

# ASCO<sup>®</sup>

ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL ONCOLOGY  
KNOWLEDGE CONQUERS CANCER

# ASCO Advocacy: How to Get Involved

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Grassroots Advocacy Specialist

SCOS/NCOA 2024 Joint Conference

February 16, 2024

# Why Advocate?

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- You are the experts
- Ensure policies prioritize patient well-being and improved outcomes
- Your insights and real-world examples are vital to ensuring lawmakers understand the barriers to care



# ASCO's Grassroots Program

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- ASCO<sup>®</sup> ACT Network
- Advocacy at Home
- Annual Advocacy Summit
- ASCO Association PAC
- Advocacy Best Practices

# ASCO<sup>®</sup> ACT Network

- Action alerts with ASCO's position on key bills
- Messages advocates can personalize and send to lawmakers
- Federal & state bill trackers of legislations ASCO is engaging on
- Visit [www.asco.org/ACTNetwork](http://www.asco.org/ACTNetwork)



The ACT Network is your central hub for learning about and taking action on ASCO's cancer care priorities. Here, you can send pre-drafted letters to your lawmakers on important legislative issues impacting cancer providers and their patients. Additionally, you can find information on federal legislation ASCO has formally endorsed or opposed, as well as state legislation ASCO is tracking throughout the country. Take action today!

### Send Personalized Letters to Your Lawmakers

#### Federal Funding for Cancer Research

As Congress negotiates Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bills, urge them to make cancer research a top priority.

[Write](#)

### Have a Relationship with Your Lawmaker? Let Us Know!

Please provide the information requested below:

First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Street Address	Email Address
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

[Submit](#)

### Questions?

Please provide the information requested below:

First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Street Address	Email Address
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

[Submit](#)

Note: If you do not already have an ASCO account matching email you used to register for the ACT Network, a new account will be created and you will receive an activation email. View ASCO's Privacy Policy for further information.

# Advocacy at Home

- Meet with your lawmakers while they are in the state or district
- ASCO volunteers held 20 Advocacy at Home meetings in 2023



# Site Visits

- Rep. Ami Bera, MD (D-CA) noted this was one of the best ways to engage your lawmakers
- Shows lawmakers how policies impact your ability to provide patient care in their community
- Firsthand look at the face of cancer care in their district



Rep. Budzinski's staff (D-IL) visiting Cancer Care Specialists of Illinois



Rep. Feenstra's staff (R-IA) visiting Heartland Oncology and Hematology



Sen. Kelly's staff (D-AZ) visiting the Mayo Clinic

# ASCO® Advocacy Summit

Lead | Engage | Influence



# 2024 ADVOCACY SUMMIT

Register Now!

APRIL 16–17, 2024  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Questions? Contact  
[AdvocacySummit@asco.org](mailto:AdvocacySummit@asco.org)



\*This invitation is non-transferable. Registration is limited to qualifying, domestic ASCO members. Registration and additional information will be announced in the coming months.

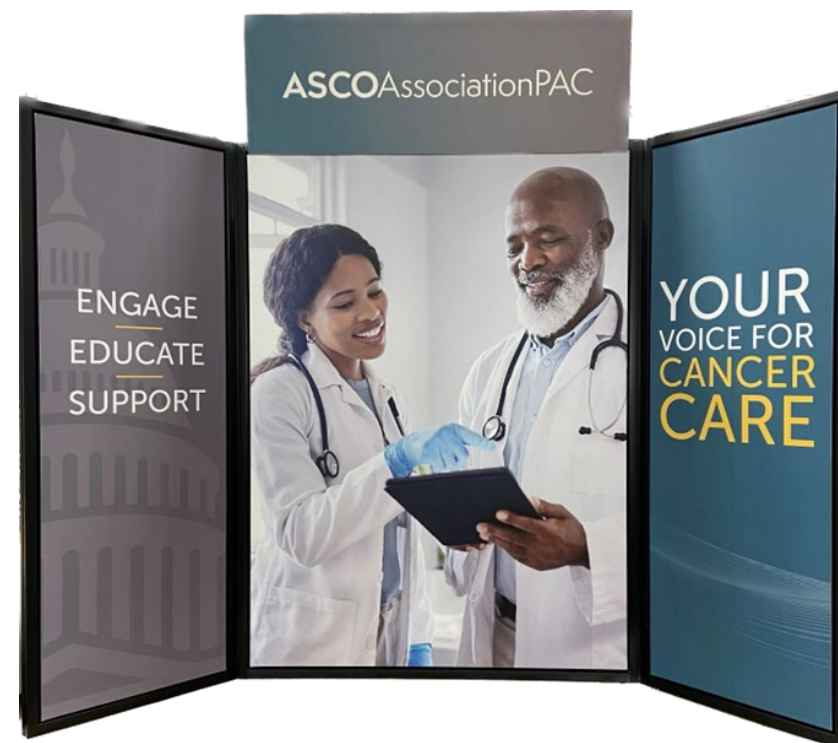
# Advocacy Summit





# ASCO Association Political Action Committee (PAC)

- The PAC helps us engage and educate lawmakers from both sides of the aisle on the current realities of the cancer care delivery system
- In 2022, the PAC supported 32 cancer care champions in their re-election
- Learn more on how to get involved at
  - [pac.ascoassociation.org](https://pac.ascoassociation.org)



## ASCO 2022 Advocate of the Year

### ASCO's Advocacy Activities

ASCO members have numerous opportunities to advocate at the federal and state level on behalf of patients with cancer. These activities include grassroots advocacy; direct advocacy; engaging in grassroots advocacy; speaking on behalf of ASCO at briefings or providing hearing testimony; and contributing to the ASCO Association Political Action Committee (PAC). We are pleased to recognize the following ASCO volunteers who exemplified cancer care advocacy in 2022.



