Introduction

As the world’s leading professional organization for physicians and others engaged in clinical cancer research and cancer patient care, ASCO publishes and presents a wide range of oncologist-approved cancer information, educational and practice tools, and other content. The ASCO trademarks, including ASCO®, Journal of Clinical Oncology®, Cancer.Net™, QOPI®, CancerLinQ™, and Conquer Cancer Foundation®, are among the most highly respected trademarks in the fields of cancer research, oncology education, patient information, and quality care. This outstanding reputation is due in large part to the contributions of ASCO members and volunteers. Any goodwill or commercial benefit from the use of ASCO content and trademarks will therefore accrue to ASCO and the Conquer Cancer Foundation (CCF)¹ and further their tax-exempt charitable missions. Any use of ASCO content and trademarks that may depreciate their reputation and value will be prohibited.

ASCO has adopted the Council of Medical Specialty Society’s Code for Interactions with Companies, which provides guidance on interactions with for-profit entities that develop produce, market or distribute drugs, devices, services or therapies used to diagnose, treat, monitor, manage, and alleviate health conditions (singularly, “Company” and collectively, “Companies”).² The ASCO Board of Directors has set out the following core principles, which guide all licensing arrangements:

- All ASCO licensing activities are to be consistent with its mission.
- ASCO will not be subject to influence by Companies in conceiving, developing, or carrying out its programs, products, and services.
- ASCO does not endorse third party drugs, devices, services or therapies used to diagnose, treat, monitor, manage or alleviate health conditions.
- ASCO does not accept Company support for development or publication of clinical practice guidelines.

¹ Unless otherwise specified, the term “ASCO” in these Licensing Standards refers collectively to the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the Conquer Cancer Foundation, ASCO Institute for Quality, LLC, and all other affiliates of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.
² As revised (March 2011).
- The ASCO brand will not be used in any manner that may be derogatory to the title, content, or authors of the material or to ASCO, including but not limited to an association with (i) conduct that is fraudulent or otherwise illegal; (ii) the use or abuse of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs or (iii) hate speech or discrimination based on race, ethnic or religious heritage, nationality, gender, or sexual preference.

ASCO welcomes opportunities to license content and trademarks consistent with these principles and the Licensing Standards that follow. A strong licensing program supports ASCO’s mission of disseminating high-quality, credible cancer research and educational information to health care professionals and people affected by cancer worldwide. The purposes of these Licensing Standards are to promote transparency and independence in the licensing process and to streamline the process. To help in identifying and framing opportunities, commercial licensing is divided into four distinct types as described below. Each type covers both print and electronic media.

1. **ASCO Product Sales**

Organizations may license pre-existing products that have been independently developed by or for ASCO (“ASCO Products”). ASCO Products are licensed in bulk quantities or for wide distribution on an “as is” basis and may not be modified, except through labeling, packaging, and placement options offered or approved by ASCO. Production is generally handled by ASCO or its agents, though in some situations permission may be granted to the licensee for self-production. ASCO retains copyright and trademark ownership in ASCO Products.

ASCO Products in printed form retain the ASCO design, packaging, and “look and feel.” Corporate names on the ASCO Products (including covers, cases, and certificates) such as “courtesy of [company]” and disclosures required by law may appear on the packaging. Corporate and/or product advertising may be located away from the ASCO branding and in a manner that does not suggest ASCO’s endorsement of the corporate advertiser’s goods or services. ASCO must review and approve the placement and labeling of the ASCO Product.

ASCO Products in electronic form must be placed or distributed in a manner that identifies and delineates the ASCO Product and that does not imply ASCO endorsement of the licensee or any commercial entity, product, or therapy. ASCO will provide a descriptive text and/or a stylized logo that the licensee will use to identify the licensed ASCO Product. ASCO must review and approve the placement and labeling of the ASCO Product in the overall context of the licensee’s website or other vehicle. Corporate and product advertising may be placed on web pages that

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3 “ASCO Products” include items such as printed or electronic reprints of Journal articles, ASCO University courses, as well as admittance rights such as Virtual Meeting subscriptions. Any associated ASCO trademark is part of the ASCO Product.
contain ASCO Products, including content directed to patients, with ASCO’s prior review and approval and with disclaimers as required.

Commercial product sales are subject to a license agreement or standard terms and conditions. There is no restriction on the type of licensee, but licensees and products will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Bulk purchase pricing or royalty fees apply.

2. Unbranded Content Licensing

Organizations may license ASCO copyrighted content and apply their own branding, without any ASCO name, logo, design, or other ASCO branding. Content is attributed to ASCO through a copyright legend and/or other citation approved by ASCO. In addition, the content carries a disclaimer or other tagline as required by ASCO. Content may appear with corporate names or logos, or otherwise be branded to the licensee. Content may appear with advertisements. ASCO retains copyright ownership in licensed content.

In many cases, the licensee is permitted to translate, excerpt, or otherwise adapt the content, subject to applicable law and proper attribution and disclaimers. ASCO generally does not
review adapted content, including translated portions of ASCO content mixed with non-ASCO content. ASCO generally does not hold copyright in the adapted content, including translated portions, but use of such adapted content is subject to a license to use ASCO’s underlying content.

