African Access Initiative (AAI)

Driven by Africa - for Africa – AAI is an innovative program that engages stakeholders across sectors to accelerate access to cancer treatment.

Using data generated at the country-level by African hospitals and governments, AAI is expanding access to cancer medicines and technologies, strengthening healthcare infrastructure, and building clinical oncology and R&D capacity in Africa.

President's Letter

Dear BVGH Partners and Friends,

In a dramatic reversal of longstanding mortality patterns, 60% more Africans now die from cancer than from malaria. Without intervention, cancer deaths in Africa will increase 70% by 2030. By aligning pharmaceutical company portfolios and capabilities with hospital needs and country priorities, the African Access Initiative (AAI) is the right solution at the right time.

Through AAI’s innovative approach, AAI is expanding access to cancer medicines and technologies, strengthening healthcare infrastructure, and building clinical oncology and R&D capacity in Africa.

BVGH has met significant milestones since it launched AAI at the BIO International Convention in June 2017. Five African countries, 28 hospitals, and four major partners have joined this important initiative. With 15 hospital needs assessments completed and 16 more underway, as well as the African Consortium for Cancer Clinical Trials (AC3T) taking shape, our progress post-launch has paved the way for significant impact in 2018.

Please forward this AAI newsletter to your colleagues and reach out to us for more information or to learn how to get involved.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Dent
President, BVGH
Hospital Needs Assessments Drive AAI Priorities

AAI is a demand-driven program. BVGH is working with AAI hospital administrators and oncologists to conduct Hospital Needs Assessments to generate hospital-level cancer data on current practices, treatment gaps, and capacity building needs, as well as technology and drug priorities. Fifteen Hospital Needs Assessments are complete and 16 more are underway.

### Cancer Data Collected

- Hospital Information
- Cancer Burden
- Diagnostic Capabilities
- Treatment Options
- Research Activities & Needs
- Healthcare Capacity
- Access Barriers
- Used & Needed Drugs

AAI Expands to the Land of a Thousand Hills

Rwanda has joined Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, and Nigeria as the fifth country to participate in AAI. BVGH met with the First Lady of Rwanda, Madame Jeannette Kagame, and the Minister of Health, Dr. Diane Gashumba, solidifying the partnership and aligning on Rwanda’s cancer goals.

[Read More]
Bonjour, Jambo, Ndaewo, Ekabo, Muraho, Hello!

Meeting with partners, in person, is often the most effective way to move an initiative forward. Throughout 2017, BVGH visited AAI partner hospitals from all five AAI countries – Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, and Rwanda – and met with hospital administrators, oncologists, and government leaders to align AAI with each country’s cancer priorities.

Cameroon and Nigeria’s Ministers of Health, Honorable Minister André Mama Fouda and Honorable Minister Isaac Adewole, respectively, met with BVGH to plan how AAI will work with their governments to expedite affordable, sustainable access to cancer treatments and technologies.

AAI's African Consortium for Cancer Clinical Trials (AC³T)

BVGH launched AAI’s first program, the African Consortium for Cancer Clinical Trials (AC³T), to accelerate access to new and established cancer diagnostics, medicines, and treatments for African patients through the conduct of clinical trials. AC³T activities will build clinical trial capacity in Africa while generating drug safety and efficacy data in the genetically- and biologically-distinct cancers and patient populations in Africa.

AAI Makes a Splash at International Cancer Conference

BVGH officially kicked off the AORTIC 2017 Conference in Kigali, Rwanda with an AAI symposium that featured AAI partners from government, academia, and industry. Rwanda’s Minister of Health opened the session by endorsing BVGH’s initiative and announcing Rwanda’s intention to join AAI.

While in Kigali, BVGH convened AAI partners to document country specific cancer needs, shape AAI’s 2018 implementation strategy, and determine best practices for sustainable solutions.

Read More
Coming Soon

BVGH interviewed African clinicians, government leaders, and hospital executives about the realities of managing cancer in Africa and opportunities for AAI to make a substantial impact on cancer treatment.

An AAI video will showcase these African healthcare professionals’ views and priorities for cancer patient management.

Get Involved with AAI

To learn more about AAI and to get involved, please contact Danielle Matia.

Thank you to our AAI Sponsor Companies