

African Diaspora Leaders' Symposium at AORTIC 2015, Marrakesh, Morocco

Special Call for participation

The African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC) is pleased to invite leaders of African Diaspora organizations to a special symposium that will take place in Marrakech, Morocco during AORTIC's 10th International Conference on Cancer in Africa, taking place from 18 – 22 November 2015.

The symposium will provide a unique forum for African Diaspora leaders to network, share knowledge/experiences and develop a strategic plan for working together along with AORTIC on the Roadmap to cancer control in Africa.

Leaders of African Diaspora organizations are invited to submit a short abstract using the attached template. The abstract deadline is **July 30th 2015. Participation will be confirmed by August 31, 2015?**

A limited number of travel awards are available to subsidize travel expenses for Diaspora leaders with demonstrated need from North America. Diaspora leaders from other continents will also be especially encouraged to attend.

Context: Africa's silent killer

The latest World Health Organization Cancer Report describes the growing global burden of cancer as alarming, a major obstacle to human development and well-being, with a rising annual economic cost of ca. US\$ 1.16 trillion. In particular, the report highlights major global cancer disparities, with over 60% of 14 million new cases and 70% of 8.2 million deaths per year occurring in low and middle income countries like those in Africa which, sadly, are the least capable of dealing with cancer. To make matters worse, most of Africa's over 2,000 languages have no word for cancer, which means many die of cancer without even knowing what killed them. This also makes it extra difficult to deal with the emerging cancer epidemic. It is now well established that Africans in Diaspora have tremendous potential and could be powerful partners in the fight to conquer this silent killer, especially if they work together. Partnering with them in cancer education/awareness, research, care or outreach to their communities could significantly benefit cancer prevention efforts in Africa, but also African Diaspora populations themselves who still face major cancer health disparities.

Expected outcomes of the African Diaspora Leaders' Symposium:

- 1) Establishment of a network of knowledge sharing and support for African Diaspora organizations with programs benefiting African populations, in consonance with the AORTIC Roadmap for Cancer Control
- 2) A strategic plan for engaging more African Diaspora organizations to be involved in cancer prevention and control efforts benefitting African populations
- 3) Publication of lessons learnt from the symposium and blueprint for forward action

For any questions please contact: Sulma Mohammed (email: mohammes@purdue.edu) or Wil Ngwa (email: WNGWA@LROC.HARVARD.EDU) More information about AORTIC's 10th International Conference can be found here <http://aorticconference.org/>

In partnership with: Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center GHC program

Abstract template

Name of African Diaspora organization	
African Diaspora Leader or representative's name planning to attend	
Mission and/or vision statement of organization	
Website for organization, if any	
Target country or population served by the organization	
Hitherto accomplishments/impact, if any (Please limit to maximum of 100 words)	
Lessons learned, if any (Please limit to maximum of 100 words)	
Possible areas of collaboration/partnership (e.g. cancer education and awareness, advocacy, research, care, etc).	
Indicate if you will need support to subsidize travel expenses	

Please email the completed form to mohammes@purdue.edu