



AFRICAN ACCESS INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER



December 2025



Together in the fight against cancer

Dear AAI Partners and Friends,

This month marks another year of progress and partnership in the fight against cancer in Africa. Building the oncology workforce through AAI digital and in person training programs is central to our work together. During 2025, 11,000 healthcare professionals participated in AAI digital and in person training programs. An additional 3,000 individuals have registered and joined our online learning platform, BVGH Learn, to take courses. Through BVGH Learn, oncology healthcare providers around the globe can access and complete BVGH's comprehensive courses at their own pace.

In addition to our digital courses, we are proud of the in-person programs we conducted with AAI partners this year. Highlights include our Breast Cancer Management Workshop in Lesotho in collaboration with ASCO; community-based cancer screening and awareness initiatives in Kwara State, Nigeria; and our year-long radiotherapy training program, delivered in collaboration with MedServe, the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority, and NICRAT. These hands-on programs are strengthening clinical capacity and community outreach where it is needed most.

As 2025 draws to a close, BVGH is looking ahead with determination and renewed purpose. We are evaluating the impact of this year's programs - with our country partners - and integrating lessons learned as we plan for 2026. Across the AAI program, we remain committed to expanding access to essential medicines and technologies, building clinical oncology capacity, addressing Africa's critical cancer data gap, and advancing awareness across the continent.

Thank you to all our partners for your dedication and collaboration. We look forward to expanding our work together in the coming year—and to improving outcomes for cancer patients across Africa.

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

BVGH 2025 Training Impact

Building clinical oncology capacity is a core pillar of the African Access Initiative. This year, BVGH led 16 AAI training programs that covered topics prioritized by our AAI country and hospital partners. Primary care providers and frontline healthcare workers were introduced to liver cancer risk factors, signs and symptoms, and detection, diagnostic, and treatment techniques. Pathologists and laboratory technicians were educated on bone marrow pathology, pathologies of common cancers, cancer cytology, and diagnostic techniques. In partnership with MedServe-LUTH Cancer Center and the Nigeria, BVGH held a five-day hands-on immunohistochemistry and flow cytometry bootcamp for laboratory staff in Nigeria. Trainers Dr. Steve Kussick and Ms. Kim Thompson of PhenoPath Laboratories covered techniques for diagnosing blood and common solid tumors and engaged in real-time lab exercises. BVGH and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) launched a monthly course on Frontiers in Cancer Treatment, covering current and upcoming treatments for common cancers. Also with ASCO, BVGH, the Ministry of Health of Lesotho, and Senkatana Oncology Clinic held a four-day workshop on the multidisciplinary management of breast cancer patients. In total, BVGH's training programs improved the cancer knowledge and practices of more than 14,000 healthcare providers through 1,538 hours of lectures. These lectures were taught by 147 experts from 101 institutions worldwide – including Cleveland Clinic, Erasmus Medical Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Princess Margaret Cancer Center, and MD Anderson.

14,000 TRAINED

4,100 HOSPITALS

135 COUNTRIES

16 AAI COURSES



BUILDING CLINICAL ONCOLOGY CAPACITY

Multidisciplinary Teams in Lesotho Come Together to Strengthen Breast Cancer Management



BVGH and ASCO Breast Cancer Management Workshop in Lesotho

When surgeons, oncologists, pathologists, radiologists, nurses, and pharmacists work in close coordination, studies show that patients benefit from faster diagnoses, more accurate treatment plans, and improved outcomes. This multidisciplinary collaboration is especially critical in Lesotho, where patients receive treatment at both the Senkatana Oncology Clinic in Maseru, Lesotho and a radiotherapy center in South Africa. Clear communication between the care teams of all healthcare facilities and departments is essential to ensure timely, comprehensive care.

With this need in mind, BVGH partnered with Senkatana Oncology Clinic, the Lesotho Ministry of Health, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) to deliver the 2025 Breast Cancer Management Workshop, held in Maseru in October.

More than 170 providers from Senkatana Oncology Clinic, Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital, and referring centers across the country participated either in person or via livestream. The program featured a full-day breast care training for nurses led by Prof. Jenny Edge, a breast surgeon from South Africa, and Sr. Charity Mutetwa, a nurse educator from Zimbabwe. They were joined for the main workshop by Dr. Piotr Wysocki, a medical oncologist from Poland, and Dr. Zipporah Ali, a palliative care expert from Kenya. Together, the faculty delivered practical sessions on diagnosis and staging, surgical and systemic treatment, palliative care, and best practices for coordinated care.

