

NC Oncology Association SC Oncology Society

What's Going on at ASCO and Why You Should Care

Lisa Carey, MD, ScM, FASCO
ASCO Board of Directors

February 16, 2024

Overview

ASCO Mission
& Vision
Statements

Rural Cancer
Care

Advocacy

Care Delivery

Equity, Diversity
& Inclusion

ASCO's Global
Impact

Dr. Lynn
Schuchter's
Presidential
Theme

MISSION

Conquering cancer through research, education, and promotion of the highest quality, equitable patient care.

VISION

A world where cancer is prevented or cured, and every survivor is healthy.

CORE VALUES

Evidence | Care | Impact

Over 5 years we will advance equity in access to cancer care and research, develop more sustainable work environments and improve the delivery of information that drives better patient outcomes.

5-year goals

ACCESS

Remove barriers and promote access to high quality, equitable care and patient-centered research

PROFESSION

Drive healthy clinical and research work environments that lead to fulfillment for oncology professionals

KNOWLEDGE

Be the trusted source for timely and high-impact evidence and continuous learning

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Global Impact

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

Clinical Research

Conquer Cancer Grants

Meetings

Publications

Advocacy

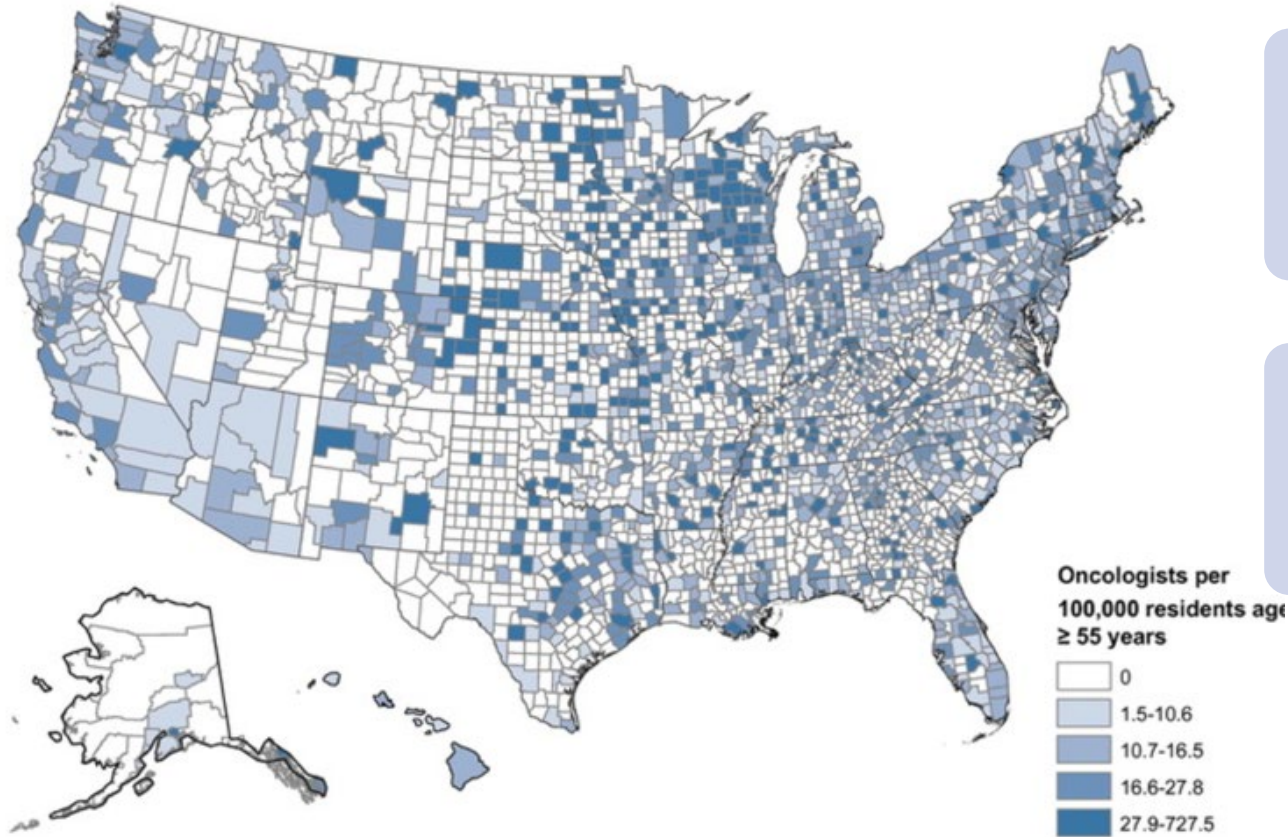
Practice Support

Professional Development

Rural Cancer Care Access Demo Project: Problem Statement

- Rural small community hospitals **lack the capability to deliver on-site cancer care services**, resulting in patients needing to travel lengthy distances to receive therapies.
- Travel distance has been associated with **worse outcomes** in patients with cancer:
 - later stage at time of diagnosis
 - less timely receipt of chemotherapy
 - delaying or declining treatment.
- **Challenges:**
 - lack of infrastructure
 - shortage or absence of specialty physicians and oncology-trained support personnel (i.e., nurses, advanced practice providers, and pharmacists) to deliver infusion services
 - uneven access/use of telemedicine services
 - quality care delivery
 - Facility financial constraints
- Rural patients with cancer incur a **greater financial burden** due to costs associated with travel and lodging.

Improving Access to Rural Cancer Care



Approximately 60 million people (about 19.3% of the US population) reside in rural areas



ASCO's 2018 analysis of the workforce found that only 7% of oncologists billed from rural locations

Making Rural Health a Priority



2018

- Board identifies rural health as priority
- Forms task force



2018-2019

- Dr. Bertagnoli visits sites
- Montana included in site visits



2019

- Task force report:
- Build capacity using hub and spoke, QI
 - Leverage ASCO quality programs
 - National Press Club briefing

Expanding Access to Cancer Care in Rural Settings: An ASCO Pilot Solution

Establish Hub-and-Spoke Model of Care Delivery

- Leverage existing relationship between two sites
- Build up infusion suite infrastructure at spoke site
- Recruit and train APPs
- Leverage telehealth and include PCPs

Quality Assessment & Improvement

- Utilize ASCO's quality standards, guidelines, and educational resources
- Expert Advisory Group to help with SOPs and quality improvement

Collaboration & Partnership

- Enhancing local services through collaborations with community-based organizations
- Strengthen referral loop with local primary care providers



Why Montana?

