

NCCPs and Cancer Workforce

Doug Pyle, ASCO

asco.org/global

Take Home Messages

- Each NCCP priority needs a workforce plan.
- Countries should align strengthening and training of the workforce with the priorities identified in their NCCP.
- Increasing capacity is not only about training more specialists—it is also about using existing clinicians more effectively.
- ASCO can help.



A Global Organization

Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology is the world's leading professional organization for physicians and oncology professionals caring for people with cancer

Our Mission

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

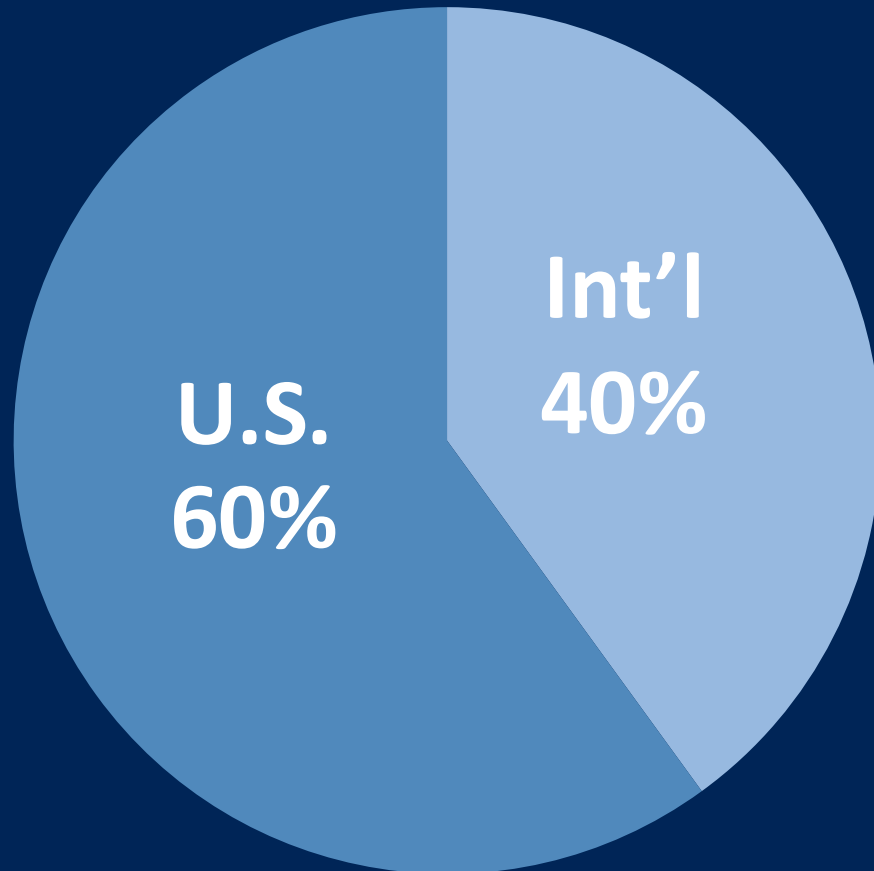
Our Vision

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

Our Core Values

Evidence
Care
Impact

ASCO Membership (March 2026)



