



*January 2018*

## **Novartis, ASCP and American Cancer Society fight cancer in Ethiopia and Tanzania**

Below are highlights of the past month's achievements. If you have any questions, please contact Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), ASCP Chief Medical Officer, [dan.milner@ascp.org](mailto:dan.milner@ascp.org).

### **Country Updates**

ASCP and Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa are working with Novartis and the American Cancer Society (ACS) to devise a common approach to improve access to cancer treatment in Sub-Saharan Africa. Each partner brings unique expertise in cancer diagnosis and treatment. This complements the work the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) is doing to improve access to affordable, quality-approved oncology medicines in the region.

In December, ASCP Chief Medical Officer Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), FASCP, visited two hospital laboratories in Ethiopia and Tanzania, where ASCP is building healthcare capacity for immuno-histochemistry (IHC) analysis. ASCP is focusing on improving access to diagnostic equipment; providing laboratory-wide training to increase access to therapies for IHC-related diagnosable cancer; and ensuring supply chain management for IHC reagents and supplies. This work is aligned with the health strategies of Ethiopia and Tanzania, which detail the need for IHC as part of diagnostic services, specifically to advance the fight against breast cancer.

In Ethiopia, Dr. Milner visited Tikur Anbessa Teaching Hospital (Black Lion) in Addis Ababa—the only comprehensive cancer center in the country. He, Ms. Alpa Pandya (country manager of Ethiopia and Tanzania for ASCP CGH) and representatives of Novartis and the American Cancer Society met with the head of the Ministry of Health cancer program and discussed the government’s plan to reactivate its IHC program and launch an ambitious breast cancer treatment expansion program for twelve additional hospitals.



Dr. Milner, Eshetu Lemma (ASCP volunteer), Guesh Haile (Novartis), Ms. Alpa Pandya (ASCP), and Zelalem Gizachew (ACS) met with both the lead for cancer for the Ethiopian Ministry of Health Kunuz Abdella as well as the head of the International Clinical Laboratories (below) during their assessment visit to Addis Ababa.

In Tanzania, Dr. Milner and Ms. Pandya were hosted by Dr. Edda Vahuhula and met with academics at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI), the only specialty cancer center in the country. The delegation also met with the Institute’s Medical Head of Laboratories and the Technical Head of Oncology. ACS is working with oncologists at ORCI through the African Cancer Coalition project to adapt the National Comprehensive Cancer Network’s cancer treatment guidelines for Sub-Saharan Africa.




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## Public Relations

- Social media channels continue to promote the project to members.

## Meetings

- Pfizer is hosting the Partners Steering Committee on Jan. 12 in San Diego.
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## Volunteers

- Mount Sinai Hospital, in cooperation with Pathologists Overseas/ASCP, is currently recruiting volunteer pathologists with cytology expertise to visit Liberia and assist with early stage epidemiological and diagnostic programs of training and service.
- The Partners project is looking for foreign language speakers in Spanish and Burmese initially, as well as members with experience in lab design and implementation to serve on the advisory committee for C/Can 2025: City Cancer Challenge.
- Opportunities are also emerging for ASCP members to lead country teams and assist with critical functions such as case assignment and team communications. If this is of interest, please contact ASCP Chief Medical Officer Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), FASCP, at [dan.milner@ascp.org](mailto:dan.milner@ascp.org).



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