- **Grasstops Advocacy:** Utilizing pre-existing relationships with lawmakers to advance ASCO's priorities.
- **Direct Advocacy:** Actions include face-to-face meetings with elected officials or their staff.
- **Grassroots Advocacy:** Actions taken by a group to contact elected officials online, on the phone, or by mail.

### Advocate of the Year: Ashley Sumrall, MD, FACP



Dr. Sumrall is a tremendous advocate and storyteller for cancer care professionals and the patients for whom they care. Not only does she advocate for her patients in the clinical setting, Dr. Sumrall also takes time to communicate with lawmakers and amplify the voices of cancer patients. Across her various advocacy activities, Dr. Sumrall paints a clear and concise picture for lawmakers and their staff on how current health policies not only impact oncology and cancer patients but the broader U.S. health care system as well. From sending ACT Network letters to her lawmakers, attending the Advocacy Summit, participating in federal agency meetings, engaging on social media, and contributing to the ASCO Association PAC, she made cancer care advocacy a priority in 2022. She currently serves on ASCO's Government Relations Committee.

Dr. Sumrall currently serves as Section Chief of Neuro-Oncology at Levine Cancer Institute of Atrium Health and Clinical Associate Professor, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Section on Hematology and Oncology. She earned her medical degree from the University of Mississippi, completed her residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and her fellowship at Duke University Medical Center.

# Advocacy Champions

## ASCO 2022 Advocacy Champions

### President's Circle

ASCO advocates who actively engage in ASCO's advocacy activities.

Edward Balaban, DO, FACP, FASCO  
Eric Bernicker, MD  
Mehmet Copur, MD, FACP  
Caroline Corum, JD, RN  
Zoneddy Dayao, MD  
Fernando Diaz, MD  
Thomas George, MD, FACP  
Marilyn Heine, MD, FACP  
Tara Henderson, MD, MPH, FASCO  
Carolyn Hendricks, MD, FASCO  
Jasmine Kamboj, MD, MBBS  
Mary Klix, MD, FACP  
Thomas LeBlanc, MD, MHS, FASCO  
Steve Lee, MD, FACP  
Gilberto Lopes, MD, MBA, FASCO

Ana Maria Lopez, MD, MPH  
Ana Velazquez Manana, MD, MS  
Rami Manochakian, MD  
Charles Miller, MD, FACP, FASCO  
Sumanta Pal, MD, FASCO  
Manali Patel, MD, MPH, MS  
Jerome Seid, MD  
Heloisa Soares, MD  
Latha Subramanian, MBChB  
Laura Tenner, MD  
Catherine Van Poznak, MD, FASCO  
Mark Walshausser, MD, FACP  
Jason Westin, MD, FACP, MS  
Joanna Yang, MD, MPH  
Robin Zon, MD, FACP, FASCO

### Speaker's Club

ASCO advocates who often participate in more than one of ASCO's advocacy activities.

Anas Al-Janadi, MD  
Wendy Allen-Rhoades, MD, PhD  
Robert Daly, MD, MBA  
John Deeken, MD  
Chancellor Donald, MD  
Cindy Geoghegan  
Denis Hammond, MD, FASCO  
R. Donald Harvey, PharmD, FCCP, FASCO  
Ralph Hauke, MD, FACP, FASCO  
Blair Irwin, MD  
Noelle LoConte, MD, FASCO  
Thomas Marsland, MD, FASCO  
Joseph Muscato, MD  
Julie Newberry  
Amanda Nizam, MD

Kristina Novick, MD  
Kurt Oettel, MD, MBA, FACP  
Raymond Osarogiagbon, MBBS, FACP  
Sukhmani Padda, MD  
Ray Page, DO, PhD, FACOI, FASCO  
Martin Palmeri, MD, MBA  
Brian Persing, MD  
Lori Pierce, MD, FASTRO, FASCO  
Gladys Rodriguez, MD  
Joel Saltzman, MD  
Anna Jo Smith, MD  
Banu Symington, MD, MACP  
Alexandra Thomas, MD, FACP  
Everett Vokes, MD, FASCO  
Julie Vose, MD, MBA, FASCO

# Advocacy Best Practices - Engage

- Start early – building relationships take time
- Take advantage of multiple advocacy opportunities
  - Online
  - In-person
- Offer yourself as a resource for lawmakers and their staff
  - You are the experts

# Advocacy Best Practices – Make it Personal

- Your patients are the lawmaker's constituents
- Most lawmakers have had experiences with cancer, whether directly, a family member, or a friend
- Use your examples to illustrate how our policy priorities are addressing current barriers to cancer care



# Advocacy Best Practices - Communicate

- Keep ASCO informed of your advocacy efforts
- Encourage your colleagues to advocate
  - The collective voice is powerful

### Log Lawmaker Interaction

Have you had a meeting with one of your lawmakers lately? Your feedback on these interactions is helpful for ASCO and our staff as we advocate for cancer care policies on Capitol Hill. Please take a moment to let us know who you met with and provide feedback on that meeting.

Type to search for officials, staffers, or contacts...

Type

Date  Time  Duration

Notes (Optional)

Tell us about the interaction...

Related Issues

Select...

Submit

# Contact Information

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**ACT Network:** [asco.org/ACTNetwork](https://asco.org/ACTNetwork)