Global Membership

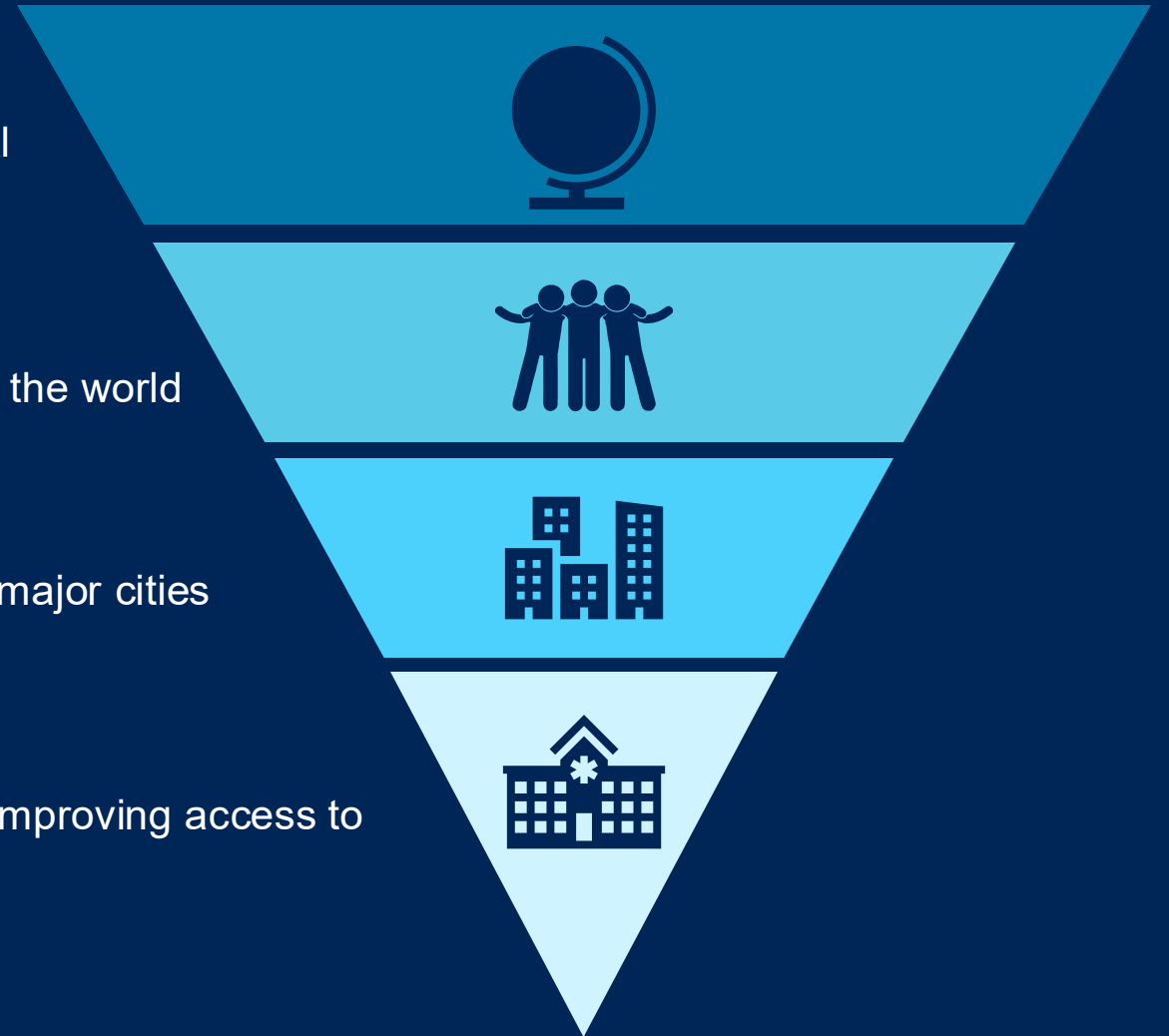
ASCO has over 50,000 members in 170+ countries

- 40% of ASCO members practice outside of the United States

Collaborations

ASCO Collaborations have breadth and depth

- 01 The World**
Global collaborations with major international cancer organizations
- 02 Countries & Regions**
MOUs with major oncology societies around the world
- 03 Cities**
Collaborations to improve access to care at major cities in LMICs
- 04 Hospitals**
ASCO International Cancer Corps program improving access to care at hospitals in LMICs



ICCP Partners



The Cancer Treatment Pathway

Integrating the Multidisciplinary Oncology Workforce

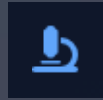


1. Early Detection

Screening programs aim to identify malignancies at the earliest stage.

