

**CASEC INFORMATION EXCHANGE
Cancer Conference
April 2015**

*Bridging The Cancer Care Gap
For
Africans And People Of African Descent*

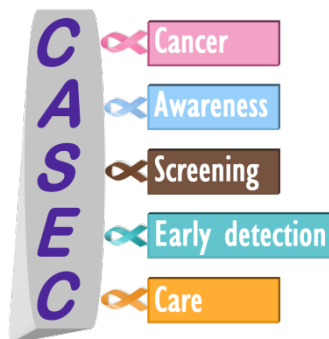
Evaluation Report

By Marie Patcha Jones, May 8, 2015



**"Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn."**

Benjamin Franklin



Together, Let's Fight Cancer and...WIN!

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BACKGROUND

The purpose of the conference was to address disparities in cancer care in Africans and people of African Descent. The following objectives were the focus of the conference:

- Discuss the disparity and challenges in cancer care in Africa & people of African descent
- Promote collaboration in cancer care, research and education with Africa
- Learn about innovative tools in cancer care
- Highlight collaborative solutions in cancer care that are implementable now

The core concept behind this conference was to demonstrate that when multiple cancer stakeholders dialog about cancer issues affecting Africans and people of African descent, it can produce tools that will facilitate implementation of policies and programs, and that will foster sustainable partnerships that will in turn advance cancer care in communities.

The WHO warns that the cancer burden is getting worse with low income countries being hit the hardest. Currently 70 % of cancer's 8 million deaths occur in low income countries. There are projections that without appropriate and aggressive action, within a few years cancer will likely be the dominant health issue in Africa. Headline data presented at the World Cancer Congress in December 2014 states that "Low-income countries - where services are least developed, facilities largely absent and trained cancer experts few - will need support from the international community to build capacity, a process that is likely to take a decade or more."

Multiple programs already exist, however, due to a variety of constraints these programs are not readily available to or accessed by Africans and people of African Descent. [Link here to the Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) web page on Factors That Contribute to Health Disparities in Cancer for more on this issue.](#)

We must position ourselves now to optimize partnerships, take full advantage of the wide resources available and actively explore opportunities for collaboration and capacity building between Africa and the west.

During the conference clinicians, researchers, community leaders and key stakeholders were engaged to dialog and to come up with implementable program suggestions, and to identify processes for the way forward.



CONFERENCE DESIGN

1. The conference organized by the Patcha Foundation was designed to target the following pool of participants:
Top cancer practitioners, top researchers, NGO and non-profit managers, Health policymakers, frontline staff in cancer care: nurses, pharmacists, social workers and other clinicians, Community advocates, patients and caregivers and other cancer care stakeholders.
2. The venue opened at 8:00 AM for registration, meet and greet, and breakfast. The conference was held at the Patuxent Greens Country Club, Laurel MD.
3. The conference started at 9:10AM with the welcome and keynote addresses:
 - a) Commissioner Dr. Anu Esuola, Maryland Governor's Commissioner for African Affairs gave the greeting.
 - b) Mr. Mamadou Samba, Director of the Washington, DC Mayor's Office of African Affairs gave the keynote address.



4. There were 4 panel discussions and 1 case presentation session as outlined below:

a) Afro Descendants & Global Cancer

Ms. Tonija Hope Navas, Executive Director of Baoba Fund for Racial Equity-North America----Moderator

Ms. Patricia Green, MSW, MSPR, Senior Communications Manager at HMA Associates

Dr. Joxel Garcia, Chief Medical Officer of Aegis Health Security

Dr. Martin Ojong-Ntui, Radiation Oncologist, Assistant Professor of Radiology, George Washington University Hospital



b) Cancer Care Public - Private Partnerships in Africa and the Americas

Ray Michael Bridgewater, Founder, President and CEO of the Assembly of Petworth----Moderator

Dr. Kenneth Miller, Medical Oncologist at Sinai Hospital and Northwest Hospital, Baltimore

Dr. Doyin Oluwole, Founding executive director of Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon at the George W. Bush Institute



c) Case Presentation

Dr. Sylvia Dasi, Executive Assistant, Research Associate and Community Health Specialist at AWCAA---- Moderator

