



Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa



Uganda Cancer Institute Partners with ASCP to Provide Telepathology Services

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

- Rwanda—The deployment team for ASCP has completed planning for the Rwanda Military Hospital (RMH) telepathology deployment—to serve RMH, Kigali Central Teaching Hospital (CHUK), and King Faisal Hospital—and equipment is being shipped to the site. The deployment team will visit in May to set up the equipment and begin scanning the first cases for diagnostic assistance before the end of May. The RMH will be the first site for deployment of radiation therapy in Rwanda, which is scheduled to go live in 2018.
- Uganda—The Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) is planning implementation for telepathology with ASCP in Kampala, Uganda—to serve UCI, Mulago Hospital, and Makerere University with a goal of August 2017 for deployment to coincide with the 50th anniversary of UCI. UCI was recently named an [East African Center of Excellence](#) funded by the Africa Development Bank. The Central Public Health Laboratories, soon to be the Uganda National Health Laboratory Service, recently instituted a 100-hub system in Uganda, which connects all patients to vital laboratory services, including histopathology through coordination with

Kampala pathology laboratories. By adding telepathology, Uganda will be very close to 100 percent access for all patients to rapid, accurate diagnostics and cancer care through the UCI network.

- In March, ASCP Chief Medical Officer Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc (Epi), FASCP, also visited Kenya, Tanzania, and Congo, to meet with partners and to conduct country assessments.



Left image – Dr. Milner, right, with the head of the Ugandan National Health Laboratory Service, Steven Aisu and his staff as well as Michelle Ndebele (CHAI), Rinty Kintu (ASC), and Robert Lukande (Makerere University) after a visit with UNHLS staff to discuss their country-wide specimen transport system to Kampala.

Middle image – Dr. Moses Joloba, head of department, Dr. Lynette Kyokunda, and other staff of Makerere University met with Dr. Milner, Rinty, and Michele Ndebele to discuss the telepathology project in Kampala.

Right image – The new histology team for the Uganda Cancer Institute, led by Dr. Nixon, showed the new equipment and space to Dr. Milner and team.



Public Relations

- An article, “[Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa Makes Strides](#),” was published in the April issue of *Critical Values*.
- ASCP social media channels continue to promote the project to members.



Volunteers

- The Partners Initiative 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.



Partners

- After a visit to the Butaro Laboratory in Rwanda, the staff of the National Public Health Laboratory of Kenya and the Ministry of Health have plans for securing automated histology equipment to install in its lab in Nairobi which will serve as a central hub for biopsies from across the country. They also plan to include whole slide imaging with connectivity to ASCP pathologists for support. This project is funded by the Kenyan government.



Meetings

- Dr. Milner was an invited guest at the recent WeCan Symposium in Kigali, Rwanda, which brought patient advocate groups to discuss challenges, solutions, and planning around care and treatment for patients in East Africa. Dr. Milner discussed pathology and the importance of an accurate diagnosis with the advocates. Several advocate volunteers will work with ASCP to help promote the “patient perspective” for each county in which ASCP plans to work. The symposium was led by Dr. Julie Gralow, of the University of Washington, who serves as a co-chair of the ASCP Care and Treatment Committee for the Africa project.
- Dr. Milner attended the National Institutes of Health National Cancer Institute’s Center for Global Health’s CUGH pre-meeting in Bethesda, Md., along with Dr. Larry Shulman (Care and Treatment Committee, Dr. John Flanigan (Care and Treatment); Dr. Julie Gralow (Care and Treatment); Dr. Anne Rositch (Monitoring and Evaluation), Dr. Quentin Eichbaum (Medical Education) and Dr. Rick Marlink (Bioethics). Drs. Shulman, Gralow, Rositch, and Eichbaum all made presentations, and the subject was cancer in Lower- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs).

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