

# Global Initiative Against HPV and Cervical Cancer (GIAHC) Activities Report *January-February 2024*



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## Abbreviations

- GIAHC - Global Initiative Against HPV and Cervical Cancer
- HPV – Human Papillomavirus
- AMWA - American Medical Women’s Association
- WHO – World Health Organization
- PHRII – Public Health Research Institute of India



## A Moonshot for Cancer

Building on the momentum of the World Health Organization's 90-70-90 strategy for the global elimination of cervical cancer, GIAHC is honored to be a member of the Union for International Cancer Control and participate in the Cervical Cancer Forum of President Biden's Cancer Moonshot initiative.

Following are GIAHC's January-February 2024 activities pertaining to the achievement of the above-outlined WHO goals from World Cancer Day (WCD) 2023-2024.

### January 2024: Us vs HPV Prevention Week

Implementing Organizations: Global Initiative Against HPV and Cervical Cancer (GIAHC) & American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)

- a. **Background:** Us vs. HPV Prevention Week is a one-week series of webinars, social media campaigns, local events, and more to promote awareness about HPV and HPV-related diseases, co-hosted with the American Medical Women's Association.

Building upon the foundation of the past five years, the 2024 Us vs. HPV Global Webinar series reviewed expert global updates about cervical cancer and HPV-related head, neck, and anal cancers, and explored addressing disparities through innovations in prevention and treatment. The webinars and panel discussions were open to a variety of stakeholders, including clinicians, patients, and the general public.

- b. **Description of the Program:** The 2024 Us vs HPV webinar series took place from January 22-26, 2024. Each day's talks highlighted the expertise of diverse speakers and explored a different theme relating to the prevention and management of HPV and HPV-related diseases. A live panel discussion was hosted at the end of each session to answer audience questions. Wednesday's session was followed by a virtual congressional briefing, during which Dr. Krishnan presented to congressional staff alongside other patient advocates and experts from HPV Coalition led by HealthyWomen.

*New for 2024:* Due to the overwhelming response to GIAHC's Women Deliver 2023 Global Dialogue series – "It's Up to Us: Race to End HPV-related Cancers," starting with Cervical Cancer, we adjusted webinar scheduling to accommodate the continuation of this lively discussion with a wider global audience.



- c. **Purpose:** Our mission is to create a collaborative community dedicated to educating clinicians and the public about the HPV virus, its disease consequences, prevention, and management. Embracing participants from all walks of life and backgrounds, we are energized by the goal of “All-of-Us” working together to launch our “power-full” cancer initiative.
- d. **Target Population:** The webinars are intended for healthcare providers, parents, patients, community leaders, women’s health advocates, students, young leaders, and the general public.

**e. Program Details**

**1. 2024 US vs HPV Prevention Week Webinars**


- a. To view recordings: <https://www.giahc.org/us-vs-hpv/>
- b. Daily Webinar Themes:
  - i. Monday, January 22, 2024: HPV Vaccine Update: *New Trends, QI, and FemTech Innovation*
  - ii. Tuesday, January 23, 2024: *Diversifying Us vs. HPV: Amplifying Voices of Patients and Stakeholders*
  - iii. Wednesday, January 24, 2024: *It's Up to Us: Race to End HPV Cancers Starting with Cervical Cancer- Vaccination, Screening, Treatment*
    - 1. Special Event - Congressional Briefing (see below)
  - iv. Thursday, January 25, 2024: *HPV and Oropharyngeal Cancer*
  - v. Friday, January 26, 2024: *Answering the Call: Empowering Community Leaders*
- c. For a detailed description of each day, please view the full agenda [here](#)