- Third most frontier state in the U.S.
 - 76% living in areas classified as rural or frontier
- 2.8 oncologists per 100,000 residents (5.6 in VA)
- ASCO volunteer champion
- Hospitals already exploring
- Primary care physicians interested
- MSU School of Nursing rural education and training expertise



Key Outcomes Measures

- Increased staff capacity (e.g., number of care team members able to provide anti-cancer therapies)
- Spoke Site Activity
 - Number of therapies delivered
 - Adherence to treatment
 - Loss-to-follow up
- Patient reported outcomes
 - reduced travel time to access care
 - patient perceived quality of care
 - other quality of life indicators (e.g., financial impact)
- Financial impact on both the hub and spoke sites

ASCO's Role

Pilot Management

- Establish an ASCO volunteer task force to serve as an advisory group to the pilot sites
- Serve as primary grant support

Site Development Assistance

- Assist with local site staff education and training
- Readiness assessment, quality improvement recommendations for readiness to meet ASCO/ONS safe chemotherapy standards
- Practice Benchmarking
- Facilitate relationships between Bozeman, Barrett and community organizations (e.g. Cancer Support Community – Montana)

Evaluation

- Assist with patient survey development, data collection, data analysis
- Conduct ongoing evaluations against program measures to assess performance on desired short-term outcomes
- Document challenges and solutions to create a blueprint for replication in other areas

Key Issues in the 118th Congress, 2nd Session

- Cancer Research Funding
- Drug Shortages
- Medicare Physician Payment Reform
- Telemedicine
- Pharmacy Benefit Managers
- Prior Authorization



Dr. Brian Persing



Dr. Julie Gralow

Appropriations

| | FY 2022 – Enacted | FY 2023 – Enacted | FY 2024 – Asks | FY 2025 – Asks |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| NIH | \$44.959 billion | \$47.459 billion | \$51 billion | TBD |
| NCI | \$6.913 billion | \$7.32 billion* | \$9.988 billion | TBD |
| ARPA-H | \$1 billion | \$1.5 billion | At least \$1.5 billion | TBD |
| CDC DCPC | \$389.8 million | \$409.6 million | \$472.4 million | \$472.4 million |

**2023 is the last year of funding for the original Cancer Moonshot*

Drug Shortages

- Congressional activity
- Regulatory activity
- ASCO clinical guidance
- Coalition engagement
- Media
- Grassroots campaign
- Dedicated page on ASCO.org
www.asco.org/drug-shortages



Dr. Jason Westin

Medicare Physician Payment

- Long-term reform needed
- Educating lawmakers
- Supporting legislation to:
 - Reverse 3.37% cut
 - Provide an inflationary update
 - Extend advanced alternative payment model (APM) bonus
- CY2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule
 - Conversion factor: -3.37%
 - Hem/Onc: +2%, Rad Onc: -2%

A screenshot of a tweet from ASCO (@ASCO) with a light blue background. The text of the tweet reads: "Instability in #Medicare payment hurts physicians and patients. We joined the provider community in advocating for necessary reform. Learn more: fal.cn/3vqRe. #ASCOAdvocacy".

ASCO ASCO
@ASCO

Instability in #Medicare payment hurts physicians and patients. We joined the provider community in advocating for necessary reform. Learn more: fal.cn/3vqRe. #ASCOAdvocacy

Specialty Impact

- CMS Estimates:
 - Hematology/Oncology: +2%
 - Radiation Oncology: -2%

The actual impact on individual clinicians will vary based on geographic location and the mix of Medicare services billed.

% Change in Total RVUs per practitioner

| Specialty | -5% to -2% | -2% to -1% | -1% to 1% | 1% to 2% | 2% to 5% | 5% to 10% |
|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Hem/Onc | 1% | 4% | 39% | 18% | 32% | 7% |
| RadOnc/RT Centers | 67% | 30% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

Telemedicine: Federal Level



Congress extended many telehealth flexibilities through 2024. There is strong bipartisan support for telemedicine.



ASCO is working with lawmakers to advance legislation to permanently extend the flexibilities.

Prior Authorization

Multi-pronged advocacy approach

- Final rules released
- Federal legislation to be reintroduced
- State legislation
- ASCO member survey and [position statement](#) in 2022
 - The intent of the survey was to assess the impact of prior authorization on cancer care



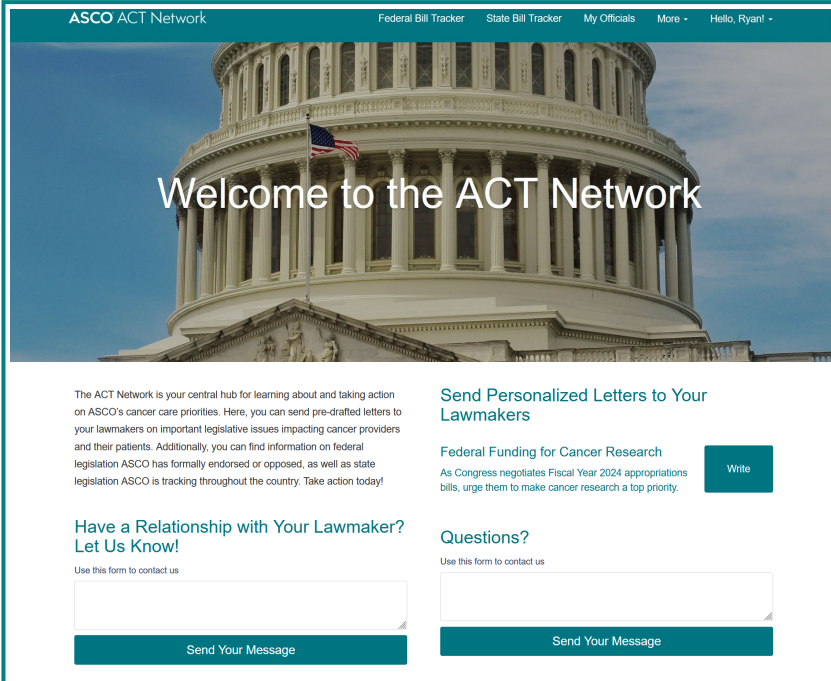
ASCO Advocacy: Get Involved

ASCO[®] ACT Network

- Action alerts with ASCO positions on key bills
- Provides draft messages to personalize & send to your lawmakers
- Visit www.asco.org/ACTNetwork

