



AFRICAN ACCESS INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER



April 2024



Together in the fight against cancer

Dear AAI Partners and Friends,

BVGH's 2024 training schedule was off to a busy start with the implementation of an in-person oncology pharmacy workshop in Kenya, the launch of three digital lecture series on prostate cancer (English and French) and clinical trials, and the completion of our [Introduction to Grant Writing Digital Course](#) and accompanying peer review workshop. More than 4,000 cancer professionals from across Africa have participated in one of BVGH's training programs thus far in 2024.

I am pleased to announce that BVGH has joined the Bloomberg International Cancer Coalition, a network of leaders and thought-partners aligned on combating cancer throughout the world.

We look forward to furthering our programs and impacts with our partners this year, and as always, we invite you to share this newsletter with any of your colleagues who are interested in improving cancer patient outcomes in Africa or supporting AAI.

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

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

BVGH Joins Bloomberg New Economy International Cancer Coalition

BVGH has joined [The Bloomberg New Economy International Cancer Coalition](#) – a collection of partners across industry, academia, government, and patient advocacy groups focused on advancing cancer cures and prevention globally. The primary goals of the coalition are to increase equitable access to cancer diagnosis, promote patient-centric solutions to clinical trial inclusion and implementation, lower barriers to care, and build public awareness and education surrounding cancer. By joining the Bloomberg New Economy International Cancer Coalition, BVGH will expand the reach of AAI and align and synergize AAI activities with those of other leading international cancer organizations.

BVGH Welcomes HGOPED as an Official AAI Partner

BVGH is pleased to welcome new partner [Gyneco-Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital of Douala \(HGOPED\)](#), located in Douala, Cameroon, to the African Access Initiative. HGOPED has been providing world class services including echocardiography, ultrasound services, laboratory tests, and cancer treatment since its establishment in 2014. The most commonly treated cancers at HGOPED include breast, cervical, and ovarian cancers.

BUILDING CLINICAL ONCOLOGY CAPACITY

Kenyan Pharmacists Strengthen Their Oncology Pharmacy Skills

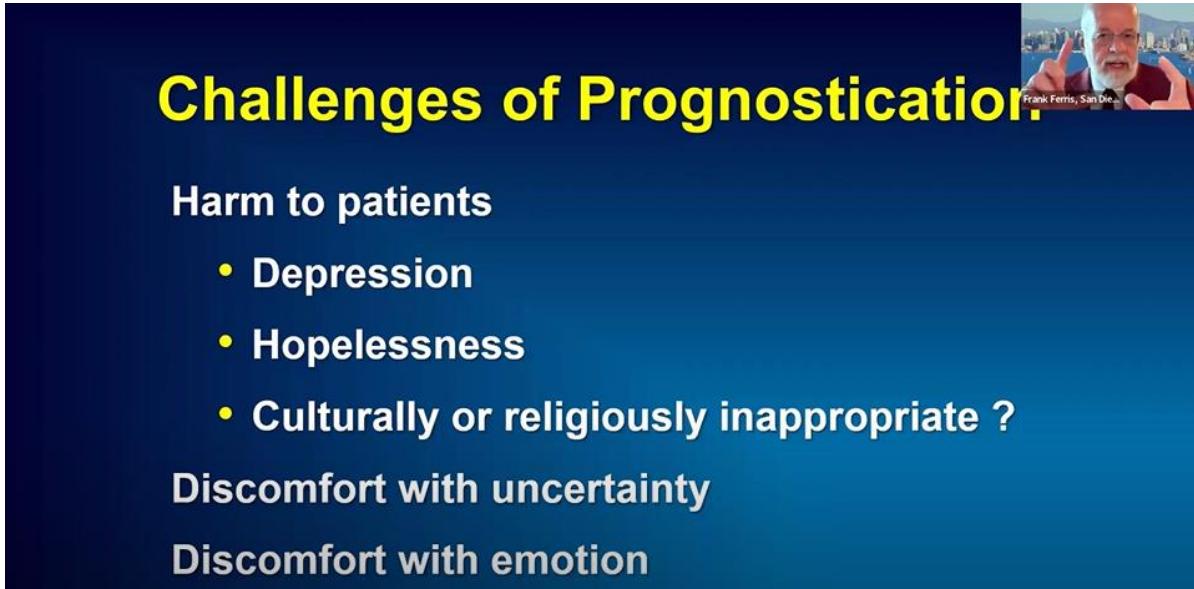


Dr. Nancy Guo (left) and Dr. Alexandre Chan (right) review the course structure with participants