**Congressional Briefing:** Preventing HPV-Related Cancer Through Vaccination and Screening

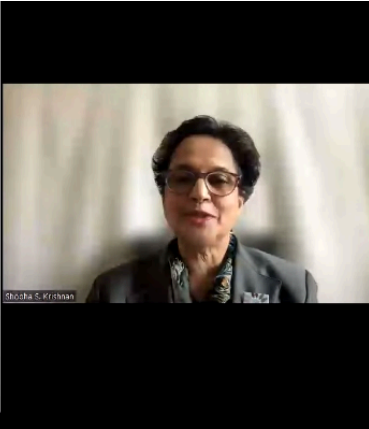
- d. Click [here](#) to view a recording of the event.
- e. **Background:** Cancers caused by human papillomavirus (HPV), cervical, throat, head, neck, anal, penile and vaginal, remain a significant public health problem in the United States. Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women worldwide and an estimated 4,300 deaths from cervical cancer will occur in 2023 in the U.S. In addition to essential screening and early treatment, there is fortunately an HPV vaccine that protects against the types of HPV that cause most cervical and other HPV-associated cancers. It is a major advancement for all, since it offers primary prevention against the infectious agent that is the main cause. Data demonstrates that HPV vaccination could prevent more than 90% of HPV-caused cancers. Despite the demonstrated success of the HPV vaccine, vaccination along with screening rates still fall below national targets and only worsened during the pandemic.
- f. **Impact:** This briefing illuminated how the HPV vaccine, screening, and early treatment are powerful tools to help end several cancers, and explored actions that can be taken by Congress to help achieve increased uptake of these modalities throughout the nation.



**Congressional Briefing**  
*Preventing HPV-Related Cancers Through Vaccination Screening*



Shobha S. Krishnan, MD, FAAFP  
Founder and President  
Global Initiative Against HPV and Cervical Cancer (GIAHC)  
Board Member, American Medical Women's Association (2019-2023)  
Member, Advocacy & Campaign Committee, International Papillomavirus Society  
[www.giahc.org](http://www.giahc.org)



Top Picture: Dr. Shobha Krishnan, Founder and President of GIAHC, speaking at the HealthyWomen Congressional Briefing

### 2024 US vs HPV Prevention Week Speakers & Webinar Titles

**#UsvsHPV Monday Session:**  
**"HPV Vaccine Update: New Trends, QI, and FemTech Innovation"**



Bisi Alli, DO, MS, FACP,  
dipABLM



Dariyn V. Moyer, MD,  
MACP, FIDSA, FRCP-L,  
FAMWA, FEFIM



Eric Adjei Boakye, PhD,  
MA



Onyinye Balogun, MD,  
MS



Andrew Jameson, MD,  
FACP, FIDSA, AAHIVS

Sessions are held from 12-1 pm EST  
EXCEPT for Wednesday which is from 10-11:30AM EST  
Register for free at: <https://tinyurl.com/usvshpv2024>

**#UsvsHPV Tuesday Session:**  
**"Diversifying US vs. HPV: Amplifying Voices of Patients and Stakeholders"**



Paru David, MD



Kristina Butler, MD



Joel Palefsky, MD




Selam Wubu, MPH




Jo Waller, PhD

Sessions are held from 12-1 pm EST  
EXCEPT for Wednesday which is from 10-11:30AM EST  
Register for free at: <https://tinyurl.com/usvshpv2024>


**#UsvsHPV Thursday Session:**  
**"HPV and Oropharyngeal Cancer"**




Alice Lin, MD, FACS



Miriam O'Leary, MD



Heather Starmer, MA  
CCC-SLP, BCS-S



Jason T. Mendelsohn,  
Patient

Sessions are held from 12-1 pm EST  
EXCEPT for Wednesday which is from 10-11:30AM EST  
Register for free at: <https://tinyurl.com/usvshpv2024>



**#UsvsHPV Wednesday Session:**  
**"It's Up to Us: Race to End HPV Cancers Starting with Cervical Cancer- Vaccination, Screening, Treatment Special Event - Congressional Briefing"**

 Shobha Krishnan, MD	 H.E. Zainab Bagudu, MBBS	 Karen Canfell, D.Phil	 Maura McCarthy
 Anuradha Gupta, MBA	 Latha Balasubramani, MD, MRCOG	 Lacy Hubbard, MBA	 Christian Ntuzimira, MD, MMSc

