



“The IPOS Academy was inspiring and educative. It has yielded so much positive impact and influence.”

Quote from previous attendee of our IPOS Training Academies

IPOS ECHO Pan-African Capacity-Building in Psycho-Oncology – Disseminating Evidence-Based Practices in Psycho-Oncology in Africa To Improve Cancer Prevention and Cancer Care

Start Date: September 2022

Deadline to Apply: May 27, 2022

Overall Goal: To train attendees on best-practices in psycho-oncology in African oncology settings

IPOS has developed, in close partnership with partner organizations in Africa, an IPOS Pan-African Capacity-Building in Psycho-Oncology ECHO. Key benefits of ECHO are: 1) To build capacity for comprehensive cancer care in Africa through dissemination of best practices in psycho-oncology; 2) To hear worldwide experts on state-of-the art psycho-oncology practice; 3) To connect with other professionals in oncology and create a community of practice allowing for rich mutual learning and clinical discussions; and 4) To provide consultation and support in creating local program development planning in psycho-oncology.

Please see the following links for a short description of Project ECHO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAMaHP-tEwk&feature=youtu.be> and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfqRwNd0Nao&feature=youtu.be>

This ECHO will deliver training in evidence-based practices through monthly meetings over the course of one year. Each meeting lasts 1h30-2h and will be on a different topic in psycho-oncology. First, there will be a presentation by an international speaker, then a participant will present a case relevant to the lecture, and third there will be a case discussion led by the lecturer and a panel of experts in the field. Participants in the program will be professional working in direct clinical contact with cancer patients in Africa in a field appropriate to the field of psycho-oncology (e.g., physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers).

Applications are now opened for the program. Kindly complete the scholarship application, which will be peer-reviewed. Eligibility criteria are found below.

Our Organization:

IPOS is the sole multidisciplinary international charitable organization devoted to psycho-oncology, leading in education, research, training, public policy, and advocacy. In 2014, IPOS celebrated its 30th anniversary and IPOS holds non-state actor status with the World Health Organization (WHO). Part of our mission is to build capacity for cancer care in low- and low-middle income countries including in Africa. IPOS includes 40+ member countries from 6 continents.

Full eligibility criteria for the application (please note that all criteria must be met):

- Be a professional working in direct clinical contact with cancer patients in Africa (you will be asked for formal signed letter from your institution as part of the application);-e.g Physicians, Nurses, Psychologists, social workers
- Be a member of the International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS) and of your National Psycho-Oncology Society where it exists, or willing to be a member if accepted to the program
- Be fluent in oral and written English. Note: According to the Cambridge Dictionary, “when a person is fluent, they can speak a language easily, well, and quickly.”
- Have access to a camera and to internet to be able to participate in the ECHO sessions with your camera on during the sessions.
- Commit to attend the twelve ECHO sessions if selected to be a participant in the program (the sessions are scheduled on **every first Thursday of each month at 12-2pm EDT starting in September 2022** except for a few sessions which will occur earlier during the day for scheduling reasons and for which we will inform you ahead of time);
- Consent to the ECHO sessions being recorded (the didactic teaching only) and posted on the IPOS website;
- Willing to complete short questionnaires throughout the program to give your feedback about the program as it evolves;
- Commit to sharing the knowledge learned through the Academy to professionals in your city and country in Africa.

Note: It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the application is complete. Incomplete applications or handwritten applications will be automatically withdrawn from the contest without notice. Applications will only be accepted if they are received at your earliest convenience before **May 27, 2022** to the following e-mail address: ECHOAfrapplication@ipos-society.org. Applications must include the fully completed Application Form including the checklist and a curriculum vitae, resume, or biosketch for the applicant.

Note: Please send any questions you may have about this call for applications to the following e-mail address: iposECHOAfrinfo@ipos-society.org. IPOS will only be able to answer any questions related

to this call for applications from **April 11th to 22th**, after which IPOS will no longer be able to answer. After the **May 27th** deadline, the only correspondence the applicants will receive is the result of the competition. Participants should anticipate receiving the results by **the last week of June**. If you have not received a response, please check the IPOS website to know if there has been a delay in the processing of the applications. If you have not received a letter of offer by **the last week of June**, unless otherwise indicated on the IPOS website, it means that you were not selected to participate in this ECHO.

HOW TO SUBMIT THE APPLICATION?

-**When saving your complete application**, please save it with your country and complete name including your last name and surname separated by underscore. For example: **Nigeria_Henry_Ann**
-Please then email your Scholarship Application Form completed via computer or typewriter, including the check list below, a current copy of your Curriculum Vitae (CV) in English, and the signed waiver form and institutional letter confirming your work in direct contact with cancer patients in Africa no later than **May 27, 2022** to the following email: ECHOAfrapplication@ipos-society.org.
PLEASE NOTE THAT APPLICATIONS WITHOUT A 5-PAGE CV WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

All applications must include a fully completed and signed Applicant Waiver Form as well as a letter of attestation of your employment from your institution confirming that you are working in direct clinical contact with cancer patients in Africa. Incomplete waiver forms will result in your application being rejected.

**See Next Page for the Preliminary Outline of the 2022 IPOS ECHO Pan-African
Capacity-Building in Psycho-Oncology**



IPOS holds non-state actor status with the World Health Organization (WHO)

IPOS Pan-African Capacity-Building in Psycho-Oncology ECHO

Disseminating Evidence-Based Practices in Psycho-Oncology in Africa

To Improve Cancer Prevention and Cancer Care:

Special Program as Part of the WHO Cervical Cancer Strategy

Key benefits of ECHO:

- Build capacity for comprehensive cancer care in Africa through dissemination of best practices
- Hear worldwide experts on state-of-the art psycho-oncology practice
- Connect to other professionals in oncology and create a community of practice allowing for rich mutual learning and clinical discussions
- Allow establishment of a program development plan on which to disseminate the received training to loco-regional health care practitioners.

Please see the following links for a short description of Project ECHO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAMaHP-tEwk&feature=youtu.be> and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfqRwNdONao&feature=youtu.be>

Preliminary outline of IPOS ECHO Academy

Note: Please note that the identified speakers have not yet been finalized.

Core training components:

- 1) Introductory sessions on psycho-oncology, state of cancer in Africa, and WHO mandated capacity-building in psycho-oncology
 - a. Reviewing the agenda for training in Africa in discussion with the ECHO group

- 2) Cervical cancer prevention, treatment, and psychological issues
- 3) Communication 1: Communication with patients and families about serious news, treatment decisions, advanced/progressive disease, prognosis, advanced care plans, and hope
- 4) Communication 2: Addressing barriers to cancer prevention and treatment: social stigma, beliefs, health seeking behaviours, and system factors
- 5) Screening and assessment of distress
- 6) Patient navigation and collaborative care to improve treatment adherence and quality of life
- 7) Growing psycho-oncology in Africa: Leadership, advocacy, development, implementation, and evaluation of psycho-oncology programs

Further specialty training components:

- 8) Conducting an initial psycho-oncology intake and diagnostic evaluation
- 9) Anxiety and adjustment disorders
- 10) Depressive disorders and demoralization
- 11) Family-centred support for carer, partner, and dependent children

Topics defined by ECHO participants:

- 12) Topic defined by ECHO participants



AFRICAN ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH
AND TRAINING IN CANCER