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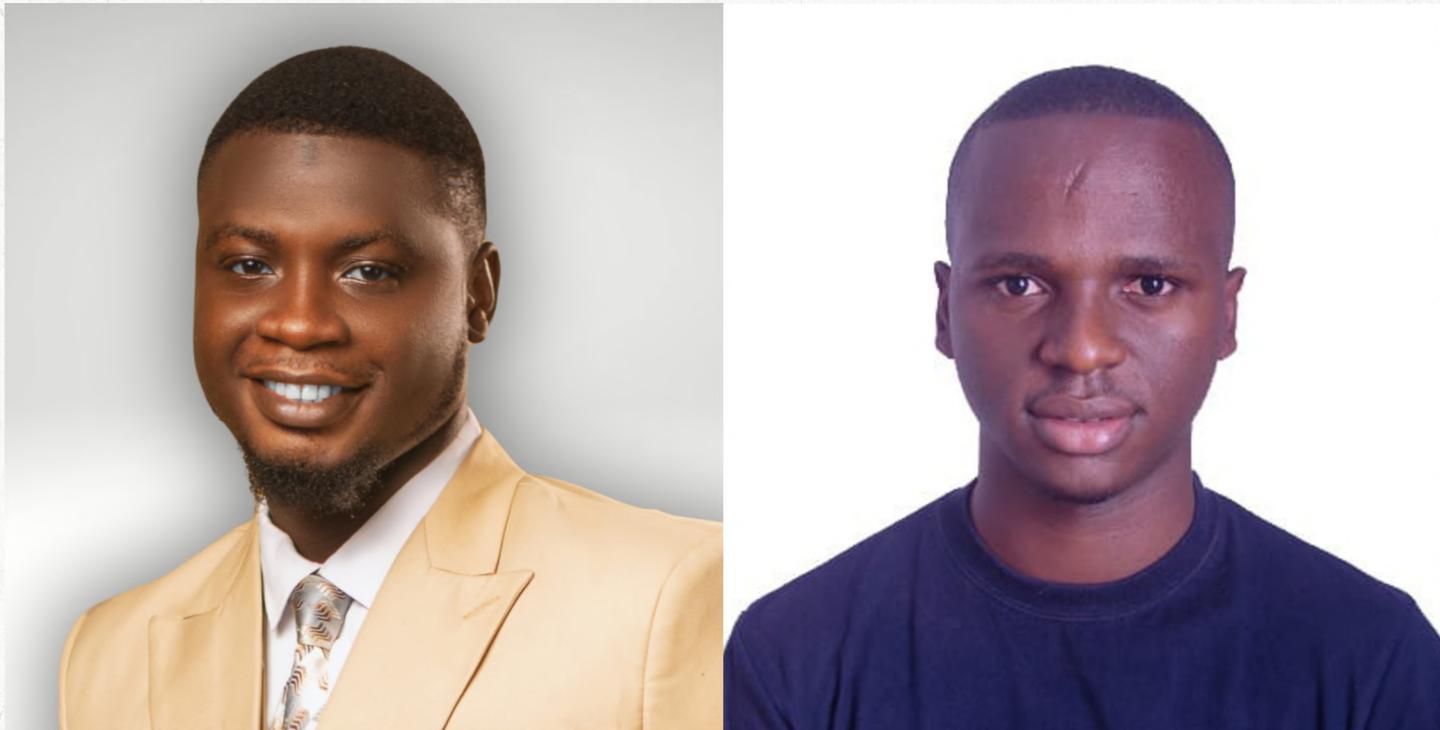
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# Foreword



It is with great pride and gratitude that we present the annual report of Cancer Health Initiative (CHI). This report highlights the progress we have made in our unwavering commitment to reducing the burden of cancer in Nigeria through education, advocacy, and action.

Over the past year, CHI has remained steadfast in addressing critical issues such as late diagnosis, lack of information, and barriers to equitable cancer care. Our team has worked tirelessly to provide education on cancer prevention, promote early detection, and ensure access to essential health services for marginalized groups. Our initiatives have reached thousands of lives through public awareness campaigns on prostate, cervical and breast cancer.

The accomplishments outlined in this report are a testament to the dedication of our team, the generosity of our partners, and the resilience of the communities we serve. Together, we have made meaningful strides in empowering individuals with knowledge and resources to take control of their health.

As we reflect on the successes of the past year, we recognize that the fight against cancer is far from over. This report is not just a summary of our achievements but a call to action. We invite all stakeholders—health professionals, policymakers, organizations, and individuals—to join us in building a future where every Nigerian has the opportunity to live a life free from the shadow of cancer.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission. Together, we can create a healthier, more equitable future.