KEY PROFESSIONS:

- Primary Care Physicians
- Radiologists & Technologists
- Genetic Counselors
- Public Health Workers



2. Diagnosis

Pathology and profiling determine the cancer type and characteristics.

KEY PROFESSIONS:

- Pathologists
- Medical Lab Scientists
- Interventional Radiologists
- Endoscopists



3. Treatment

Multidisciplinary approaches including Surgery, Radiation, and Medical Oncology.

KEY PROFESSIONS:

- Surgical, Medical & Radiation Oncologists
- Oncology Nurses & Navigators
- Medical Physicists & Dosimetrists
- Pharmacists



4. Survivorship

Managing long-term effects and supporting a healthy lifestyle.

KEY PROFESSIONS:

- Rehabilitation Specialists
- Psychologists & Social Workers
- Dietitians / Nutritionists
- Primary Care Physicians

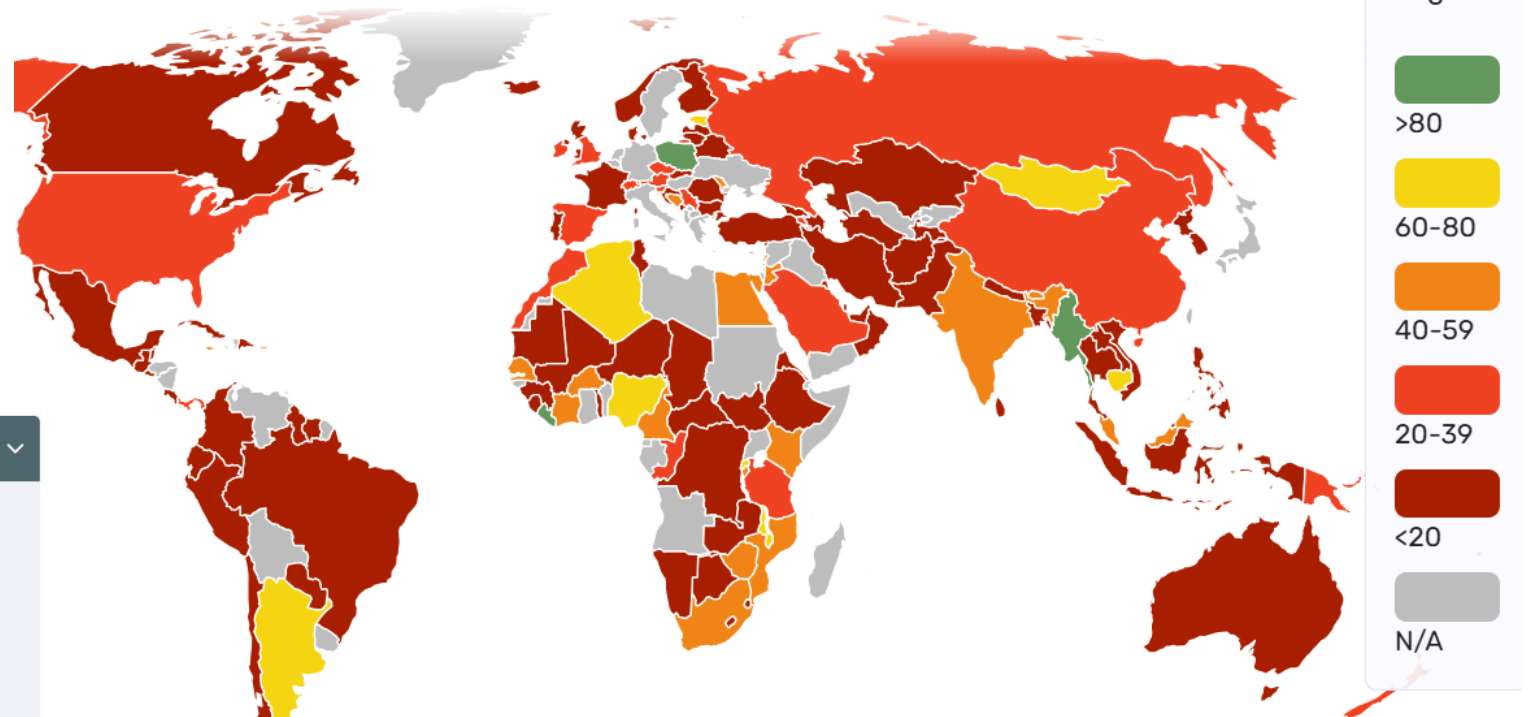
ICCP: Plans and Workforce

 Health workforce

This section details the involvement of the health workforce in the development and implementation of the plan.

Items:

- Strategies related to any type of cancer workforce development or provider training (Oncologists (clinical, medical)/ Surgical oncologists / Medical physicists / Radiation oncologists / Radiation therapists / Oncology nurses Generalist nurses / Primary care providers / Palliative care providers / Community health workers / Pharmacists / Social work/psychologist/psycho-social support Pathologists / Patient navigators)
- Strategies related to cancer workforce hiring/career development to ensure adequate health service delivery



[COMMISSIONS](#) | [GLOBAL HEALTH](#)

Cancer workforce—a global crisis

Published: May 31, 2026

Section 2: workforce obstacles and opportunities in cancer health-care delivery

National Cancer Control Plans (NCCPs) are the backbone of national and regional cancer control strategies, ensuring consistent cancer planning. Policy makers require operational documents to ensure that cancer care and research workforce development align with strategic priorities. However, this linkage rests on the strengths and weaknesses of each country's foundational health planning, including general health-care labour markets, which are often missing in countries in Latin America and SSA. There are considerable deficits in evaluating

Recommendations Include:

1. Workforce and cancer registries
2. NCCPs with workforce plan
3. Improve workflows with digital health, AI and other innovations
4. Foster international collaborations to support workforce development
5. Sustainable financing
6. Equity and shared responsibility

