



# KESHO

Kenya Society of Haematology & Oncology

Quarterly Review | Q1 2026

## **Shaping Cancer Care in Practice**

Insights from practice, leadership and community shaping oncology in Kenya.



### **Inside this issue**

- Regional learning in breast oncology
- CME themes shaping practice
- Member milestones and community highlights
- KICC2026 taking shape

## Opening Note

What we build this year reflects deliberate learning and a commitment to doing it better.

Across the first quarter, we have seen growing engagement in our CME programs, stronger regional collaborations and continued commitment from our members to advancing cancer care.

As we build towards a significant year for KESHO, this edition highlights key moments, emerging conversations and what lies ahead.

Thank you for being part of this work.

KESHO Team

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# Turning Regional Learning into Better Care

A multi-month breast oncology program brought KESHO members into deeper regional exchange, practical learning and multidisciplinary reflection.

The Breast Cancer Capacity Building Program has just now concluded, marking the end of a multi-month regional learning experience delivered in partnership with the Egyptian Cancer Society and AstraZeneca. KESHO participants included doctors from multiple counties across Kenya, reflecting broad national representation and varied clinical practice settings.

Across five modules, the program moved beyond theory into practical decision-making in breast oncology: from pathology and subtype-specific management to integrative care and the wider patient journey

A key strength of the program was its emphasis on value-based oncology, multidisciplinary coordination and care that is responsive to real-world clinical settings.

At the Breast Cancer Comprehensive Center at the National Cancer Institute in Egypt, in-person sessions and facility tours offered valuable insights into care models, workflows and the role of integrated systems in improving outcomes.

The focus now shifts from learning to application: how these shared insights can strengthen multidisciplinary practice and contribute to better coordinated, patient-centered care in our settings.



*KESHO participants in the Cairo session*

# The Conversations Driving Practice

## Sharper Diagnosis in Lymphoma

Diagnostic precision is increasingly shaping clinical decision-making in lymphoma care.

## Cancer and the Environment

Cancer risk is not shaped by biology alone, but also by modifiable environmental and occupational exposures.

## Rethinking Colorectal Cancer

The rising burden of colorectal cancer in younger patients calls for earlier suspicion, timely diagnosis and coordinated care.

## Cancer Control: The Kenyan Reality

Progress in cancer control depends on alignment between policy, practice and people.

## Women Holding Oncology Together

Women are already driving impact across cancer care. The system must now better recognize, support and scale that contribution.

## What's Changing in Renal Cell Carcinoma

Immune checkpoint inhibitors and targeted therapies are redefining treatment in advanced renal cell carcinoma.

# Clinical Learning in Focus

## Advancing Biliary and Gallbladder Cancer Care in Practice

This CME strengthened practical approaches to the diagnosis and management of biliary and gallbladder tumours, with emphasis on tissue sampling, multidisciplinary coordination and evolving therapeutic strategies.

Delivered through the KNH-UoN partnership in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology, the session reflected the value of regional expertise and diaspora engagement in advancing clinical practice.

Key insights highlighted the importance of integrating endoscopy, surgery and oncology care pathways to support earlier diagnosis and more coordinated treatment decisions.

Explore more CME highlights: [CME Summaries](#)

## When Environment Becomes Risk

This CME examined how environmental and occupational exposures contribute to cancer risk in Kenya, shifting the focus beyond individual factors to broader system-level influences.

The discussion highlighted the need for stronger awareness within clinical practice, alongside cross-sector action to address preventable exposures.

It reinforced that effective prevention depends on recognizing environmental risk as part of routine cancer care and public health strategy.

[Request recordings](#)

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# Emerging Priorities for KESHO

## **Advancing Research-Driven Genomics**

Integrating genomics into clinical practice to support more precise, patient-centered care and locally relevant treatment approaches.

## **Strengthening Data Collection & National Cancer Mapping**

Enhancing data systems to better capture cancer patterns and understand regional disease burden within Kenya's devolved health structure.

## **Regional Centers of Excellence**

Informing the development of specialized centers aligned to regional needs, ensuring care delivery is responsive to the unique epidemiological profiles across different counties.

## **Auditing Patient Outcomes**

Promoting structured evaluation of treatment outcomes to drive continuous improvement, accountability and evidence-based decision-making in oncology care.

## **Elevating Clinical Governance**

Reinforcing standards, oversight and quality assurance mechanisms to strengthen consistency and excellence in cancer care delivery nationwide.

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Advancing more coordinated, data-driven and patient-centered cancer care across our settings.