# Our Team



**Ajibade Taofeq Damileye**  
Co-Founder



**Olufemi Seun E.**  
Co-Founder



**Ogugbemi Bridget**  
Content/Publications Lead



**Alayande Elijah**  
Advocacy Lead



**Adediran Daniel**  
Research Lead

# Our Volunteers



**Abiala Grace**  
Graphic Design / Video Editing



**Alaga Firdaws**  
Content Writing



**Folorunso Toluwanimi**  
Social Media Management

# Our Vision and Mission

## Vision

To ensure equitable access to cancer health access, information, and care for all, particularly underserved communities, empowering them to prevent, detect, and overcome cancer effectively.

## Mission

To bridge the gap between cancer health and information by delivering accessible education, advocacy, and support to the communities that need it the most. We are committed to:

- Providing accurate and culturally relevant cancer education to empower informed decisions.
- Advocating for early detection, prevention, and access to care in underserved populations.
- Building a network of cancer health advocates to drive awareness and community-focused interventions.
- Partnering with researchers, healthcare providers, and policymakers to foster innovation and equity in cancer care.

# Secondary School Outreach on HPV Uptake Advocacy

**Cervical Cancer Awareness Outreach**

Learn | Prevent | Screen |

Time: 12PM

Nurudeen Grammer School, Ogbomoso, Oyo State

On Thursday, February 8th, 2024, the Cancer Health Initiative (CHI) conducted an outreach program at Anglican Grammar School in Ogbomosho. This initiative aimed to reinforce knowledge about cervical cancer among secondary school students and promote the uptake of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination. The event was designed to educate teenagers on the importance of early prevention, risk factors, and available treatment options for cervical cancer.



The outreach program was structured to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of cervical cancer, focusing on its risk factors, prevention strategies, and treatment. Key topics included the role of HPV in cervical cancer development, the benefits of HPV vaccination, and the importance of regular screenings. During the session, our team emphasized the significance of prioritizing health measures to reduce cancer risk, encouraging the students to consider vaccination as an essential preventive tool. The discussions were interactive, with opportunities for students to ask questions and engage with the information being shared.

The experience proved to be immensely rewarding for the Cancer Health Initiative team. Witnessing the students' active participation and their eagerness to learn about cervical cancer highlighted the impact of such educational outreach programs. It was inspiring to see young people not only gain awareness but also express their interest in taking preventive actions to protect their health in the future.

This outreach is part of our broader mission to increase cervical cancer awareness and advocate for HPV vaccination. We are optimistic that the knowledge shared during this event will encourage healthier choices among students and spark broader conversations about cancer prevention within their communities. Through these efforts, we aim to contribute to a long-term cultural shift that prioritizes cancer prevention, early detection, and vaccination.

We would like to express our gratitude to the team members and volunteers who made this outreach possible. Their dedication and hard work were integral to the success of the event, and we are proud of the positive change they helped create. As we continue our advocacy for cervical cancer awareness, we remain hopeful that our sustained efforts will lead to lasting impacts in the lives of many young individuals, ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge to protect their health.



# Demystifying Cancer: A World Cancer Day Webinar



Cancer Health  
Initiative

IN COMMEMORATION OF

## World Cancer Day

AN ONLINE WEBINAR

DEMYSTIFYING CANCER : UNDERSTANDING  
THE BASICS AND BREAKING MYTHS

10th  
Feb.  
2024

3PM

Venue:  
Google Meet



Dr. Fatima DAMBATTA



### Meet The Speaker



Dr. Fatima DAMBATTA  
Medical Programs Coordinator  
Medicaid Cancer Foundation

Dr. Fatima Dambatta is a Medical Doctor, an aspiring Gyne- Oncologist, Cancer researcher, an avid Cancer advocate and Public Speaker.

She has a special interest in Cancer awareness, community sensitization, screening and treatment programs. A believer in lifestyle medicine and holistic health.

She also champions several causes relating to Maternal and Child Health, Female empowerment and Mental Health.

She currently works as the Medical programs Manager at Medicaid Cancer Foundation and is the Program Lead of the Patient Access to Chemotherapy (PACE) program.

