Bring Rapid, Accurate Diagnostics to Underserved Countries

Cancer is a disease that has in recent history seen remarkable inroads in diagnosis and treatment. In the United States and the developed world, a diagnosis of cancer seldom carries the death sentence it once did, with a variety of treatment options available and much better expected outcomes.

The leading cause of death in Sub-Saharan Africa is non-communicable diseases (NCDs)—with cancer at the forefront. With increases in life expectancy and a reduction in cases of communicable diseases, the cancer burden will inevitably rise in the future. Compounding the problem, a lack of screening, laboratories, and pathologists contributing to delays in critical treatment means that cancers diagnosed in Africa result in a much higher mortality than other parts of the world.

ASCP is leading Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa, a coalition to provide patients in underserved areas of Sub-Saharan Africa access to quality, real-time cancer diagnostics and effective care and treatment. In response to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy’s call to action, this ASCP-led coalition announced a $26.5 million commitment of infrastructure, funding, and in-kind, in October 2015. This new effort, which includes the help of numerous partners, volunteers, and generous donors, is the Society’s largest global initiative since it began its collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2005 on the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Our Mission

Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa is providing real time diagnostics to more rapidly diagnose and treat patients in resource-limited countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Challenge

- Over the next five years, the annual number of new cases of cancer is predicted to increase to 1 million.
- Approximately 650,000 people in Africa develop cancer every year, and about 510,000 cancer deaths occur annually.
- Cancers diagnosed in Africa are associated with a higher mortality than other regions of the world due to limited availability of screening, laboratories, and pathologists. The majority of patients enter the care system with advanced disease that is no longer curable, making effective treatment nearly impossible.
- In all of Africa, there are fewer than 0.8 pathologists per 100,000 people. In Rwanda, there is only one pathologist in the entire country of 12 million people. In contrast, the United States has more than 60 pathologists for every one million people.
The ASCP-led coalition was formed in response to a call to action issued by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Supporters:
- National Security Council
- National Institutes of Health
- National Cancer Institute
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The following organizations are sharing their resources and expertise to aid success:
- Pfizer
- GE Healthcare
- Sakura Finetek
- Partners In Health
- Technossus
- Roche Diagnostics
- IBM Watson
- International Agency for Research on Cancer
- Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation
- American Society for Microbiology
- Association of Public Health Laboratories
- African Strategies for Advancing Pathology
- African Society for Laboratory Medicine
Committees and Volunteers

Steering Committees
The efforts of Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa are directed by five steering committees:

Bioethics
Aron D. Rose, MD
Yale University
Chair
Solomon Benatar, MBChB, DSc (Med), FPA(SA), FRCP (Lond), FACP(Hon)
University of Cape Town, University of Toronto
Nancy Berringer, PhD
The Hastings Center
Francesca Garay, MD, MS
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Michael Guzmano, PhD
Rutgers School of Public Health, The Hastings Center
Pranav Reddy, MD
Alpert Medical School, Brown University

Diagnostics and Technology
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Emily Glynn, MD, FASCP
University of Washington Medical Center

Monitoring and Evaluation
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Rwanda Volunteer Team
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Associates in Medicine and Surgery
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President Obama, White House call to action
January 2015

White House Office of Science and Technology policy meeting
May 2015

Steering committees formed and members appointed
July 2015

ASCP solution design started
June 2015

Rwanda site selected
October 2015

ASCP-led coalition Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa launched
October 2015

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Summit
October 2015

Call for ASCP volunteers issued
November 2015

250th ASCP volunteer registered
January 2016

Rwanda histopathology, telepathology, scanners and X-ray equipment delivered
March 2016

Rwanda local technical staff trained
April 2016

First ASCP pathologist volunteers trained
May 2016

First telepathology slide read
June 2016

ASCP’s Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa one year anniversary
October 2016

Botswana program launched
February 2015

This is a herculean endeavor. The systems we have installed include the most advanced diagnostic equipment available in the world.”

—E. Blair Holladay, PhD, SCT(ASCP)CM
ASCP Chief Executive Officer
Being the **ONLY PATHOLOGIST** serving **TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PATIENTS in northern Rwanda is daunting.**

It is amazing how the new pathology equipment provided through the ASCP-led **Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa** initiative can help in providing rapid and accurate cancer diagnosis in a remote area.”

— Deogratias Ruhangaza, MD
Expanding Your Influence, Recognition, and Reach

ASCP is a vital and vibrant force dedicated to your future success. Simply put, no other pathology organization delivers on the values that are most important to you:

- **Knowledge**: ASCP provides the education and the resources that you need to remain highly competent and competitive through a rich and diverse learning environment.
- **Advancement**: ASCP protects the professional and economic interests of the entire pathology team, while promoting your value to the entire healthcare community.
- **Collaboration**: ASCP forms strategic relationships to increase our influence, resources, and the opportunities that we can offer you.
- **Global Community**: ASCP works within the global community to improve laboratory practice and increase the stature of the profession.