Advocacy at Home

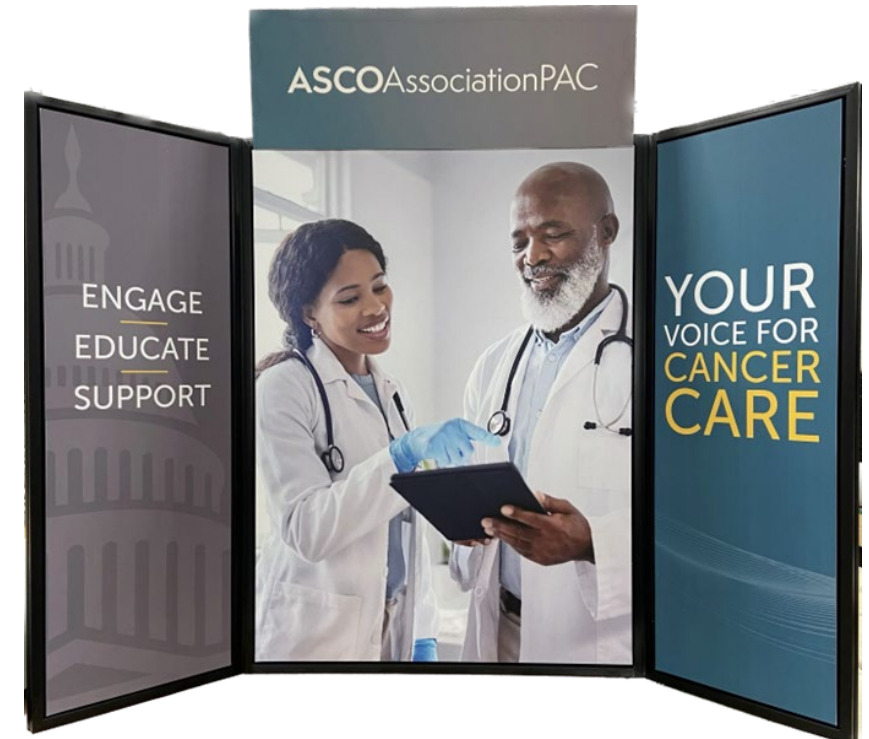
- Meet with your lawmakers in the state or district



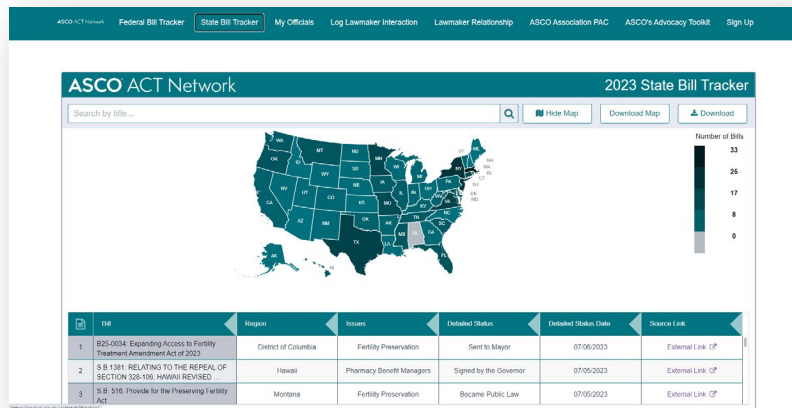
The screenshot shows the ASCO ACT Network website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "Federal Bill Tracker", "State Bill Tracker", "My Officials", "More", and "Hello, Ryan!". The main header features a large image of the U.S. Capitol dome with the text "Welcome to the ACT Network". Below this, there are three main sections: 1) "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!" 2) "Send Personalized Letters to Your Lawmakers" with a sub-section for "Federal Funding for Cancer Research" and a "Write" button. 3) "Have a Relationship with Your Lawmaker? Let Us Know!" and "Questions?" both with "Use this form to contact us" text and a "Send Your Message" button.

ASCO Association Political Action Committee (PAC)

- The ASCO Association PAC helps us engage and educate lawmakers on both sides of the aisle on the current realities of the cancer care delivery system
- In 2023, the PAC supported 35 cancer care champions in their re-election
- Learn more on how to get involved at pac.ascoassociation.org



Key State Advocacy Issues in 2024



- Prior Authorization
- Step Therapy
- Pharmacy Benefit Managers
- Copay Accumulators
- Non-Medical Switching
- Drug Repository Programs
- Fertility Preservation
- Medicaid Expansion
- Drug Pricing
- White Bagging

NC and SC State Legislative Updates

- **2023 Success:**

- North Carolina enacted Medicaid expansion; since it took effect December 1, 2023, it already has over 300,000 enrollees

- **2024 Focus:**

- NC **H.246** and **H.649**, bills to reform pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and prior authorization respectively, passed the House and are under consideration in the Senate
- SC has introduced **H.B. 4159** and **H.B. 3537**, bills to modernize telemedicine and eliminate copay accumulators respectively
- Cover SC Coalition is working to garner support for Medicaid expansion but does not expect a bill to move this year

Telemedicine: North Carolina

There is no state law regarding reimbursement or service parity for private insurers for telemedicine services

Medicaid reimburses for medically necessary telemedicine services via live video and for audio-only appointments

There is no law permitting Medicaid patients to be seen via telemedicine across state lines

North Carolina is not a participating member of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC)

Telemedicine: South Carolina

There is no state law regarding reimbursement or service parity for private insurers for telemedicine services

Medicaid reimburses for medically necessary telemedicine services via live video. Audio-only appointments are only permitted for existing patients


There is no law permitting Medicaid patients to be seen via telemedicine across state lines.