## World Cancer Day

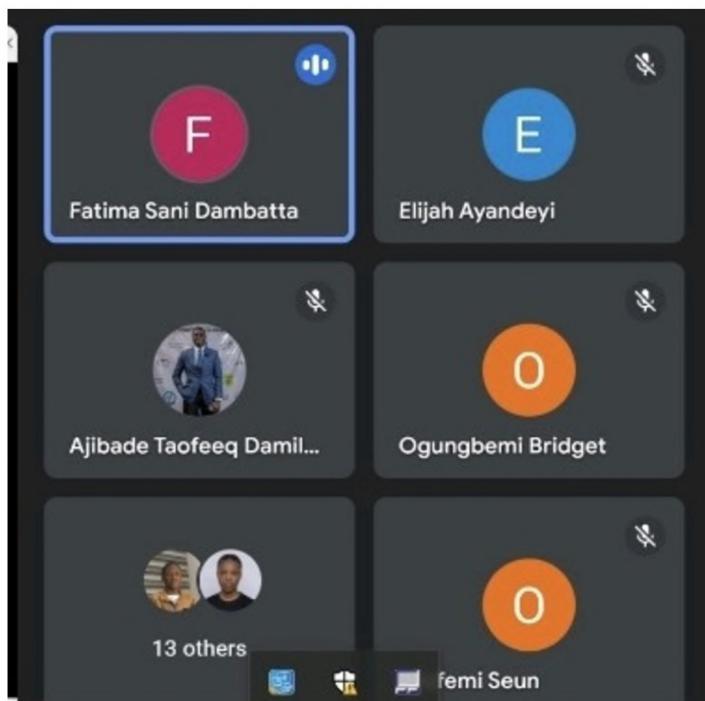
DEMYSTIFYING CANCER : UNDERSTANDING  
THE BASICS AND BREAKING MYTHS

10th  
Feb.  
2024

3PM  
Venue:  
Google Meet

In February, 2024, the Cancer Health Initiative hosted its first webinar in celebration of World Cancer Day. The event, themed "Demystifying Cancer: Myths and Facts," featured Dr. Fatima Dambatta, an expert in cancer care, as the guest speaker. This webinar marked a significant step in our efforts to address the widespread misinformation about cancer, particularly within the Nigerian context, and to bridge the gap in cancer care awareness.

Dr. Fatima Dambatta delivered an insightful and engaging presentation that tackled common myths surrounding cancer. She addressed misconceptions such as the belief that cancer is always hereditary, that it is contagious, or that it is untreatable and caused by supernatural forces. These myths, prevalent in many communities, often hinder early detection and treatment, contributing to the high cancer burden in Nigeria. By presenting evidence-based facts, Dr. Dambatta emphasized the importance of early diagnosis, regular screenings, and the role of healthy lifestyle choices in cancer prevention.



The webinar was especially impactful in providing practical and relevant information tailored to the Nigerian healthcare landscape. Dr. Dambatta highlighted the challenges unique to Nigeria, such as the stigma associated with cancer, the lack of access to accurate information, and the limitations in healthcare infrastructure. Her discussion shed light on the advances in cancer treatment and the growing opportunities for care within the country, empowering attendees with hope and actionable knowledge.

This session was not only educational but also highly interactive. Participants engaged actively by asking questions and sharing their perspectives, which enriched the conversation. Many attendees expressed gratitude for the clarity the session provided, noting that it dispelled their fears and encouraged them to spread accurate information about cancer in their communities.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

- Early detection is key.
- Be vigilant.
- Ensure routine screenings are carried out.
- Lead a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

The success of this webinar represents a pivotal moment for the Cancer Health Initiative. By demystifying cancer, we aim to dismantle barriers to awareness and access to care. Moving forward, we plan to amplify the key messages from the webinar through social media and other platforms. Additionally, we intend to organize follow-up sessions to delve deeper into various aspects of cancer care and collaborate with stakeholders to address identified gaps in the healthcare system.

Through initiatives like this webinar, we reaffirm our commitment to bridging the care gap and empowering communities with the knowledge needed to combat cancer effectively. By dispelling myths and promoting evidence-based practices, we hope to make a lasting impact on cancer awareness and prevention in Nigeria.

# Life After Cancer: A Survivor's Journey Series

On Friday, June 14, 2024, Cancer Health Initiative organized a remarkable event themed "Life After Cancer: A Survivor's Journey Series". Mrs. Gloria Chinyere Okwu, Project Coordinator at Project Pink Blue was the speaker at the webinar. This initiative aimed to spotlight the experiences of cancer survivors, inspire hope, and promote awareness of cancer. The program also sought to foster a supportive environment for survivors while educating the public on the critical aspects of life after cancer.

The event served as a platform to share the cancer survivors personal journeys, offering insights, inspiration and encouragement to others navigating similar paths. These stories painted a vivid picture of resilience in the face of adversity, highlighting the physical, emotional and financial burdens that often accompany a cancer diagnosis. She also spoke candidly about survivors struggles with stigma, limited access to post-treatment care, and the emotional toll of their journeys .