Executive Summary Translation

SUSTAINABLE
CANCER WORKFORCE
SCALE-UP

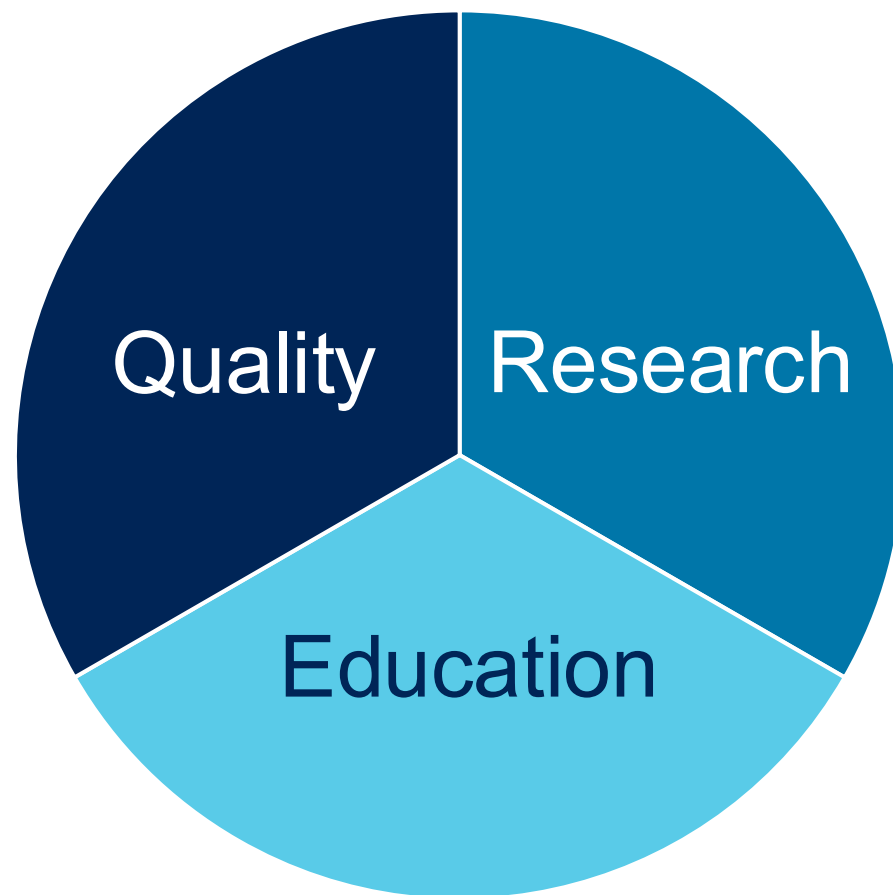
ASCO Study

- 56% projected increase in cancer cases in North America, 2022-2050
- 25% US oncologists 64 or older
- 11% of US population 55+ are in counties with no practicing oncologists
- 68% at risk from retiring oncologists



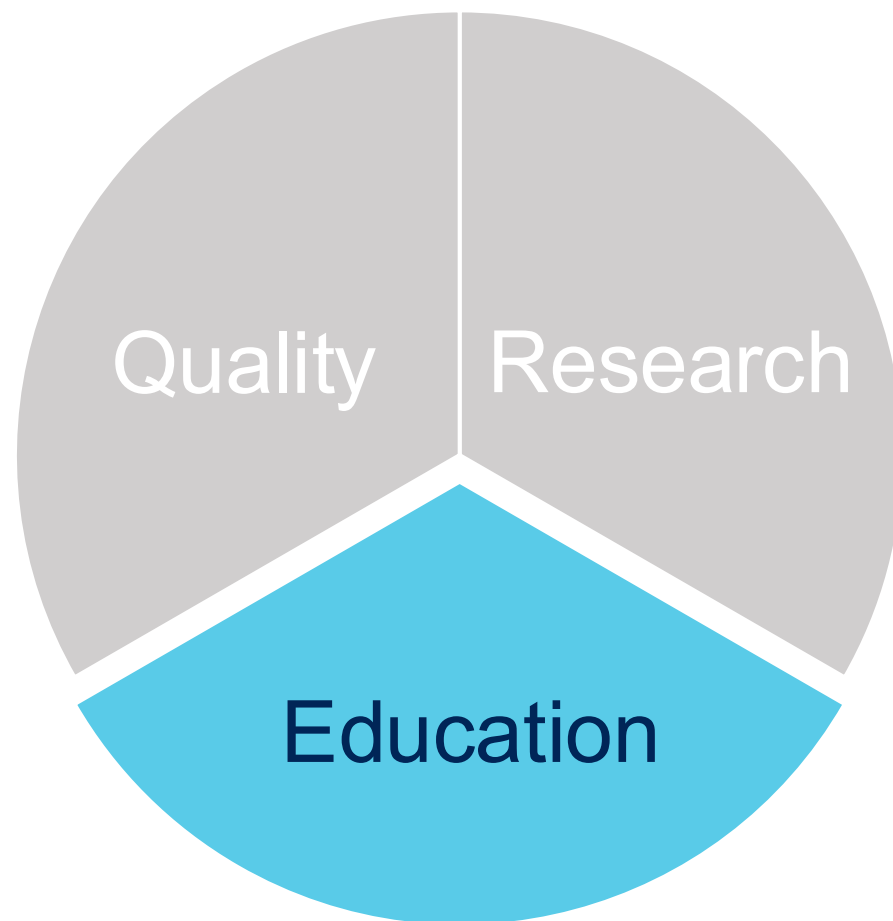


ASCO's Global Impact





ASCO's Global Impact



JCO® Global Oncology
An American Society of Clinical Oncology Journal

ESMO/ASCO Recommendations for a Global Curriculum in Medical Oncology

Global Education: ASCO/ESMO Global Curriculum for Medical Oncology

- Since 2004, ASCO and ESMO have maintained a recommended Global Curriculum for resident/fellow training in medical oncology.
- The curriculum was revised in 2010, 2016, and most recently in 2023.



