center

Awardee: Dr. Annet Nakaganda, Oncology Epidemiologist, Uganda Cancer Institute, Uganda
Project: Vaginal stenosis in patients treated with radiotherapy for cancer of the cervix
Mentor Institution: Queens University

Awardee: Dr. Adu Appiah-Kubi, Gynecology Oncologist, University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ghana
Project: Assessment of frequently reported side effects by gynecological patients undergoing chemotherapy
Mentor Institution: University of Minnesota and Takeda

Awardee: Dr. Nazima Dharsee, Consultant Oncologist, Ocean Road Cancer Institute, Tanzania
Project: Palliative radiotherapy and its effect on pain control in patients with metastatic bone disease
Mentor Institution: Drexel University

Awardee: Dr. Adewumi Alabi, Clinical and Radiation Oncologist, NSIA LUTH Cancer Center, Nigeria
Project: Leveraging mobile technology on physician education on total delay in presentation of breast cancer patients
Mentor Institution: MD Anderson Cancer Center

Awardee: Dr. Faraja Chiwanga, Endocrinologist, Muhimbili National Hospital, Tanzania
Project: Clinical characteristics and correlation between fine needle aspiration cytology and post-operative histology of thyroid cancer
Mentor Institution: Takeda
AAI by the Numbers in 2021

**Access to Medicines**
- 5,600+ packs procured
- 14 products supplied
- 500+ patients treated

**Screening and Detection**
- 6,700+ Rwandan women screened for cervical cancer
- 1,060+ Rwandan women screened for breast cancer
- 650+ primary care providers and community health workers trained
- 17 clinics and labs equipped with cancer detection instruments and consumables

**Diagnosis**
- 3 digital training programs conducted
- 50+ pathologists and residents trained
- 300 gastric cancer specimens tested
- 50+ diagnostic cases evaluated

**Systemic Therapy**
- 4 digital training programs conducted
- 17 hours of training
- 1,000+ oncologists, nurses, and pharmacists trained

**Radiotherapy**
- 4 training programs conducted
- 33 hours of digital training; 2 weeks of on-site training
- 204 radiation oncologists, medical physicists, and radiotherapy technicians trained
- 81 cervical cancer patients treated following HDR brachytherapy commissioning training

**Clinical Research**
- 2 digital training programs conducted
- 28 hours of training
- 200+ clinicians trained
- 15 grants awarded

**Education and Awareness**
- 7 patient education pamphlets produced
- 2,200+ pamphlets distributed
- 10 Nigerian radio stations aired 2-minute cancer jingles in 9 local languages

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“Our Philanthropy Committee prioritizes projects that are locally owned and positioned to reach a large underserved population. We were inspired by the Cervical Cancer EST Program and BVGH’s plan to train Rwandan clinicians and front-line healthcare workers to establish sustainable screening and treatment services within the existing healthcare system. This program model will ensure the enduring impact of our contribution.”

– Timothy LaBua, Chair, Philanthropy Committee, Faber Daefur & Itrato PC
“Diversity in clinical trials is critical to achieving greater health equity for all patients. The need for increased clinical trial equity and inclusivity is of particular importance for African ethnicities, which are severely underrepresented in clinical research. As a founding partner of AAI and AC3T, through our Center for Health Equity and Patient Affairs, Takeda is proud of its partnership with BVGH to help strengthen the capabilities of underrepresented centers and investigators to conduct clinical research and to ultimately provide better care for their patients long-term.”

– Dr. Chris Reddick, Vice President and Head of Health Equity Capacity Building, Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

“Diagnostic pathology is the foundation of appropriate cancer care and it is vitally important that we support pathology education in Africa. We partner with BVGH to provide ASCP’s members with the opportunity to share their skills and learn from their international counterparts. Importantly, our programs with BVGH are supporting pathologists, helping to expand lab services, and, ultimately, leading to improved cancer diagnosis and patient outcomes in Africa.”

– Dr. E. Blair Holladay, Chief Executive Officer, American Society for Clinical Pathology
“Johnson & Johnson has a longstanding commitment to tackling the toughest health challenges facing underserved populations around the world through our lab to last mile approach. We are proud to support BVGH and regional program partners to establish cervical cancer education, screening, and treatment services in Bugesera District, Rwanda. We commend the program’s emerging impact, screening almost 7,000 women and providing follow-on services. By bridging barriers to critical prevention services, programs like this move the global community one step closer to achieve the World Health Organization’s goals for cervical cancer elimination.”