In addition to sharing personal stories, the program explored practical solutions to address these challenges. She emphasized the importance of counseling services to support emotional well-being and called for policy changes to ensure better access to follow-up care. Building survivor networks was also identified as a key step in creating a robust support system for individuals who often feel isolated during and after their treatment.



The program created an inclusive space for learning, sharing, and mutual support. Attendees were encouraged to take actionable steps, such as advocating for improved survivorship care and contributing to the reduction of stigma surrounding cancer.

The Life After Cancer: A Survivor's Journey Series underscored the importance of addressing survivorship as an integral part of cancer care. It highlighted the need for collaboration between policymakers, healthcare providers, and community members to improve the quality of life for survivors. By shedding light on their resilience and challenges, this initiative has taken a vital step toward a future where cancer survivors receive the care, recognition, and support they deserve.

# Stakeholders' Meeting on Prostate Cancer Awareness at Ogbomosho Sawmill



## Prostate Cancer Awareness Outreach



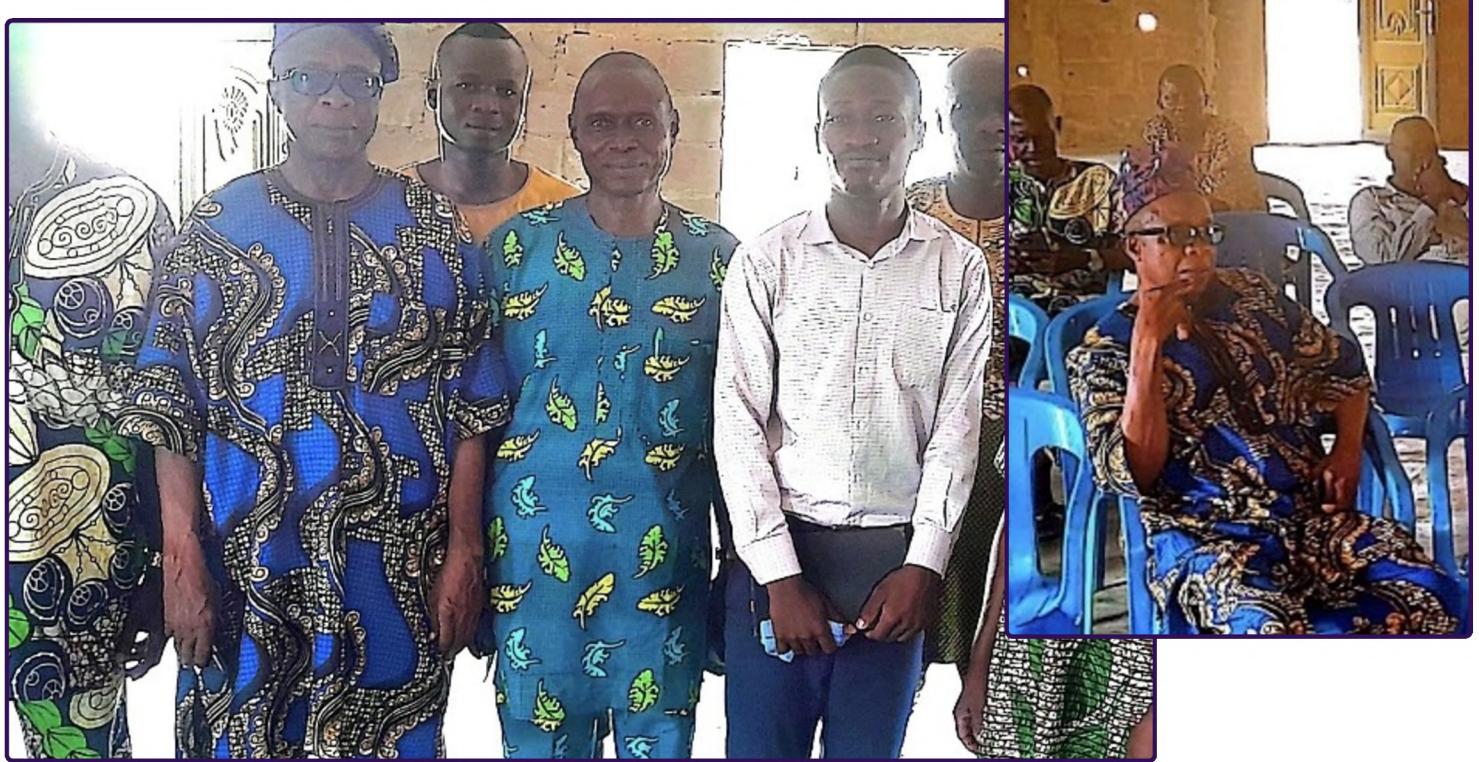
TIME:  
10AM

📍 Ogbomoso Sawmill  
Ogbomoso, Oyo



On 2nd of April 2024, the Cancer Health Initiative was at Ogbomosho Sawmill to organize a significant stakeholders' meeting to create awareness about prostate cancer and its prevention. This gathering brought together leaders of the sawmill, and sawmill workers to discuss the growing burden of prostate cancer, its impact on the community, and practical strategies for tackling the disease. The event underscored the importance of collective action in reducing the prevalence of prostate cancer and supporting affected individuals.