Sessions are held from 12-1 pm EST EXCEPT for Wednesday which is from 10-11:30AM EST Register for free at: <https://tinyurl.com/usvshpv2024>

**#UsvsHPV Friday Session:**  
**"Answering the Call: Empowering the Community Leaders"**

 Anisha Loeb, MPH	 Camille A. Clare, MD, MPH	 Rachel Belt	 Linda O'Neal Eckert, MD	
 McKenna Stoudemire	 Sharon Wu	 Sandrine Iradukunda	 Elizabeth (Beth) Garner, MD, MPH	 Elizabeth Klein

Sessions are held from 12-1 pm EST EXCEPT for Wednesday which is from 10-11:30AM EST Register for free at: <https://tinyurl.com/usvshpv2024>

2024 US vs HPV Global Partners, Sponsors, and Supporters

2024 SPONSORS AND GLOBAL PARTNERS

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- ★ HPV Cancers Alliance
- ★ National Cervical Cancer Coalition
- ★ Moffitt Cancer Center
- ★ Prevent Cancer Foundation
- ★ St. Jude HPV Cancer Prevention Program
- ★ Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
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## White House Cancer Moonshot: Cervical Cancer Forum January 25th, 2024

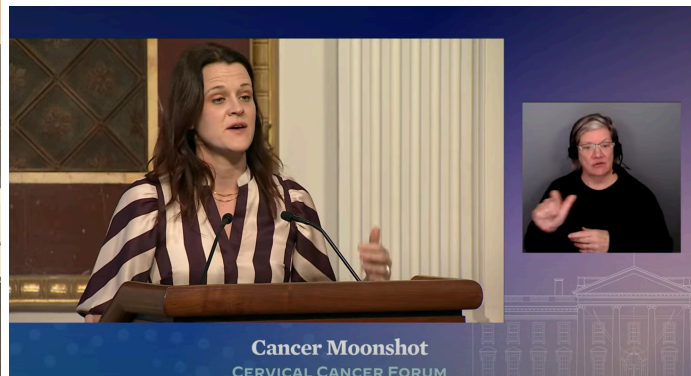
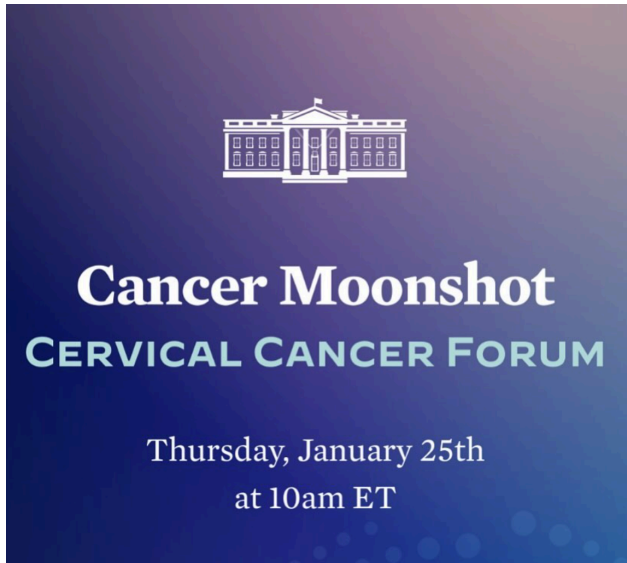
- a. **Program Details:** Click [here](#) to view a recording of the event.
- b. **Background:** The Biden Cancer Moonshot hosted the White House Cervical Cancer Forum to recognize Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and spur action on education, prevention, early detection, and treatment. As part of the Forum, National Cancer Institute (NCI) Director Kimryn Rathmell announced a new NCI-supported trial to drive progress on cervical cancer prevention. The brand new 'Last Mile' Initiative, Self-collection for HPV testing to Improve Cervical Cancer Prevention (SHIP) Trial Network aims to test the performance of multiple self-collection devices for HPV, the leading driver of cervical cancer, so that cervical cancer screening can be brought closer to the people in the communities that are behind on screening.
- c. **Forum Description & Impact:** The forum opened with a public session, where patient survivors and advocates shared their lived experiences to ground the forum priorities. "We are here today united by a common mission, to not only effectively diagnose and treat cervical cancer, but to get us on a path to virtually eliminate this disease which, today, impacts more than 600,000 people around the globe each year," said Deputy Assistant to the President for the Cancer Moonshot, Dr. Danielle Carnival.