Following its [2023 AAI Oncology Pharmacy Digital Lecture Series](#), BVGH held an on-site training program in Kenya to build upon the digital training topics and refine attendees' oncology pharmacy knowledge and skills. Held at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH), the AAI on-site training was attended by 40 pharmacists from 23 Kenyan hospitals. BVGH engaged oncology pharmacy experts Dr. Alexandre Chan, Professor of Clinical Pharmacy, University of California, Irvine, and Dr. Nancy Guo, Senior Pharmacist, Ontario

Ministry of Health and Clinical Lead of Quality and Safety, Kingston Health Sciences Centre, to lead the lectures, which covered the safe handling of chemotherapy, pharmacology, site specific SOPs, and supportive care. Following the AAI program, all participants noted that they planned to incorporate their new knowledge into their daily practice and share their learnings with their colleagues and students.

AAI Hospital Partners Practice Palliative Care Communication Strategies



Challenges of Prognostication



Frank Ferris, San Die...

- Harm to patients**
 - Depression
 - Hopelessness
 - Culturally or religiously inappropriate ?
- Discomfort with uncertainty**
- Discomfort with emotion**

Dr. Frank Ferris leads a review of palliative care communication strategies

BVGH's [AAI Palliative Care Digital Training Program \(English\)](#), which attracted 1,816 attendees from 34 African countries, concluded in November 2023. Upon popular demand and participant feedback, BVGH organized two workshops for AAI hospital partners to practice the communication strategies that they learned during the digital training. The workshops, which covered breaking bad news and communicating a cancer prognosis, began with a review of palliative care communication principles led by Dr. Frank Ferris, Executive Director of Palliative Medicine, Research and Education, OhioHealth. Attendees subsequently transitioned into small breakout groups, during which they participated in role-play scenarios depicting patient-clinician interactions and received feedback from their peers. BVGH coordinated the breakout group discussions which were facilitated by experts from Centre Hospitalier Public d'Hauteville, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia.

"I am happy I had the opportunity to participate in this workshop. I gained great insight from both the facilitators and the participants. I am eager to practice the lessons learnt and hope to have more of such opportunities in the future."

- Motoh Nzoteu Irene Jasmine, General Practitioner at Cameroon Oncology Center

Grant Writers Gain Invaluable Skills through AAI Digital Training Course



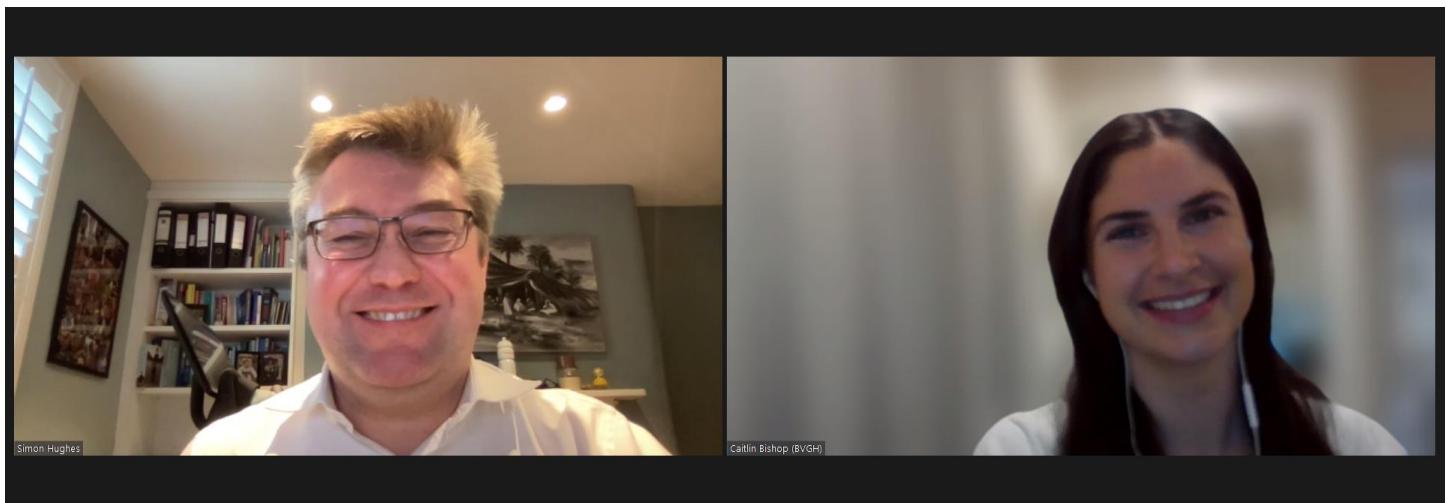
Introduction to Grant Writing digital course participants

