



African Oncogenetics Network Réseau Africain d'Oncogénétique

Genetics is a key component of oncology practice. Inherited genetic information can inform cancer risk and management. Despite the high proportion of African cancer cases diagnosed at an early age and late stage, as well as the potential for interventions to reduce cancer risk and death by using genetic tools, genetic testing, counseling, and clinical management protocols have largely not been widely developed in Africa. An evidence base is required to develop best practices for cancer clinical genetics in Africa.

Who are we?

The African Oncogenetics Network (AON) is a multidisciplinary group of clinicians, researchers, community members, and others interested in developing cancer genetics in Africa. We guide the development and implementation of African-specific guidelines for cancer genetic testing, counseling, and risk management. The AON aims to coordinate cancer genetics research across Africa and promote the field of precision medicine for cancer through education so that inherited and somatic genetic information can be incorporated into improved clinical oncology practice in Africa.



Organization

The AON Steering Committee members provides strategic oversight and guidance on AON initiatives and serves on a rotating basis. The current steering committee consists of the following members:

Names	Affiliation
Prisca Olabisi Adejumo	University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria
Mohammed Zahir Alimohamed	Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Temidayo Fadelu	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, USA
Yosr Hamdi (Co-Chair)	Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia
Wijden Mahfoudh	University Tunis El Manar, Tunisia
Achille Manirakiza (Co-Chair)	King Faisal Hospital, Kigali, Rwanda
Rokhaya Ndiaye	Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal
Olufunmilayo I. Olopade	University of Chicago, Chicago, USA
Timothy R. Rebbeck	Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health & Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, USA
Julie Torode	AORTIC, Vice President, Europe

Mission

The AON supports fundamental and applied research, development and implementation of clinical care pathways, and education of researchers, practitioners, patients, and the public. AON activities include:

Research: Investigation of lifestyle, genetic, biological, epidemiological, and clinical risk factors for hereditary cancer in Africa.

Capacity Building: Developing African cohorts, biobanking, genetic testing capabilities, and protocols for genetics applications.

Clinical Implementation: Development and implementation of state-of-the-art methods, resources, protocols, and care pathways for cancer genomics in all parts of Africa.

Training: Training, communication, and dissemination of the strategies developed above.

The Hammamet Declaration on Oncogenetics in Africa

This Declaration, led by the AON Steering Committee is a powerful call to action for urgent investment for Oncogenetics in Africa that is being launched at the AORTIC 2025 conference. This is not just a vision, it is a commitment to train professionals, build infrastructure, advance research, and deliver compassionate care. Every African, regardless of where they live, or their income level, deserves to have access to the life-saving potential of cancer genetics. Rooted in the proven capabilities and growing achievements of African scientists, this call is united by a bold, locally driven mission, to transform cancer care across Africa.

How can you participate?

- Attend the AON session on November 2, 2025 (Plenary-8:30-9:30am) and learn more about AON's mission and the Hammamet Declaration.
- Review the Hammamet Declaration in more detail: <https://www.africanoncogenetics.org/hammametdeclaration>
- Stop by the AORTIC booth at the AORTIC 2025 conference to sign onto the Declaration.
- Participate in oncogenetics training! The AON's online basic course for cancer clinical genetics in Africa is launching in 2026.
- For more information, visit our web site at: <https://www.africanoncogenetics.org> Or email Caroline Andrews at Caroline.Andrews@dfci.harvard.edu

*Register interest in
the course*



*Hammamet
Declaration*



*African Oncogenetics
Network Website*

