

2015 AORTIC Conference
Marrakech, Morocco

Session Title – Cancer Survivors Forum

Friday, 20 November, 2015
13:15 – 14:15

Chair: Ann McMikel, VP, Global Partnerships and Planning, American Cancer Society
Session Speakers: Dr. Anne Korir, Kencasa; Ms. Funmilola James, Breast Without Spot; Bob Chapman, Global Relay For Life

Description: Cancer is an emerging public health problem in Africa that has not yet been appropriately prioritized on the region’s agenda, according to the World Health Organization. However, there is growing momentum to make cancer a global priority within the post-2015 Development framework of priorities. In commemorating World Cancer Day 2015, the WHO Regional Director for Africa called upon African governments to scale up access to vaccines for cancer prevention, screening services for early detection of cancer and provision of treatment, and palliative care services and urged development partners to align their efforts and support governments to achieve their national cancer control objectives by supporting improved access to health care services and provision of adequate resources.

In Africa, civil society has the unique opportunity to mobilize a grassroots, patient-led movement for changing the face and pace of cancer prevention, detection and treatment. Through its successful capacity-building program in Africa, the American Cancer Society works with a broad coalition of global and regional partners to catalyze political will, resources and knowledge to combat this disease. When cancer patients and caregivers are empowered with accurate cancer information, they are critical and unique advocates for putting a human face on the cancer threat in Africa and the need to respond with multisectoral urgency. The main objective of this session is to highlight best practices, projects and campaigns that support comprehensive, cancer patient-informed grassroots advocacy that prioritizes cancer control at the community and national levels. Session speakers will share their perspectives on the need to foster patient-powered partnerships from the following advocacy programs supported by the American Cancer Society:

- The Meet The Targets capacity building program, a grants-based program that supports national advocacy efforts to include cancer and NCD targets and indicators in government policies.
- Global Relay For Life program, licensed by the American Cancer Society, enables cancer leagues around the world to increase their visibility and generate cancer awareness, outreach, and income while building survivorship, volunteerism, and advocacy efforts in their communities.
- Global Scholars Program: This youth leadership program supports high-achieving young professionals – especially from developing countries – to hone their advocacy skills with expert mentors, scientists, researchers, and advocates from the American Cancer Society and its global partners