



April 2023

## 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 AC<sup>3</sup>T 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



BVGH's pathology mentorship platform.

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!

Interested in joining? Email [Ashly Senske](#).

## Introduction to Diagnostic Imaging



Series 1 Lecture 1: Optimizing Breast Ultrasound Techniques with Dr. Victoria Mango.

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](#).

# Addressing the cancer data gap in Africa through clinical trials

## 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 AC<sup>3</sup>T 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](#).

## Expanding awareness of cancer in Africa



RCR

2022

### Rwanda Cancer Relief 2022 Annual Report

RCR  
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.

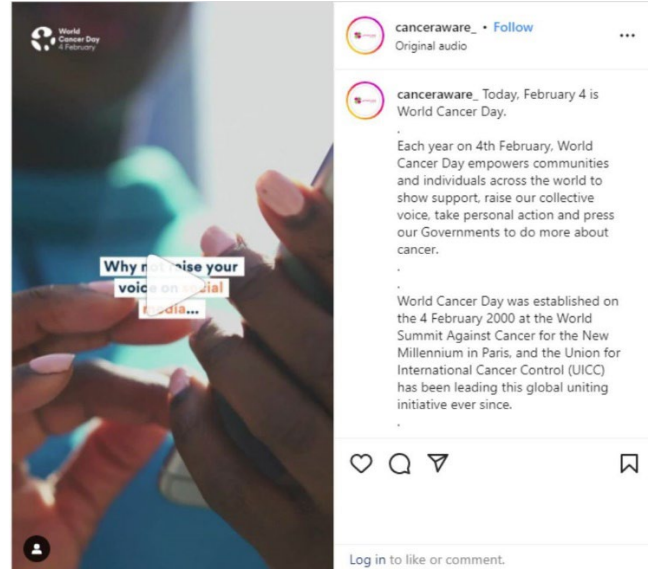


## Spreading Awareness on World Cancer Day

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](#)

**Cameroon Oncology Center**  
February 4

In commemoration of the world Cancer day, February 2nd 2023, Cameroon Oncology Center in partnership with the Regional hospital Bafoussam, organised a conference in the conference hall of the Bafoussam Regional hospital. The conference was a huge success. See photos below.



**Denise Ejoh**  
Denise Ejoh Ph.D  
1mo

Join us tomorrow, February 3rd 2023, at 8:00am for a truly enlightening experience with Dr. Denise Ejoh has during the AIT Kakaki LIVE session. As we commemorate World Cancer Day, with the theme "Close the Health Care Gap", we have the unique opportunity to hear from Gary Adams, the esteemed CEO of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). Don't miss out on this opportunity to gain valuable insights with industry leaders in the fight against cancer. Be a part of the movement to close the health care gap and ensure equitable access to cancer care for all.

#uicc #cancer #projectpinkblue #officialaitlive #dejoh25 #hope #worldcancerday #bvgh #cancersurvivors #opportunity #healthcare #leaders #ceo #cancerawareness #Togetherwefighttogetherwewin.

**Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital**  
3,966 followers  
1mo

Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) in collaboration with other stakeholders, invites you to this year's World Cancer Day on Saturday 4th February, 2023 at Nandi Gardens- Eldoret CBD.

Activities lined up for the day:

1. Walk from MTRH through CBD to Nandi Gardens;
2. Free Cancer Screening and Health Education; and
3. Free Medical Consultation.

Kuzulia ni bora kuliko kuponya.  
Karibuni.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT - CANCER**

**CLOSE THE HEALTH CARE GAP**

live on **ait** 3rd February, 2023  
8:00am WAT

*Speaker:*

**Gary Adams**  
CEO Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

*Host:*

**Denise Ejoh (Ph.D)**  
CEO Cormode Cancer Foundation

ait.live DStv 253 Gotv 93

www.cormodecancerfoundation.com CormodeCancerFoundation@9 CormodeCancerFoundation

**World Cancer Day**

"Close the Care Gap"

