



August 2026

Together in the fight against cancer

Dear AAI Partners and Friends,

During last month's Best of ASCO Africa Meeting, I discussed the impactful work that we are doing through the African Access Initiative (AAI) during a panel, "Health Systems and Access." During the conference, I met with many of our partners in person and was once again struck by the impressive strength and community that has been built through AAI.

Fighting cancer is a group effort, from healthcare workers to patients to advocates and community leaders. BVGH is proud to continue to forge progress through our initiatives serving those who help others. To bolster awareness at the patient level, we recently launched our Let's Talk About Cancer patient packet series focused on colorectal cancer. These informational packets help patients understand their diagnosis and assist healthcare workers in guiding patients through the many points of the cancer care journey.

We have also wrapped up several training programs on lung health, cancer surgery, and systemic treatment of cancer. As always, these programs are available on our learning platform [BVGH Learn](#), and we look forward to welcoming you and your network at our upcoming programs on prostate cancer, colorectal cancer, and manuscript writing.

Thank you for being part of our community, and we invite you to share this newsletter with anyone in your network who may be interested in joining us in the fight against cancer.

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

BUILDING CLINICAL ONCOLOGY CAPACITY

Strengthening Connections Across Lung Diseases



Attendees of the Interdisciplinary Lung Health Course

Lung health is a critical issue, with over 1 billion people suffering from acute and chronic lung diseases. Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are disproportionately impacted by the double burden of infectious and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), where the high burden of tuberculosis and lower respiratory tract infections is impacted by growing rates of lung NCDs due to tobacco use, urbanization, air pollution, and aging populations. Africa's response to lung diseases is impeded by several complex and interrelated factors, including the lack of affordable and sustainable access to medications and technologies, the underrepresentation of African ethnicities in research and product development studies, African healthcare facilities' limited diagnostic and treatment capabilities, and a lack of public awareness of lung diseases.

BVGH led a 15-session [Interdisciplinary Lung Health](#) lecture series to provide diverse healthcare professionals with the knowledge needed to integrate connections between infectious and NCD management. This program covered lung diseases globally and with a focus on African populations; epidemiology of lung diseases; the social, biological, environmental, and occupation determinants of lung health; methods for measuring and managing lung health; prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of tuberculosis, lower respiratory tract infections, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, bronchiectasis, and post-tuberculosis lung disease; artificial intelligence advances in lung health, and lung healthcare systems. Sessions were taught by lung health experts from Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, the UK, and the USA. Over 1,600 healthcare professionals from 71 countries participated in the course, exploring evidence-based best practices and recent advances in lung healthcare applied to the unique challenges of resource limited settings.

“The course was exceptional, well structured and very relevant to healthcare professionals working in low and middle income countries. I appreciated your interdisciplinary approach, the expert speakers who provided very practical insights that can be

applied in both research and clinical settings and much more. I loved the awareness of emerging topics and trends in AI and lung health. I want to sincerely thank you BVGH team and all the facilitators for organizing this valuable learning opportunity.”

– Ogoi Eunice, Research Assistant, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya

Building Practical Skills for Systemic Cancer Therapy in Africa



Best Practices in the Systemic Treatment of Cancer Part II Cohort

Many healthcare professionals in Africa have limited opportunities to receive training on the safe and effective use of systemic cancer therapies. To help address this gap, BVGH collaborated with the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) to deliver Parts I and II of the AAI Best Practices in the Systemic Treatment of Cancer (English) digital course, designed for a multidisciplinary audience of pharmacists, nurses, and oncologists. To reach a broader audience, BVGH also led [French language](#) versions of the courses. [Part I](#) of the courses explored chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, supportive care, the role of nutrition in cancer care, and more. The course reached over 1,100 healthcare professionals from 57 countries, providing practical guidance to strengthen patient care across diverse clinical settings. [Part II](#) expanded on key concepts related to the delivery and management of systemic cancer therapies, with additional sessions focused on oncologic pharmacology, oncology care plans, curriculum design for oncology pharmacy rotations, and oncology drug management. Over 570 healthcare professionals from 43 countries participated in Part II of the courses. Following the Part II courses, >97% of those that responded to the post-course survey reported learning new knowledge or skills they plan to apply in their day-to-day clinical practice.