Fredrick Chite Asirwa MD FASCO • 1st
Chief Medical Oncologist and Hematologist. Professor & Academic Lead, KAB...
2w • Edited •

The ESMO/ASCO Global Curriculum in Medical Oncology remains one of the most important references for developing competency-based oncology training programs worldwide.

The ESMO/ASCO Global Curriculum Working Group developed these recommendations with a clear vision: to define international standards for training medical oncologists and ensure that every patient, regardless of where they live, has access to care from well-trained physicians. (ACS Publications)

I have had the privilege of serving on the ESMO/ASCO Global Oncology Curriculum Working Group, and this curriculum has been my go-to reference while developing and strengthening several oncology education programs across Africa, including:

- ✓ Medical Oncology Fellowship Program
- ✓ Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship Program
- ✓ Higher National Diploma (HND) in Oncology for Clinical Officers
- ✓ Oncology Nursing Training Program (supplemented with oncology nursing competencies)
- ✓ Master of Oncology Pharmacy Program (supplemented with oncology pharmacy competencies)
- ✓ Oncology Preceptorship Programs
- ✓ Other multidisciplinary oncology capacity-building initiatives

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**Questions? Contact
International@asco.org**

ASCO Medical Oncology In- Training Exam (ITE)

- Assesses medical oncology knowledge
- Intended for self-evaluation and program improvement
- 6-hour, 200 question internet-based examination
- Offered internationally
 - Discounts available for World Bank designated low- and middle-income countries
- 2027 Exam Dates: TBD
- Registration opens in late 2026

Questions?
Contact ITE@asco.org



Recommended ESTRO Core Curriculum for Radiation Oncologists/Radiotherapists

4th Edition

Introduction

The European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) developed a “Minimum Curriculum for the Theoretical Education in Radiation Oncology in Europe” in 1991. This Core Curriculum was a great success and played a pivotal role in establishing comparable standards for training across Europe. With the marked evolution in radiation oncology technology and methods a second edition was published in 2004. This was endorsed by thirty-five National Societies. It was integrated into legal or national guidelines in several European countries and provided a significant step towards harmonisation across Europe. The third edition published in 2011, endorsed by 28 national societies, changed the focus from theoretical to competency based education defining the minimum observable abilities radiation oncologists/radiotherapists needed for optimal patient outcomes. It was based on the seven roles of a physician identified in the CanMEDS 2005 physician competency framework and was endorsed by the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS). Since that time:

- Radiotherapy technology and techniques have continued to develop and to be more widely adopted.
- Survival rates for many cancers have increased increasing the importance of managing survivorship.
- The CanMEDS framework was revised in 2015. The role of “Manager” was changed to “Leader”



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

European Journal of Surgical Oncology

journal homepage: www.ejso.com



Consensus Statement

Global curriculum in surgical oncology: 2nd edition, 2026[☆]



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Society of Surgical Oncology
European Society of Surgical Oncology

ABSTRACT

Background: The rising global cancer burden underscores the need for a skilled cancer surgical workforce. Education in the principles of cancer surgery is essential to ensuring a competent cancer surgical workforce. In response, the Society of Surgical Oncology and the European Society of Surgical Oncology jointly published the first Global Curriculum in Surgical Oncology in 2016 to provide a structured framework for the education of cancer surgeons. The updated version of the original curriculum incorporates advances in cancer surgical care from the intervening period, while maintaining the original vision of a globally relevant educational framework. **Material and methods:** The global curriculum committees of the Society of Surgical Oncology and the European Society of Surgical Oncology convened a series of meetings to review, revise, and develop the updated global curriculum in surgical oncology. **Results:** The second edition of the global curriculum in surgical oncology incorporates key advances in cancer surgical care that have occurred since the publication of the original curriculum. The curriculum retains the foundational principles of the first edition, such as: (a) ensuring that the curriculum is resource-stratified, (b) applicability across diverse geographical regions worldwide, and (c) provision of a flexible and modular,

A woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a patterned jacket, is speaking into a microphone. She is seated at a table with a green tablecloth. In the background, other people are seated at tables, listening. The setting appears to be a formal conference or meeting.

