

Call for Abstracts

4th PACRI INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 22-25, 2026

THE MASLOW, SANDTON,
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH
AFRICA



PAN AFRICAN CANCER
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

DEFEATING CANCER TOGETHER



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4th PACRI INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE CANCER RESEARCH CONSORTIUM
(NCCRC) AND THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF INTEGRATED MORPHOLOGY AND HEALTH SCIENCES
(AAIMHS)

THE MASLOW, SANDTON, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

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BRIDGING CANCER SCIENCE AND MEDICINE IN AFRICA DRIVING INNOVATION AND EQUITY FOR TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

The 4th PACRI International Annual Meeting is set to bring together African and global experts in cancer research, clinical practice, policy, and advocacy to explore how we can drive transformative change in cancer care across Africa. This conference will provide a dynamic platform for multi-disciplinary discussions on bridging the gap between cutting-edge cancer science and its real-world applications. Ensuring that innovation, equity, and patient-centered care shape the future of cancer treatment and prevention in Africa will be at the core of this event.

With an emphasis on advancing cancer research and care, the conference will cover the latest breakthroughs in precision oncology, genomics, artificial intelligence (AI), and the critical role of the exposome in cancer risk, particularly in African populations. Through detailed discussions, delegates will examine how these innovations can be integrated into healthcare systems across Africa, providing an opportunity for researchers and clinicians to address the urgent need for more personalized treatments and early detection methods that consider the unique genetic, environmental, and socio-economic factors that contribute to cancer in the region.

A key focus will also be placed on the intersection between cancer and infectious diseases, recognizing the significant burden of co-morbid infections, such as HIV, HPV, and hepatitis, in Africa and their role in cancer development and progression. This will include discussions on how integrated approaches can enhance cancer prevention and treatment strategies. Additionally, the role of cultural practices in shaping cancer care and patient outcomes will be examined, ensuring that research and clinical interventions are aligned with the cultural contexts and traditions of African communities.

Pediatric cancers will be a critical area of focus, addressing the unique challenges in diagnosing and treating childhood cancers across Africa. The conference will explore strategies to improve early detection, enhance access to effective treatments, and integrate precision medicine approaches tailored to pediatric oncology. Discussions will also highlight disparities in care, the role of genetic and environmental factors in pediatric cancer development, and the need for collaborative efforts to improve outcomes for children affected by cancer.

Central to the conference will be the exploration of disparities in cancer care, particularly access to clinical trials, which remain a critical hurdle for many African patients. The conference will explore how clinical trials can be made more accessible, equitable, and inclusive for African populations, discussing not only the scientific and logistical challenges of conducting trials in the region but also the need for patient advocacy to empower individuals and communities. Advocacy groups will share their valuable insights on how they support patients in navigating clinical trials, ensuring that their voices are heard and that the trials reflect the needs and concerns of local populations.

Special focus will be placed on the critical intersection of innovation and equity. The conference will underscore the need to prioritize equitable access to cutting-edge cancer treatments and research, ensuring that all African populations, regardless of socioeconomic status or geographic location, benefit from the latest advances in cancer care. This includes patient education on clinical trials, community engagement to build trust in research, and policy advocacy to support inclusive healthcare reforms.

Moreover, the event will highlight the role of patient advocacy groups, whose work has been pivotal in raising awareness and advocating for policy reforms that ensure accessible, affordable, and patient-centered cancer care. Their efforts to foster public awareness, engage with healthcare providers, and push for patient rights will be showcased as a vital aspect of ensuring that Africa's cancer care systems are both inclusive and effective. Patient advocates will share success stories of how they have shaped local and regional policies to improve access to cancer care and clinical trial participation, ensuring that the voices of patients are integrated into decision-making processes.

The conference will also feature innovative discussions on how to foster international collaborations, particularly between African researchers and global cancer institutes, to reduce the knowledge gap, enhance research capacity, and expand the reach of clinical trials in Africa. Collaborative efforts will be emphasized as crucial in overcoming the barriers to cancer care, enabling a more coordinated approach to tackling cancer on the continent.

By the end of this event, participants will have a shared vision for an inclusive and equitable approach to cancer care, with actionable strategies that empower patients, integrate innovative technologies, and address disparities affecting access to cancer treatments and clinical trials. Ultimately, the conference aims to set the stage for a lasting, transformative impact, improving cancer diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and research across Africa—and globally—ensuring a future where all patients have access to high-quality care, state-of-the-art treatments, and clinical trials that improve patient outcomes.

