



African Access Initiative Newsletter

August 2018

Dear BVGH Partners and Friends,

Partnerships between industry and African global health leaders are crucial to reversing cancer mortality patterns on the African continent. In an effort to help rewrite Africa's cancer narrative, BVGH launched the African Access Initiative (AAI) at the 2017 BIO International Convention.

AAI made tremendous progress in its first year thanks to its supporters and partners including AAI company sponsors, Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. and Pfizer. We have collected groundbreaking cancer prevalence and drug access data from 24 hospitals, and facilitated international training opportunities. We placed laboratory equipment to empower Nigerian pathologists to improve their diagnostic capabilities, and at the invitation of the Nigerian Minister of Health, we presented AAI at the launch of [Nigeria's new National Cancer Control Plan](#).

During the [2018 BIO International Convention](#), BVGH convened AAI partners and global health leaders to increase attention to Africa's cancer crisis and the urgent need for innovative approaches to this public health emergency.

More exciting AAI developments are underway. We launched of two fellowship projects at AAI hospitals in Kenya and Rwanda to build cancer clinical trial and diagnostic laboratory capacity. The African Consortium for Cancer Clinical Trials (AC³T) Steering Committee convened its first in-person meeting and agreed on AC³T's Study Pool strategy. The [Study Pool](#) request for interest (RFI) was launched in July and is aimed at providing financial support to African investigators interested in conducting cancer clinical trials.

Stay tuned for additional announcements and updates in the months ahead!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Dent



Celebrating AAI milestones at the 2018 BIO International Convention

BVGH's events at the 2018 Convention showcased the complementary roles local healthcare providers, the pharmaceutical industry, academic institutions, and governments play in stemming Africa's rising cancer crisis.

During a series of panel sessions and meetings around the 2018 Convention, representatives from Côte d'Ivoire's and Kenya's Ministries of Health; Pfizer; Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.; Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Henry Ford Health System; and other leading global oncology organizations discussed the benefits of augmenting cancer clinical trial capacity in Africa and leveraging public-private partnerships to address Africa's cancer needs in a sustainable manner.

[Click here to download BVGH's 2018 Post-BIO Report](#)



Capacity building in action

And they're off! Six MSD scientists participating in the [MSD Fellowship for Global Health](#) traveled to two AAI hospitals to volunteer for BVGH and build cancer clinical trial and diagnostic laboratory capacity. Throughout their fellowship, the fellows will work with physicians and hospital administrators at [Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital](#) in Kenya and the [University Teaching Hospital of Kigali](#) (CHUK) in Rwanda to transfer knowledge and skills to improve cancer patient care in the region.

MSD is an innovative, global healthcare leader that is committed to improving health and well-being around the world. The MSD Fellowship for Global Health is a three-month, field-based corporate pro bono program designed to leverage the skills and talents of MSD employees to advance the company's mission by supporting the efforts of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). For more information about MSD's commitment to corporate responsibility, go to www.msdrresponsibility.com



Turn a cancer clinical trial study idea into reality

So you have a concept for a cancer clinical trial in Africa. Now what? Submit a response to the AC³T request for interest (RFI)!

BVGH will be soliciting financial support from public and private donors to fund the AC³T Study Pool. **To obtain funding, BVGH will demonstrate, through information obtained from this RFI, that there is a critical mass of African investigators who are prepared and interested in conducting cancer clinical trials – should financial support be available.** Through this RFI, BVGH is inviting African investigators to provide information about their relevant clinical trial interests. The information shared will be highlighted in BVGH's solicitations to potential AC³T Study Pool donors.

To submit your response, please email [Katy Graef](#) or visit: <https://goo.gl/forms/IXhHBdXATEuWt9bC3>

About 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.

Agent involved with AAI

To learn more about AAI and to get involved, please contact Katy Graef (kgraef@bvh.org)



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