

# AFRICAN ACCESS INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER



April 2026

## Together in the fight against cancer

Dear AAI Partners and Friends,

This month, we are thrilled to highlight initiatives that are forging impactful progress for radiotherapy in Nigeria. Radiotherapy is both an effective and highly used cancer treatment option, with over half of cancer patients needing it as part of their care.

BVGH partnered with the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA), MedServe, Rayos Contra Cancer, Medserve-LUTH Cancer Centre, and a selection of healthcare sites across Nigeria to roll out radiotherapy care in 10 hospitals. This expansive program includes multiple years of radiotherapy training and commissioning of several linear accelerator (LINAC) machines. In this month's issue, BVGH dives into these two programs and highlights our ongoing training to help position Nigeria to better treat its cancer patients.



Radiotherapy cohort members gather around a LINAC machine during a session on quality assurance

As always, we encourage you to share this newsletter with anyone in your network who may be interested.

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

# BUILDING CLINICAL ONCOLOGY CAPACITY

## BVGH-MedServe Radiotherapy Training Program Kicks Off Year 2



Trainees from Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital and University College Hospital, Ibadan

In 2024, BVGH, the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA), MedServe, and the MedServe-LUTH Cancer Center (MLCC) launched a first-of-its-kind radiotherapy training program for Nigerian medical physicists, nurses, radiation oncologists, and radiation therapists. More than 60 radiotherapy professionals from eight public hospitals representing all six geopolitical zones of Nigeria completed the intensive training program. This year, an additional 78 trainees from ten Nigerian hospitals will participate, receiving hands-on training from MLCC staff, digital training from BVGH and Rayos Contra Cancer, and a week-long international expert session organized by BVGH. Designed to strengthen trainees' clinical and technical skills and improve cancer patient outcomes across the country, the training program covers profession-specific topics, including IMRT/VMAT, pain management, contouring, image-matching, nutrition, oncologic emergencies and side effects, radiobiology, brachytherapy, chart rounds and peer review, treatment planning, and incident and accident reporting.

This year's program was launched with cohorts from Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital and University College Hospital, Ibadan.

## Communities of Practice Breakdown Silos, Strengthen Ties, and Facilitate Sharing Knowledge



Attendees for the Communities of Practice

In Nigeria, approximately 60% of cancer patients require radiotherapy as part of their care – yet access to this critical treatment modality has long been out of reach for most patients. To close this gap, Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (FMOH) is equipping six public hospitals with state-of-the-art radiotherapy systems, with MedServe, the healthcare subsidiary of the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority, overseeing facility preparation on the FMOH's behalf. The first three linear accelerators were delivered last fall to the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Federal Teaching Hospital Katsina, and the University of Benin Teaching Hospital.

To ensure that the hospitals' staff are supported as they begin to use the new radiotherapy machines and transform cancer patient care, BVGH and MedServe launched two digital communities of practice – one for radiation oncologists and one for medical physicists. Through these communities, participants review contouring and treatment plans, troubleshoot challenges, and share best practices drawn from real-world clinical experience.

As of February 2026, these biweekly sessions have grown into a nationwide peer-learning network, now including staff from cancer centers across Nigeria. International experts from the United States and Estonia have also joined, bringing additional perspectives to the conversations.

Together, the communities represent the Nigeria's dedication to building a culture of clinical collaboration that will strengthen radiotherapy delivery for patients across the country for years to come.

## Pathologists Refresh on Basics to Diagnose Cancers



Participants of the AAI & ASCP Basic Pathology of Common Cancers digital course

The human body is composed of numerous tissues and systems – bone, breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, skin, and more – that are each defined by their own unique structures, characteristics, and diseases. In the United States, it is common for pathologists to subspecialize – spending their days reviewing slides from a single area of the body. Yet, pathologists within public cancer hospitals in Africa are often expected to review tissues and diagnose diseases across the body. In response to requests from AAI partner hospitals and in partnership with the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), BVGH developed a 12-session digital training course to refresh laboratory staff on the pathology of cancers common to Africa and reinforce the distinct presentations of urologic, central nervous system, head and neck, and other cancers. More than 1,500 healthcare professionals from 101 countries worldwide benefitted from the course.

**“I found this course highly insightful and empowering. The content was well-structured, engaging, and directly applicable to both clinical practice and community health advocacy. I appreciate the opportunity to learn from experienced professionals and gain practical skills that can help improve health outcomes. I look forward to applying the knowledge gained and participating in more programs like this in the future.”**

**- Nurse Mariam Abike Arogundade, Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria**

**“This was an excellent and very enriching course. The content was well structured, clinically relevant, and directly applicable to real diagnostic practice. I particularly appreciated the integration of histopathology, immunohistochemistry, and molecular correlates, which greatly improved my diagnostic reasoning. I am grateful for the clarity of the teaching and the quality of the case discussions. I look forward to participating in future BVGH educational programs.”**

**- KAMDEM THIOMO Diane, PhD Student, University of Yaoundé 1, Cameroon**

# AAI BULLETIN

## Brachytherapy Course Now Available for Prostate and Cervical Cancer

BVGH’s AAI Brachytherapy for Prostate and Cervical Cancer is now available for on-demand access on [BVGH Learn](#). Presented by international experts from Duke University, Vanderbilt University, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, and more, this course covers

the basics of brachytherapy, treatment applicators, and patient care. Visit BVGH Learn now to view this course or browse other courses related to your interests.

View the course here: <https://bvghlearn.org/courses/2023-aaibrachytherapyforprostateandcervicalcancer/>

## 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/VgWjcn6Eb4oiG8Da7>

## New Courses on BVGH Learn

BVGH has added four new digital training programs to BVGH Learn. If you would like to be notified as soon as new courses are added, you can follow us on our socials at [X](#), [BlueSky](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#). To access these courses, please go to <https://bvghlearn.org>.

- AAI & MASCC Best Practices in the Systemic Treatment of Cancer Part 1
- AAI & SIOP Africa Advanced Treatment of Pediatric Cancer Part 1
- AAI & ASCO Frontiers in Cancer Treatment
- AAI Brachytherapy for Prostate and Cervical Cancer

## Join the Fight

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

## Thank you to our AAI Partners



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