



**KESHO**  
Kenya Society of Haematology & Oncology



**ADVANCING ONCOLOGY IN KENYA AND BEYOND**

OCT 2025



**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS EDITION**

**EDITORIAL NOTE**

The pink ribbons return each October; a symbol not just of remembrance, but of resilience.

Behind every statistic is a story, behind every diagnosis, a name, a family, a journey. This month, we honor those stories by building stronger systems and sharper skills to change what tomorrow looks like for those affected by breast cancer.

In this edition, we walk through capacity-building initiatives, CME dialogues and new research collaborations, each one a testament to how far we've come and a call to keep going.

Together, one act of learning, changes one life story at a time.

**KESHO Team**

**AT A GLANCE**

- Breast Cancer Capacity Building Program
- Research, Collaborations, Grants
- Africa Journal for Cancer Research
- CME Recaps
- New Members

# Breast Cancer Capacity Building Program

ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE. STRENGTHENING CARE. IMPROVING OUTCOMES.

Course Duration

03 **Three months**



KESHO, in collaboration with the Egyptian Cancer Society and AstraZeneca, is pleased to launch a comprehensive Breast Cancer Capacity Building Program designed to enhance clinical expertise and promote best practices in breast cancer care across the region.

Beginning **November 2025**, the accredited program will deliver a structured learning series covering key areas of breast cancer diagnosis, treatment and multidisciplinary management. Participants will benefit from expert-led sessions facilitated by leading oncologists, pathologists, surgeons, geneticists, fertility preservation specialists, palliative care experts and other specialists.

The first module will focus on strengthening foundational knowledge in breast cancer and pathology, laying the groundwork for subsequent modules on HR+ disease, HER2+ breast cancer, triple-negative breast cancer and integrative care.

This program underscores KESHO's commitment to advancing oncology education and improving cancer care outcomes in Kenya and beyond. Registration opens soon. CPD accredited. Limited slots available.

Interested in joining the cohort? Drop us an email [info@kesho-kenya.org](mailto:info@kesho-kenya.org)

#### Accreditation:

European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME)

Kenya Medical Practitioners & Dentist Council (KMPDC)



[www.kesho-kenya.org](http://www.kesho-kenya.org)

# GLOBAL LINKS IN CANCER RESEARCH & LEADERSHIP

## Kenya Joins the ESMO National Societies Committee

ESMO NATIONAL SOCIETIES COMMITTEE 2025 65 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES REPRESENTED			
Country	National Society	Country	
Albania	Albanian Oncology Association	Greece	Hellenic Society of Medical Oncology
Argentina	Argentinian Association of Clinical Oncology	Hong Kong SAR	Hong Kong Cancer Therapy Society
Armenia	Armenian Association of Hematology and Oncology	India	Indian Society of Medical and Paediatric Oncology
Australia	Medical Oncology Group of Australia	Indonesia	Indonesian Society of Hematology Medical Oncology
Austria	Austrian Society for Hematology and Medical Oncology	Iraq	Iraq Society of Clinical Oncology
Belgium	Belgian Society of Medical Oncology	Iran	Iranian Society of Medical Oncology and Hematology
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Oncology Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ireland	Irish Society of Medical Oncology
Brazil	Brazilian Society of Clinical Oncology	Israel	Israeli Society of Clinical Oncology and Radiation Therapy
Bulgaria	Bulgarian Cancer Scientific Society	Italy	Italian Association of Medical Oncology
Canada	Canadian Association of Medical Oncologists	Japan	Japanese Society of Medical Oncology
China	Chinese Society of Clinical Oncology	Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan Cancer Society
Colombia	Colombian Association of Hematology and Oncology	Kenya	Kenya Society of Hematology & Oncology
Croatia	Croatian Society of Medical Oncology	Latvia	Latvian Society for Medical Oncology
Cyprus	Cyprus Oncology Society	Lithuania	Lithuanian Society for Medical Oncology
Czech Republic	Czech Society for Oncology	Luxembourg	Luxembourg Society of Oncology
Denmark	Danish Society for Clinical Oncology	Malaysia	Malaysian Oncological Society
Estonia	Estonian Society for Medical Oncology	Mexico	Mexican Society of Oncology
Finland	Finnish Society for Oncology	Myanmar	Myanmar Oncology Society
France	Société Française du Cancer	Netherlands	Dutch Society for Medical Oncology
Georgia	Association of Oncologists of Georgia	New Zealand	New Zealand Society for Oncology
Germany	German Society for Haematology and Medical Oncology	Norway	Norwegian Association of Oncology
Ghana		Paraguay	Paraguayan Society of Medical Oncology
Greece		Philippines	Philippine Society of Medical Oncology
		Poland	Polish Society of Clinical Oncology
		Portugal	Portuguese Society of Oncology
		Republic of Korea	Korean Society of Medical Oncology
		Romania	Societatea Nationala De Oncologie Medicala Din Romania
		Russian Federation	Russian Society of Clinical Oncology
		Serbia	Serbian Society of Medical Oncology
		Singapore	Singapore Society of Oncology
		Slovakia	Slovak Oncology Society
		Slovenia	Slovenian Society for Medical Oncology
		South Africa	South African Society of Medical Oncology
		Spain	Spanish Society of Medical Oncology
		Sweden	Swedish Society of Oncology
		Switzerland	Swiss Society of Medical Oncology
		Taiwan	Taiwan Oncology Society
		Thailand	The Society of Clinical Oncology
		Tunisia	Tunisian Society of Medical Oncology
		Turkiye	Turkish Society of Clinical Oncology
		Ukraine	Ukrainian Society of Medical Oncology
		United Kingdom	Association of Cancer Physicians
		Uzbekistan	Association of Oncologists of Uzbekistan
		Vietnam	Viet Nam Cancer Association



