

AFRICAN ACCESS INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER



October 2026

Together in the fight against cancer

Dear AAI Partners and Friends,

BVGH's advancement of equitable cancer care and education in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) continues to push forward. This month, we are proud to highlight a number of long-running initiatives that are ready to be unveiled.

BVGH has partnered with Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene, and Universal Health Coverage, the National Cancer Control Program (PLNCA), and Amgen to launch a men's cancer awareness campaign, which will go live next month in buses across the country. Our team has been fortunate once again to have MSD Richard T. Clark (RTC) Fellowship for Global Health fellows working with BVGH. We tasked the fellows with developing specialty learning modules for early cancer detection, which will launch this month in partnership with the Rwanda Biomedical Center. Our oncology pharmacy mentorship program at Cameroon Oncology Center (COC) is also featured in this month's AAI Newsletter.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the World Cancer Congress (WCC) and the Global Health Catalyst (GHC) Summit all took place this month. Through these events, we spoke about our partnerships and work to build research and patient care capacity, and met with numerous partners to align on plans ahead. It is connections like these that allow us to create programs like our cancer awareness bus campaign and the COC pharmacy mentorship.



As always, we invite you to share this newsletter with members of your network who may find it interesting. Thank you for being part of what makes AAI a success.

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

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

BVGH Underscores the Importance of Clinical Research at Recent Global Events



From Breakthrough Innovation to Global Impact panel



2026 AMPERE fellows and leadership team

At this year's UN General Assembly Science Summit, BVGH President & CEO Jennifer Dent joined global health experts for a panel discussion, "Advancing Science: Shaping Clinical Research Across Africa and Beyond." The session explored efforts to strengthen clinical trial networks and governance systems across Africa. Jennifer highlighted BVGH's African Consortium for Cancer Clinical Trials (AC³T), the critical role of public-private partnerships in building clinical trial capacity-, activities to strengthen clinical trial skills among African clinicians, and initiatives to expand clinical trials led by African principal investigators, with African patients.

BVGH Vice President, Programs Katy Graef participated in the Global Health Catalyst Summit, where she joined the panel "From Breakthrough Innovation to Global Impact." Katy discussed BVGH's leadership of the Consortium for Universal Radiotherapy Excellence (CURE) and the HypoAfrica clinical trial. She also met with the [2026 Access for Medical Physicists to Education and Research Excellence \(AMPERE\) Fellows](#), who presented posters on their research projects in Bangladesh, Ghana, and Nigeria.

BUILDING CLINICAL ONCOLOGY CAPACITY

Bolstering Early Cancer Detection in Rwanda



BVGH team members, RTC Fellows, and Rwandan stakeholders tour a health center

In continuation of BVGH's collaboration with the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) to enhance cancer early detection efforts, BVGH partnered with Merck & Co., Inc. (known as MSD outside of the United States) to build healthcare capacity in Rwanda. We are excited to present three MSD Richard. T Clark (RTC) Fellows for Global Health: Sara Figueiredo, Jayant Saraf, and Diana Guarin. The MSD Richard T. Clark Fellowship for Global Health is a 12-week philanthropic leadership program that pairs small teams of cross-functional MSD employees with nonprofit partners to expand access to health.

BVGH, the MSD Richard. T Clark (RTC) Fellows for Global Health, and RBC developed E-learning modules targeting Rwanda's top five cancers (prostate, breast, cervical, colorectal, and gastric), accounting for 56% of cancers cases in the country. These E-learning modules will build capacity in sign & symptom recognition, screening & early detection, referral pathways, managing treatment side effects, and supportive care. Modules for each of the five cancers will be available on RBC's E-learning platform for different levels of healthcare professionals, and offered in three different languages (English, French, and Kinyarwanda).

While in Rwanda, BVGH and the MSD Richard. T Clark (RTC) Fellows for Global Health visited local health centers, district and national hospitals, and local NGOs, to provide the Fellows with perspective for developing locally appropriate educational materials. We are eager to see the E-Learning modules launch in October!

Cameroon Oncology Center Meets Weekly to Ensure Safe and Effective Use of Chemotherapy



Dr. Sherif Kamal (top left) and COC's oncology pharmacy and nursing staff

The Cameroon Oncology Center (COC) is a not-for-profit private cancer center serving patients from across Cameroon. Since it was established in 2019, COC has delivered systemic therapy to more than 2,000 cancer patients. Following an AAI oncology pharmacy workshop – organized by BVGH and hosted at COC – that focused on standard operating procedure development, process mapping, and incident reporting, COC's Head of Pharmacy, Dr. Andre Batoum, requested an opportunity for continued expert guidance as his team worked to strengthen the center's pharmacy practices. In response, BVGH launched a weekly virtual oncology pharmacy mentorship program bringing together COC pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and nurses for ongoing, practical learning and problem-solving.

