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Your Excellencies, distinguished leaders, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Our next Laureate reminds us that the global diaspora can do more than build bridges between countries—it can build bridges between **discovery and impact, between the laboratory and the patient, and between scientific excellence and global health.**

The story of **Dr. Bolni Marius Nagalo** begins in **Burkina Faso**, where he earned his bachelor's, master's, and PhD before continuing his scientific journey in the United States, including at the Mayo Clinic and other leading cancer research institutions. Today, he is an **Associate Professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine** and a leader within the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center. ([UMD School of Medicine](#))

His work tackles some of the most difficult cancers we face—including **pancreatic, liver, and other gastrointestinal cancers**. He is developing next-generation cancer therapies that harness engineered viruses to attack tumors, stimulate the immune system, and potentially overcome resistance to existing treatments. ([UMD School of Medicine](#))

And his scientific accomplishments are remarkable. Dr. Nagalo has received the **NIH Director's New Innovator Award**, recognition as an **NCI Early Investigator Advancement Program Scholar**, and an **AACR Career Development Award**—recognition of both the innovation and potential impact of his work. ([UMD School of Medicine](#))

But what makes his story particularly meaningful to us is that his vision extends beyond discovery. His research interests also include **health disparities, affordable cancer therapies, biomarker development, and molecular diagnostics suitable for low-resource settings**—connecting cutting-edge cancer science with the challenge of making innovation accessible to more of the world. ([UMD School of Medicine](#))

This is the spirit of the Global Diaspora Laureates: reaching the frontiers of what is possible—and ensuring that the journey forward includes the communities and continents from which we came.

Today, we honor a scientist, an innovator, a mentor, a bridge-builder, and a **Global Health Catalyst** helping shape the future of cancer medicine.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, please join us in celebrating and welcoming to the podium an Inaugural Global Diaspora Laureate—Dr. Bolni Marius Nagalo, Associate Professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and cancer researcher at the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center. ([UMD School of Medicine](#))



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