Dr. Georges Bwelle, Surgeon and Founder & President of ASCOVIME. [Dr. Bwelle missed his flight from Cameroon and could not attend conference. Dr. Samuel Dongmo filled in for him. (He is listed below in the last panel)]



- 10 years old, boy with cancer of the nose operated May 2014
- Returned to school in September 2014
- Sent to ENT Doctor for the follow up

d) Role of Community Organizations

Dr. Njwen Anyangwe-Ngute, Senior Scientist at Exponent----Moderator

Dr. David Awasum, Head of Community Resources and Training Centre

Ify Anne Nwabukwu, RN, President and Founder of the African Women's Cancer Awareness Association (AWCAA)

Adrienne Thomas, Project Manager for Community Outreach and Patient Navigation at the GW Cancer Institute



e) Treatment, Research, Clinical Trials and Community Health

Dr. Jethro Ekuta, VP, Head of Global Medical Safety Operations, at Janssen -----Moderator

Dr. Samuel Dongmo, Biomedical expert and leader in Healthcare, Research and Pharmaceutical at NIH

Dr. Wilfred Ngwa, Co-director of Global Health Catalyst (GHC) at the Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (Scheduled but could not attend)

Dr. Vanessa Sheppard, Associate Professor, Lombardi Cancer Center, Georgetown University



f) Speakers during lunch

Alee Wallace Gist, Deputy Director, State of Maryland Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities

Mariette Ngambou, Survivor, Ovarian cancer

Gloria Williams-Brevard, Community Relations Officer, US Citizenship and Immigration Service

g) *Community Service Award to **Ray Michael Bridgewater**, Founder, President and CEO of the Assembly of Petworth.*

h) *The Information exchange was emceed by Gladys Njem, RN.*



5. Conference closed at 2:00PM.

CONFERENCE ASSESSMENT TOOLS

The Patcha Foundation is able to analyze participant satisfaction as well as capture common themes and action items. Conference evaluation surveys were distributed during the conference. This was the primary conference assessment tool. Other non-tracked assessment was verbal feedback from participants during and after the conference, and participants' notes gathered at the end of the conference. The verbal assessment is noted but not used in analysis.



CONFERENCE ASSESSMENT

25 out of 53 participants completed the conference evaluation survey forms. The evaluation survey was designed to collect qualitative data. Participants were asked to answer four open-ended questions. Participant responses for each question have been classed and recorded. See Table 1. The Patcha Foundation was also able to identify some common themes.

While this information is helpful in understanding how effective the conference was, it is also important to synthesize participant expectations and satisfaction.

Table 1

	1= Unsatisfactory	2= Marginal (Average)	3= Meets Expectation	4= Exceeds Expectation	5= Exceptional	N/A
Afro Descendants & Global Cancer						
Overall session evaluation			4%	56%	40%	
Presenters were knowledgeable, organized and effective				56%	44%	
Presenters were interactive and engaging with audience			8%	52%	40%	
Value of information presented			4%	40%	56%	
Cancer Care Public – Private Partnerships in Africa and the Americas						
Overall session evaluation			4%	44%	52%	
Presenters were knowledgeable, organized and effective				48%	52%	
Presenters were interactive and engaging with audience			8%	48%	44%	
Value of information presented				44%	56%	
Case Presentations						
Overall session evaluation			9%	43%	43%	4%
Presenters were knowledgeable, organized and effective			9%	39%	48%	4%
Presenters were interactive and engaging with audience			9%	35%	52%	4%
Value of information presented			9%	35%	52%	4%
Role of Community Organizations						
Overall session evaluation			9%	35%	52%	4%
Presenters were knowledgeable, organized and effective			9%	35%	52%	4%
Presenters were interactive and engaging with audience			13%	30%	52%	4%
Value of information presented			9%	26%	61%	4%
Treatment , Research, Clinical Trials and Community Health						
Overall session evaluation			18%	32%	50%	
Presenters were knowledgeable, organized and effective			9%	27%	64%	
Presenters were interactive and engaging with audience			18%	23%	59%	
Value of information presented			18%	27%	55%	
Overall, how do you rate the Conference?			11%	33%	56%	

COMMON THEMES

Participants wanted more time allotted for Q&A, breakout sessions and action planning. They appreciated the opportunity to collaborate and network with peers. The following themes were recorded as response to specific questions asked on the evaluation survey.

