



STRONGERTOGETHER

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Partners Initiative Rolls Out Implementation Plans in Ghana



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.



Country Updates: Ghana

ASCP volunteers Benjamin Owusu, MD, and Maxwell Akonde spent several weeks meeting with leaders of the following institutions to discuss implementation of ASCP's telepathology program in the cities of Accra, Kumasi, and Tamale:

- In Accra, **Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital** and **Family Health Hospital/Medical School**.
- In Kumasi, **Peace and Love Hospital, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, and HopeXchange Medical Center**. Several medical centers expressed interest in hosting the telepathology whole slide imaging facilities and partnering with other hospitals in Kumasi to make cancer diagnosis and treatment accessible to the region and beyond.
- In Tamale, **Tamale Teaching Hospital**.

Dr. Owusu met with the vice chancellor and faculty at the **University of Ghana, Legon**, and the **University of Ghana Medical School** at Korle-Bu. The vice chancellor of the University of Ghana said his country is in the process of establishing a comprehensive cancer research institute which could potentially serve as one of the Partner institutions in the fight against cancer in Ghana. The new University of Ghana Medical Center could also serve as a potential partner of this program, he said. If favorable, the vice chancellor expressed willingness to meet with ASCP Chief Medical Officer Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), FASCP, on his future visit to Ghana.



Pictured at left, Dr. Benjamin Owusu, Dr. Beatrice Addai Wiafe, CEO of Peace and Love Hospital in Kumasi, and Maxwell Akonde. Right, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, in Kumasi, Ghana.



Public Relations

- An article, [Histology of the Future](#), which ran in CBLPath's Winter 2018 Edition, refers to a presentation by ASCP CEO E. Blair Holladay, PhD, MASCP, SCT(ASCP)^{CM}, about the Partners initiative at the 2017 European Congress.
- On World Cancer Day, Feb. 4, The Hill published an article, [World Cancer Day 2018](#)—addressing Africa's emerging needs, written by ASCP Chief Medical Officer Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), FASCP, about ASCP's work with Novartis and the American Cancer Society to improve access to cancer diagnosis and treatment in Africa.
- Project Syndicate also published an article, [The Cancer Threat to Africa's Future](#), written by ASCP Chief Medical Officer Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), FASCP, about the need address the public health challenge of cancer in Africa through enhanced diagnosis and treatment efforts.
- Social media channels continue to promote the project to members, including sharing a [story](#) published by Novartis of a breast cancer patient in Uganda, Suzan Akello, who was diagnosed two years ago and has been receiving treatment. Through our work with Novartis and the American Cancer Society, we desire to give hope to more patients like Suzan.
- The Butaro Cancer Center of Excellence in Butaro, Rwanda, was the first site for the Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa initiative. In this [report](#), details of the story of the center and the role of pathology in its success are highlighted. ASCP Chief Medical Officer Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), FASCP, led the team at the Brigham and Women's Hospital until 2016, when he joined ASCP to continue this work in all of our Partners sites.



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

- The Partners Steering Committee met Jan. 12 in San Diego, CA. ASCP Past President William G. Finn, MD, MASCP, began with an overview of the ASCP Center for Global Health, including a discussion of ASCP's President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) involvement. The Partners initiative was envisioned as a direct result of ASCP's and other collaborators' hard work, which has lowered the burden of communicable diseases and allowed patients to live longer such that there is now a need to address the increased burden of cancer and other noncommunicable diseases.

Dr. Milner reviewed the Partners initiative's accomplishments in Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Site assessments are complete for Ethiopia, Ghana, and Kenya. Sourced and donated equipment, books, and supplies are in place in Ethiopia, Malawi, and Democratic Republic of Congo. Volunteers were sent on site to Mirebalais, Haiti, for Pathologists' Assistant and Histotechnology training, with additional training planned. In Liberia, Partners is supporting Mount Sinai Human Resources for Health in completing a 5,000 square foot anatomic pathology lab with equipment from USAID. In Kenya, Partners has advised and guided the Kenya Ministry of Health (MOH) in choosing equipment for histology and whole slide imaging to be placed at the National Public Health Laboratory.