South Carolina is not a participating member of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC)

State Society Network

The State Society Network is an online community designed to ease communications between state society members and encourage engagement with State Affiliate Council leadership.


LATEST DISCUSSIONS

 **Open Comment Period: Systemic Therapy for Melanoma**

BY: RACHEL GEISEL, 7 DAYS AGO

Posted in: [State Society Network](#)


Good Morning, We are interested in hearing from more community oncologists and as members of your state/regional oncology society, we invite you to submit feedback on draft recommendations (form linked ...

 **RE: Your Feedback is Needed on Physician Well-being**


BY: XYLINA GREGG, MD, 14 DAYS AGO

Posted in: [State Society Network](#)

LATEST SHARED FILES


 **Clinical Trials Attestation Form**

BY: MARY KAY MAKAREWICZ 29 DAYS AGO

 **2023 Coding Update Resources**

BY: MATTHEW COWAN 2 MONTHS AGO

2023 Coding Update resource combining CPT, ICD10-CM, and HCPCS updates, in addition to the January 2023 Quarterly HCPCS update.

 **Overview ASCO Advocacy At Home Program**

BY: MATTHEW COWAN 2 MONTHS AGO

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You to the Volunteers Participating in Advocacy at Home

Through the Advocacy at Home Program, volunteers engage in one-on-one meetings with their lawmakers in their home districts to discuss high priority legislation.

Thank you to the ASCO volunteers who held 14 Advocacy at Home meetings in 2022

@John Deeken, MD - Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA-8)
@Marilyn Heine, MD - Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1)
@Carolyn Hendricks, MD, FASCO - Rep. John Joyce (R-PA-13)
@Jasmine Kamboj, MD - Rep. Thomas Tiffany (R-WI-7)
@Brenda Kimpala, MD - Rep. Deborah Johnson (D-WI)

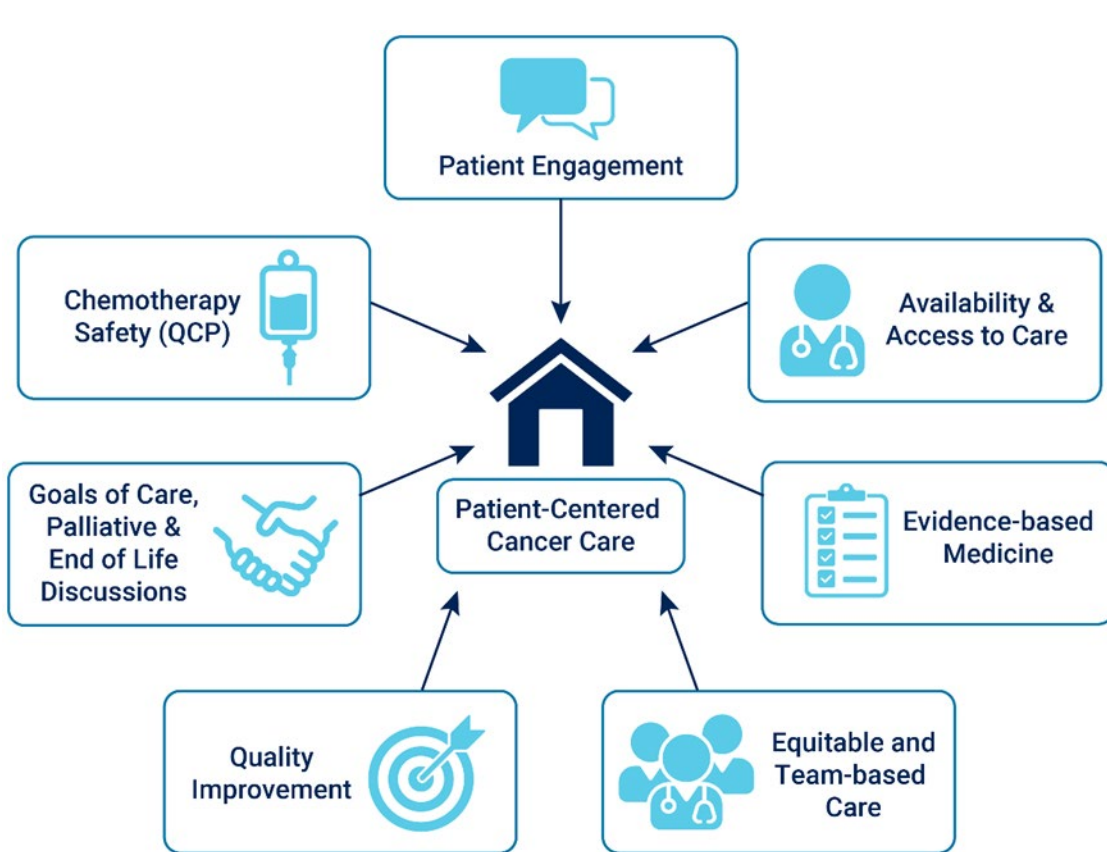
Members of ASCO's State Affiliates can:

- Network with peers across the U.S.
- Post questions and/or concerns
- Connect with State Affiliate Council leadership
- Share documents
- View upcoming events