The primary goal of the meeting was to educate stakeholders about prostate cancer, focusing on its risk factors, early symptoms, and available prevention and treatment options. The session began with an opening address by a representative of the Cancer Health Initiative, highlighting the urgent need for awareness and early detection. A detailed presentation followed, shedding light on risk factors such as age, family history, and lifestyle habits. Attendees learned about the symptoms of prostate cancer, including difficulty urinating and pelvic discomfort, as well as the critical role of regular screening in early diagnosis.

An interactive discussion allowed participants to voice their concerns and ask questions about the disease. Many expressed their apprehensions regarding the stigma surrounding prostate cancer and the reluctance of men in the community to seek medical help. This dialogue helped uncover some of the key barriers to early detection, including limited awareness, insufficient access to healthcare services, and the financial burden of treatment.

The stakeholders also explored practical solutions to these challenges. Suggestions included organizing regular community-based screenings, implementing subsidized or free prostate cancer screening initiatives, and building partnerships with local organizations to support awareness campaigns. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of educating men on healthy lifestyles and the benefits of early detection.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment from all stakeholders to take action. Community leaders pledged to use their influence to encourage men to prioritize their health and participate in screenings. Healthcare professionals offered their expertise for future awareness and screening programs. This collective resolve marked an essential step toward addressing prostate cancer within the community.

The stakeholders' meeting was a resounding success. It fostered collaboration, strengthened community engagement, and generated actionable strategies to improve prostate cancer awareness and prevention. By addressing misconceptions, breaking down barriers, and promoting early detection, this initiative has laid the groundwork for a healthier future for men in Ogbomosho. The Cancer Health Initiative remains committed to building on these efforts, ensuring that prostate cancer awareness becomes an integral part of community health advocacy.

# Ogbomosho Breast Cancer Awareness Walk 2024



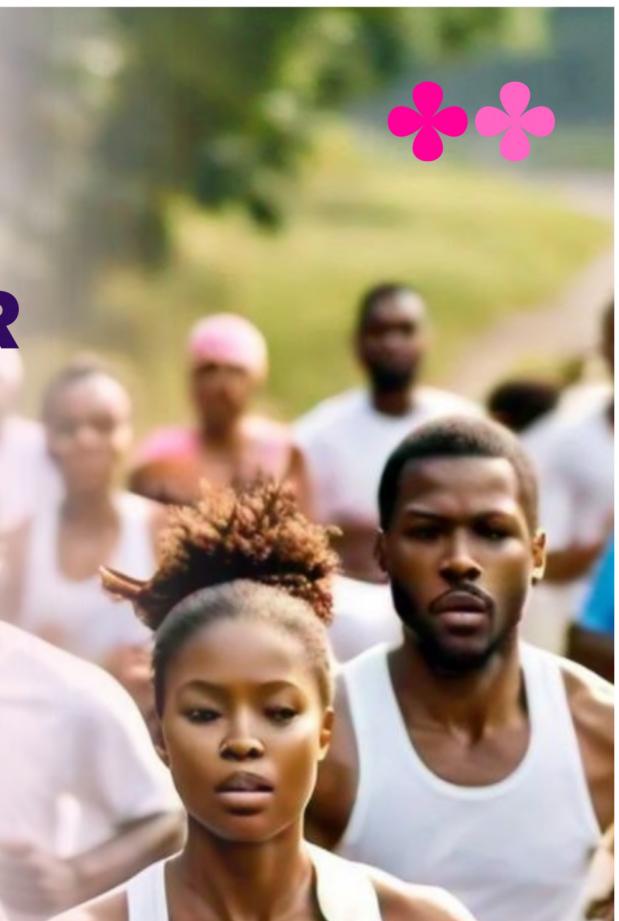
## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WALK 2024

Theme

**Breast Cancer Prevention:  
Early Detection and  
Empowering Communities**

**26 OCTOBER 2024**

On the 26th of October, 2024, the Cancer Health Initiative fulfilled one of its core missions by organizing a Breast Cancer Awareness Walk in Ogbomoso, Oyo State. The event aimed to educate the community about breast cancer, dispel myths, and provide accurate information on prevention, early detection, and treatment options. This report outlines the activities, impact, and future recommendations for this initiative.