# Building Support Beyond the Clinic

## A New Voice for Myeloma Patients in Kenya

The Multiple Myeloma Association of Kenya (MMAK) was recently established to address a major gap in cancer care: the limited availability of disease-specific, patient-centered support for people living with multiple myeloma and their families.

For many patients, diagnosis, treatment and long-term follow-up can be isolating, especially where access to reliable information, peer connection and tailored advocacy remains limited.

MMAK creates a platform for patient empowerment, community and collective voice, bringing patients, families and clinicians closer together.

Patient associations such as MMAK are not separate from clinical care. They strengthen it. By helping patients become better informed, more connected and more engaged, they can improve both patient experience and clinical outcomes.

*“From isolation to community.”*



MMAK launch

# People Shaping Oncology

Cancer care is shaped by clinicians working with real systems, real constraints and real patients.



**Dr. Anisa Mburu**

Gynecologic Oncologist,  
Aga Khan Hospital, Mombasa

Dr Mburu's work spans clinical care, research and health systems strengthening, with particular focus on HPV-associated cancers, pediatric gynecologic oncology and palliative care.

She contributes to national and international guideline development and remains active in mentorship and academic leadership.

She is also Founder and CEO of the SheFights Cancer Foundation, whose growing impact in patient-centered cancer care was recently recognized through a 2026 Zuri Award in Healthcare.



**Dr. Kevin Makori**

Clinical & Radiation Oncologist,  
Head of Oncology Department,  
Homa Bay County & Referral Hospital

Dr. Makori's work spans clinical care, research and oncology service delivery, with a focus on radiation sciences, immuno-oncology and clinical trials.

He supports multidisciplinary oncology care across institutions in South Nyanza and the South Rift, helping strengthen coordinated, patient-centered treatment approaches.

He is also engaged in clinical research, academic publishing, mentorship and capacity building within oncology practice.

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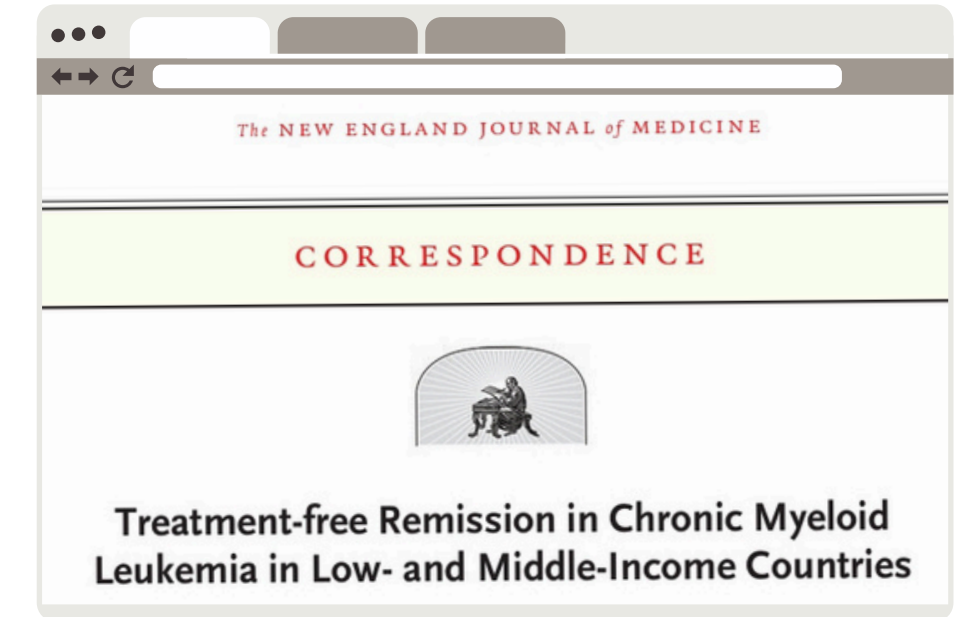
# Members Making an Impact

## KESHO Member Published in NEJM

Prof Nicholas Abinya contributed to a recent publication in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, focused on treatment-free remission in chronic myeloid leukemia in low- and middle-income countries.

The study found that 79% of patients remained in treatment-free remission after discontinuing therapy, highlighting both the promise of this approach and the challenges of implementing it in resource-limited settings.

His contribution reflects the important role KESHO members continue to play in shaping global oncology discourse and advancing context-relevant cancer care.



## New Book Release



### Stuff I'd Tell My Sister: On Sisterhood, Surgery & Breast Cancer

In *Stuff I'd Tell My Sister*, Dr Miriam Mutebi brings clarity and urgency to conversations that are too often left unspoken.

Drawing from clinical practice, she explores breast cancer alongside the cultural and systemic barriers that shape women's care. Part memoir, part medical guide and part call to action, the book challenges harmful misconceptions while offering practical guidance on breast health, self-examination and self-advocacy.