What would you like to see implemented in your organization/community?	Any perceived barriers to accomplishing the identified task? If yes, please explain.
Cancer awareness	Gap in healthcare provider
Systems navigators	Time
Health advocates	-
Small group discussions	-
Screening availability information	Limitation is the mind, resources - lack of education on cancer prevalence
More outreach to African women and population	How to reach these women and population, transportation, housing, incentives
Participation in programs	-
Increased engagement of African organizations and leaders	-
International partnerships to reduce health disparities	Budget issues, how to get leadership to make diaspora population a priority
Increased youth involvement in cancer care programs	-
More/strong partnerships with community organizations	Need available guidelines to accomplish this
Increased outreach, education and training	How to get more people involved
Genetic counseling	Health education literacy
Knowledge of family health/cancer history	-
Twinning	How to get started
Tackle issue of brain drain	Financial compensation, improved health resources and better equipped facilities
Training of more African scientists and researchers	-

What topics would you suggest for next year's conference?
Cost of care
Prostate cancer
Diet and nutrition
Outreach strategies for Africans in diaspora
Story telling as a catalyst to change health behaviors (case presentation was moving)
Local projects targeting African immigrants
More info on afro-Brazilian, afro-Columbian and Caribbean

Cancer prevention - behavior modifications in African diaspora communities
Funding sources
Community sensitization
Education
Cancer impact (economics, support for cancer patients)
Cancer treatment in Africa
More case presentations

What speakers would you suggest for next year's conference?
Someone from national medical associations board of directors who supports community collaborations and engagements between Africans and African Americans
Cancer research
Health departments
Survival groups
Dr. Gaston & porter
Physicians who live in Africa to deliver their side of things
Survivors / patients
Celebrities
Cancer caretakers
Grant writers to educate on how to seek, apply and receive grants
Speakers from African countries
Ify nwabukwu

How might the Patcha Foundation improve the conference?
Better audio/visual
Powerpoint presentations
Partner with other racial/ethnic orgs to highlight similar disparities (and state agencies?)
More time for moderators and panelists
Weekend conference
Involve more of the public
More time for more questions, discussions and interactions
Fly in some treated patients from Cameroon/Africa
2 day conference (one full day and one-half day on weekend)
Encourage younger population to attend
Increase non-medical audience
Breakout/small group sessions
Allocate short stretch breaks between sessions

ACTION PLANNING

Participants were encouraged to log in to the Forums-Feedback pages on the conference web page to continue the dialog and to blog. There was not enough time planned for a working session to brainstorm about an implementable program. However, the Patcha Foundation will select at least one program from the conference evaluation feedback to work to implement before the next conference in April 2016. The Patcha Foundation will continue to solicit input from conference panelists and attendees.

The Foundation also plans to disseminate information about the implemented program by presenting at a health conference, sharing via various media and /or publishing in health journal.

Online Forum & Blog: www.patchafoundation.org/conferences/forum-feedback

EXPANDING THE CONVERSATION

In an effort to broaden the conversation significant attempts were made to engage a diverse group of participants. Invitations were extended to:

- a) Ambassadors or representatives of more than 30 African and Caribbean countries
- b) State of Maryland Commissions for Caribbean and Hispanic Affairs
- c) Prostate and colon cancer foundation representatives
- d) Various community groups

These attempts were unsuccessful for various reasons.

CONCLUSION

Based on the review of the evaluation data, verbal and other feedback from the participants, The CASEC Information Exchange, the cancer conference on closing the cancer care gap for Africans and people of African Descent was a success. While acknowledging that steps should be taken to improve future conferences, the Patcha Foundation believes that the goals for this information exchange were accomplished.

