



**STRONGERTOGETHER**

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## ASCP Joins with UICC to Recognize World Cancer Day



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



### Country Updates

- ASCP joined with the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) in recognizing World Cancer Day on Feb. 4. World Cancer Day raises awareness of the millions of people world-wide facing unequal access to cancer detection, treatment and care services. With cancer leaders, health professionals and supporters across the world pushing for urgent action to reduce the rate of premature cancer deaths globally, the day called for diagnostic and treatment access to be prioritized.

The global target of a 25% reduction in premature deaths from cancer and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by 2025 is possible. However, to deliver on this global commitment, the current inequities in risk factor exposure, and in access to screening, early detection and timely and appropriate treatment and care, must be addressed.

ASCP, through its Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa initiative, is doing its part by establishing telepathology laboratories in multiple resource-limited areas, including Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Haiti, to provide patients with access to rapid cancer diagnostics and appropriate care and treatment.

ASCP is also working with Novartis and the American Cancer Society (ACS) to devise a common approach to improve access to cancer treatment in several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. ASCP is building healthcare capacity for immunohistochemistry (IHC) analysis in seven hospital laboratories in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. ACS is supporting the training of healthcare professionals in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda to ensure quality processes in the transportation of biopsy samples and in the administration of chemotherapy. Novartis will provide funding to support the technical work. This initiative will serve as a pilot for the future roll-out of similar activities to other countries.

On Feb. 4, thousands of supporters all over the world took a stand against cancer. Together, we made the biggest impact:

- 842 activities in 123 countries
- 461,616 tweets with the official hashtags
- 47 landmarks illuminated in orange and blue
- And that's just the beginning. A more complete report will be forthcoming next month.

- Paul Farmer, MD, PhD, a member of ASCP's Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa Steering Committee, has been selected by the National Academy of Sciences to receive its prestigious 2018 NAS Public Welfare Medal. Dr. Farmer, co-founder and chief strategist of Partners In Health (PIH), is being recognized for developing pioneering treatment strategies that demonstrate the delivery of high-quality health care in resource-poor areas. Dr. Farmer firmly believes "tissue is the issue" and that cancer, like all diseases, is disproportionately affecting the impoverished for which diagnostics are a key element in best care. Congratulations to Paul Farmer on earning the National Academy of Sciences Public Welfare Medal!



Left: Dr. Paul Farmer and ASCP CEO E. Blair Holladay. Right: Dr. Deo Ruhangaza and Dr. Champs Mugabe were pleased to receive the donation of books from ASCP and volunteers in Butaro for the pathology laboratory! Thanks to Partners in Health for its assistance in getting the books to them.



### Public Relations

- A press release to raise awareness of World Cancer Day was distributed by ASCP in concert with the Union for International Cancer Control on Feb. 3.
- 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.



### Meetings

- Pfizer hosted the Partners Steering Committee on Jan. 12 in San Diego.



The Partners Steering Committee, with ASCP Chief Medical Officer Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), FASCP, at right.