KESHO congratulates Dr Mutebi on this important contribution to knowledge, dialogue and patient-centered cancer care.

## Dr Abeid Athman Omar Appointed to ESMO Council (2026)

KESHO congratulates Dr Abeid Athman on his appointment as a Council Member of the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) for 2026.

This recognition reflects his leadership in oncology and the growing role of African voices in shaping global cancer care.



## Meet Our New Members

A warm welcome to the newest members of the KESHO community.



**Dr. Mumba Musonda**  
*Clinical Oncologist*  
*KNH/CDH Zambia*



**Dr. Brian Ayara**  
*Pathologist*  
*Kisii Teaching & Referral Hospital*



**Ms. Connie Gumo**  
*Founder & Advocate*  
*Ben Kijuu Foundation*

Keep your Member Profile Current:

[Update Profile](#)

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# Looking Ahead

THURSDAY

## CME Roll-Out

A more deliberate calendar, of practice-relevant sessions anchored in clinical decision-making and system realities.

April



## AML Day

A focused scientific forum grounded in the realities of diagnosing and managing acute myeloid leukemia in our settings.

April



## Abstract Submission

The window to shape KICC 2026 is closing. We invite submissions that reflect the depth and direction of cancer care across the region.

May



## 4<sup>TH</sup> EA Onc Summit

A timely space to strengthen collaboration and align thinking across East Africa's oncology community.

June



## **Building Expertise in Radiation Oncology**

KESHO is pleased to share a partially sponsored advanced training opportunity in India for selected Kenyan radiation oncologists.

The 6–8 week observership will offer exposure to SBRT, proton therapy and PARP inhibitor integration through clinical observation, academic exchange and multidisciplinary learning.

The program is intended not only to strengthen individual expertise, but also to support longer-term oncology capacity in Kenya, where access to some of these approaches remain limited.

Participants will be encouraged to return with practical insights, protocols, case reflections and ideas that can support wider knowledge transfer across the oncology community.

To express interest, contact:  
[secretariat@kesho-kenya.org](mailto:secretariat@kesho-kenya.org)

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# The 9<sup>th</sup> Kenya International Cancer Conference

NOVEMBER  
19<sup>TH</sup> – 21<sup>ST</sup> | 2026

**VENUE**  
SAROVA  
WHITESANDS,  
MOMBASA, KENYA

**KICC 2026** is steadily taking shape, with abstract submissions now open and this year's themes bringing into focus the realities, progress and priorities shaping cancer care across our settings.

*"We look forward to convening clinicians, researchers, policymakers and partners to help shape the future of oncology in our region and beyond."*

**Prof. Fredrick Chite Asirwa**  
Conference Chair, KICC 2026

**[SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT](#)**

**[EXPLORE THE KICC 2026 PROGRAM](#)**

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## Programme at a Glance

**18 Nov:** Pre-conference workshops on real-world data, leadership, radiation oncology and patient advocacy

**19 Nov:** Opening plenary on global registries, AI in diagnostics, implementation science, policy and financing.

Concurrent scientific tracks include Precision Oncology & Immunotherapy, Diagnostics, Gynaecologic Oncology, CNS/Head & Neck, Breast, Lung & Thoracic and Policy/Advocacy & Palliative Care.

**20 Nov:** Plenary on ethics, conflict settings, practice-based evidence and continental perspectives, followed by rapid-fire evidence sessions.

Breakouts span Haematology, Hepatobiliary, Urology, Paediatric Oncology, GIT, Radiation Oncology and Nursing & Nutrition, with Gala Dinner in the evening.

**21 Nov:** Keynotes, poster viewing, best abstracts award, closing ceremony and networking lunch.

## Conference Theme & Sub-themes

### Equity, Excellence & Sustainable Impact in Cancer Care

- Patient-centred diagnostic pathways: from access to innovation
- Universal health coverage and cancer financing
- Practice-based and real-world evidence in limited-resource settings
- Workforce training, retention and work experience
- Survivorship and palliative care
- Progress in radiotherapy and imaging
- Technology in cancer care: AI, personalised medicine and robotics
- Data and data mining
- Cancer care in conflict
- Equity for vulnerable populations
- Public health systems, prevention and risk reduction

**Audience focus: clinicians, researchers, policymakers, trainees, partners and advocates**

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[REGISTER NOW](#)



## Stay Connected with KESHO

*Cancer care is shaped everyday in practice, partnership and persistence:  
and the work continues.*

*Stay connected with KESHO through our website, mailing list and social channels for updates on CME programs, membership, conference activities and opportunities across the oncology community.*

