



STRONGERTOGETHER

December 2018

Immunohistochemistry Programs Launch in Multiple Countries

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

- Through a generous grant from Novartis, ASCP has worked with seven hospital labs in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania to provide automated immunohistochemistry (IHC) platforms and initial reagents and supplies, training, and vetted business models to support ancillary IHC diagnostics for cancer care. Laboratories in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Kigali, Rwanda, Moshi, Tanzania, and Dar es Salaam received their instruments and reagents in late November. Philips plans to deploy its whole slide imaging system during the week of Dec. 17.
- ASCP Member Volunteer Linda Cherepow, HTL(ASCP), and Rushin Lewis, of Roche, completed a site visit with the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation to assess equipment and create a final implementation plan for a laboratory in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, which will launch in first quarter of 2019. Ms. Cherepow assisted the ASCP Center for Global Health in setting up histology equipment and training staff in the lab. The Dikembe Mutombo Foundation, in partnership with ASCP, collected and shipped the equipment and supplies to the laboratory. The Dikembe Mutombo Foundation is dedicated to improving the health, education and quality of life for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Foundation strives to accomplish this goal through an emphasis on primary health care and disease prevention, the promotion of health policy, health research and increased access to health care education for the people of the Congo. Donated consumables included slides, surgical gloves, specimen containers and slide storage cabinets that are being stored in the area designated as the pathology lab.
- The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) appears on track to be re-authorized by Congress through 2023. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the PEPFAR Extension Act of 2018 on Nov. 13. The Senate approved the measure unanimously on Nov. 28. President Trump is expected to sign the bill into law. The PEPFAR program is designed to address the global HIV/AIDS epidemic and help save the lives of those suffering from the disease, primarily in Africa. It is a cornerstone of U.S. global health efforts. ASCP has a Cooperative Agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support the Agency's PEPFAR mission.



At left, Ms. Cherepow with retired professional basketball player Dikembe Mutombo. At right, Sharon Johnson, Executive Director of the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation, helps take boxes to the Atlanta Airport to ship to the Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital, named for Dikembe's mother, in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.



Public Relations

- 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 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.



Meetings

- Three ASCP Center for Global Health (CGH) staff members presented at ASLM2018, the fourth biennial international conference of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine, Dec. 10-13, in Abuja, Nigeria. Ken Landgraf, MSc, CGH Director, Debby Basu, PhD, CGH Manager, and Alpa Pandya, MSW, CGH Project Assistant, discussed ASCP's current and future cancer work and initiatives with the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief. The theme of the ASLM conference was "Preventing and Controlling the Next Pandemic: The Role of the Laboratory."