



**STRONGERTOGETHER**

June 2018

## ASCP Collaborates with C/Can: City Cancer Challenge to Provide Laboratory Training in Colombia



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 Chief Medical Officer Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), FASCP, recently delivered a series of quality control workshops in Cali, Colombia, to help strengthen the capacity of the country's laboratory network. The trainings were developed by ASCP based on its standard training curriculum on quality control management. The training was presented in partnership with C/Can 25: City Cancer Challenge, which supports cities as they take the lead in the design, planning and implementation of cancer treatment solutions. The goal of the C/Can 25 initiative is to build a collective movement of partners that can deliver sustainable, robust cancer treatment solutions in the majority of the world's cities that have a population of more than one million people.

More than 60 laboratory professionals representing 23 public and private laboratories in Cali and the Department of Valle de Cauca attended the workshops, held at the Universidad del Valle, School of Public Health. Expert volunteers who helped to deliver the training included pathologists Jeanette Guarner, MD, FASCP, of Emory University and Beatriz Hornburg, MD, of Brazil; medical technologists Zully Osoria and Johanna Moreno of Emory University; and histotechnologists Norma Aumen, HTL(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, of National Jewish Health, and Víctor Bernal, HTL(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>QIHC<sup>CM</sup>, of Purdue University.

Dr. Milner and Ms. Nilda Barrett, also of ASCP, participated in the second training workshop, which included tours of the main laboratories in Cali. Participants gave high praise for the training. In their evaluations, most respondents were very pleased with the workshops and said the subject matter addressed their specific needs regarding quality control.

In addition to the workshops, other technical assistance activities that are being developed with assistance from ASCP include support in establishing a working group to implement a quality control program in the city; assistance in identifying regional mechanisms for external accreditation and certification of laboratories in Cali; and assistance in improving the capacity of implementing immunohistochemistry and molecular biology testing at the Universidad del Valle Hospital laboratory. This technical assistance model will be adapted to use in the other C/Can 2025 Key Learning Cities in 2018-2019. 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!



Participants from more than two dozen laboratories in Cali, Colombia attended a Part 2 of a four-day workshop on quality systems essentials (left) led by ASCP member volunteer Dr. Jeannette Guarner (right) along with Zully Osoria and Johanna Moreno (all from Emory). The sessions were provided in Spanish and included 12 modules and exercises.



### Public Relations

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



### Volunteers

- ASCP is seeking members with fluency in Spanish to assist with translating some pathology documents.
- 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 for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa 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).



### Meetings

- Dr. Milner attended the annual Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) meeting to represent pathology at the BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH) launch of the African Consortium for Cancer Clinical Trials which included representatives from industry, African healthcare leadership, and the BVGH team.