Together in the fight against cancer

Dear AAI Partners and Friends,

I am thrilled to share the release of a film produced for us by BBC StoryWorks Commercial Productions. The film features recent cutting-edge developments in cancer treatment and showcases what science and partnerships can achieve in Africa. The story unfolds through deeply personal accounts of our partners, who are responsible for the dramatic progress, and a cancer patient who is benefitting from their efforts. Please join us at the BIO International Convention in Boston for a screening and meetings with our partners from Nigeria and other AAI countries.

Accurate and timely diagnosis through specialties like imaging and pathology are a crucial part of appropriate cancer care. We are pleased to share the successful completion of our Introduction to Diagnostic Imaging Seminar Series 1 course created with partner NANO-X Imaging. The two-series course focuses on varying diagnostic imaging techniques across different specialties. Additionally, we are happy to announce that our Pathology Virtual Mentorship Platform recently welcomed two ambassadors from the American Society of Cytopathology. They will provide regular cytopathology programming to platform members.

We would like to congratulate Dr. Fidel Rubagumya and Mr. Brandon Niyibizi of Rwanda Cancer Relief for the publication of their AC³T Study Pool Grant findings: Multidisciplinary approach to cancer care in Rwanda: the role of tumour board meetings.

During February and March, with their focus on cancer prevention and colorectal cancer, our AAI partners raised public awareness of cancer through social media campaigns, seminars, physical fitness challenges, and more. We celebrate their efforts in this vital area.

Please share this newsletter with any of your colleagues who are interested in supporting AAI’s patient-centered initiatives for improving cancer outcomes in Africa. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dent, President & CEO
BIO Ventures for Global Health
AAI in Action: Partnership with NSIA-LUTH Cancer Center

AAI is driven by Africa, for Africa, and our hospital partnerships are at its heart. BVGH unites African government and healthcare leaders with private industry and academic/nonprofit oncology experts to expand cancer care capabilities, provide cancer patients with sustainable access to essential medicines and technologies, increase cancer awareness, and empower investigators to lead clinical research studies that erase the cancer data gap for individuals of African descent.

See our three-year partnership with the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) and the NSIA-LUTH Cancer Center (NLCC) in action—and hear the compelling story of Chioma Okpara, a cancer survivor who received lifesaving care at NLCC—in a film produced for us by BBC StoryWorks Commercial Productions.

“We have put great effort into increasing our ability to support cancer patients. I welcome the opportunity to share our work in this film, to showcase our capabilities and invite the global community to learn more about the top cancer center in Nigeria.” –Dr. Adewumi Alabi, Consultant Clinical and Radiation Oncologist at NSIA-LUTH Cancer Center

BVGH Welcomes the American Society of Cytopathology

Recognizing that consistent educational engagement is crucial to maintaining a strong diagnostic pathology workforce, BVGH launched the AAI Pathology Virtual Mentorship Platform for African pathologists in 2020. The platform enables participants to network, discuss and learn from prior cases, share educational resources, and provide recommendations for solutions to on-the-ground challenges. Two ambassadors from the American Society of Cytopathology (ASC) will share their experience on the platform to advance cytopathology programming, tailored to the needs of platform members. We would like to welcome ASC Global Health Ambassadors, Dr. Isil Yildiz-Aktas and Dr. Ayesha Baig, to the virtual mentorship platform!
Early detection of health conditions, especially cancer, heavily relies on diagnostic imaging. In response to AAI hospital requests for training in this significant field, BVGH, and its partner NANO-X IMAGING, held a two-part digital lecture series focusing on enhancing radiologists' diagnostic imaging skills, image interpretation, and patient safety. Led by expert trainers from the USA and Israel, the Introduction to Diagnostic Imaging Seminar Series 1 offered six lectures covering various techniques such as ultrasound, x-ray, CT, and tomosynthesis in different specialty areas. A total of 239 participants from across 14 African countries took part in the first series. Series 2 will launch in the spring of 2023, focusing on more diagnostic imaging scans, such as interventional CT, MRI, and PET scans.