– Dr. Ruxandra Draghia-Akli, Global Head, Global Public Health R&D, Janssen Research

“We are committed to promoting and encouraging health and wellbeing in the communities in which we work and beyond. Our partnership with BVGH and the Rwandan government leveraged GardaWorld’s workforce and local infrastructure to enable almost 7,000 women in Bugesera District to receive access to vital cervical cancer prevention and treatment services. Our employees are proud to have played a critical role executing this high-impact, lifesaving program that established sustainable cancer screening services in the district.”

– Oliver Westmacott, President and Chief Operating Officer, Middle East and Africa, GardaWorld
Radiotherapy for cancer patients is a collaborative process that relies on the unique skills of the whole team: oncologists, medical physicists, radiotherapy technicians, dosimetrists, and nurses. The digital training programs that we have implemented in partnership with BVGH have enabled us to expand our reach to a broader range of radiation oncology professionals across Africa. Participating hospital teams can now work together with stronger foundational skill sets, more efficient treatment planning and delivery, and improved patient health outcomes.

– Dr. Benjamin Li, President and Founder, Rayos Contra Cancer

As healthcare professionals, we strive to build relationships and learn from each other – with the goal of providing our patients with the best possible care. Collaborating with BVGH has enabled our team of advanced practice providers the chance to partner with and co-produce digital lectures with oncology nurses in Nigeria. Our three-part oncology nursing lecture series was the start of an exciting new partnership that I hope will result in positive healthcare advances in Africa and at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC).”

– Dr. Kelly Haviland, Co-Chair, Advanced Practice Provider Professional Development Council, MSKCC

PREVALENCE OF PAIN IN ONCOLOGY POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After curative treatment</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During anticancer treatment</td>
<td>55.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In advanced, metastatic, or terminal disease</td>
<td>66.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Moderate to severe pain (numerical rating scale score ≥5) was reported by 38.0% of all patients.

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Welcome New AAI Partners

AAI is built upon a foundation of partnership with academics, private industry, governments, and non-governmental organizations from around the world. Our programs are driven by our partners’ priorities and strengthened by their unique skills and perspectives. We were pleased to welcome four new partners to AAI in 2021.

College of Pathologists of East, Central, and Southern Africa
For more than a decade, the College of Pathologists of East, Central, and Southern Africa (COPECSA) has been working to educate sub-Saharan African pathologists and promote excellence in the practice of cancer pathology. COPECSA's goal is to benefit cancer patients and improve the understanding of malignant diseases.

Cormode Cancer Foundation
Cormode Cancer Foundation, founded by a cancer survivor, is dedicated to cancer patients and increasing awareness and education in Nigeria. With a focus on mental and physical health, Cormode's programs highlight patient challenges while presenting practical solutions. Through its twice-monthly television program, Cormode Founder Dr. Denise Ejoh offers support through discussions, presentations, and Q&A sessions that highlight challenges faced by cancer sufferers.

Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority
The Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) strives to benefit all Nigerians through sustained economic development. Programs include improving healthcare infrastructure by building oncology capacity, improving access to medicines, and focusing its healthcare investments on cancer. NSIA aims to provide sustainable, high quality, and affordable treatment for all Nigerian cancer patients. This development will eliminate the need for medical tourism at an estimated annual cost to Nigeria of more than ₦576 billion ($1.2 billion).

Project PINK BLUE
Project PINK BLUE is a non-profit cancer organization working across Nigeria to improve cancer care and patient outcomes through advocacy, patient education and navigation support, and promoting cancer research. With the aim to reduce late-stage cancer diagnoses in Nigeria, Project PINK BLUE focuses its education and awareness efforts on hard-to-reach areas in rural Nigeria.

“Our resolve to improve cancer patient outcomes is unflinching. Our partnership with BVGH will not only improve access to quality cancer treatment for Nigerian citizens, but will also strengthen our economy as medical tourism is made unnecessary for cancer treatment.”

– Mr. Uche Orji, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, NSIA