

American Society of Clinical Oncology and Advocates: Partners in Patient Advocacy

Network, Learn, Collaborate

ASCO Programs for Patient Advocates

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) works hand-in-hand with patient advocates to address a wide array of issues affecting people with cancer, including: advancement of cancer research, legislative and regulatory matters, raising public awareness of cancer, and providing support to those living with cancer. Whether advocates are operating from an individual or organizational level or a local or national level, ASCO supports their efforts and offers opportunities and resources to promote all types of advocacy for people with cancer. Independent of their particular focus, patient advocates share a common goal with ASCO: addressing the needs and concerns of people with cancer and ultimately accelerating progress against cancer.

ASCO's mission has always centered on improving the treatment and care of people living with cancer. This mission includes serving not only the educational needs of the professional oncology community, but also the educational needs of the patient and survivor communities as well. As such, ASCO provides the opportunity for advocates to attend ASCO's scientific meetings to gain the education, knowledge, and skills necessary to participate in patient advocacy and the cancer research process. ASCO meetings also enable advocacy organizations to promote their programs, services, and resources to the professional oncology community. As an added benefit, ASCO meetings are great places for advocates to network with one another as well as with oncology professionals.

What Advocates Say About the ASCO Annual Meeting

"Thank you for everything that you do to make ASCO such a great experience for our organization—the lounge, President's Reception, learning opportunities, and your communications and updates—truly add so much value and convenience to the ASCO experience."

"Each year ASCO has continued its commitment to the patient advocacy groups and improved the experience and opportunity for us to connect with clinicians and other advocacy groups."

"The ASCO Annual meeting was an invaluable platform and opportunity for me to learn and engage with the best in the field of oncology. It was a great teaching platform to keep abreast with the latest cancer advancements and breakthroughs."

ASCO Annual Meeting

The ASCO Annual Meeting is a forum for cutting edge scientific and educational developments in oncology. It is a platform for the release of thousands of scientific abstracts—highly anticipated research news for many people, including patients, survivors, caregivers, and the general public. Patient advocates may register to attend the ASCO Annual Meeting at a reduced rate. Additional opportunities for patient advocates attending the ASCO Annual Meeting include:

- **ASCO-Sponsored Patient Advocacy Booth:** This booth, which includes 40 patient advocacy organizations, provides a venue where participants can display materials and where patient advocates can meet, interact, and exchange information with meeting attendees.
- **Individual Patient Advocacy Booths:** Individual exhibit booths, also near the front of the Oncology Professionals Hall, are available to patient advocacy organizations at a reduced rate and granted on a first come-first served basis, based on eligibility criteria.
- **Patient Advocate Lounge:** The Patient Advocate Lounge serves as a home base where advocates can gather in a relaxed environment to take a break, utilize the computer terminals, network with others, and peruse ASCO patient information materials.
- **Annual Meeting Video and Slide Bundle:** This product is for people who do not attend the meeting and would like access to the meeting presentations. A discounted rate is available for patients, survivors, caregivers, and advocates.
- **ASCO President's Reception:** Patient advocates registered for the ASCO Annual Meeting are invited to attend this special event (up to two representatives may attend from each exhibiting patient advocacy organization).
- **Conquer Cancer Patient Advocate Scholarship Program:** This program provides scholarships for patient advocates to attend the ASCO Annual Meeting and ASCO Sponsored Symposia (when funds are available) to learn of important advances in their areas of interest.

ASCO Sponsored Symposia

Several additional meetings take place throughout the year, including the Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium, Genitourinary Cancers Symposium, ASCO-SITC Clinical Immuno-Oncology Symposium, and Quality Care Symposium. These smaller, specialized meetings showcase important advances in research and emerging therapies and provide a forum to discuss the latest science in prevention, screening and diagnosis, multidisciplinary treatment, and translational research. Patient advocates may attend at a discounted registration rate and patient advocacy organizations may apply for discounted exhibit space.

ASCO Resources for Patient Advocates

One of ASCO's shared goals with the patient advocacy community is to increase the accessibility of accurate and current information for people living with cancer. ASCO's doctor approved patient information website, Cancer.Net, includes information for patient advocates including: cancer specific resources—national organizations that provide programs, services, information, and support; access to videos, podcasts, and blog posts from national and international cancer experts breaking down the science into specific disease areas and explaining what the studies mean for people with cancer; and much more.

Contact Us

For more information or questions about ASCO's patient advocacy programs, please contact patientadvocates@asco.org.