

## **ASCO Statement on Addressing Racism in Oncology**

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is dedicated to advancing the highest quality, equitable cancer care for everyone, no matter who they are, where they live, or the color of their skin. Events of the past year have further galvanized us to condemn racism, acknowledge its profound impact on public health, and commit significant new volunteer and staff resources to confront it. ASCO's [Policy Statement on Cancer Disparities and Health Equity](#) serves as a blueprint for taking bolder, more effective steps to address the complex forces and systems that are responsible for disparities in cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and research. Because racism undermines all of our efforts against cancer, we must commit the same energy into confronting racism as we do to conquering cancer itself. This effort includes a critical review of our own policies and commitment to dismantling those that foster exclusion and de-value certain segments of our society.

Our goal is to ensure that every member of our professional community and staff is supported and embraced. To that end, we are embedding an equity, diversity, and inclusion perspective into all Society programs. This also includes careful attention to our use of language that both acknowledges lived experience and our commitment to take meaningful action. Building on our existing [portfolio](#), ASCO has most recently:

- Appointed its first ASCO Diversity and Inclusion officer to guide ASCO internal and external initiatives aimed at achieving the Society's equity, diversity, and inclusion goals;
- Established new staff and volunteer Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion task forces that are contributing to the development of a wide range of new activities across the Society;
- Formed a collaboration with the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) to increase clinical trial participation among patients from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, an effort that will include providing research sites with a site assessment tool and implicit bias training;
- Produced a new educational series focused on the role of social determinants of health in cancer care and cancer outcomes;
- Launched implicit bias training for grant review programs and are developing programs for broad dissemination to oncology professionals and Society staff.
- Launched a new oncology summer internship program for medical students underrepresented in medicine; and
- Successfully advocated for Medicaid coverage of routine costs associated with patients participating in clinical trials.

These efforts are just the beginning of our commitment. Sustained improvement will require ongoing vigilance to ensure we achieve durable and meaningful impact. Until patients every day and everywhere have a chance at the best possible outcome for their disease, we will not rest. We welcome ideas and participation in advancing this dialogue throughout ASCO and attaining long overdue equity in all aspects of cancer care and research.

[Learn more.](#)