ASCO does not allow translation or adaptation where there is concern about the overall meaning of the content being lost or changed, or where there is concern about the adapted content being construed as an endorsement by ASCO. For these reasons, ASCO generally does not permit excerpts or modifications of Virtual Meeting™ presentations.

Samples of the content as used by licensee are provided to ASCO by the licensee upon request. ASCO reserves the right to withdraw the license if the content’s use, modification, or adaption is inconsistent with ASCO’s mission or policies. Some content by its nature cannot be “unbranded” and is not eligible for this type of license.

Royalty fees apply. The licensee is solely responsible for expenses of producing any product with the licensed content.

3. Brand and Content Licensing

Organizations may license ASCO copyrighted content accompanied by an ASCO name, logo, design, or other branding, subject to ASCO’s due diligence and quality control. The types of licensees that may be approved for brand and content licenses include medical publishers, education providers, and other entities that provide products and services that further the mission of the Society that have a strong track record of high-quality products. The licensee will not be a company (or corporate affiliate of a company) that manufactures or markets commercial oncology products or devices, but these companies may provide support in the form of sponsorship and advertising.

Because the use of ASCO trademarks carries an implication that ASCO has approved or is associated with the product, ASCO exercises quality control over products using licensed content and trademarks. In addition to staff review, ASCO often appoints an ASCO member as editor or reviewer of the product. The product and marketing materials are subject to ASCO’s approval and periodic review and carry a trademark legend, copyright legend, disclaimer, and/or other tagline as directed by ASCO. The product “look and feel” is essentially the same as those of the original ASCO content.

Under some circumstances, with the editor’s or ASCO staff’s oversight, the licensee may translate, modify, or otherwise adapt the content. ASCO retains copyright ownership in the original content and adapted product, including translations. ASCO content is clearly distinguishable from any non-ASCO content in the product.
A full translated work, or a significant body of translated content that is essentially the same as the original in all other respects, will be reviewed under and follow the Licensing Standards for “Brand and Content Licensing.”

The product may carry the publisher’s and sponsors’ names and logos, so long as these are not prominently placed and are in compliance with ASCO’s specifications. The product may carry advertisements that conform to ASCO’s policies. ASCO’s trademarks are placed in a manner that does not suggest ASCO endorses a company, commercial product, or therapy. An ASCO trademark is not placed near a product name, logo, or advertisement for any drugs, devices, services or therapies used to diagnose, treat, monitor, manage or alleviate health conditions.

ASCO reserves the right to withdraw the license if the content’s quality, use, modification, adaption, or distribution is inconsistent with ASCO’s mission, policies, or quality standards. Royalty fees apply. If the licensee secures sponsors, these sponsors will have no input in or influence over the selection, translation, or other adaptation of ASCO content.

4. Logo Use

ASCO trademarks are only licensed in order denote or recognize a status conferred by ASCO or CCF. A trademark license may be appropriate where the product or service meets members’ needs for tools to help improve the quality and effectiveness of patient care, as determined
through ASCO’s review process. Examples of potential situations in which an organization may license an ASCO logo include but are not limited to:

- ASCO has recognized the organization’s educational or scientific publication or symposium.
- The organization has received an ASCO or CCF award and wishes to convey this in an advertisement or other announcement.
- The organization’s product or services is compatible with ASCO quality measures as determined through a review process.
- The organization recognizes oncologists who participate in ASCO quality initiatives.
- The organization has entered into a charitable fundraising alliance with CCF.

Placement of the logo is reviewed and approved by ASCO. The logo is not placed in a manner that suggests ASCO’s or CCF’s affiliation with or endorsement of any third party company that manufactures drugs, devices, services or therapies used to diagnose, treat, monitor, manage, and alleviate health conditions, or its products. The logo is accompanied by a trademark legend, disclaimer, and/or other tagline as directed by ASCO.

Royalty fees apply.
Contact Us

If you have questions about these Licensing Standards or would like to pursue a licensing opportunity, please contact ASCO’s Division of Licensing, Rights & Permissions at licensing@asco.org.

Individual authors and others seeking one-time or limited permissions should contact permissions@asco.org. ASCO members seeking to use an ASCO trademark in connection with a grant, award, or quality initiative should contact the administrator of that particular program.

_These Licensing Standards do not constitute a license. Any use of ASCO content or branding without permission is prohibited._ All license arrangements described in these Licensing Standards require written license agreements and are subject to ASCO’s agreement in its sole discretion. All licensees must use ASCO content and trademarks in compliance with applicable law. ASCO style guides apply to all trademark uses. With rare exceptions, ASCO does not provide continuing medical education credit in connection with licensed products or programs, but local CME is permitted.

Some licensing opportunities do not fit entirely within one of the four types. ASCO reserves the right to waive certain standards or alter the terms of a standard licensing arrangement in its sole discretion and consistent with the core principles above. Trademark, content, and data licenses may also be incorporated within broader business transactions or affiliations, with their own terms and conditions. Royalties may be reduced or waived for members and non-profit licensees in ASCO’s discretion. All special licensing arrangements are on a case-by-case basis and do not waive these Licensing Standards for prior or subsequent arrangements.

**Application:**
Applies to ASCO, the Conquer Cancer Foundation and affiliates.

**History:**
Approved by the ASCO Board of Directors on September 10, 2009.
Amended by the ASCO Executive Committee on January 23, 2014.
Amended by the ASCO Board of Directors on August 17, 2016.