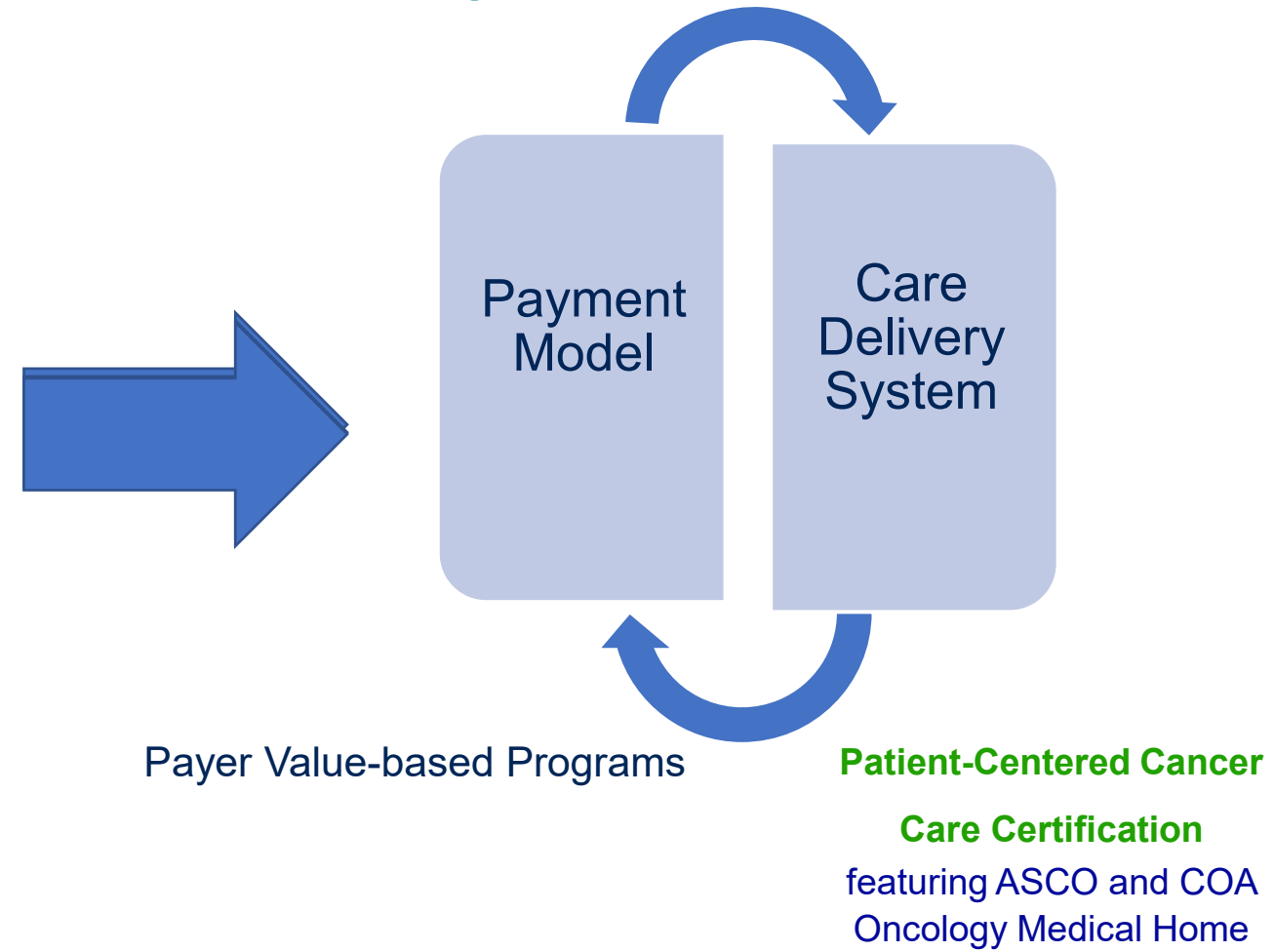
<https://myConnection.asco.org/SSN>

ASCO Patient-Centered Cancer Care Certification

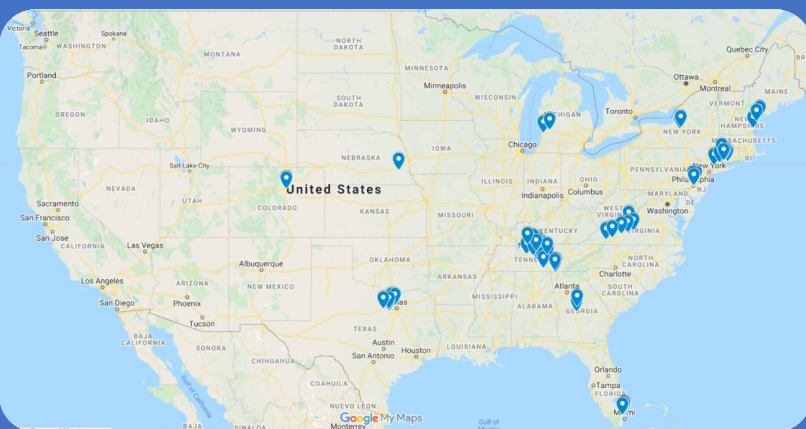
Evolution of ASCO Quality



- ❖ 17 medical home standards
- ❖ 22 chemotherapy safety standards



ASCO Patient-Centered Cancer Care Certification Pilot (APC4)



- **Certification Standards** adopted from Oncology Medical Home Standards and certification manual created
- **Certification Pilot July 2021 to June 2023**
 - 12 practices (95 sites, 492 oncologists)
 - 2 commercial payers engaged (Elevance, Cigna)
 - Policy review, **on-site survey**, and compliance documentation
 - EHR- and claims-based measures during and after certification process, clinical pathway utilization and reporting, patient experience
- **Pilot Certifications awarded**
 - All 12 Practices certified with evidence of practice transformation
 - Positive patient experience and value to practices
 - Payer and Employer interest and recognition for value-based care
- **Program launched nationally July 2023**

• **Now taking applications**

Certification Questions? Contact Us

ASCO Certification Program
standards and operations:
patientcenteredcare@asco.org

ASCO Practice Central:
practice.asco.org



Coverage and Reimbursement

ASCO's Care Delivery

Website Resources



EVALUATION
AND
MANAGEMENT
CHANGES



CARE
MANAGEMENT
SERVICES



ADVANCE CARE
PLANNING



Z CODES AND
SOCIAL
DETERMINANTS
OF HEALTH



ICD-10, HCPCS,
AND CPT
UPDATES



NCCI EDIT



SNF
CONSOLIDATED
BILLING



MEDICARE
COVERAGE
DETERMINATION

Other Supportive Offerings

- **Educational Offerings**
 - In person, virtual, and webinars
 - Topics available or can be customized to meet your members' needs
- **Monthly Coding Tip**
- **Coding and Billing inquiries for practice support**
(practice@asco.org)

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY
KNOWLEDGE CONQUERS CANCER

Our North Star

“We have an opportunity to capitalize on the momentum of the moment and hold ourselves accountable, taking purposeful steps to create a world where every patient, every day, everywhere, has access to the highest quality cancer care. I firmly believe success is within our reach.”