Remarks from the NCI Director, Kimryn Rathmell, Deputy U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator for Program Quality for PEPFAR, Dr. Emily Kainne Dokubo, and panels, comprised of leaders from across the cervical cancer community, highlighted work on innovative prevention, early detection, treatment, and care methods, explained the challenges ahead, and discussed opportunities for collaborative efforts to eliminate cervical cancer both locally and around the world.

The forum closed with working sessions to drive new ideas, actions, and collaborations to improve global health outcomes by improving cervical cancer prevention, screening, treatment and care capacity.

Topics included:

- Federal coordination on decentralized HPV testing and/or primary HPV testing;
- Strategies to boost HPV vaccination rates domestically and globally;
- Improving equity in outcomes, including developing an effective pathway from screening to diagnosis and treatment;
- Building a blueprint for a global campaign to reduce the burden of cervical cancer in low- and middle-income countries;
- Identifying novel funding mechanisms to support major collaborative global initiatives; and
- Bolstering health care infrastructure and capacity to ensure sustainability and scalability of global solutions.



*Top Left and Bottom Right Pictures: Cervical Cancer Forum announcement and presentation*

*Top Right Picture: Dr. Shobha Krishnan with Dr. Linda Eckert, Professor, Dept of ObGyn and Dept of Global Health at University of Washington; Author of "Enough: Because We Can Stop Cervical Cancer" at the Cervical Cancer Forum*

*Bottom Left Picture: Dr. Shobha Krishnan with Dr. Douglas Lowy, National Cancer Institute, at the Cervical Cancer Forum*



## World Cancer Day Collaboration with PHRII, February 2024

- a. **Background:** Public Health Research Institute (PHRII) in collaboration with GIAHC, has been actively involved in raising awareness about HPV and cervical cancer elimination in Mysuru, India. Leading up to World Cancer Day, PHRII, with support from partners like JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research and sponsorship from Sun Pharma's Corporate Social Responsibility wing, initiated a program to vaccinate 193 adolescent girls in rural Mysuru District against Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the primary cause of cervical cancer.
  
- b. **Impact:** This innovative initiative integrated vaccination with school-based community education, providing interactive sessions to schoolgirls, teachers, and parents on HPV, cervical cancer, and prevention. The girls were administered the Gardasil-9 vaccine, safeguarding them against nine high-risk HPV types. Aligned with the WHO's Global Strategy for Cervical Cancer Elimination, the program aims for 90% vaccination coverage, 70% screening for women by ages 35 and 45, and 90% treatment for identified cervical disease by 2030. Cervical cancer, ranked as the second most common cancer in Indian women, remains a significant health challenge, underscoring the importance of initiatives like Mysuru's in raising awareness and promoting vaccination and screening.



*Girls in rural Mysuru District vaccinated against Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the primary cause of cervical cancer.*





## Conclusion

Over the past five years, the activities of US vs HPV Prevention Week have demonstrated consistent success, characterized by meticulous planning and effective implementation. This initiative has been strategically tailored to engage a diverse audience, including healthcare providers, parents, patients, community leaders, women’s health advocates, students, and young leaders, with expanded hours and timings to accommodate a wider global audience. The program has garnered enthusiastic participation, and we extend our sincere appreciation to the American Medical Women’s Association, our global partners, sponsors, and supporters for their collaboration.

Our direct-action international partnership with PHRII, alongside our political advocacy activities coinciding with Us vs HPV Prevention Week, made January and February exciting months for GIAHC’s prevention and advocacy efforts. These activities underscore GIAHC’s dedication to promoting health awareness and advancing efforts in HPV and cervical cancer prevention, through vaccination, screening, and early treatment.

*we can end cervical  
cancer TOGETHER!*