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Position / Title	Organization
Ms. Stella-Maris Adamu	Organizer - President	the Patcha Foundation
Ms. Nkafu R. Amingwa	Advocate for People With Disabilities	
Dr. Njwen Anyangwe-Ngute	Senior Scientist	Exponent
Ms. Adeline Assani-Uva	Consultant Dietitian	
Ms. Rosemary Atanga	Director of Community Relations	the Patcha Foundation
Dr. David Awasum	Head of Community Resources & Training Centre Board Chair	The Patcha Foundation

Mr. Raynard Beache	Director of Missions, FUMCHY	
Mr. Ray Michael Bridgewater	Founder, President and CEO	Assembly of Petworth
Dr. Anne Burnley Ekiti	Preventive Medicine/Public Health Physician	
Rev. Joan Carter-Rimbach	Reverend	
Dr. Sylvia Dasi	Executive Assistant, Research Associate & Community Health Specialist	AWCAA
Dr. Judith Dongmo	Legal Consultant	
Dr. Samuel Dongmo	Healthcare, Research, Pharmaceutical Leader (Biomedical Expert)	Lab Corp
Dr. Jethro Ekuta	VP, Head of Global Medical Safety Operations	Janssen
Mrs. Roselyn Ekuta, RN	Director of Nursing	
Ms. Moiti Namata Elangwe	Volunteer	the Patcha Foundation
Ms. Lydia Esapa	Accountant	the Patcha Foundation
Commissioner (Dr.) Anu A. Esuola	Maryland Governor's Commissioner on African Affairs And Chair of the Health Committee	Founder and CEO Dentistry On Wheels
Ms. Anne Etoke	CEO	The Africa Gas Association
Mr. Lucas Fon	Community Advocate	
Ms. Rosemary Fonya	Nurse, CEO	Fonya p. Nzeffe Foundation
Dr. Joxel Garcia	Chief Medical Officer	Aegis Health Security
Ms. Arlee Wallace Gist	Deputy Director, State of Maryland Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities	
Ms. Patricia Green, MSW, MSPR	Senior Communications Manager	HMA Associates
Ms. Iman Awad	Administrative Director, MD Governor's Commission on African Affairs	
Ms. Rosa Jenkins	Nurse Case Manager	
Mr. Craig Jones	Engineer, Director of Signals	
Ms. Bernadette Keyi	RN, BSN	
Ms. Barbara Tchinjo Kuate	Event Planner	
Dr. Kenneth Miller	Medical Oncologist	Sinai Hospital and Northwest Hospital, Baltimore
Mr. Richard Muma	DJ – AV Specialist	Muma's Inc
Ms. Tonija Hope Navas	Executive Director	Baoba Fund for Racial Equity-North America
Ms. Marienette Ngambou	Pharmacy Technician	
Ms. Gladys A. Njem	RN, BSN; Delegating Nurse Case Manager	
Ms. Marianne Nkamsi	RN, BSN	
Ms. Ify Anne Nwabukwo, RN, BSN	President and Founder	African Women's Cancer Awareness Association (AWCAA)
Dr. Judith Nwana	Business Management	World Bank Group

Dr. Judy Obong-Ndarema	Pharmacist	PG Hospital
Dr. Martin Ojong-Ntui	Radiation Oncologist, Assistant Professor of Radiology	George Washington University Hospital
Ms. Oluwatomi Oladimeji	Nurse Case Manager	
Dr. Doyin Oluwole	Founding Executive Director of Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon	George W. Bush Institute
Ms. Marie Patcha Jones	Program Coordinator	the Patcha Foundation
Mr. Mamadou Samba	Director of the Washington, DC Mayor's Office on African Affairs	
Mr Iddi Sandaly	President	Association of Tanzanian Community, DMV
Dr. Vanessa Sheppard	Associate Professor at the Lombardi Cancer Center	Georgetown University
Ms. Remy Szykier	Managing Director	AEGIS Health Security
Mr. Ivo Tasong	Founder and CEO	ATTIVASOFT
Ms. Adrienne Thomas	Project Manager, Community Outreach and Patient Navigation	George Washington University
Ms. Gloria Williams-Brevard	Community Relations Officer, US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS)	