Fighting Cancer... Saving Lives

THE CASE FOR THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CYTOPATHOLOGY
It was just another Tuesday morning but Kathy will never forget it;

she had put her 10-year-old daughter Morgan on the bus to school when she heard her phone ringing. Her gynecologist was calling. She thought it strange that her doctor would personally call, and her heart started to race. Her doctor was reassuring and supportive but her news was devastating. Abnormal cells were found on her Pap test and she needed to see a gynecologic oncologist for follow-up. Kathy subsequently had a biopsy, which showed a serious precancerous change. Her Pap test saved her life!

Tony felt a small lump underneath his right jaw

while driving his truck to his next delivery. At first, he thought nothing of it, but it seemed to get bigger over time. He went to see his family doctor, who referred him to a specialist. The specialist explained to him that he would be performing a fine needle aspiration (FNA) on his lump. The doctor explained to him that an FNA obtains cells for a diagnosis, sparing him the trauma, potential complications and expense of a surgical biopsy. The FNA would also collect extra cells for specialized molecular tests that would determine treatment be if the lump was cancer. Tony’s FNA confirmed that he had cancer, but the good news was that it was early stage cancer. The molecular tests performed on the cells showed that the cancer was associated with a virus and Tony’s cancer could be treated successfully. Tony is getting his treatment now and he and his loved ones hope for a cure. His FNA test saved his life!
Saving Lives One Cell at a Time

The American Society of Cytopathology (ASC) is a professional organization of physicians, scientists, and cytotechnologists dedicated to the detection and early diagnosis of cancer and its precursors. Cytopathologists and cytotechnologists are medical professionals who evaluate microscopic cells sampled from anywhere in the body. These professionals hope to detect cancer and pre-cancer in the earliest stage of disease, and test it for information that will direct optimal treatment, so that patients can begin their journey to recovery. The ASC Foundation supports the ASC initiatives of education, innovation and patient advocacy with the primary objective of saving lives through early diagnosis and cancer prevention interventions.

Our History

The American Society of Cytopathology (ASC), founded in 1951, is a distinguished professional organization with a global membership of more than 3000 individuals who share a vision of education, innovation, and continuous improvement in the standards and quality of patient care.

In 2002, the ASC Executive Board created the ASC Foundation to expand support for the Society’s mission and strategic goals. The ASC Foundation drives the ASC’s vision of Fighting Cancer, Saving Lives!

The Challenge: Promoting Early Detection

The wide use of the Pap test in the 1950’s has dramatically reduced the death rate from cervical cancer. However, cervical cancer is still with us. Risk factors for cervical and other cancers are those in underserved communities with no regular access to care or modern developments in cancer detection and diagnosis.

The Solution: Advocacy, Education and Innovation

The ASC is fully committed to its vision of “Saving Lives One Cell at a Time™.”

Cytopathology professionals are the recognized leaders in minimally invasive methods of cancer screening and detection. The “Pap Test,” the first and most successful method of cancer screening in history, is the historic legacy of cytopathology. Over the past 70 years, cytopathology professionals have improved Pap test accuracy by using innovations such as liquid-based Pap tests, computer-assisted analysis and testing Pap test samples for the HPV virus, which is the known cause of most cervical cancers.

Minimally invasive sampling methods, including fine needle aspiration (FNA) have revolutionized patient care. Fine needle aspiration provides cost-effective, accurate diagnoses previously possible only through surgery. Today, cytopathology is at the forefront of “personalized or precision medicine,” a revolution that individualizes therapy based on evaluation of molecular, genomic and other characteristics of tumors.

The evidence is clear. Early Detection Saves Lives. The American Society of Cytopathology Foundation promotes and supports the ASC’s leading role in education, innovation and advocacy in cytopathology to increase early detection of cancer and its precursors.
Who do we help and What services do we offer?

The ASC Foundation currently supports an Investigator Grant, a Patient Advocacy Grant, Annual Scientific Meeting Travel Scholarships, and grants to support state and regional cytology organizations.