If you would like to register for Introduction to Diagnostic Imaging Seminar Series 2, email Linda Setiawan.
Publication: First Comprehensive Study of Tumor Boards in Rwanda

Dr. Fidel Rubagumya, Clinical and Radiation Oncologist, Founder and Board Chair of Rwanda Cancer Relief

Mr. Brandon Niyibizi, Executive Director and Board Member, Rwanda Cancer Relief

Congratulations to AC³T Study Pool Grant co-awardees Dr. Fidel Rubagumya and Mr. Brandon Niyibizi of Rwanda Cancer Relief for their publication in *ecancer*. Recognizing that tumor board meetings (TBMs) improve patient care and treatment outcomes, Dr. Rubagumya and Mr. Niyibizi analyzed qualitative and quantitative data on tumor boards held at four of Rwanda’s AAI referral hospitals. The research study was designed to evaluate the quality and efficiency of TBMs in Rwanda, the challenges they face, and the outcomes. They found that most patient cases presented during TBMs sought input on the management plan, and one quarter of cases solely relied on TBMs for the patient management plan. They concluded that virtual TBMs in Rwanda and other sub-Saharan African countries will be important to compensate for the lack of specialists needed to conduct TBMs. Learn more about their findings here: Multidisciplinary approach to cancer care in Rwanda: the role of tumour board meetings.

Rwandan Cancer Relief 2022 Annual Report

Rwanda Cancer Relief (RCR) released their 2022 Annual Report, which includes a look at the Multidisciplinary Care Team Development course for Rwandan practitioners created in partnership with RCR, BVGH, the Rwandan Biomedical Center, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). The course focused on cooperative breast cancer care at different stages of the disease, from diagnosis and staging to palliative care and survivorship. We look forward to our continued cancer advocacy work together. Click [here](#) to read the full report.
Spreading Awareness on World Cancer Day

World Cancer Day 2023 was observed by BVGH and partners through social media awareness campaigns, physical fitness events, televised discussions, and more. Check out a few of our partners’ activities below! #closethecaregap
Nigeria Cancer Care Foundation

**WORLD CANCER DAY**

"CLOSING THE GAP"

4 February

Nigeria LUTH Cancer Centre

February 11

A special thank you to all who attended and contributed to making the World Cancer Day a success.

#WorldCancerDay #CloseTheGapDay #NUC #NIGERIA_LUTH #WorldCancerDay #WorldCancerDay2022

Project FREE BLUE

February 3

We are about to

WALK THE WALK

SKATE THE SKATEBOARD

&

GAME THE CANS

#WorldCancerDay #ProjectBlue #WorldCancerDay #WorldCancerDay2022

Silverbird

Today

Nigerian Entrepreneurs

30th Anniversary

30th Anniversary

30th Anniversary

DR. MUHAMMAD YOUGUE

HEAD OF ONCOLOGY, LUTH CANCER CENTRE
Cormode Cancer Foundation on AIT and Plus TV

Cormode Cancer Foundation (CCF) partners with African Independent Television (AIT) for a twice-monthly program that offers support for cancer patients and general cancer education. The program airs every second and fourth Wednesday at 8:15am WAT; BVGH has had the pleasure of joining CCF on AIT to discuss cancer care in Nigeria, most recently during the 2022 World Cancer Congress. CCF launched a new partnership with Plus TV to expand its cancer advocacy work through weekly appearances on the TV station. View CCF’s library of shows here.

Upcoming AAI Digital Trainings

Stay tuned for more information about BVGH’s upcoming digital training programs. If you would like to receive invitations and participate in our AAI courses, kindly submit this form: https://forms.gle/jvRhqGKS25QmHqTt9

- Introduction to Diagnostic Imaging Seminar Series 2
- Treatment of Pediatric Cancer Patients
- Laboratory Management
- Biopsies and Cancer Surgeries
- Advanced Cancer Pathology

Join the Fight

To learn more about AAI and to get involved, please contact Katy Graef.
Thank you to our AAI Partners

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