Dr. Andrew Odhiambo, Medical Oncologist attended the inaugural committee meeting, where he met the ESMO President and Committee Chair, and shared perspectives from Kenya's oncology community, including KESHO's work in advancing cancer care and professional development.

Kenya has officially joined the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) National Societies Committee - becoming only the second African country, after South Africa, to achieve this milestone.

In his role, Dr. Odhiambo will help strengthen collaboration between ESMO and Kenyan oncology stakeholders in research, policy, training, mentorship and fellowships - an exciting step that further connects Kenya to the global oncology community.

## KESHO Receives GRACE Research Grant

We are proud to announce that a KESHO-led research team headed by **Dr. Miriam Mutebi** has been selected for a prestigious grant under the Gender-Responsive Approaches to Cancer Equity (GRACE) initiative. The program is convened by the City Cancer Challenge Foundation (C/Can) and Global Focus on Cancer (GFC) and brings together partners from Kenya, Georgia and Mexico to advance equity in cancer care.

The Kenyan research consortium includes KESHO, APHRC, the Centre of Excellence for Women and Child Health at Aga Khan University and KENCO. The project will focus on understanding and addressing gender-related barriers to cancer detection, treatment and care, particularly those affecting women.

Dr. Mutebi, who is leading the Kenyan consortium said *"This project presents a timely opportunity to integrate gender-responsive strategies into cancer health systems to improve outcomes for women in Kenya and beyond."*

# DRIVING PROGRESS IN CANCER CARE ACROSS AFRICA

## A Decade of Building Africa's Oncology Workforce

Kenya's Medical Oncology Fellowship at the University of Nairobi, founded in 2016 under the visionary leadership of Prof. N.A. Othieno-Abinya, is approaching its 10-year milestone. The program has so far produced 10 oncologists serving across Kenya, South Africa and the UK, many of them proud KESHO members contributing to cancer care, mentorship and research.



*Dr. Georgina Magoma, Dr. Patience Sakeah, Dr. Foster Kwawu, Dr. Mildred Hagembe*

Under the stewardship of Dr. Andrew Odhiambo, the fellowship continues to expand regionally, with new trainees from Kenya and Ghana joining this year. This milestone reflects Kenya's growing leadership in developing the next generation of oncology specialists and strengthening cancer care across Africa.

## Strengthening Rural Cancer Awareness: BreCATH-B Study

Beyond Nairobi, the focus turns to Kenya's heartland.

The BreCATH-B Study, hosted by Meru University of Science and Technology (MUST) has received a major boost with funding from the Rising Tide Foundation, a breakthrough for rural cancer awareness.



The study seeks to empower communities with knowledge and drive early health-seeking behavior for breast cancer. It brings together MUST, the University of Embu, University of Nairobi, the County Government of Meru and independent researcher Dr. Robai Gakunga, with technical support from the National Cancer Institute of Kenya (NCI-K).

Under the leadership of Dr Peter Kailemia, the project will generate home-grown evidence to guide equitable care and strengthen Kenya's cancer response in rural settings.