- Lori J. Pierce, MD, FASTRO, FASCO,
2020-2021 ASCO President



Health Equity: Role of Professional Societies

Lead, Drive, and Change the profession's perspective on what equitable delivery of high-quality care includes: Develop Improvements and Work to Understand, Address, and Eliminate Inequities.



Health Equity 2023 Initiatives

Research

ASCO-ACCC Collaboration

Enhance existing resources & drive adoption

Patient Partners Advisory Group manuscript submission

Assess the feasibility for collection of patient screening and enrollment data, by race/ethnicity at trial sites

TAPUR

Evaluation of ASCO's work prioritizing recruitment of underrepresented populations in the study.

Education

Professional Development

Oncology Summer Internship

Medical Student Rotation

Annual Meeting Research Award

Diversity Mentoring Program

Strategic Partnerships

HBCUS

Professional Associations, including AMA, ABIM, NMA

Quality

Action and Awareness Campaign

- Diverse Patient Needs Forum
- Social Influencers' Initiative
- Reassess ASCO member POV on EDI

Cancer Care Access in Rural Montana

- Program Implementation at Hub/Spoke Sites

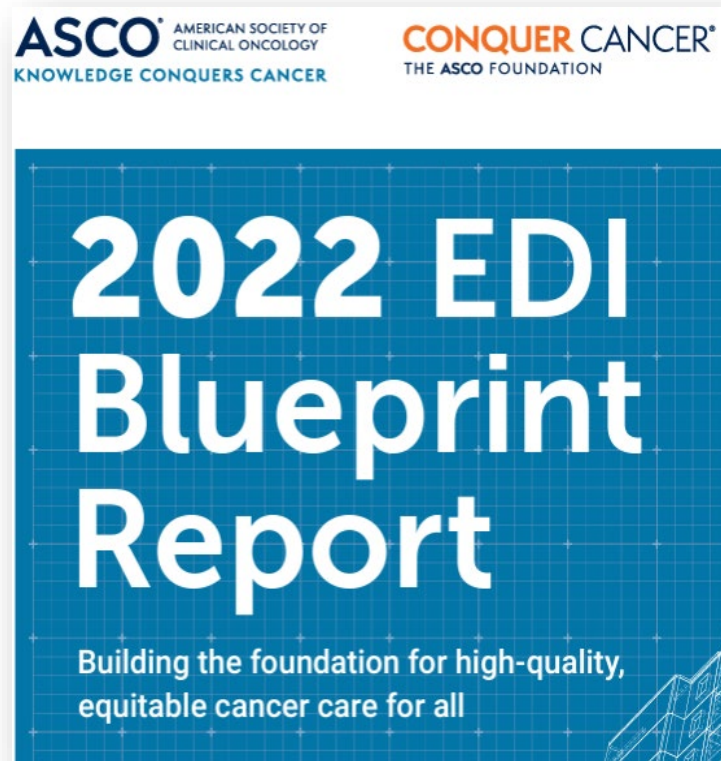
QOPI and LMIC Initiatives

- Expansion to more countries

ASCO EDI Scorecard

- Develop and pilot with ASCO APC4 Practices

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Report

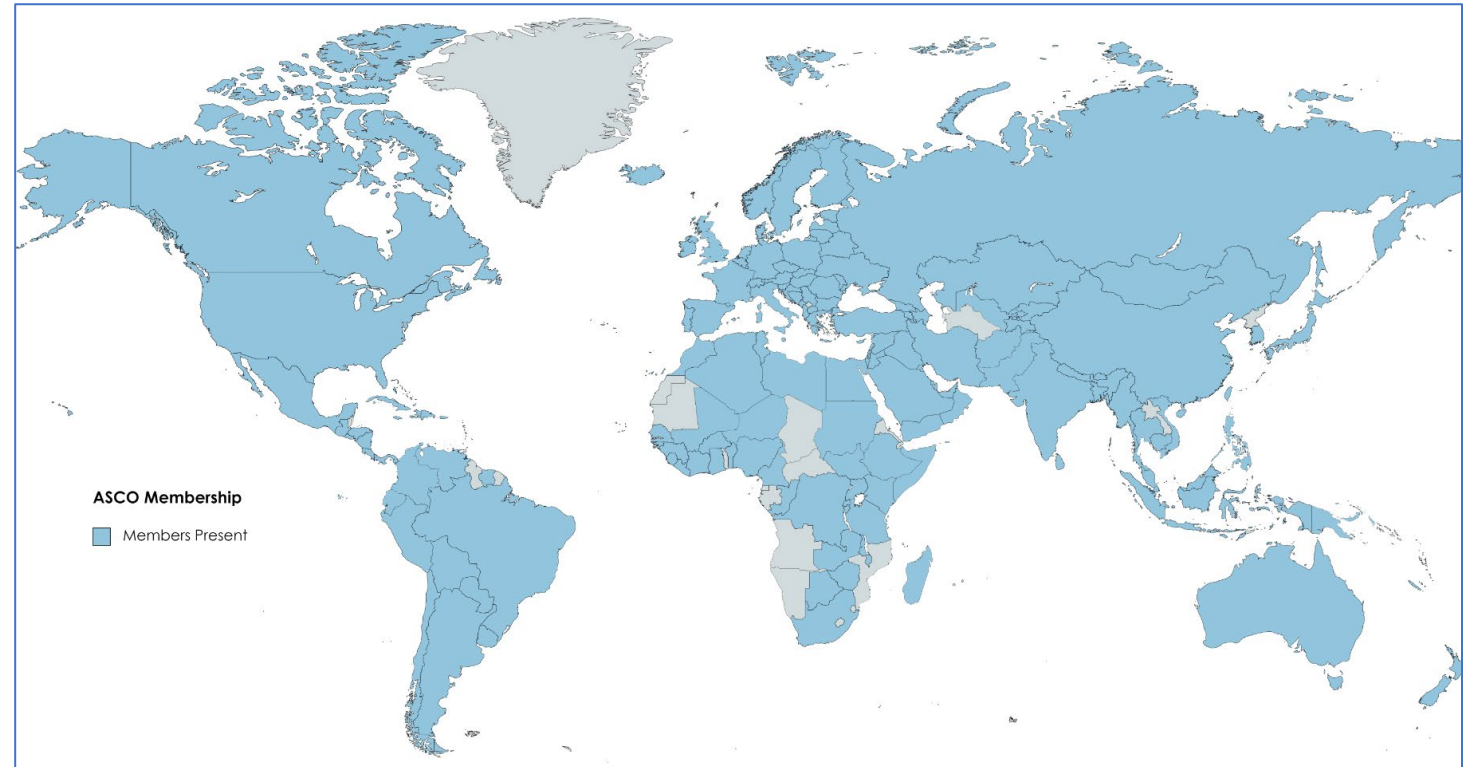


- First publicly shared report on ASCO's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion portfolio
- Spotlights 8 health equity programs
- Assesses ASCO progress through 2022 and path forward

