FAQ for ASCO Research Survey Pool (RSP)

What is the ASCO Research Survey Pool?

The ASCO Research Survey Pool (RSP) is a service for researchers available through ASCO’s Center for Research and Analytics (CENTRA). The service is available for ASCO members who engage in survey research as a method for surveying oncology professionals. The “Pool” consists of domestic and international ASCO members who have opted to participate in research survey projects conducted by ASCO members.

Who can use the ASCO Research Survey Pool?

Members of ASCO are welcome to submit an application to CENTRA for conducting a survey of ASCO members for research purposes. All applicants are required to complete an ASCO RSP application. The application includes: a brief summary of the project’s goals and objectives; a description of the types of members to be surveyed (e.g. medical oncologists; women members); a summary of the proposed statistical analysis plan including justification for the sample size requested; a dissemination plan that describes how the results of the project will be shared (e.g. publication, presentation at national meetings); and, team member qualifications. Surveys for market research or internal use will not be considered.

How do I join the Survey Pool?

ASCO Members who wish to join the Research Survey Pool should login to their member profile on asco.org. Once in your profile, select “Consent.” Members can opt-in to the pool by selecting “Yes” after reviewing the information regarding participation in the pool. Members may visit their profile and select “No” at any time if they would not like to be a part of the Pool.

Do I have to be an ASCO member to apply to conduct a survey with the ASCO RSP?

At this time, only ASCO members are permitted to utilize the members included in the survey pool for survey research. Non-members may consider joining ASCO to utilize the ASCO RSP or collaborating with an ASCO member who can submit the project on behalf of the research team.

Can a for-profit organization conduct a survey using the ASCO RSP?

The ASCO RSP is currently available for ASCO members and not available to industry or other for-profit survey research.

What is the cost for conducting a survey?

Upon successful review of a survey application and full execution of a signed contract, the survey requester will be charged $20,000 due within 2 weeks of the signed contract. There is no charge to apply for an RSP survey project. If the requester is reliant on pending grant funds to pay for the survey service, this can be noted in the application.
Does ASCO offer statistical support for analyzing survey results?

Statistical support for analysis of survey data is not currently available. However, as part of the data that is returned to the requester, summary statistics per question and univariate displays are provided.

When can I submit an application?

ASCO RSP applications can be submitted at any time. Review of individual applications will take place at the beginning of each quarter (i.e. January, April, July, and October). Applicants who would like to be considered to have their survey administered during a particular timeframe will need to ensure that their application has been submitted with sufficient time allowed for review, revisions, and all necessary contracts to be signed prior to survey launch. Applications received early in the cycle will not receive any preference in the review process.

When will applicants know whether their survey project has been approved?

Reviews are scheduled at the beginning of each quarter. ASCO RSP applicants are typically notified within one month of the quarterly submission deadline.

How long is the overall ASCO RSP review and survey implementation process?

After ASCO review and notification of survey project approval, ASCO will provide necessary contractual agreements for signature and will require payment prior to commencing the survey project. ASCO will conduct the survey on behalf of the researcher. Surveys will launch and be open for 4 weeks (unless another time frame is mutually agreed upon by the research team and ASCO). ASCO will provide a de-identified data set and a summary report back to the researcher within 30 days of closure of the survey. ASCO aims for the process to be completed within 4 months. Researchers should properly cite ASCO’s involvement in the project and the researcher will notify CENTRA@asco.org once their research is published.
How are the ASCO RSP projects chosen?

ASCO’s CENTRA requires that each survey project aligns with ASCO’s Mission and standards for high-quality research. Projects should align with the ASCO mission, demonstrate their relevance to the field of clinical oncology, as well as how the data will be utilized and shared with the oncology community. All proposals will be reviewed by an internal panel to ensure the research proposal is scientifically rigorous and the project includes appropriate substantive, clinical, and technical expertise. A maximum of two proposals will be selected each quarter.

Who is in the survey pool?

The survey pool comprises ASCO members. This includes members at different stages in their careers, clinicians (e.g. clinicians, pharmacists, etc.), allied health professionals, researchers, members from various practice types, and members from the US and across the globe. ASCO plans to allow international surveys in late 2020. Member characteristics are described on the homepage.

What are some benefits to members for joining the pool?

Members of the pool receive FASCO points for the completion of RSP surveys, and are able to provide useful information to further research that is consistent with ASCO’s mission. No additional incentives are offered currently.

How long does ASCO spend collecting responses?

ASCO will launch surveys to members who meet the characteristics of the applicant’s desired survey population. Surveys will be open for approximately four weeks and one reminder will be sent after approximately two weeks to members of the pool who have not responded. If the response rate is considered insufficient, ASCO will send a second reminder and extend the open period.
What if the survey does not reach a project's desired response rate?

ASCO will oversample by at least twice the desired sample size, when available, for the survey to help ensure a sufficient sample size. As noted above, ASCO will leave the survey open longer than the prescribed time if the response rate is low and send reminders to non-respondents. If, despite ASCO's efforts, the response rate is lower than expected, leading to a sample size that is smaller than requested in the application, ASCO will not be held responsible.

Additionally, requesters are responsible for clearly describing the eligibility criteria for their target population to ensure the sample is reflective of the desired population.

Are the data de-identified when they are provided back to the external research team?

Yes. All data provided back to the research team are de-identified. ASCO removes the name, email, and mailing addresses, and any other data that may be identifiable to ensure member privacy.

How will the data be provided back to the research team?

All data will be provided back in Excel as well as a limited number of summary statistics.

Can a research team follow up with individual survey respondents to collect additional feedback on a survey?

ASCO provides de-identified survey data. Researchers will not be able to contact survey respondents for follow up, nor will ASCO follow-up on your behalf. However, in some cases, the survey may ask the respondent if s/he is willing to be contacted by the research team. If the respondent is willing to be contacted, s/he would be required to provide contact information such as an email address.

Who owns the data?

The researcher owns the data. However, ASCO may request use of the data from the research team to pursue a secondary analysis of the data or to utilize the data gathered for our own internal purposes. ASCO would ensure that sufficient time (at least 12 months from provision of data) has passed to allow the research team to complete their own research before embarking on analysis of the data for secondary research questions.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions not explained here, please email centra@asco.org for assistance.