Applying for grants and fellowships is a crucial part of moving innovative research projects forward, expanding educational opportunities, and increasing cancer care availability at hospitals. Yet the application process can be daunting and discouraging. To help demystify the funding application process, BVGH created the [2023 AAI Introduction to Grant Writing](#) digital course. Reaching over 5,200 healthcare providers, researchers, and grant writing professionals from 102 countries, the lecture series included speakers from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Wellcome Trust, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, MD Anderson, and the University of South Florida.

The digital training program began with a series of lectures that covered how to craft the body of a grant application – from writing a CV and requesting letters of support to making a budget and timeline for the project – before transitioning into presentations on what funders, editors, and reviewers are looking for. The 10-session series concluded with a lecture from Dr. Mwando Chitula, Oncology Specialist, Cancer Diseases Hospital, Zambia, who spoke about her own experiences with grant applications, successful grant management, and how finding a mentor was a game-changer for her career and success. Following the lecture series, interested participants were invited to a Peer Review Workshop to learn more about the peer review process, review a peer's work, and have their work reviewed in return.

"The course was very informative. I can comfortably write about my motivation and research interest and letters of support, which were previously a challenge for me."
-Felishana Jepkosgei Cherop, Lecturer at Moi University, Kenya

BVGH Delivers Targeted Training on Prostate Cancer



Dr. Simon Hughes and BVGH Course Lead Caitlin Bishop prepare to launch AAI Prostate Cancer session

Prostate cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death among African men. Oncology experts across BVGH's AAI hospitals have expressed an urgent need for additional training in the diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer to address this devastating disease. In response, BVGH delivered a [six-session AAI digital training program](#) covering topics in prostate cancer diagnosis, management of disease by risk group, common oncologic emergencies, and palliative care. The course curriculum covered topics prioritized by AAI hospitals and was developed by BVGH and Dr. Simon Hughes, Clinical Oncologist, Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust, and refined with further input from clinical staff at NSIA-LUTH Cancer Center (NLCC) in Nigeria. Expert trainers from the Fred Hutch Cancer Center, Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust, Lancaster University, and the African Center for Research on End of Life Care (ACREOL) led sessions that incorporated lectures, interactive case studies, and participant Q&A. More than 725 individuals from 41 countries registered for the course.



BVGH's AAI to be Presented at American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)

At the upcoming AACR Meeting (April 5-10), BVGH President and CEO Jennifer Dent will be speaking on the panel "Optimizing Cancer Care in Low Resource Settings" on the topic of readiness for clinical cancer research in low- and middle-income countries. This panel will take place on Monday, April 8th at 5pm PST.

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/8stQmomGXAifY2ah8>

- [Introduction to Treatment of Pediatric Cancers \(English\)](#)
- [AAI ASC Cytology Education Seminar Series \(English\)](#)
- [Basic Pathology of Hematologic Cancers \(English & French\)](#)
- [Imaging Colorectal, Prostate, and Hematologic Cancers \(English & French\)](#)
- [Introduction to Liver, Colorectal, and Prostate Cancers in the Community \(English\)](#)
- [Introduction to Treatment of Colorectal and Liver Cancers \(English\)](#)
- [Introduction to Treatment of Colorectal and Hematologic Cancers \(French\)](#)
- [Cancer Patient Navigation \(English\)](#)

Join the Fight

To learn more about AAI and to get involved, please contact [Katy Graef](#).

Thank you to our AAI Partners



Mailing Address:
2101 4th Avenue, Suite 1950, Seattle, WA 98121