



June 2023

## Together in the fight against cancer

Dear AAI Partners and Friends,

It is with pleasure that I invite you to join BVGH next week at the 2023 [BIO International Convention](#). We will be leading several events, including an interactive AAI panel on June 8<sup>th</sup> featuring the importance of public private partnerships and opportunities for their expansion under the [White House Cancer Moonshot](#). I look forward to seeing many of you at the convention.

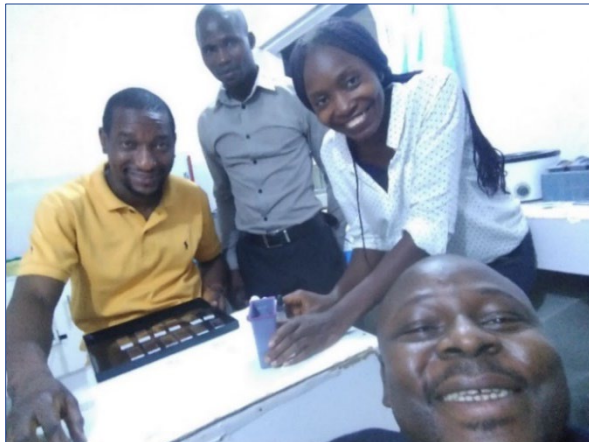
I attended the 2023 [Global Health Catalyst Summit](#) in May and enjoyed learning more about the exciting initiatives and partnerships that are improving health outcomes around the world. I was honored to receive the [Global Health Catalyst Distinguished Leader \(Nonprofit\) Award](#), which I accepted on behalf of the entire BVGH team. I offer heartfelt congratulations to my fellow awardees.

BVGH partnerships are progressing and delivering impact. In collaboration with Project PINK BLUE, BVGH recently organized the digital training series, Upgrade Oncology: Training for Nurses and Clinical Oncologists, to address common cancer care challenges in Africa. Concluded in April, this series covered a range of topics from pain management to supportive care treatments. Additionally, we are excited to announce the successful completion of our 2023 Oncology Pharmacy Digital Training – English. This series was sponsored by Bristol Myers Squibb and will soon be offered in French.

Please forward this newsletter to any colleagues who are interested in supporting AAI's mission and patient-centered initiatives to improve cancer outcomes on the African continent. Your thoughts and ideas are always welcome.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Dent, President & CEO  
BIO Ventures for Global Health

# Building clinical oncology capacity



From left to right: Mr. David Noah, Mr. Maxwell Musa, Mrs. Deborah Dang, and Dr. Mbwas Mashor.

## Leveraging Virtual Mentorship to Launch Immunohistochemistry

Immunohistochemistry (IHC), an essential method for detecting and differentiating cancer types, is greatly needed in sub-Saharan Africa. IHC has been the focus of several BVGH programs, including the Histotech Virtual Mentorship Platform (VMP). Dr. Mbwas Mashor, a pathologist in Jos, Nigeria, utilized knowledge gained from these BVGH AAI training programs, as well as support from Mr. David Noah, a Senior Histoscience at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital in Kano, Nigeria, to launch IHC at his private facility.

One year ago, Dr. Mashor posted on BVGH's Histotech VMP to seek guidance on IHC reagent procurement and techniques. Mr. Noah's response resulted in an ongoing virtual mentorship and an in-person, intensive three-day hands-on training in IHC techniques in April of 2023. Dr.

Mashor credits BVGH's capacity building programs and Mr. Noah's mentorship and visit for his successful implementation of ER, PR, and HER2 manual IHC staining.

If you would like to learn more about our Histotech VMP, email [Linda Setiawan](mailto:Linda.Setiawan@bvgh.org) at BVGH.

***"I wish to heartily appreciate the initiators of this platform for helping me achieve a part of my dream to start manual IHC in a private facility in Jos, Nigeria. Special thanks to Linda Setiawan [BVGH] for always following up on my progress. Special thanks also to David Temitope Noah for freely sharing his depth of knowledge with me and our staff throughout the period of our first hands on practical experience." – Dr. Mbwas Mashor, Pathologist***

## Supportive Care Along the Patient Pathway



Course trainers, Project PINK BLUE, and BVGH.