Through case discussions and interactive learning, participants strengthened the skills needed to deliver timely, integrated breast cancer services across Lesotho's health system.

Strengthening Pathology Capacities in Francophone Africa



AAI & ASCP Pathology Techniques digital course

Across Africa, many public cancer hospitals struggle with limited pathology capacity—an obstacle that directly impacts timely, accurate diagnoses. To help address this need, BVGH partnered with the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) to create a 12-session, French-language digital training course for AAI partner hospitals. Expert instructors from Canada and France covered essential pathology techniques, from tissue processing and immunohistochemistry to biomarkers of common cancers and effective reporting. In total, 776 healthcare professionals from 45 countries completed the program. The course will be available on BVGH Learn at the end of December.

"This training allowed me to better understand the importance of rigor and standardization in histopathological diagnosis. I particularly appreciated the clarity of the explanations on the validation of immunohistochemical tests and the growing place of digital pathology in modern practice. I left with a better vision of the precision needed at every step, from tissue manipulation to final interpretation, and an increased motivation to continue learning in this exciting field."

– Mr. DJANTA Dotou Kévin, University Clinic of Anatomical and Cytological Pathology, Benin

EXPANDING AWARENESS OF CANCER IN AFRICA

BVGH Partners with Kwara State to Launch Cancer Screening Programs



Kwara State Cancer Program Screening Launch Event

As the burden of cancer continues to climb across Nigeria – with tens of thousands of new cases each year, and cancers such as breast, prostate, and liver among the most common – early detection has never been more critical. BVGH partnered with the Kwara State Ministry of Health, the Office of the First Lady of Kwara State, and the Ajike People Support Center to launch a free breast, prostate, and liver cancer screening program in Kwara State, Nigeria. Screenings were offered at select facilities, including Kwara State University Teaching Hospital, General Hospital Offa, and the Primary Health Centre in Bode Saadu. BVGH also developed customized awareness materials – translated into seven local languages – that were distributed to screening program participants. At the screening program's launch event, Her Excellency Ambassador Professor Olufolake Abdulrazaq emphasized the life-saving importance of early cancer detection, and the Honorable Commissioner for Health, Dr. Amina El-Imam, addressed the growing burden of cancer in Kwara. Over the course of the program, BVGH and Kwara State aim to screen individuals for cancer and increase cancer awareness across the state's 3.83 million people.



Recognizing AAI Course Participants with Merit

BVGH prides itself on providing high-quality, meaningful courses for our partners and program attendees. In addition to AAI course certificates of participation, in 2026 BVGH will track and report participants who complete all course materials and score at least 70% on final course evaluation. To obtain an AAI Certificate of Completion with Merit, course participants will be required to complete the pre-course exam, pass the post-course exam with a score of 70% or higher, and attend 65% of the lectures live on Zoom or through the BVGH Learn platform during the run of the course. The Certificate of Completion with Merit will recognize committed attendees who have achieved high success during the training.

For more information about AAI Course Certification, visit the FAQ section of our BVGH Learn homepage: <https://bvgħlearn.org/>

Palliative Care Course Offers Specialty Insights

Palliative care plays a vital role in cancer patients' quality of life and is a cornerstone of compassionate care. BVGH's AAI Palliative Care course, which provides lessons on principles, ethics, wound care, communication, and insights from providers in African contexts, is now available on BVGH Learn. Please use the links below to access the English and French courses.

English: <https://bvghlearn.org/courses/2023-palliative-care/>

French: <https://bvghlearn.org/courses/2023-cours-numerique-sur-les-soins-palliatifs/>

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, please contact Valerie Krepel: vkrepel@bvgh.org or submit this brief form: <https://forms.gle/VgWjcN6Eb4ojG8Da7>

- AAI & SIOP Africa Advanced Treatment of Pediatric Cancers Part 2 (English)
- AAI Cancer Surgery (French)
- AAI Best Practices in the Systemic Treatment of Cancer Part 2 (English and French)

New Courses on BVGH Learn

See below to find out which of BVGH's previous trainings 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>.

- 2025 AAI Liver Cancer Early Detection and Referral (English)
- 2025 AAI & ASCP Pathology Techniques (French)

Join the Fight

To learn more about AAI and to get involved, please contact Valerie Krepel. **Thank you to our AAI Partners**



STRONGER TOGETHER





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