The day began with a training session for the volunteers to equip them with in-depth knowledge about breast cancer. During the session, the volunteers were educated on breast cancer risk factors, prevention strategies, early detection methods, and treatment options. This training ensured they were well-prepared to engage with the public and effectively communicate accurate information.

The walk officially commenced at 10:00 AM, with volunteers dressed in white and blue jeans, complemented by touches of pink to symbolize breast cancer awareness. The advocates, acting as "guardian angels," were instrumental in spreading vital information to the public. They addressed the causes of breast cancer, shared prevention strategies, highlighted available treatment options, and demonstrated self-breast examination techniques. Their role was crucial in breaking down myths and making the fight against breast cancer relatable to the community.



Pamphlets were distributed during the walk, containing a step-by-step guide to performing self-breast examinations. These pamphlets were carefully designed to cater to the community's needs, with versions available in both English and Yoruba. This approach ensured that the information was accessible and relatable to a broader audience, fostering better understanding and adoption of preventive practices.

Throughout the day, the response from the public exceeded expectations. Women, men, and even children showed genuine interest in learning more about breast cancer. Market women, traders, and police officers eagerly engaged with the advocates and carefully read the distributed pamphlets. For many women, the demonstrations of self-breast examinations provided practical knowledge that could lead to early detection. Men were also included in these conversations, an effort that helped dismantle the misconception that breast cancer is exclusively a women's disease.

The initiative creatively used placards to convey impactful messages and combat long-standing myths. Slogans such as "Sporadic cell division, not evil spirits, guilty!" and "Herbal concoctions won't help you, doctors will!" sparked conversations and encouraged the audience to seek professional medical advice. Other placards provided essential information, including that 75% of breast cancer cases are first detected through self-examination, and that men can also be diagnosed with breast cancer. These messages were crafted to educate and empower individuals to take control of their health.

The walk concluded at the LAUTECH Teaching Hospital, where the advocates were greeted with gratitude and appreciation from participants. Many members of the community expressed their heartfelt thanks, offered prayers for the team, and voiced their determination to share the knowledge they had gained with others. This feedback reinforced the significance of the initiative and highlighted the tangible impact made in raising awareness about breast cancer.

We would like to express our gratitude to the team members and volunteers who made this outreach possible. We are also deeply thankful to our supporters, including The Child Online Foundation, Value Initiative, Creative Chaser, JCI LAUTECH, Rotaract Ogbomoso, and LAUTECH SCOPH, for their unwavering support and collaboration. Their contributions were instrumental in the success of this event, and we are proud to work alongside such dedicated partners in our mission to combat breast cancer.





# How we Celebrated Cancer Awareness Day/Week/Month



## World Blood Cancer Day



Cancer remains one of the leading health challenges worldwide, and raising awareness is a critical step toward prevention, early detection, and treatment. Over the past year, the Initiative has dedicated significant efforts to educating the public about various types of cancer by celebrating key awareness days and weeks. Through these initiatives, we have sought to reduce late presentation to the hospital, empower individuals with knowledge, and promote proactive health measures.



**WORLD  
OVARIAN  
CANCER  
DAY**

**May 8**

Dying from Lung Cancer is rarely quick...  
And never painless



Quit Smoking Today

[linkedin.com/cancer-health-initiative/](https://linkedin.com/cancer-health-initiative/)

[Instagram.com/cancerhealthinitiative\\_](https://instagram.com/cancerhealthinitiative_)

[x.com/CancerHealthini](https://x.com/CancerHealthini)

## CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



## LEUKEMIA AWARENESS MONTH

## Cervical Cancer Elimination Day of Action 2024



of women screened with a high-performance test by age 35 and again at 45



## MOVEMBER

### MEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

IN NOVEMBER WE CONTINUE CONVERSATIONS AND RAISE AWARENESS AROUND MEN'S HEALTH ISSUES LIKE PROSTATE CANCER AND TESTICULAR CANCER

## OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

NO WOMAN LEFT BEHIND



# Abstract Presentation at International Cancer Day 2024

## Cancer Health Initiative: An initiative poised towards bridging the gap between Cancer Health and Science to the community in need

Seun E. Olufemi<sup>1</sup>, Taofeeq Ajibade<sup>1</sup>, Bridget Ogungbemi<sup>1</sup>, Daniel A. Adediran<sup>1</sup>, Elijah Ayandeyi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Cancer Health Initiative, Ogbomoso, Nigeria.

