

# AFRICAN ACCESS INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER



February 2025

## Together in the fight against cancer

Dear AAI Partners and Friends,

Although 2025 has just begun, our AAI programs are already off to a strong start. We have completed three training courses on the treatment of colorectal cancer and hepatocellular carcinoma, early detection and referral of breast cancer, and the introduction to the treatment of pediatric cancers. This year, BVGH has numerous training programs planned that will cover topics requested by our partners. A list of upcoming courses can be found at the end of this newsletter, and previous courses can be accessed, and taken if you missed them, through our online educational platform, BVGH Learn.

BVGH also launched its prostate cancer awareness program in Nigeria: Kampe Man, which emphasized the importance of prostate cancer screening and awareness to men in rural areas. We look forward to continued awareness activities through our new Let's Talk About Cancer program.



Community leaders of the Kado Kuchi Community showcase prostate cancer awareness materials at the Kampe Man awareness event

We are pleased to welcome our newest AAI partner, Centre Hospitalier Régional d'Ebolowa in Cameroon! BVGH is excited to work closely with our AAI partners new and old to forge progress against cancer.

As always, we invite you to share this newsletter with any of your interested contacts.

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

# PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

## Centre Hospitalier Régional d'Ebolowa Joins AAI

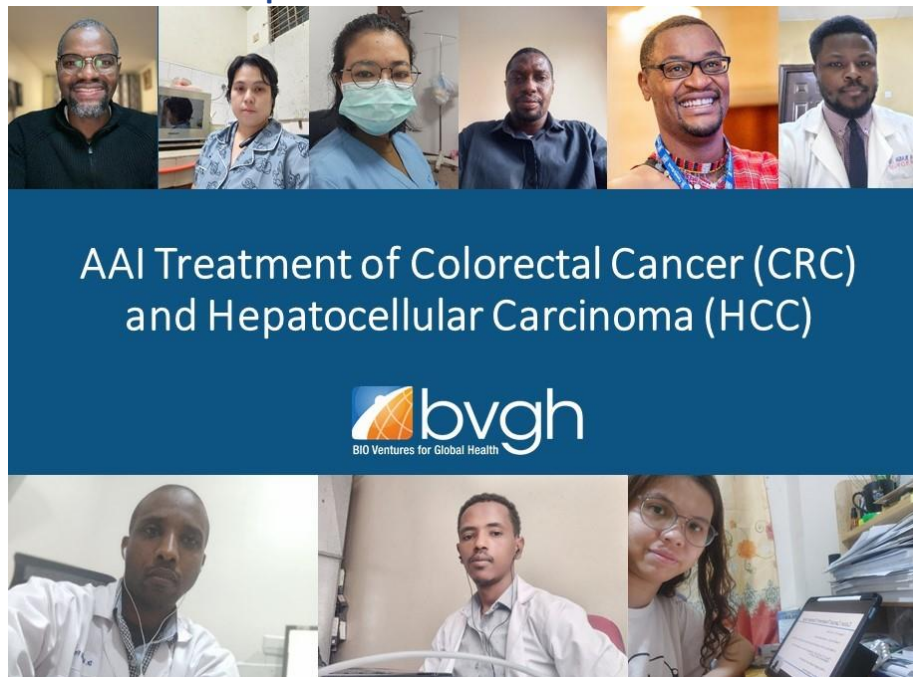


BVGH is pleased to welcome its newest AAI partner hospital, Centre Hospitalier Régional d'Ebolowa (CHRE), which is located in the South Region of Cameroon. With 118 beds, CHRE provides all-encompassing, high-quality healthcare services to patients from across Southern Cameroon. The hospital opened its doors in June 2021 and has been treating cancer patients since October 2024. BVGH is honored to be working with CHRE to advance their oncology priorities, including supporting a monthly tumor board and improving access to priority cancer medications.

## BUILDING CLINICAL ONCOLOGY CAPACITY



## Advancing Colorectal Cancer and Hepatocellular Carcinoma Care



Participants from the AAI Treatment of CRC and HCC course

Liver (HCC) and colorectal (CRC) cancer are the 4th and 5th most common cancers in Africa, accounting for 6.2% and 5.9% of all cancer cases. HCC and CRC patients often present to African hospitals with late-stage disease, limiting the availability of treatment options. In 2024, BVGH launched a 12-week digital training program covering treatment practices for HCC and CRC. The lecture series attracted over 600 participants from 47 countries and featured sessions exploring surgical, radiation, and systemic treatment options, and covered the full spectrum of disease from early-stage to advanced-stage diagnoses.