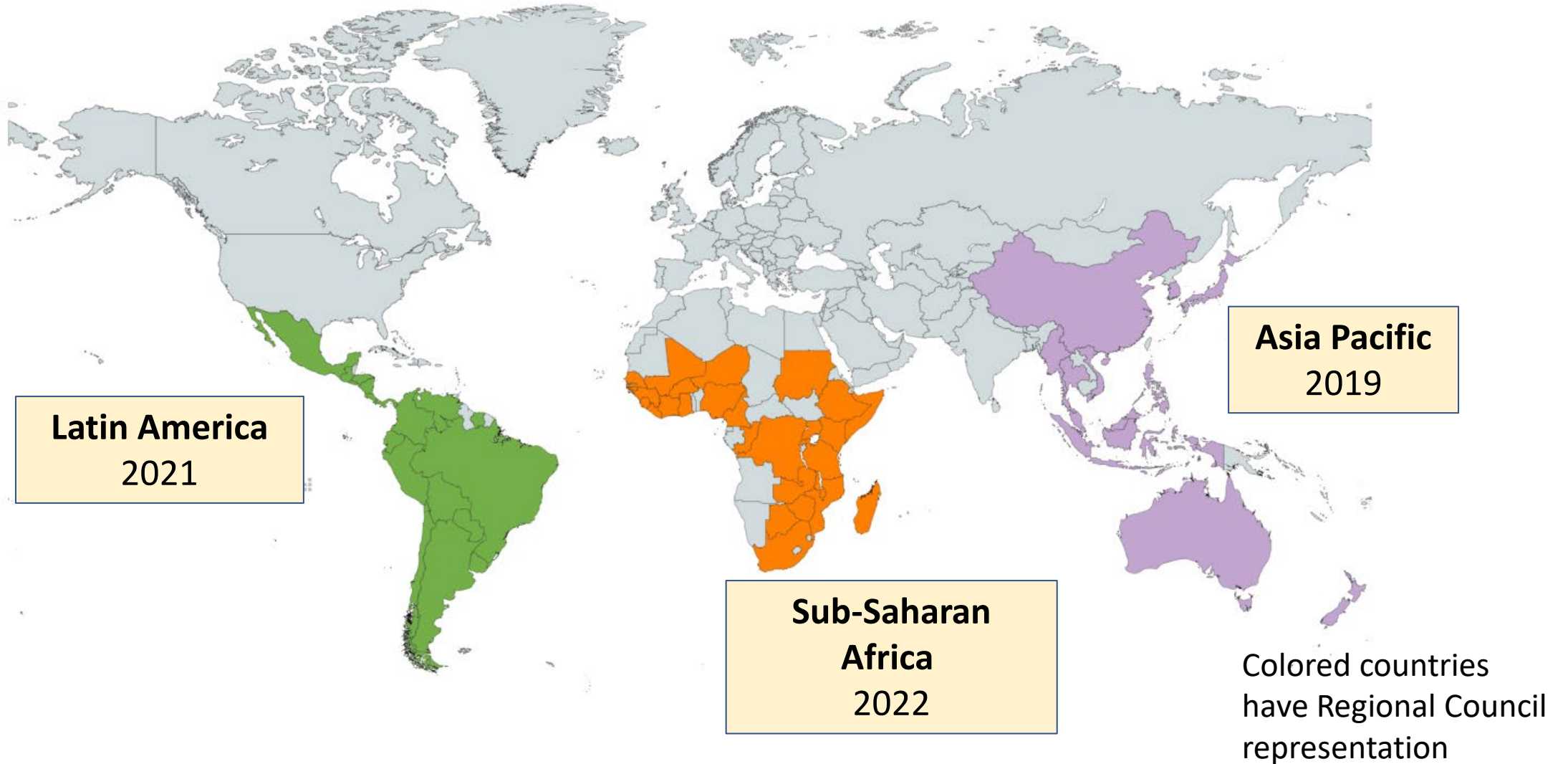
asco.org/equity

ASCO's Global Membership

- ASCO has more than 45,000 members in over 150 countries
 - One third of ASCO members practice outside of the United States
 - Most, though not all, countries have at least one ASCO member