**~15 courses
+1,000 trained
each year**

Global Education: Courses

- Multidisciplinary Cancer Management
- Tumor Board Development
- Palliative Care
- Cancer Control for Primary Care
- Clinical Research
- Train the Trainer

***88% of participants report having
changed their practice***

Cancer Control for Primary Care Course

- Target audience: Primary Care Providers
- Cancer prevention, screening, palliation and survivorship
- Build referral networks with diagnostic and oncology facilities



Multidisciplinary Cancer Management Course

- Target audience: oncology professionals
- Cancer management of 1-2 cancer types
- Evidence-based care and use of guidelines
- Team-based care and tumor boards
- Case discussions





Global Education: Joint Sessions & Webinars

- Educational sessions held during a conference or annual meeting of the requesting international organization
- Topics range widely and are decided jointly by ASCO and partner organization
- In-person, hybrid, or fully virtual

20+ collaborating partners per year

18-25 joint sessions and webinars per year

9,000+ clinicians trained on average per year



Global Education: Mentoring & Leadership

- International Development and Education Award (IDEA) and IDEA-Palliative Care
- Virtual Mentoring Program
- Global Leadership Programs
- International Clinical Research Scholars (ICRS) Program

Questions? Contact Interational@asco.org



International Development and Education Award (IDEA) and IDEA – Palliative Care

- 30 early-career oncologists from LMICs
- ASCO Annual Meeting attendance (5 days)
 - Sessions & networking opportunities
- Mentor Connection
- Mentor Institutional Visit (3 days)

Questions? Contact idea@asco.org

Open Now for Applications!



International Clinical Research Scholars Program

- The International Clinical Research Scholars is a 1-year program that pairs clinical research training with mentorship.
- Delivered in a hybrid format, with both in-person and virtual learning sessions.
- Conducted under the purview of the ASCO Regional Councils
 - ICRS in Latin America 2024-2025
 - **ICRS in Africa with AORTIC 2025-2026; applications open in fall 2026 for 2027-2028**
 - ICRS in Asia Pacific 2026-2027





Global Education: Global Leadership Development Programs

- Under the purview of [ASCO's Regional Councils](#)
- Areas of focus for skill development:
 - Team Management
 - Communication
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Public Speaking
- Current LDPs:
 - Asia Pacific
 - Latin America
 - Central and Eastern Europe

Questions? Contact

ProfessionalDevelopment@asco.org

Defining tomorrow's medicine



Participants and Faculty in the 2023 LDP-AP

GLOBAL QUALITY INITIATIVES

ASCO offers quality improvement resources and programs both in the United States and internationally

- ASCO Certified
- Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI®)
- QOPI® Certification Program
- Quality Training Program (QTP)
- ASCO Quality Care Symposium
- ASCO's Global Guidelines
- International Cancer Corps



Global Quality: ASCO's Global Guidelines

ASCO's Global Guidelines are a set of evidence- and formal consensus-based recommendations developed and published for medical professionals and institutions in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) and other resource-constrained settings.

Current GGs include, but are not limited to:

- Geriatric Assessment
 - Early Detection for Colorectal Cancer
 - Palliative Care in the Global Setting
 - Secondary Prevention of Cervical Cancer
-
- Visit the [ASCO website](#) for more information



Become a Member of ASCO Today

ASCO membership is **FREE** for:

- All students, trainees, and fellows
- Professionals in low- and low-middle income countries

Discounted membership is available for professionals in upper-middle income countries

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