The International Cancer Week, organized by the National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (NICRAT) from 28th October 2024 to 1st November 2024, provided a prestigious platform for stakeholders in oncology, public health, and research to converge and discuss innovations, challenges, and solutions in cancer prevention and management. During this event, held at the NAF Conference Center, Abuja, We had the privilege of presenting an abstract titled "Cancer Health Initiative: An Initiative Poised Towards Bridging the Gap Between Cancer Health and Science to the Community in Need." by our co-founder Seun Olufemi.

The abstract showcased the remarkable progress of the Cancer Health Initiative (CHI), a community-based organization established in 2024 to address the pressing need for cancer advocacy, awareness, and prevention, particularly in underserved communities. The presentation highlighted CHI's mission to bridge the gap between cancer health and science by delivering advocacy programs, promoting cancer prevention, and facilitating early detection in communities with limited access to cancer-related healthcare resources. The vision of CHI is to create a cancer-aware society where everyone, regardless of socio-economic status, has access to lifesaving information and interventions.

In its first year, CHI achieved significant milestones. Notable among these were the execution of impactful campaigns and projects such as the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, the Prostate Cancer Stakeholder Meeting, and the Cervical Cancer School-Based Advocacy Program, all of which took place in Ogbomoso. Furthermore, CHI formed partnerships with five local organizations, which played a crucial role in amplifying its outreach and impact. To enhance operational capacity, the initiative also recruited three dedicated volunteers to support its core activities.

The presentation addressed the critical challenges CHI seeks to overcome, including limited cancer awareness in underserved communities, barriers to early detection and prevention such as misconceptions and stigma, and the gap between research findings in oncology and their practical application within grassroots communities. It elaborated on CHI's strategic approaches to tackling these challenges, such as leveraging evidence-based strategies to develop educational campaigns tailored to local needs, fostering collaboration between healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers, and community members, and employing innovative and sustainable advocacy methods to ensure community engagement and long-term impact.

The presentation also served as a call to action, emphasizing the need for more partnerships, funding, and collaboration to scale up CHI's efforts. A collective approach involving public and private stakeholders was proposed to address cancer health disparities more effectively.

The audience's reception to the presentation was overwhelmingly positive. Attendees, including oncologists, researchers, public health professionals, policymakers, and community leaders, commended CHI's grassroots approach to cancer advocacy and its effective integration of science and community health. Many expressed interest in collaborating with CHI to replicate its initiatives in other regions of Nigeria and beyond. Specific feedback included recognition of CHI's focus on underserved populations as a critical aspect of equitable cancer care, appreciation for its strategic partnerships with local organizations, and suggestions to explore innovative digital tools to enhance cancer awareness campaigns and broaden reach.

Presenting the abstract at the International Cancer Week marked a significant milestone for the Cancer Health Initiative. It not only showcased the progress made within the first year of CHI's existence but also amplified its vision on a national platform. The event created opportunities for networking, collaboration, and resource mobilization, all of which are essential for scaling CHI's impact. CHI remains committed to advancing cancer health advocacy, education, and prevention by continuing to bridge the gap between science and the community in need. This presentation stands as a testament to the initiative's dedication to fostering a healthier, cancer-aware society.



# Abstract Presentation at 2024 Stakeholders Summit on Cervical Cancer in Nigeria

## School-Based HPV Vaccination Intervention: Exploring the Relationships Between Knowledge, Attitude, and Uptake Among Adolescents

Taofeeq D. Ajibade<sup>1,2</sup>, Seun E. Olufemi<sup>1</sup>, Faith Atewologun<sup>2</sup>, Bridget Ogungbemi<sup>1,2</sup>, Daniel A. Adediran<sup>1</sup>, Elijah Ayandeyi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Cancer Health Initiative, Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria.

<sup>2</sup>Uniosun Teaching Hospital, Osogbo, Osun State, Nigeria.

1

From December 4th to 6th, 2024, Cancer Health Initiative was represented at the 2nd Stakeholders' Summit on Cervical Cancer Elimination in Nigeria (SSCCEN2024). The event, held at the Chida International Hotel in Abuja, focused on the theme "Strengthening Collaboration Towards Achieving Cervical Cancer Elimination Targets in Nigeria."

The summit served as a platform for experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to share strategies, insights, and actionable plans to eliminate cervical cancer.

One of the key moments of our participation was the presentation of the abstract titled: "School-Based HPV Vaccination Intervention: Exploring the Relationships Between Knowledge, Attitude, and Uptake Among Adolescents" by our co-founder, Dr. Ajibade Taofeeq D.

The presentation emphasized the critical role of schools in improving HPV vaccine uptake, addressing prevalent misinformation about the vaccine and demonstrating the measurable impact of educating both adolescents and their parents on HPV vaccination.

The feedback received from participants was not only encouraging but also provided actionable insights to refine and scale our interventions.