Enhancing Surgical Cancer Care Across Francophone Africa



AAI Cancer Surgery course participants

Surgical intervention remains a cornerstone of oncology, yet specialized training opportunities are frequently unavailable throughout Africa. General surgeons often perform complex cancer operations without the benefit of formal, tumor-specific residency or fellowships, highlighting a critical need for accessible professional development. To bridge this divide, BVGH led the [AAI Cancer Surgery](#) (French) digital series, tailoring the curriculum to the needs of Francophone surgeons managing breast, prostate, colorectal, gastric, liver, and pancreatic cancer patients. Attracting 714 healthcare professionals from 37 countries, the 11-session program featured expert insights on mastectomy, lumpectomy, colectomy, prostatectomy, and specialized resections, alongside sessions on interventional radiology and embolization techniques. Post-course evaluations indicated that 94% of participants gained a stronger proficiency in patient selection, heightened confidence in operative procedures, and a superior grasp of postoperative complications - illustrating the impact of digital education in enhancing surgical capacity and patient outcomes across the region.

EXPANDING AWARENESS OF CANCER IN AFRICA

Improving Understanding of Colorectal Cancer for Newly Diagnosed Cancer Patients

WHAT IS COLORECTAL CANCER?

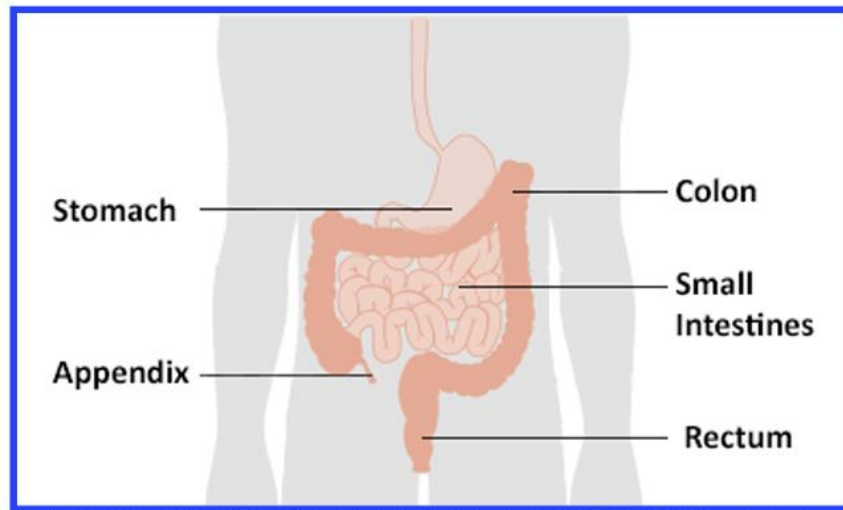


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Select infographic from the colorectal cancer patient packet

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in the world. Across Africa, the lack of awareness and understanding of colorectal cancer contributes to much higher rates of late-stage diagnoses, as well as African cancer patients' higher rates of treatment abandonment.

As part of our Let's Talk About Cancer initiative, BVGH released its colorectal cancer patient packet. This packet covers topics to help newly diagnosed patients understand their diagnosis, learn about potential treatments, see strategies on managing side effects, and more. These materials and their social media packets are available for download on the [BVGH website](#).

Special thanks to Dr. Fiyinfolu Balogun of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center for his expert medical review and feedback on the packet.

AAI BULLETIN

Register for International Cancer Week in Nigeria

Registration is now open for International Cancer Week (ICW), hosted by Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health & Social Welfare and the National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (NICRAT): <https://icw-app.nicrat.gov.ng/icw2026/register>

The conference will take place in Abuja from October 5–9, 2026, convening experts, policymakers, researchers, healthcare professionals, patient advocates, and industry leaders to advance cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, research, survivorship, and equitable access to quality cancer care.

For more information on the program and abstract submission, please visit <https://www.icw.nicrat.gov.ng/>

Women's Health Conference Open for Registration

Registration is now open for the POWER Conference. This year's theme is Advancing Innovation in Women's Health, Emerging Technologies, Research, and Oncopreneurship to Prevent Cancer. The conference will be held at the College of Medicine, University of Lagos in Lagos, Nigeria on Tuesday September 8. Students can register for free here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDg1Xa1kydavFWBtLFQmBi9MLd-SfJ2NGZvvnHhw6BGgnrv/viewform>

Learn more about the conference on their website: <https://www.thepowerconference.sebecclycancer.org/>

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/VgWjcN6Eb4ojG8Da7>

- **AAI Treatment of Colorectal Cancer (English)**
 - Registration is now open here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sJe_S5spTrWz6mfalkSngA
- **AAI Treatment of Prostate Cancer (English)**
 - Registration is now open here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yGbMyjVTQBuEBQ_jR0lvUg
- **BVGH & ASM Manuscript Writing (English)**

New Courses on BVGH Learn

See below to find out which of BVGH's previous trainings have been added to BVGH Learn 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>.

- **Interdisciplinary Lung Health (English)**
 - **Fundamentals of Biomedical Research Part 2 (English)**
 - **AAI Manual IHC for Histotechnicians (English)**
 - **AAI Clinical Trial Protocol Evaluation and Regulation (English)**
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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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