



Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa



Partners Initiative Celebrates Ribbon Cutting at Second Telepathology Lab in Rwanda

Below are highlights of the past month's achievements. If you have any questions, please contact Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), ASCP Chief Medical Officer, dan.milner@ascp.org.



Country Updates

- Dr. Fabian Ntaganda, head of the Rwanda Military Hospital (RMH) Laboratory in Kigali, Rwanda, and Mr. Etienne Kayigi, representing the Rwanda Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Honorable Minister Diane Gashumba, announced the official “go live” of an innovative telepathology laboratory on Nov. 10, 2017. ASCP Chief Medical Officer Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), FASCP, spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new laboratory.



Left, Dr. Milner and Etienne Kayigi cut the ribbon to open the new telepathology laboratory at Rwanda Military Hospital, in Kigali, Rwanda. Right, Dr. Milner talks with MOH and RMH staff about the new telepathology equipment that has been installed in the laboratory.

- Dr. Milner met with representatives of Hologic on Nov. 2 at the company's main facilities in Marlborough, Mass., to discuss ASCP's Global Health Program and synergies with Hologic's initiatives.



Public Relations

- A [press release](#) has been distributed worldwide regarding ASCP's work with Novartis Access and the American Cancer Society to devise a common approach to manage cancer in lower-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Efforts are under way to secure stories in local media about the initiative. The press release was also picked up by [CNBC](#), [Medical Laboratory Observer](#), [New Vision](#) (Uganda), and the [Daily News](#) (Tanzania).
- 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 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's Center for Global Health and the Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa project made it financially possible for Dr. Deo Ruhangaza, a pathologist from Butaro Hospital in Rwanda, to attend the 3rd Digital Pathology Congress Asia-Pacific 2017, held this fall in Guangzhou, China. The congress focused on the revolution of healthcare delivery systems by using digital pathology for improved efficiency and seamless patient care. Dr. Ruhangaza moderated a panel discussion titled, "Distinguishing Opportunities and Barriers in Exercising Digital Pathology," with two pathologists, one from the Netherlands and another from Croatia.

"It was a great experience to meet other people who are using digital pathology in their routine pathology lab activities," Dr. Ruhangaza said. "I was able to learn how other institutions represented in the congress overcome challenges in routine practice of digital pathology, including limited images storage capacity and standardization of digital pathology practice. I was also able to visit different solution providers present at the congress and talk with them about digital pathology products that they offer."



Dr. Ruhangaza, center, leads the panel discussion on barriers in exercising digital pathology.

- Dr. Milner and Partners Steering Committee member Dr. Doreen Ramogola-Masire gave presentations at AORTIC's 11th International Conference on Cancer in Africa, in Kigali, Rwanda, Nov. 7-10. Dr. Milner spoke about the Partners initiative during a panel discussion on Quality Assurance and Capacity Building for Pathology in Africa. Dr. Ramogola-Masire spoke about integrated implementation of screening and HPV vaccination in Botswana.

A panel discussion included Dr. Deo Ruhanganza, from Butaro Hospital in Rwanda, who gave a presentation titled, Quality Cancer Treatment in Low-Resource Countries.

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Job#: E1117_1WH