The summit also featured a range of practical and actionable discussions. Notable contributors included Her Excellency, Hajiya Fatima Dikko Radda (Wife of the Katsina State Governor), who spoke on policy-driven solutions, as well as representatives from NGOs and private sector organizations sharing insights on partnerships for vaccine distribution and awareness campaigns.

The summit reinforced the significance of school-based HPV vaccination programs in achieving cervical cancer elimination targets. As an organization, the Cancer Health Initiative aims to build on these insights by:

1. Expanding outreach to underserved and marginalized areas.
2. Strengthening collaborations with policymakers to improve vaccine accessibility.
3. Designing targeted campaigns to address cultural and systemic barriers to vaccine uptake.

The 2nd SSCCEN provided a valuable opportunity to network, learn, and identify gaps in current strategies for cervical cancer elimination in Nigeria. It underscored the importance of focus, collaboration, and sustained efforts in achieving measurable impact.



# Our milestones

**15,000+**

Cancer health advocacy and information views.

**600+**

Growing social media followers

**600+**

People reached in underserved communities through our outreaches

**40+**

Cancer advocates that has volunteered with us

**6**

Physical and virtual programs was organized

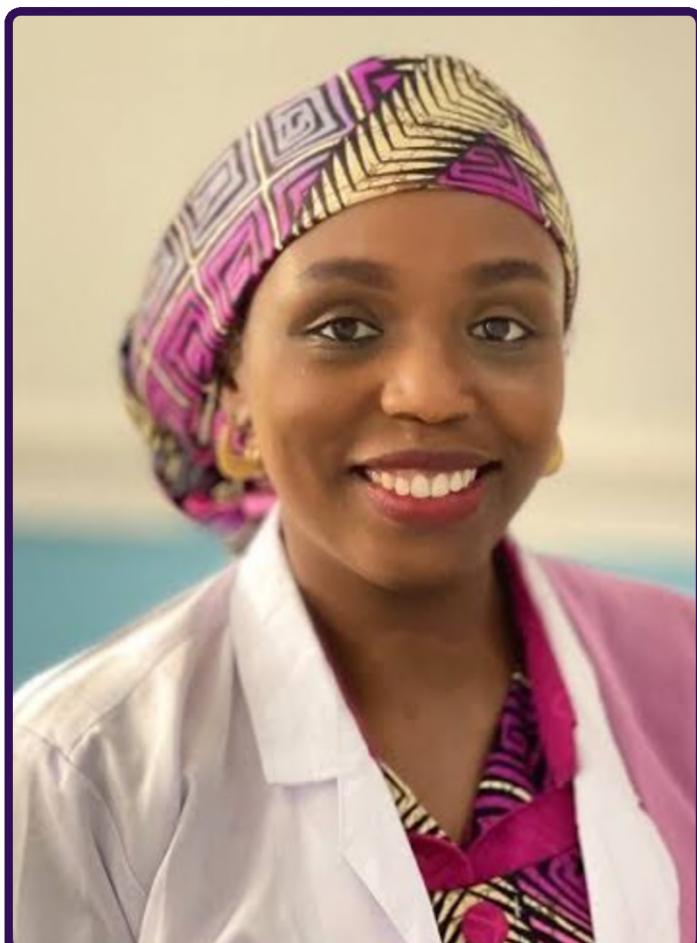
**2**

Conference attended and Abstract presented

# Appreciation and Recognition

The success of our webinar series last year is a direct result of the invaluable contributions from our esteemed speakers. Their expertise, coupled with their dedication and passion, enriched each presentation and provided our audience with unique insights and valuable learning opportunities. From industry leaders to renowned academics, our speakers brought diverse perspectives, fostering a dynamic and engaging learning environment.

We are deeply grateful for the time and effort invested by each speaker. Their willingness to share their knowledge and expertise has not only enhanced the quality of our webinars but also empowered our audience with the knowledge and tools necessary for professional growth. We look forward to continued collaborations and the opportunity to further benefit from their invaluable contributions in the future.



**Dr. Fatima Dambatta**



**Mrs. Gloria Chinyere Okwu**



### **Contact us via:**

- [!\[\]\(c11ccf762fe4f18ec658db16208e59bc\_img.jpg\) Cancerhealthinitiative@gmail.com](mailto:Cancerhealthinitiative@gmail.com)
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- [!\[\]\(acc696d63c9c13c4b56da8f09048da9d\_img.jpg\) CancerHealthIni](https://twitter.com/CancerHealthIni)
- [!\[\]\(10a7b5822ffc0cf369d47d9343ed5e04\_img.jpg\) Cancer Health Initiative](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cancer-health-initiative)

# **2024 Annual Report**