BVGH collaborates with African hospitals and non-governmental organizations to gain a broad perspective on improving cancer care in our partner countries. In partnership with Project PINK BLUE and funded by ACT Foundation, strong advocates for Nigerian cancer patients along every step of the treatment pathway, BVGH teamed up with trainers from the USA and expert consultants from Nigeria to organize [Upgrade Oncology: Training for Nurses and Clinical Oncologists](#). Drawing over 400 participants from 14 countries, this six-lecture course addressed patient care along multiple steps in the cancer care pathway, including counseling patients before treatment begins, supportive cancer treatment, cancer pain management, and cancer emergencies.



Participants in the 2023 Oncology Pharmacy Digital Training – English lecture series.

## Training for Oncology Pharmacists Offered in English and French

Oncology pharmacists play a pivotal role in many different aspects of cancer care. They oversee the preparation, use, and disposal of chemotherapy drugs, ensuring the safety of staff and patients alike. Their responsibilities also include determining drug regimens, educating patients and caregivers, and managing drug accountability during clinical trials. As a result, BVGH's AAI [2023 Oncology Pharmacy Digital Training – English](#) lecture series, sponsored by Bristol Myers Squibb, was our most popular course to date.

With approximately 1,800 participants, the 12-lecture series attracted professionals from 45 different countries. Lecturers from Canada, the United Kingdom, and the USA shared knowledge and support, giving participants a strong foundation in fundamental oncology pharmacy principles.

If you are interested in the French version of this course beginning on June 6th, please register [here](#).

## Addressing the cancer data gap in Africa through clinical trials

### African Principal Investigators Lead Multicenter Feasibility Study



HypoAfrica team members at the 2023 Global Health Catalyst Summit. From left to right: Dr. Katy Graef (BVGH), Prof. Twalib Ngoma (Ocean Road Cancer Institute), Prof. Luca Incrocci (Erasmus Medical Center), Dr. adedayo Joseph (NSIA-LUTH Cancer Center), and Dr. Abba Mallum (Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital).

The HypoAfrica clinical trial – led by oncologists in Nigeria, Tanzania, and South Africa who have teamed up with radiotherapy specialists from Africa, Europe, Australia, and the USA – explores the feasibility of implementing hypofractionated radiotherapy (HFRT) for prostate cancer in sub-Saharan Africa. HFRT delivers higher doses of radiation than traditional radiotherapy over the course of fewer treatment sessions, making it more cost- and resource-efficient. It has shown promise as an economical solution to treatment access barriers in low- and middle-income countries.

A phase II feasibility study launched in 2021 with funding from the African Consortium for Cancer Clinical Trials Study Pool, HypoAfrica has received global attention and was recently showcased at the [2023 Global Health Catalyst Summit](#). Read the HypoAfrica team's recent publication to learn more: [Challenges and opportunities for implementing hypofractionated radiotherapy in Africa: lessons from the HypoAfrica clinical trial](#).



## Join us next week at BIO!



June 8<sup>th</sup> AAI panelists, from left to right: Jennifer Dent (BVGH), Aminu Umar-Sadiq (Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority), Julie Gralow (American Society of Clinical Oncology), Chris Reddick (Takeda), Wil Ngwa (Johns Hopkins University), and Catharine Young (White House Office of Science and Technology Policy).

Join BVGH at the 2023 [BIO International Convention](#) in Boston, MA, June 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>! Along with other events, we will be hosting an interactive AAI panel at 9am on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> titled The Cancer Moonshot in Africa: Improving Cancer Patient Outcomes through Public-Private Partnerships. Industry, academic, and government sector leaders will present on partnerships and opportunities for their growth under the [White House Cancer Moonshot](#). Stay tuned to our Convention activities via [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

## 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 has launched a new partnership with [Plus TV](#), which has over 12 million viewers across Africa, 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 to our courses, kindly submit this brief form: <https://forms.gle/jvRhqGKS25QmHqTt9>

- Advanced Cancer Pathology
- Biopsies and Cancer Surgeries
- Introduction to Diagnostic Imaging Seminar Series 2

- Laboratory Management for Pathologists – Begins August 24th – Register here: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_OFqFHiXnROy5inJaBWpe5A#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OFqFHiXnROy5inJaBWpe5A#/registration)
- Oncology Pharmacy – French – Begins June 6<sup>th</sup> – Register here: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN - WZOOK2IQv2QdtkPaKo5yg#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WZOOK2IQv2QdtkPaKo5yg#/registration)
- Palliative Care – English and French
- Treatment of Pediatric Cancer Patients

## 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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