



ASCO & Advocates Partners in Patient Advocacy

Network, Learn, Collaborate

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

Members of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) work 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
- 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 Programs for Patient Advocates

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.



"Our attendance at the ASCO Annual Meeting has been invaluable in establishing new connections and fostering partnerships. The Meeting is a great opportunity for me to interact with my peers in the advocacy community, as well as with physicians and researchers."

Regina Vidaver, PhD
Executive Director of The National Lung Cancer Partnership

ASCO Annual Meeting

ASCO Annual Meeting Patient Advocacy Programs have expanded significantly to reflect the Society's commitment to working with the advocacy community. Approximately 350 patient advocates attend the ASCO Annual Meeting, representing over 100 patient advocacy organizations. Twenty-four organizations exhibit each year in the ASCO-Sponsored Patient Advocacy Booth, prominently situated at the front of the Oncology Professionals Hall. This booth provides a venue where advocate representatives can promote their organization's mission and programs to meeting attendees. In addition, about 30 other patient advocacy organizations exhibit at the ASCO Annual Meeting. Patient advocate exhibitors receive complimentary access to the non-ticketed sessions at the meeting.

Beyond exhibit opportunities, programs offered for patient advocates at ASCO's Annual Meeting include:

- **Research Review Sessions:** ASCO members review disease-specific topics presented at the meeting, explain how the research is relevant to patients, and answer questions
- **Patient Advocate Scholarships:** Made possible by the Conquer Cancer Foundation of the American Society of Clinical Oncology
- **Patient Advocate Lounge:** A home base where advocates can gather and network
- **Webcasts for patient advocates:** An opportunity to interact directly with ASCO leaders as they highlight studies that will be presented at the ASCO Annual Meeting. Also hear about how to best prepare for the ASCO Annual Meeting
- **Discounted Registration Rate** for up to four representatives per organization
- **Discounted subscription to ASCO's Virtual Meeting:** Advocates, patients, survivors, and caregivers may access all of the meeting presentations online
- **Peer-to-Peer Program:** Advocates are paired up, enabling newcomers to get help with navigating the ASCO Annual Meeting
- **ASCO President's Recognition Reception:** Invitation for two representatives from each patient advocacy organization to this special event

ASCO Sponsored Symposia

Several additional meetings take place throughout the year, including the **Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium**, **Genitourinary Cancers Symposium**, and **Breast Cancer 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 can attend these meetings 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 to people living with cancer. ASCO's doctor approved patient information website, Cancer.Net, includes a section dedicated to advocacy and policy. Here, visitors can:

- Learn about ASCO programs for patient advocates
- Find a comprehensive list of cancer specific resources—national organizations that provide programs, services, information, and support
- Find easy-to-read summaries in the Cancer News and Meetings section that put top scientific news from ASCO meetings into context for patients
- Access videos and podcasts with national and international cancer experts breaking down the science into specific disease areas and explaining what the studies mean for people with cancer
- Read about the missions, programs, and services of various patient advocacy organizations
- Learn what it means to be a patient advocate
- Read about current policy issues that impact people with cancer

What Advocates Are Saying About ASCO

“ 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.”

“ As a lay advocate, I found the Research Review Sessions [at the Annual Meeting] very helpful. After listening to highly technical information all day, it was nice to have someone explain and summarize the important parts of the day.”