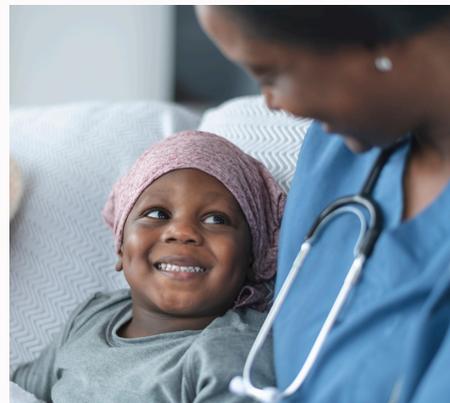
# DRIVING PROGRESS IN CANCER CARE ACROSS AFRICA

## Kenya Opens First Paediatric Bone Marrow (Stem Cell) Transplant Centre

Kenya has achieved a major milestone in child health with the establishment of its first Paediatric Bone Marrow (Stem Cell) Transplant (BMT) Centre at Gertrude's Children's Hospital - a KSh 200 million facility set to begin treating patients in November 2025.

The unit will offer advanced BMT services for children with leukaemia, aplastic anaemia and other complex blood disorders that previously required families to seek care abroad.

This landmark development strengthens Kenya's capacity in paediatric oncology and haematology, advancing local expertise and expanding access to specialized, life-saving care for children across the country.



*A new era of hope. Children with complex blood disorders can now access life-saving BMT care closer to home*



## East Africa Unites for Stronger Cancer Control

At the 69th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, leaders from across East Africa took a bold step toward regional integration.

Heads of national cancer institutes signed an agreement establishing the *East Africa Cancer Institute Association (EACCIA)* - a collaborative platform for advancing research, training and policy alignment.

The alliance, spearheaded by: Dr. Elias Melly (CEO, NCI-K), Dr. Jackson Orem (Director, UCI, Uganda) Dr. Diwani Msemu (Ocean Road Cancer Institute, Tanzania) marks a pivotal moment for the region's collective cancer control agenda.

EACCIA is set to officially launch in Arusha, Tanzania in February 2026, reinforcing the power of partnership in shaping the future of cancer care across Africa.

# AORTIC Launches the Africa Journal of Cancer Research: "By Us, For Us"

The African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC) has launched the *Africa Journal of Cancer Research (AJCR)*, a landmark publication advancing African-generated cancer evidence. This milestone positions Africa not only as a consumer of knowledge but as a vital contributor shaping global oncology.

Dr. Miriam Mutebi, AORTIC President and KESHO Research Committee Chair described the journal as *"a space dedicated to amplifying locally generated cancer research for African audiences first, but with global visibility."* She added, *"It is important that African evidence is published by us, for us and that our solutions are made visible on the global stage."*



Under the leadership of Prof. Sulma Ibrahim Mohammed as Editor-in-Chief, AJCR's editorial board unites leading researchers from across Africa and the diaspora, combining contextual insight with international academic rigor.

The journal seeks to:

- Place African evidence at the forefront of oncology discourse.
- Strengthen collaboration among researchers across borders.
- Foster equitable partnerships that preserve African agency.
- Spotlight innovations that address real-world cancer care challenges.

For Kenya and East Africa, AJCR offers a vital platform to highlight progress in prevention, early detection, survivorship and health-system research shaping policies and improving outcomes.

**“ This is not just a journal, it is a movement.**  
*We invite every African researcher to join us in reshaping global oncology through African evidence.*

— Dr Miriam Mutebi

”

# CME RECAP

A quick look back at our recent sessions and highlights.

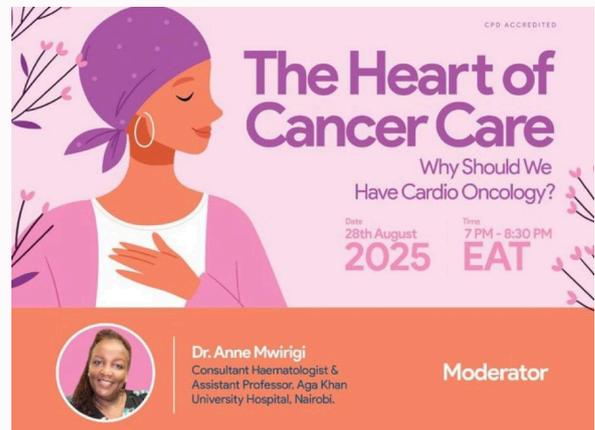


## Strengthening Cardio-Oncology in Kenya: From Dialogue to Action

On 28<sup>th</sup> August 2025, KESHO hosted a webinar on cardio oncology, an emerging field at the intersection of cardiology and oncology. The session brought together an international multidisciplinary panel of cardiology and oncology experts, including **Dr Arjun Ghosh**, *the first cardiologist in UK to be appointed specifically in cardio-oncology and is running several cardio-oncology training programs*. The vibrant and informative session addressed the growing challenge of cardiac complications arising from standard and novel cancer therapies, cardiac manifestations of malignancies and long-term cardiac effects of cancer treatment.