Key Sessions:

1. Keynote Address: The Future of Cancer Care in Africa - A Vision of Innovation and Equity

This session will outline the vision for cancer care in Africa, focusing on the integration of cutting-edge innovations, the need for equity in healthcare, and the future role of precision oncology in transforming African cancer care.

2. Session: Clinical Trials in Africa – Overcoming Barriers to Access and Ensuring Inclusivity

This session will explore the unique challenges faced in ensuring African patients have access to clinical trials, addressing the logistical, financial, and ethical barriers that limit participation, and discussing strategies to improve inclusivity in trial design and access.

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3. Panel Discussion: Patient Advocacy in Cancer Research – Transforming the Patient Experience

This panel will explore how patient advocacy groups are reshaping the cancer research landscape by amplifying the voices of patients, ensuring their representation in research, and supporting their participation in clinical trials.

4. Session: Precision Oncology in Africa – Bridging the Gap Between Innovation and Accessibility, Focusing on the application of precision oncology in Africa

This session will highlight the potential of genomics and personalized medicine to transform cancer care while addressing the challenges of implementation across the continent.

5. Panel Discussion: Building International Partnerships for Cancer Research in Africa

This discussion will examine how African and international cancer research communities can collaborate to overcome barriers, share knowledge, and increase participation in cancer research initiatives to improve treatment outcomes across the continent.

6. Session: Early Detection and Screening for Cancer in Africa – Innovative Approaches and Technologies

This session will examine innovative screening methods and technologies aimed at improving the early detection of cancer in Africa, with a particular focus on mobile solutions and community-based approaches.

7. Panel Discussion: The Role of Public Policy in Advancing Cancer Care and Clinical Trials in Africa

This panel will address the importance of policy reforms in creating a framework for improved access to cancer care and clinical trials in Africa, emphasizing the need for patient-centered policies that support innovation and equity in treatment.

8. Session: The Exposome and Cancer Risk in Africa – Understanding Environmental Factors and Genetics

This session will discuss how environmental, lifestyle, and genetic factors contribute to cancer risk in Africa and how this knowledge can be used to inform prevention strategies and personalized treatment approaches.

9. Panel Discussion: Cultural Practices and Cancer Care – Aligning Research and Treatment with African Traditions

This panel will explore the influence of cultural practices on cancer care in Africa, addressing how traditional beliefs impact cancer treatment decisions and discussing ways to integrate cultural sensitivity into modern oncology care.

10. Session: The Intersection of Cancer and Infectious Diseases in Africa – Challenges and Innovations

This session will examine the link between infectious diseases, such as HIV, HPV, and hepatitis, and cancer development, highlighting innovative strategies to integrate cancer and infectious disease treatment for better patient outcomes.

11. Session: Addressing Pediatric Cancers in Africa – Challenges and Opportunities

This session will highlight the urgent need for improved pediatric oncology care, focusing on early detection, treatment access, and the role of precision medicine in the management of pediatric cancers.

12. Panel Discussion: The Cancer Grand Challenge SAMBAI – Tackling Cancer Inequities Through Global Collaboration

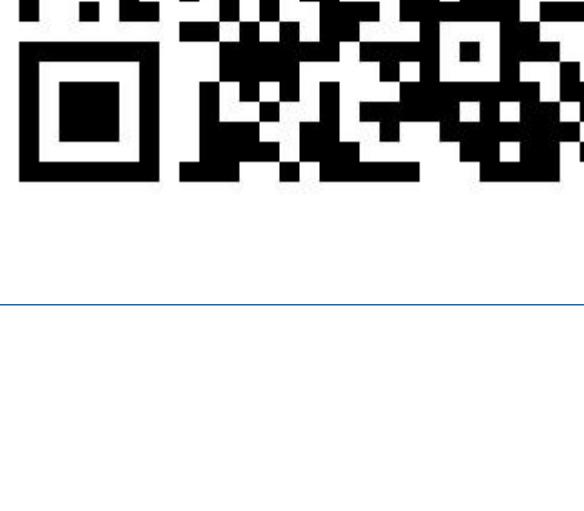
This panel will showcase the SAMBAI initiative, focusing on how global collaboration and innovative cancer research are addressing disparities in cancer care across Africa.

13. Closing Remarks and Actionable Steps for the Future of Cancer Care in Africa

The conference will conclude with an overview of the key takeaways, outlining actionable steps for advancing cancer care reform in Africa.

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