Each one-hour session features a presentation by a member of the COC team, followed by discussion and guidance from oncology pharmacy expert Dr. Sherif Kamal, Director of Pharmaceutical Services at Children's Cancer Hospital 57357 in Egypt. Designed around the team's questions, experiences, and day-to-day challenges, the sessions have covered safe chemotherapy preparation and handling, drug reconstitution and administration, dose calculations, management of chemotherapy toxicities and oncology emergencies, antimicrobial stewardship, palliative care, patient counseling, and other essential areas of oncology pharmacy practice. The mentorship is already translating into changes in day-to-day practice at COC, including proactive calls to patients ahead of chemotherapy appointments, strengthened monitoring of medication side effects, and improved adherence to chemotherapy reconstitution procedures. By creating an ongoing forum where COC staff can discuss real-world challenges with an experienced oncology pharmacy expert, BVGH is helping the team turn knowledge into practice and strengthen the quality and safety of cancer care for patients across Cameroon.

**EXPANDING AWARENESS
OF CANCER IN AFRICA**



Cote d'Ivoire Bus Campaign to Bring Awareness Across the Country



Mr. Mohamed Ali, Coach Yoman, and Mr. Sylvain Aba on the filming set of the Cancer Minute CI videos

Prostate and colorectal cancers are among the leading causes of death for men in Côte d'Ivoire — and too many cases are not caught until it is too late. Like much of sub-Saharan Africa, the majority of cancer patients in Côte d'Ivoire are diagnosed at an advanced stage, when treatment is far more difficult and survival rates drop dramatically. Changing Côte d'Ivoire's prevalence of late-stage cancers requires reaching men with the right information — empowering them to take control of their health, get screened, and visit a doctor promptly if concerning symptoms arise.

That is why BVGH is partnering with Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene, and Universal Health Coverage, the National Cancer Control Program (PLNCA), and Amgen to launch #CancerMinuteCI — a video awareness campaign designed to bring life-saving cancer education directly to men across the country. Beginning next month, these videos will be broadcast on the screens of 100 regional buses traveling across 13 major cities in the south of Côte d'Ivoire — meeting men where they are, on their commutes.

The videos feature Mr. Sylvain Aba, Coach Yoman, and Mr. Mohamed Ali — popular co-hosts of *Les Hommes d'Ici*, a well-known talk show on La Nouvelle Chaîne Ivoirienne — introducing prostate and colorectal cancers, explaining risk factors and prevention, and encouraging men to get screened regularly by their doctor. A third video features Dr. Sangaré Hassan, an oncologist at CHU Treichville, addressing common questions about prostate cancer. Updates on this program will be available after it launches.

New Cancer Data Reports Increase of Cancer Cases

Africa's cancer burden is growing at an alarming rate. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) recently reported a 229% increase in cancer cases in Africa between 1990 and 2023. Behind this staggering statistic are millions of patients and families facing barriers at every stage of the cancer care pathway.

Africa's cancer crisis is not driven by a single factor. Limited public awareness and lack of thorough training for frontline healthcare providers contribute to late-stage diagnosis. Inefficient referral systems delay care, while shortages of oncology specialists and well-equipped facilities restrict access to lifesaving diagnosis and treatment. Together, these systemic barriers leave too many patients facing preventable suffering and premature death.

That is why BVGH launched the African Access Initiative (AAI) in 2017 — to bring together governments, companies, healthcare institutions, and global oncology leaders to improve cancer patient outcomes across Africa. BVGH works with African stakeholders to understand national healthcare and oncology systems and then designs and implements solutions tailored to country priorities.

The result is more than its individual interventions. BVGH works to strengthen the systems that enable African cancer patients to access high-quality cancer diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment reliably, sustainably, and in a timely manner.

Since 2017, AAI has contributed to:

- 4,000+ cancer patients accessing cancer medicines
- 26,000+ healthcare providers trained
- 33 million individuals reached through cancer awareness campaigns

The scale of Africa's cancer challenge demands a similarly scaled response – one that addresses the full patient pathway and is driven by African priorities and partnerships.



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>.

- **BVGH & NANO-X Imaging Introduction to Diagnostic Imaging (English)**
- **BVGH & Rayos Contra Cancer AAI 3D/IMRT Progress for Radiotherapy Technicians (French)**
- **AAI Best Practices in the Systemic Treatment of Cancer Part 2 (French)**
- **AAI Prostate Cancer Surgery (French)**

Join the Fight

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

Thank you to our AAI Partners



Johnson & Johnson



AMGEN



STRONGERTOGETHER

faber



BIO Ventures for Global Health

Copyright © 2026 BVGH, All rights reserved.

Mailing Address:

2101 4th Avenue, Suite 1950, Seattle, WA 98121