



October 2022

Together in the fight against cancer

Dear AAI Partners and Friends,

I recently met with the leaders of our AAI hospital partners in Senegal and Nigeria. It was wonderful to see everyone in person and to discuss their priorities for 2023. We look forward to continuing our work to address AAI hospitals' needs in the fight against cancer.

During our visit to Nigeria, we provided AAI hospitals with microscope accessories that will enable the hospitals' pathologists to post cancer cases for discussion on BVGH's Virtual Mentorship Platform. To further support hospitals' correct and timely diagnosis of cancer patients, BVGH and partners held a mini-webinar describing the implementation of IHC services at a hospital in Ethiopia and led a digital course covering advanced pathology techniques for solid tumors. A French version of this course will begin in the next few weeks.

BVGH is pleased to welcome two new AAI advocacy partners: End Cervical Cancer Nigeria Initiative (ECCNI) and the Nigerian Cancer Society (NCS). We partnered with ECCNI and NCS to lead a digital course on pre-invasive cervical cancer, which attracted attendees from Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Lesotho, Nigeria, and South Africa.

It is with steadfast commitment to Africa-led solutions that we ask you to please share this newsletter with any of your colleagues who are interested in supporting AAI. We welcome any ideas or suggestions for improving cancer outcomes in Africa.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dent, President & CEO
BVGH Ventures for Global Health

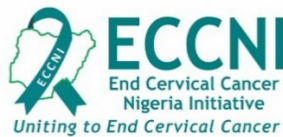


2022 AAI Nigerian Cancer
Stakeholders Meeting attendees.

Partnership Announcement

BVGH is pleased to welcome two new AAI partners. We look forward to working together to expand access to high-quality, life-saving cancer services in Nigerian hospitals.

End Cervical Cancer Nigeria Initiative (ECCNI)



[End Cervical Cancer Nigeria Initiative \(ECCNI\)](#) is applying innovative, locally relevant strategies to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer in low resource settings. Their Resource Stratified Prevention/Elimination of Cervical Cancer and Treatment (RESPECT) program strives to ensure that people of all income levels have access to life-saving cervical cancer prevention and treatment.

Nigerian Cancer Society (NCS)



A not-for-profit organization founded in 1968, the [Nigerian Cancer Society \(NCS\)](#) serves as the umbrella body for all cancer control advocates and cancer related NGOs in the country. The core goals of the NCS are to create awareness about cancer prevention and cure, facilitate early detection of cancer, and engage policymakers towards better cancer policies. They are dedicated to helping build capacity for cancer research, advocacy, and treatment in Nigeria.

Building clinical oncology capacity

Knowledge Exchange: Implementing Immunohistochemistry Services in Ethiopia



Digital lecture co-organizers from Hawassa University, City of Hope, and BVGH.

AAI partner Dr. Alemwosen Alem gave a special digital lecture describing his experience – including challenges and solutions – implementing immunohistochemistry (IHC) services at his home institution of Hawassa University in Ethiopia. Following the lecture, Dr. Alem shared standard operating procedures for ER and PR breast cancer IHC that he and his team developed. The lecture, which built upon an earlier [three-day digital training program](#) led by BVGH, Hawassa University, and City of Hope, was attended by 93 pathologists, lab technicians, and histotechnicians from eight African countries.

Advanced Pathology of Solid Tumors



Advanced Pathology of Solid Tumors participants.

In partnership with the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) and the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), BVGH led a nine-week lecture series covering [advanced pathology techniques](#) for the diagnosis of solid tumors. Five pathology specialists from the USA presented approaches to diagnosing solid tumors commonly seen at ABUTH, including head and neck, thyroid, colorectal, bone, and genitourinary cancers. More than 400 pathologists from Africa and beyond attended the digital lecture series.

Microscope Accessories Hand-Delivered to Nigeria



AAI Hospital Chief Medical Directors and Katy Graef of BVGH.

During BVGH's 2022 AAI Nigerian Cancer Stakeholder Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, BVGH presented the chief medical directors of AAI partner hospitals with light microscope accessories. The microscope accessories, which help pathologists to obtain high-resolution digital images of microscope slides, will enable the hospitals to post cancer cases on BVGH's Virtual Mentorship Platform and publish usual cancers in international pathology journals.

Addressing the cancer data gap in Africa through clinical trials

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

Tumor boards are widely recognized as playing an important role in the multidisciplinary management of cancer patients. The recent [*Lancet Commission on Cancer in sub-Saharan Africa*](#) highlighted the need for widespread adoption of tumor boards in Africa. To evaluate the implementation and impact of tumor boards in Rwanda, BVGH provided Rwanda Cancer Relief (RCR) with an AC³T Study Pool grant. Through its year-long study funded study, RCR will analyze qualitative and quantitative data on tumor boards held at four of Rwanda's referral hospitals: University Teaching Hospital of Butaré (CHUB), University Teaching Hospital of Kigali (CHUK), the Rwanda Military Hospital (RMH), and King Faisal Hospital (KFH).

Between January and August 2022, the four Rwandan hospitals held 128 tumor board meetings during which 239 cancer cases were discussed. RCR's preliminary data indicate that the meetings have driven key decisions made by the hospitals' management teams. Dr. Fidel Rubagumya and Mr. Brandon Niyibizi – the study's co-investigators – anticipate that their study will provide further insight into the impacts of tumor boards in Rwanda and inform the structure of future meetings to reflect the most effective strategies for coordinating multidisciplinary care.

Expanding awareness of cancer in Africa



Colorectal Cancer Awareness in Nigeria

AAI partner, the [Niola Cancer Care Foundation](#), is conducting a survey to understand colorectal cancer awareness amongst the Nigerian public. Live in Nigeria? BVGH and Niola Cancer Care Foundation encourage you to take (and share with family and friends) the anonymous survey: <https://forms.gle/yBKR5FF8RxTpb9bz5>

Announcements

Introducing a Hybrid Tele-Oncology Program in Cameroon

AAI hospital Cameroon Oncology Center has recently published a paper in the *International Journal of Clinical Oncology and Cancer Research* detailing their hybrid tele-oncology program, which allows for high-quality radiotherapy care at reduced costs to their patients. Read on to learn about the program's benefits and challenges: [Introduction of a Hybrid Tele-Oncology Program in a Low-Resource Setting in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Cormode Cancer Foundation AIT Schedule

Cormode Cancer Foundation 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. View their library of shows [here](#). Upcoming topics:

- **October 12:** Closing the Cancer Care Gap - Cancer Care National Strategy
- **October 26:** AIT Interview – One Year: Recording the Experience
- **November 9:** The Hematologist's Role in Looking after Cancer Patients
- **November 25:** The Research: Changing the Narrative Towards a Positive Mindset

Upcoming AAI Digital Trainings

Stay tuned for more information about BVGH's upcoming AAI digital training programs:

- Advanced Oncology Nursing – French – Register here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wFFAu_qNSL2h_6YQxzz14w
- Advanced Oncology Nursing – English – Register here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aVWz_RJSQeG9xC308NSyxw
- Pathology of Solid Tumors – French – Register here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JyM_3le1QZa22ssqe-l_WA

- Introduction to Cancer Treatment – French – tentatively scheduled for November 2022

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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