**ACTIVITIES**

- ✓ Cancer Education
- ✓ Screening
- ✓ World Cancer Day Celebrations

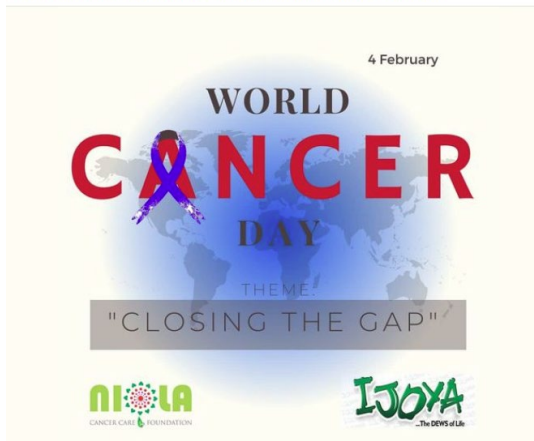
**VENUE: NANDI GARDENS**

**DATE: 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

**TIME: 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM**

**Niola Cancer Care Foundation**  
February 4 · 🌐

COMING SOON IN MARCH 2023  
\*IJOYA 5TH Edition Proudly Supported By YARD 158 Event Center Oregon ,Lagos  
Niola Closing The Care Gap....  
@nigerian\_cancer\_society @uicc\_official @globalcrrc @bioventuresforglobalhealth  
#WorldCancerDay #closethecaregap #colorectalcanerawareness cancer #march



**NSIA-LUTH Cancer Centre**  
875 followers  
1mo

The head of our oncology team at NSIA-LUTH Cancer Centre, Dr Muhammad Habeebu, was at Silverbird Tv on the 1st of February to talk about world cancer day and our work to make advanced cancer care available to Nigerians.  
You can watch the full interview on our YouTube channel <https://lnkd.in/d/VambdCg>

#worldcancerday #closethecaregap #cancer #cancerawareness #nlcc #nsia #luth #prostatecancer #breastcancer #cervicalcancer #headandneckcancer #NLCCWCD Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)  
SIOPE Europe, the European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE) #oncology



**NSIA LUTH Cancer Centre**  
February 11 · 🌐

A special thank you to all who attended and contributed to making the World Cancer Day #Zumba a success.  
#WorldCancerDay #CloseTheCareGap #NLCC #NSIA #LUTH #nlccwcd  
Francis Abayomi Durosini-Etti



**Project PINK BLUE**  
February 3 · 🌐

We are about to  
WALK THE WALK  
SKATE THE SKATING  
&  
CHOKER CANCER  
#chokecancer #projectpinkblue #worldcancerday #worldcancerday2023







Ministry of Health | Rwanda  
@RwandaHealth

This morning Minister @nsanzimanasabin along with other officials, partners and members of CSOs, joined Kigali residents for the bi-monthly #CarFreeDay sporting activities to mark the #WorldCancerDay2023 and raise awareness on #CervicalCancer prevention and control.

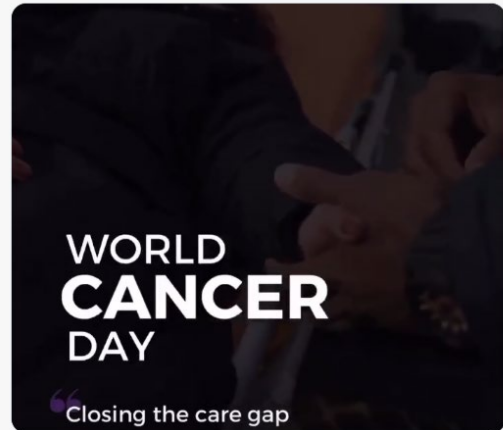


11:21 PM · Feb 4, 2023 · 17.6K Views



Rwanda Cancer Relief @RwCancerRelief · Feb 4

With burden rates predicted to double by 2040 (2.4 million cases and 1 million deaths) in Africa, it is crucial to unite in support of closing the care gap and constructing strong health systems that can fully support the cancer fight in our country and continent. #WorldCancerDay



## Announcements



### 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

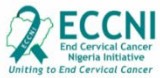
Stay tuned for more information about BVGH's upcoming digital training programs. If you would like to receive invitations and participate in our AAI courses, kindly submit this form: <https://forms.gle/jvRhqGKS25QmHqTt9>

- 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



BIO Ventures for Global Health

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