



Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa



Donations of Pathology Equipment Sought for Laboratories in Africa

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.



Country Updates

- Ghana – The Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa team is working with a large group of individuals and nongovernmental organizations to create an implementation plan, and is also identifying a suitable laboratory space to use in Kumasi.
- Haiti – As a result of Haiti sans Cervical Cancer (HsCC), a two-day meeting in Port-au-Prince in late April, a draft of a National Cancer Plan for Haiti is almost complete. It will be vetted by the Minister of Health and the World Health Organization as soon as it is complete. This effort was led by team members from Haiti, Partners in Health, and ASCP.



Public Relations

- ASCP provided a promotional video to the Association of Kenya Medical Laboratory Scientific Officers for their upcoming annual meeting, which ASCP is sponsoring a portion of, as well as sending two delegates to present the Partners Initiative in October 2017.
- ASCP social media channels continue to promote the project to members.



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.



Partners

- Through the Partners project, the ASCP Center for Global Health is seeking donations of pathology equipment to send to laboratories in Africa. We are in need of specific anatomic pathology equipment. This year, our goal is to send a full suite of equipment to four of our partner countries. There is an urgent need for the following equipment:
 - Automated tissue processor (rotary bucket/carousel-type preferred)
 - Rotary manual microtome (Leica or other)
 - Semi-automated microtomes (any)
 - Embedding stations
 - Slide staining-lacks/autostainer
 - Grossing hoods
 - Durable block storing racks

ASCP will ship the equipment to the sites of use. To donate equipment, please make sure it is in good working order, has had recent preventive maintenance, and is packaged for shipping. Your donation will be acknowledged in our Partners project newsletter.



Meetings

- Partners volunteer Jane Brock, MB BS, PhD, Breast Pathologist at Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston, and Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School, represented ASCP at two recent breast cancer symposia in Southeast Asia. The **International Breast Cancer Symposium (IBCS)** in Hue, Vietnam, from July 9-11, 2017, sought to bring continuing medical education in all aspects of breast cancer care to Vietnam physicians, bringing in experts from around the world to talk. Dr. Brock spoke about innovative pathology techniques for breast cancer diagnosis.

Dr. Brock also represented ASCP at the **South East Asia Breast Cancer Symposium (SEABCS)** held July 14-16, 2017 in Yangon, Myanmar. Breast cancer sits alongside cervical cancer as the biggest killer of women in Myanmar, and most women present with stage III/IV disease. Presentation topics ranged from the current cancer burden in Myanmar to efforts to improve cancer awareness to palliative care. The final day was dedicated to patient advocate support and training with speakers from across the South East Asia region presenting their experiences, highlighting the gaps in care, and discussing the workshops that have been set up in the Philippines, Myanmar, Malaysia and Indonesia.



Professor Nguyen Dinh Tung, Vice Director of Oncology at Hue Central Hospital in Vietnam, and organizer of both IBCS Vietnam and SEABCS, with Dr. Veronique Tan, a surgeon from Singapore.



The organizers of SEABCS in Myanmar at the Pre-Symposium Workshop.



Breast Cancer Survivors on stage on Day 3 of SEABCS.

- ASCP CEO E. Blair Holladay, PhD, SCT(ASCP)^{CM}, and ASCP Chief Medical Officer Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), FASCP, were the invited guests of President Bill Clinton and the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) in New York for the recent launch of **“Expanding Access to Girls and Women’s Health Care in the Caribbean.”** The event brought together a small group, which included First Ladies of the Caribbean, Prime Ministers, UN representatives, and leads for several non-governmental organizations to discuss the challenges of health care for women and girls in the Caribbean and purported a four-tier approach with Jamaica as a current pilot. This includes a) reducing teen pregnancy, b) reducing death from cervical cancer, c) reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and d) eliminating gender-based violence.

ASCP, as an active member of CGI with our Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa project, will assist these leaders and programs with technical expertise and assistance around HPV and cervical cancer testing for best practices. President Clinton opened the session with an inspiring delivery of thoughts, which included a very impassioned discussion of how we must expand the definition of “us” and shrink the definition of “them” in order to succeed.



President Bill Clinton at the launch of “Expanding Access to Girls’ and Women’s Health Care in the Caribbean.”

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