ASCO Regional Councils



ASCO Collaborations Have Breadth and Depth

The World

Global collaborations with major international cancer organizations



Countries and Regions

MOUs with major oncology societies around the world



Cities

Collaborations to improve access to care at major cities in LMICs

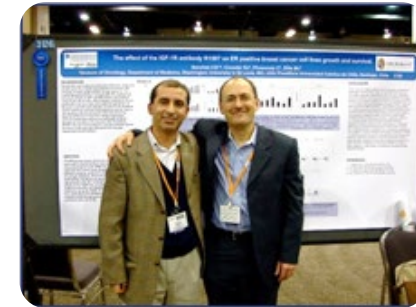
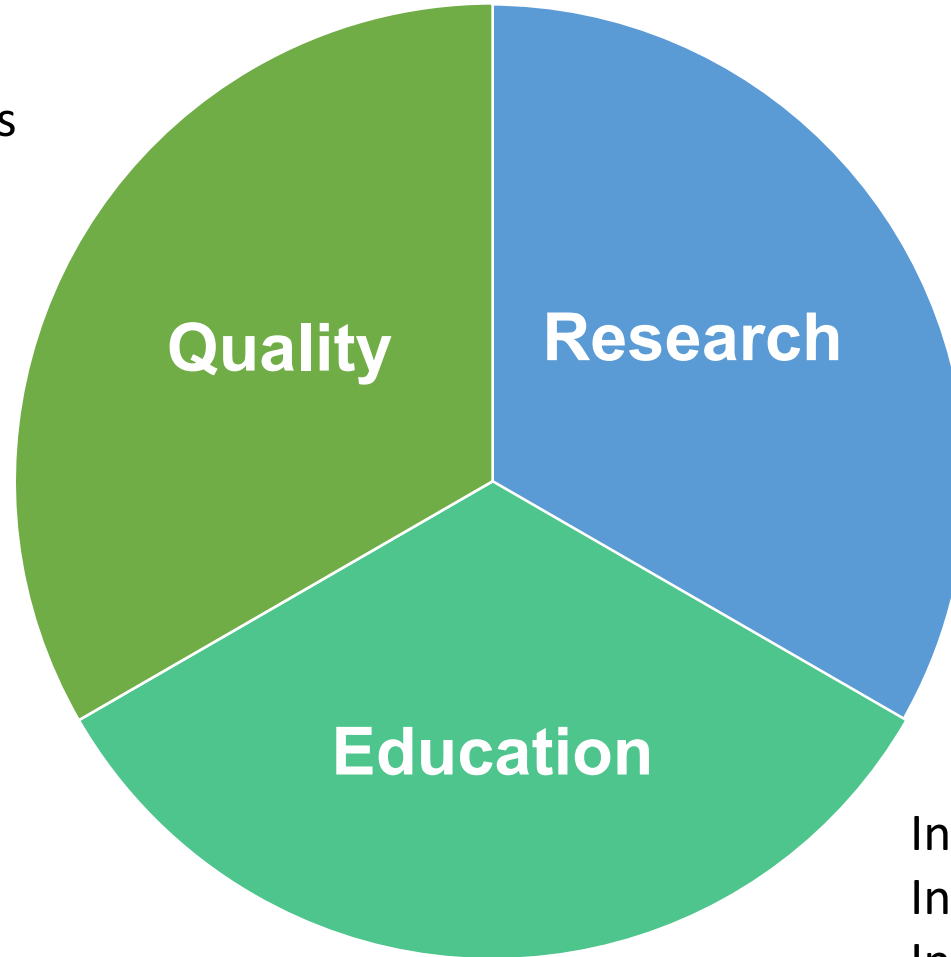


Hospitals

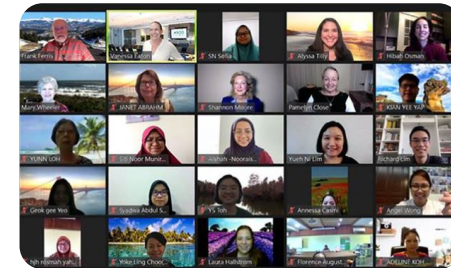
ASCO International Cancer Corps program improving access to care at hospitals in LMICs



Resource-stratified Guidelines
Quality Improvement (QOPI)
International Cancer Corps



International Grants and Awards
JCO Global Oncology



International Courses
International Symposia
International Mentorship & Leadership

Lynn Schuchter, MD, FASCO

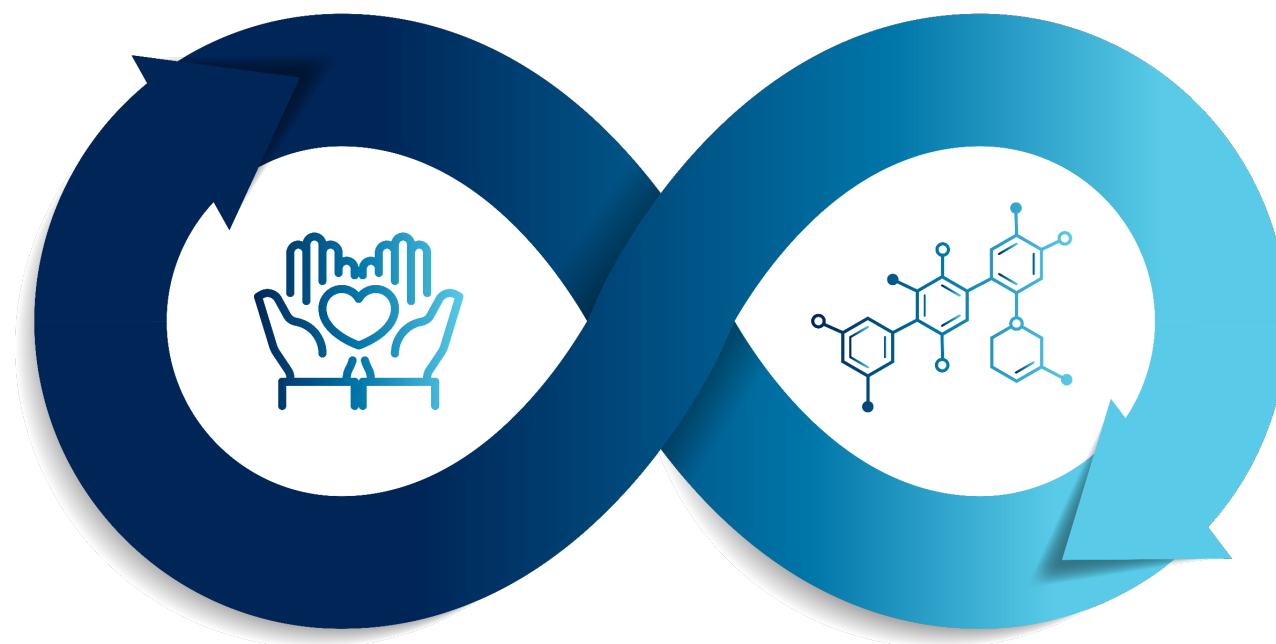
ASCO President (2023-2024)



2023-2024 Presidential Theme

The Art and Science of Cancer Care:

From Comfort to Cure



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ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

KNOWLEDGE CONQUERS CANCER



(Y)our Voice Matters!

Questions