May 2018

C/Can2025 Meeting Explores Financing Sustainable Cancer Control Solutions in Latin America

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

- In April, ASCP Chief Medical Officer Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), FASCP, attended the inaugural Latin American Regional Meeting of the C/Can 2025: City Cancer Challenge in Montevideo, Uruguay. C/Can 2025 is designed to support cities as they take the lead in the design, planning and implementation of cancer treatment solutions. The goal of the 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.

  In early 2017, C/Can 2025 launched its first two Key Learning Cities in Latin America, Cali and Asunción. Through the C/Can 2025 process, top city and regional leaders and health experts in Cali and Asunción have identified priority activities to strengthen the delivery of quality cancer care through comprehensive needs assessments and developed draft implementation plans which were presented at the World Cancer Leaders’ Summit in Mexico City in November 2017.

  During the April meeting, Cali and Asunción worked to identify sustainable financing solutions to deliver successful implementation in collaboration with C/Can 2025’s City Health Financing Lab. Uruguay President Tabare Vazquez and the Minister of Health, Dr. Jorge Basso, welcomed the group, which included leading health finance experts from Latin America and around the world as well as government leaders, investors and economists from development banks, multilateral institutions, the private sector and academia. Together, they explored opportunities to harness new financing for quality cancer care through innovative mechanisms.

  Dr. Milner and Beatriz Hornburg, MD, a surgical pathologist from Brazil, were invited to help address the three areas with the largest financial barriers, which included PET CT, molecular and immunohistochemistry.
Public Relations

- Social media channels continue to promote the project to members.
- On May 7, the ASCP Center for Global Health launched Round 2 of the ASCP Global Health Ideation Challenge 2018, in which participants are asked to offer solutions to selected global health problems, challenges, or questions submitted during Round 1 by June 15, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. Entrants whose solutions are selected will win up to $5,000. Learn more or submit a solution here.

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 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

- ASCP hosted a DLS Clinical Laboratory Partners Workgroup on May 2, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Applied Public Health Laboratories.
- From May 3-6, ASCP Chief Medical Officer Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), FASCP, participated in a mission trip to Cali, Colombia hosted by Partners for Cancer Care and Prevention.
- From May 17-18, Dr. Milner will travel to New York City for a meeting of Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) to identify gaps of care and treatments in the countries that the organization serves. He will travel from May 19-31 to Johannesburg, South Africa, to meet with Roche leadership and technical staff for ASCP immunohistochemistry deployments elsewhere in Africa; to Blantyre, Malawi, as part of an invited discussion on biorepositories and ethics; and to The Hague, Netherlands, as an expert grant reviewer for the EDCTP focused on clinical trials for tropical infections.