The ASC’s major missions include education and innovation in cytopathology or related fields and advocacy on behalf of the profession and its patients. Strengthening local organizations with high quality, accessible meetings helps sustain state and regional organizations as well as the ASC into the future.

We focus on these three areas:

- **Advocacy**
  
  The ASC emphasizes public education and awareness of early cancer detection practices – especially cervical cancer. The ASC Foundation funds projects that focus primarily on patient education and effective screening programs.

- **Education**
  
  We provide high quality education at Annual Scientific Meetings, distance learning through webinars and internet-based educational programs, and support for cytopathology training programs.

- **Innovation**
  
  The ASC disseminates cytopathology research findings. The ASC Foundation funds projects relevant to clinical cytopathology practice, translational research for new technologies in cytopathology and best practices in cytopathology.
Where we Are... and Where we Are Going With Your Help

ASC Foundation
Patient Advocacy Grant

In California, we support the Paul Hom Asian Clinic Cervical Cancer Awareness program, which educates underserved Asian women about cervical cancer screening. This program motivates them to be screened and gives them knowledge that might save their lives.

In Texas, the Dia de la Mujer Latina patient centered team of Promotores and Community Health Workers are promoting education, early cancer detection and risk reduction strategies to Latina populations. We have helped to provide screening to over 300 women, navigating 18 of them through their treatment.

In India an estimated 134,000 women have cervical cancer and there are 73,000 deaths from cervical cancer. By supporting “Ivy for India” we help develop microscopic training programs for local individuals so they are able to evaluate Pap tests. These sustainable programs in cytopathology use local resources to save lives through cervical cancer screening using the Pap tests.

Previous Grant Awardees Projects

2006  Professionals Analyzing Pap Smears, Inc., Africa
2007  Cytopathology Medical Mission at the Philippines Heart Center in Quezon, Philippines
       Pap Test Combined with HPV Testing for an Under-served and Unscreened Minority Ethnic Group in Guizhou, China.
2009  The CerviCusco Project, Peru
2010  Post Earthquake Assistance, Haiti
2011  Cervical Cancer Awareness Campaign – Intervention in Rural El Salvador
2012  Mobile Cervical Cancer Screening Unit, Coalition of Hispanic Women Against Cancer, Kansas
2013  Cancer Prevention in India
2014  Paul Hom Asian Clinic’s Cervical Cancer Awareness Campaign, California
       Cytotechnology Training Program & Cervical Cancer Screening in Trichy, India
       Día de la Mujer Latina™ (DML), Texas
2015  Cervical Cancer Awareness Campaign: General Populations Education and Awareness in El Salvador
       Coalition of Hispanic Women Against Cancer, Kansas
       Implementing Spoken Tutorials for Pap Smears Educational Modules in Local Indian Dialects to Increase Cytoscreener Training Programs, India
2016  Developing a Cervical Cancer Screening Advocacy Tool through a Digital Patient Decisions Aid (dPDA) for Low & Middle Income Women, India
       Evidence Based Advocacy for Screening and Early Disease Management of Cervical Cancer in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja; A Project in Bwari, Abaji, Amac and Gwagwalada Area Councils in Abuja, Nigeria
       Path’way to Better Health Outcomes: Establishing a Cytology Training Program in Rwanda
ASC Foundation Annual Scientific Meeting Travel Scholarships

“The ability to attend the American Society of Cytopathology Annual Scientific Meeting was an amazing experience. I treasured the time, not only in the education sessions, but also getting to meet and communicate with others in the field.”

- Kala Mangiulli, BS, CT(ASCP)
ASC Innovation Grants

The tools of Cytopathology are continually evolving. The ASC Foundation Innovation Grants supports research studies to develop new technologies to diagnose diseases and offer the investigator several venues to present research outcomes.