### Why cardio-oncology now?

Managing these varied and ever-increasing cardiac complications at various stages of the cancer patient's journey, requires an integrated approach between oncologists and cardiologists for best patient outcomes. Participants agreed that building local capacity in cardio-oncology is critical for patient safety and improved outcomes in Africa.



### Next Steps for Kenya:

#### Survey:

A national survey will be circulated to capture interest, training needs and research priorities among oncology and cardiology professionals.

#### Working Group:

KESHO will establish a cardio-oncology working group to coordinate training, research, guideline development and local collaborative care.

#### Training:

Opportunities are available for post-fellowship cardiology and oncology trainees to train in certified cardio-oncology units, both regionally and internationally.

Colleagues across the country with an interest in cardio-oncology are encouraged to connect with KESHO and participate in this initiative. By pooling expertise and resources, we can establish cardio-oncology as a recognized subspecialty that safeguards the heart health of cancer patients in Africa.

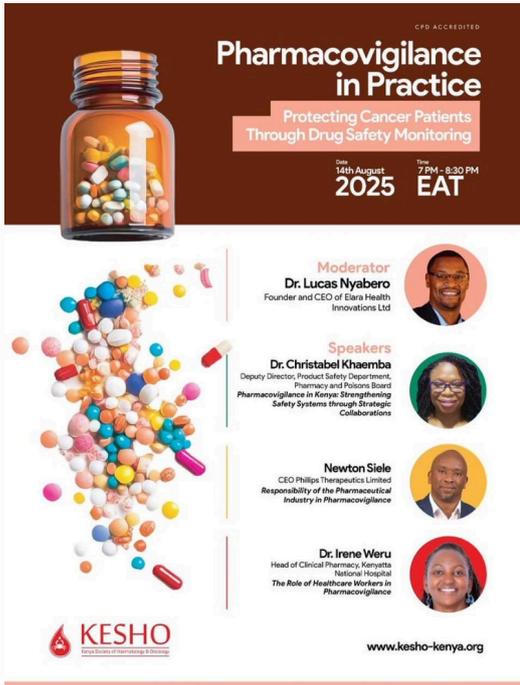
- **Dr Anne Mwirigi (MBChB FRCP FRCPATH (UK), Consultant Haematologist)**

[Request Recording](#)

# Pharmacovigilance in Practice:

Protecting Cancer Patients Through Drug Safety Monitoring:

Speakers: Dr Christabel Khaemba | Dr Irene Weru | Mr Newton Siele



**Pharmacovigilance in Practice**  
Protecting Cancer Patients Through Drug Safety Monitoring

CPD ACCREDITED

Date: 14th August 2025  
Time: 7 PM - 8:30 PM  
EAT

**Moderator**  
Dr. Lucas Nyabero  
Founder and CEO of Elara Health Innovations Ltd

**Speakers**  
Dr. Christabel Khaemba  
Deputy Director, Product Safety Department, Pharmacy and Poisons Board  
Pharmacovigilance in Kenya: Strengthening Safety Systems through Strategic Collaborations

Newton Siele  
CEO Philips Therapeutics Limited  
Responsibility of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Pharmacovigilance

Dr. Irene Weru  
Head of Clinical Pharmacy, Kenyatta National Hospital  
The Role of Healthcare Workers in Pharmacovigilance

KESHO  
www.kesho-kenya.org

Inspired by insights from the recent [Lancet article](#) on medicine safety, KESHO convened a CME on pharmacovigilance spotlighting the safety of cancer medicines and the shared accountability of regulators, healthcare workers and industry.

Moderated by Dr. Lucas Nyabero, the session brought together experts to unpack how vigilant detection, assessment and prevention of medicine-related harm can strengthen Kenya's cancer care system.

Dr Christabel Khaemba of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) highlighted efforts to improve reporting through digital tools such as the PvERS online platform, mPvERS app and USSD code \*271#. Between 2022 and 2025, 170 adverse-reaction reports were linked to oncology medicines, nearly half involving Imatinib. She noted persistent gaps in reporting and awareness but pointed to progress through training, technology and collaboration with oncology networks.

## Request Recording

Dr Irene Weru, a pharmaceutical specialist at Kenyatta National Hospital emphasized that healthcare professionals remain central to medicine safety. Citing the *DARU Report (2011–2015)*, which found a 10.5 % failure rate in anticancer medicines, she called for stronger reporting systems, facility focal persons and regular feedback to sustain a culture of vigilance.