## Hospitals Gain Knowledge to Detect and Refer Breast Cancer Cases



Participants of the AAI Breast Cancer Early Detection & Referral Part 1 course

In collaboration with the National Cancer Control Program in Kenya, BVGH launched the AAI Breast Cancer Early Detection & Referral Part I digital training program late last year. This 6-session series focused on the multidisciplinary aspects of the early detection of breast cancer and was tailored to meet the needs of pathologists, laboratory technicians, nurses, and other members of the cancer care team at county referral hospitals in Kenya. The second part of the series, which is planned for the first half of 2025, will focus on radiologic topics of breast cancer detection, including operationalizing mammography systems, using a breast ultrasound, imaging quality control, and more.



## Medical Professionals Given New Insights into the Treatment of Pediatric Cancers



Participants of the AAI Introduction to the Treatment of Pediatric Cancers course

In low- and middle-income countries, pediatric cancer patients have a survival rate of 20-30%. In contrast, children with cancer in a high-income country have an 80% survival rate. The disparities in survival rates of pediatric cancer patients are due to several factors, including healthcare providers' limited training in pediatric oncology and insufficient awareness of pediatric cancer amongst members of the public.

To address these disparities, BVGH partnered with the African and North American branches of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP) to organize and lead a 16-session digital lecture series on the treatment and management of pediatric cancers. The course was designed to meet the needs of medical professionals who treat pediatric cancer patients in Africa.

Almost 2,000 doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals from 31 countries attended the course, which covered oncologic emergencies; lymphomas, acute leukemias, kidney tumors and other common pediatric cancers; supportive care for children with cancer; and palliative care. Each lecture was led by expert trainers from globally renowned institutions such as the American Cancer Society, Children's Cancer Hospital Egypt 5735, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Uganda Cancer Institute, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, National Cancer Institute, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Mère-Enfant, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Newcastle University, Alliance Mondiale Contre le Cancer, Tygerberg Hospital, and the African Palliative Care Association.

Special thanks to Dr. Mahmoud Hammad, Dr. Jennifer Geel, and Dr. Joyce Kambugu of SIOP Africa for their involvement with the course.

**"So educational for me, I'm glad to implement what I learned into my treatment strategies so that I can improve on the quality of care given to my patients"**

- **AAI Introduction to Treatment of Pediatric Cancers participant from Uganda**

# EXPANDING AWARENESS OF CANCER IN AFRICA

## Kampe Man: Raising Awareness about Prostate Cancer in Abuja, Nigeria



A prostate cancer awareness poster being placed on a tree in the Fulani Settlement as part of the Kampe Man campaign

BVGH partnered with the Medicaid Cancer Foundation (MCF) to launch a multi-event prostate cancer awareness campaign in and around Abuja, Nigeria. Named Kampe Man—which means "strong man" in Pidgin English—the campaign aimed to raise awareness about prostate cancer, including its risk factors, screening methods, and available treatment options. The Kampe Man campaign featured informative sessions led by Dr. Atim Terkaa, a urologist at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, and Dr. Fatima Dambatta, a physician and Medical Coordinator at MCF, who met with more than 500 men – empowering them with knowledge to take charge of their health. In parallel, more than 1,400 awareness materials highlighting prostate cancer symptoms and risk factors were distributed to villages and markets around Abuja and nearly 90 men participated in prostate cancer screenings using a rapid prostate specific antigen test.

# AAI BULLETIN

## 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>



- Breast Cancer Pathology Part 2 (English)
- Bone Marrow Pathology (English): [Register now!](#)
- Early Detection of Breast Cancer Part 2 (English)
- Frontiers in Cancer Treatment (English)
- Advanced Treatment of Pediatric Cancers (English)
- Psychosocial Oncology (English)
- Cancer Pathology Techniques (French)
- Imaging of Common Cancers (French)

## New Courses on BVGH Learn

See below to find out which of BVGH's previous digital training programs have been added to the platform over the past two months. If you would like to be notified as soon as new courses are added to BVGH Learn, you can follow us on our socials at [X](#), [BlueSky](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#). To access these courses, please go to <https://bvghlearn.org>.

- 2024 ECCNI Cervical Cancer Prevention, Screening, and Treatment
- 2022 AAI HIV-Associated Malignancies
- 2021 AAI Oncology Nursing

## 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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