Spectral-Spatial Analysis of Atypical Urine Cytology Specimens Predicts Biopsy Outcome

C-fos mRNA Levels Predict Response to Iressa Therapy

Validation of the Standardized RT-PCR Method for the Diagnosis of Pulmonary Carcinoma in Aspiration Biopsy Samples

Development of a Clinically Applicable Assay for the Biochemical Response of Tumors to Targeted Drug Therapy

Detecting RET Gene Rearrangements on Thyroid Fine Needle Aspiration Specimens with Equivocal Diagnoses.

Microarray Gene Expression Profiles of Breast Adenocarcinoma Before and After Treatment with Chemotherapy.

Molecular Detection and Study of Circulating Tumor Cells in Non-small Cell Lung Cancers.

Combined Genetic and Epigenetic Analyses for Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma in Fine Needle Aspiration Samples.

The Efficacy of the Selected HPV Genotyping in Predicting High-Grade Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia in Women with Pap Results of Atypical Squamous Cells of Undetermined Significance (ASC-US), A Clinical Validation Study

HPV Testing in Cytology Head and Neck Specimens

HPV16 DNA Methylation Frequency for Improved Triage of ASCUS

On Line Education in Cytotechnology (O LEC)
Although We’ve Accomplished So Much, Our Future Depends On You

Since the inception of the Foundation, the ASC has received over $2 million in contributions and given over $1 million in grants and scholarships. Over 51% of the contributions are received from ASC Members. Over 1,200 physician members and over 1,000 cytotechnologist members have contributed, with an average contribution of $465. Our Corporate Supporters have been invaluable to the Foundation since the beginning with gifts totaling over $1.1 million.

Your contributions help us to stay relevant, navigate the future, and touch lives through innovative life-saving research, patient advocacy initiatives and educational programs.

Ways of Giving & Supporting the ASC Foundation

The ASC Foundation has several giving programs that embrace the Society’s Mission. You can support the ASC and the future of cytopathology in a number of ways.

Celebrate, Honor or Memorialize a Special Person

Mentorship has always been important to the ASC. Our organization is more than a professional platform for scientific exchange. It provides a vehicle for continuous professional development, recognition of exceptional talent, and collaboration across institutions. It also provides links from one generation to the next.

Make a Star of Your Mentor

Every year through the ASC Foundation’s Make a Star of Your Mentor Program, our members fill the heavens with starred mentors who have contributed time and expertise benefiting others.

Diamonds in the Rough

Mentors celebrate those they have mentored by honoring them through the Diamonds in the Rough program. Mentors celebrate their legacy of trainees who have distinguished themselves through lecture, advocacy or scientific publication.

Gem of a Colleague

Honoring colleagues who embody the mission of the ASC should be an important part of celebrating and publicizing cytopathology. Recognizing colleagues by contributing through the Make a Gem of your Colleague program is a meaningful way to make a difference in the future of cytopathology.

The ASC Legacy Fund

The American Society of Cytopathology Foundation is pleased to continue the ASC Legacy Fund, a lectureship in honor of Dr. Leopold Koss. Stimulated by a gift from Dr. Leopold Koss to endow a lectureship in his honor, the Foundation created the ASC Legacy Fund in 2009. This fund endows a lectureship to honor Dr. Koss for his long involvement in cytopathology research, teaching and patient care, and his many contributions to the ASC. The lecture is presented annually at the ASC’s Annual Scientific Meeting by a prominent scientist with a national/international reputation in a scientific discipline pertinent to the field of cytopathology.

Text CYTO to 41444 to contribute via your mobile device
Giving Levels

Every level of giving is important. We are proud that over 50% of our members donate to the future of our profession. The Foundation has several recognition levels to honor generous and loyal donors.

Platinum Papanicolaou Club .............. $100,000 and up
Golden Papanicolaou Club ............... $50,000 – $99,999
Papanicolaou Club ......................... $20,000 – $49,999
Presidents Club ............................ $10,000 – $19,999
Foundation Club .......................... $5,000 – $9,999
Executive Club ............................. $1,000 – $4,999
Members Club .............................. $500 – $999
Contributor .................................. up to $499

Your pledge will help assure the ASC’s influence and viability as guardians of the profession of cytopathology. We are grateful for the support of our Donors! For a complete list, please review the list of Donors on the ASC Web site.

