



Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa



Partners Initiative Expands in Rwanda and Beyond

Below are highlights of the past month's achievements. If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Nolan, MA, ASCP Chief Strategy Officer, colleen.nolan@ascp.org.



Country Updates

- A memorandum of understanding with the Minister of Health of Rwanda was signed in December 2016. The Partners Initiative will now move forward with establishing a second site in Rwanda and will work with the Rwandan Minister of Health to provide education on cancer diagnosis and treatment to clinicians in 47 different hospitals.
- In December 2016, ASCP Chief Executive Officer E. Blair Holladay, PhD, SCT(ASCP)^{CM}, and ASCP Chief Medical Officer Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), FASCP, attended a very successful meeting of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine. There were a large number of sessions and conversations about the best tools to use for diagnosing cervical cancer in Africa (i.e., HPV testing vs. Pap smears and VIA). Another hot topic was about how to use PEPFAR-funded HIV laboratory infrastructure to support care and treatment of noncommunicable diseases. Participants expressed a need for 100-percent access to viral load testing for HIV and want that to be point of care testing. During the meeting, the role of the laboratory in the Global Health Security Agenda was discussed. Lucy Maryogo-Robinson, Global Health Director, Association of Public Health Laboratories, and her team presented the laboratory scorecard for country readiness. In addition, data was

reported in the *African Journal of Laboratory Medicine* on how the Partners Initiative could be practically implemented in Uganda.

- In March 2017, ASCP Dr. Milner and several Partners Steering Committee members will visit Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, and Ethiopia to meet with the Ministers of Health and conduct country assessments.



Legendary NBA star and philanthropist Dikembe Mutombo (center) meets with the ASCP leadership team to collaborate with the Partners Initiative during his visit to the ASCP office in Chicago in December 2016.



Public Relations

- A press release, [ASCP Partners with Legendary Athlete and Philanthropist Dikembe Mutombo to Improve Patient Care in the Democratic Republic of Congo](#), was distributed on Dec. 13, 2016. The [release](#) ran in the Dec. 15, 2016 issue of *PublicNow*.
- An article, [Innovative Telepathology Lab 'Goes Live' in Rwanda](#), ran Dec. 8, 2016 in *Advance for the Laboratory Managers*.
- ASCP social media channels continue to promote the project to members.



Volunteers

- The Partners Initiative will soon announce opportunities for Pathologists' Assistants and Histotechnologists to support the program. This effort is being led by Mike Feldman, MD, FASCP, and Diane Sterchi, MSM, HTL(ASCP), Chair of the ASCP Council of Laboratory Professionals.
- 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

- The Society is collaborating with the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) on an ambitious new initiative, the **City Cancer Challenge**, to support cities to design, plan and implement cancer treatment solutions that meet the needs of their citizens and the national priorities for cancer control. 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. The initiative will be announced this month at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.



Meetings

- In December 2016, Dr. Milner attended a White House meeting regarding the Cancer Moonshot Initiative. An open innovation challenge was put forth to the 15 to 20 organizations participating in the meeting to determine how to meet the Cancer Moonshot goals.
- Dr. Milner will represent ASCP at a meeting of the National Cancer Institute, Pathology in Lower and Middle Income Countries, to be held at Oxford University in late January 2017. The outcome of the meeting will be published in several journals.
- Dr. Holladay will give a presentation, Developing Cancer and Pathology Capacity, during the C. Bruce Alexander Lecture in Pathology Education on Jan. 18, 2017, at the University of Alabama, Birmingham.

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