From the industry perspective, Mr. Newton Siele underscored responsibility across the product lifecycle - from sourcing to post-market surveillance and warned that weak oversight of parallel importation risks counterfeit and poor-quality medicines. He urged adoption of a national track-and-trace system to protect patients.

The discussion reaffirmed a shared commitment: *pharmacovigilance is not optional; it is lifesaving*. Through vigilance, training and ethical accountability, Kenya can ensure every oncology medicine prescribed is both safe and effective.



# PAST CMES



TOPICS	MODERATORS	GUEST SPEAKERS
Advancing Prostate Cancer Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Prof Mungai Ngugi</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● H.E. Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o</li><li>● Dr. Amina K. Habib</li><li>● Prof. Nicholas Abinya</li></ul>
Palliative Support & Pain Management in Cancer Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Dr Zipporah Ali</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Dr. Lee Ngugi</li><li>● Dr. Esther Munyoro</li></ul>
Advancing Care in Paediatric BMT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Dr Robert Kimutai</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Dr. Brian Nderu</li></ul>
Management of CML Blast Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Dr Angela McLigeyo</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Prof. Gianantonio Rosti</li><li>● Prof. Malkit Riyat</li></ul>
Bridging Gaps in Soft Tissue Sarcoma Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Dr Rose Munge</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Dr. Mohammed Ezzi</li><li>● Prof. Ferdinand Nangole</li></ul>
MDT Approaches to Cervical Cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Dr Afrin Shaffi</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Dr Edward Sang</li><li>● Dr Dulcie Wanda</li></ul>
<a href="#"><u>View CME Summaries</u></a>		<a href="#"><u>Request A Recording</u></a>



Grateful to our moderators, speakers and partners for advancing oncology education through KESHO CMEs.



# Welcome Our New Members



**Dr Caroline Tonio**

Medical Oncologist & Clinical  
Research Fellow



**Dr Robert Kimutai**

Consultant Paediatric  
Hematologist & Oncologist



**Mr Newton Siele**

C.E.O - Phillips Therapeutics  
Ltd



**Dr John G. Deng**

Surgical Oncologist



**Dr Victor Oria**

Cancer Biology Researcher



**Dr Mohammed Mustefa**

Paediatric Haematologist &  
Oncologist



**Connect. Learn. Grow Together.**

Become a KESHO Member today and grow with us!

**Membership Registration**



# AORTIC COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2026-2027



**Dr Sitna Mwanzi**  
Secretary Treasurer

[View Bio](#)



**Dr Omar AbdiHamid**  
V.P East Africa

[View Bio](#)



**Roselyne Okumu**  
V.P. Nursing

[View Bio](#)

We are proud to spotlight three KESHO members - **Dr. Sitna Mwanzi**, **Dr. Omar Abdihamid** and **Ms. Roselyne Okumu**: who are vying for key leadership roles within the African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC).

As esteemed members of our fraternity, we encourage the KESHO community to show their support during the upcoming elections at the AORTIC 2025 Conference in Hammamet, Tunisia.

## **Voting Details:**

Voting for AORTIC Council Members (2026–2027) will take place **in person** during the Members General Meeting on Monday, 3rd November 2025, at the AORTIC 2025 Conference in Hammamet, Tunisia.

*Election results will be announced during the same session.*

# Mark your Calendars!

Block your evenings and let's keep learning together.



## Upcoming CMEs

November	December
Small Cell Lung Cancer Nov 13, 2025	Cancer Related Thrombosis Dec 4, 2025
NSCLC Nov 20, 2025	Bladder & Urothelial Cancer Dec 11, 2025
Pancreatic Cancer Nov 27, 2025	



### Missed a CME?

Access summaries on our website: [www.kesho-kenya.org](http://www.kesho-kenya.org)

Request access to recordings here: [support@kesho-kenya.org](mailto:support@kesho-kenya.org)

### Interested in presenting at one of our CME sessions?

Email: [info@kesho-kenya.org](mailto:info@kesho-kenya.org)

### Interested in collaborating?

Get in touch with us:

[secretariat@kesho-kenya.org](mailto:secretariat@kesho-kenya.org)



**KESHO**  
Kenya Society of Haematology & Oncology



## LET'S STAY CONNECTED

Tap the icons



**LinkedIn**



### GOT A MINUTE?

Tell us what you think of this issue  
and what more you'd like to see.

 [Feedback](#)

[Check Membership Status](#)

[Join the KESHO family](#)



**Stay tuned for the 9<sup>th</sup> Kenya International  
Cancer Conference [KICC2026]**