Thank you for considering a gift to the ASC. Tax-deductible contributions can be made securely online using your credit or debit card. You can send a check made payable to the ASC Foundation or select your gift amount in the appropriate location on your ASC membership renewal invoice.

The ASC Foundation greatly appreciates your support of the Society’s commitment of Fighting Cancer, Saving Lives.

Working towards a Solution

In support of the Society’s mission, the ASC Foundation will use contributions for education, advocacy and innovation. You can direct your contribution to the following program:

Advocacy

Advocacy is the promotion of the cytologic method for the early detection, prevention and treatment of cancer. Advocacy is directed at professional practice, health care policy and patients.

Education

Education efforts focus on the annual scientific meetings; distance learning by webinars and Internet based technologies; maintenance and accreditation of training programs for cytotechnology and cytology based fellowships.

Innovation

The ASC is the fountainhead of dissemination of research findings relevant to cytopathology. The ASC Foundation funds awards, grants and projects that result in scientific publications, uses of the cytologic technique, as well as the development of new technology. The ASC also funds research to support best practices in cytopathology.

Double or Triple Your Contribution

Many employers offer matching gift programs to encourage employees to contribute to charitable organizations. Some provide matching funds made by retirees and/or spouses. Most of these programs match contributions dollar for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount of your gift! To find out if your employer will match gifts to the ASC Foundation, please check with your employer’s human resource office about a matching gift program.
Corporate Sponsors Program

The ASC Foundation has introduced a Corporate Partners Program, which will enhance the corporate identity of organizations in the cytology field. Participating in the ASC Foundation’s Corporate Supporters Program will maximize your exposure to the premier organization in cytology. The Program provides opportunities for industry to support programs in Cytology Education, Research and Advocacy. To meet the organizations’ specific needs and preferences, we can customize the program. Choose your plan and the ASC will work towards creating a package that will provide you the greatest return.

The Programs include the following levels of support:

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An ASC Corporate Partner has the opportunity to promote products and services, while ensuring the future growth of cytology and helping build relationships with cytology leaders.

Top Reasons to Become an ASC Corporate Supporter

1. Year-long recognition on the ASC Website
2. Recognition in *The ASC Bulletin*, the ASC’s newsletter
3. Special notice of appreciation in the ASC Annual Report
4. Recognition in the Annual Scientific Meeting Final Program
5. Prominent recognition at the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting
6. Annual Scientific Meeting exhibitor priority points
7. Recognition by the ASC membership as a committed ASC Corporate Partner

Contact the ASC National Office at (302)-543-6583 if your company is interested in supporting the ASC.
Making a Gift to the ASC Foundation

Your gift to the ASC Foundation as the fund-raising arm of the ASC, will help improve the health of individuals and the community through education, research, and advocacy.

The ASC Foundation collaborates closely with contributors, including individuals, families, and corporate partners to address the donors’ interests, customize programs, and provide the recognition that fully honors their generosity and vision.

Your gift can take many forms and includes gifts provided today or deferred to the future. We would welcome the opportunity to explore those options with you.

We understand that making a gift to the ASC Foundation involves developing a relationship over time. Like any other relationship there needs to be trust, commitment, growth, common purpose, and mutually rewarding outcomes. Philanthropy is not a “program” or a “project” but a practical expression of a philosophy that assures the achievement of a common goal. We would be delighted to work with you to develop a relationship so that we can achieve our mutual goals and you can create a legacy.

Please Contact us at (302)-543-6583 at your convenience for more information on making a gift to the ASC Foundation.

Your contributions help us to stay relevant, navigate the future, and touch lives through life-saving cytologic techniques. Make a simple and meaningful contribution today.