ASCO Announces New Award Honoring Visionary Leader Allen S. Lichter, MD, FASCO

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Alexandria, VA – The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) announced today the creation of the Allen S. Lichter Visionary Leader Award to recognize ASCO members who have transformed the oncology field or significantly advanced the mission of ASCO, the Conquer Cancer Foundation, or CancerLinQ, LLC, through their leadership, vision, and ability to inspire. The first award will be presented at the 2017 ASCO Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

The new annual award honors the Society’s outgoing Chief Executive Officer, Allen S. Lichter, MD, FASCO, who is retiring after ten years in the role. An ASCO member since 1980, Dr. Lichter served the Society in several prominent volunteer roles, including President (1998-1999) and Founding Chairman of the Conquer Cancer Foundation Board of Directors (1999), before accepting the position of CEO in 2006. In his ten years as CEO, Dr. Lichter has overseen the rapid growth of the Society and the launch of important new initiatives to improve the quality and value of cancer care.

“Allen is really the catalyst behind ASCO as far as looking to the future,” said 2015-2016 ASCO President Julie M. Vose, MD, MBA, FASCO. “Any seeds planted over the last few years are going to take years to develop. If we have success in the years to come, it will be from what he seeded.”

During Dr. Lichter’s tenure as CEO, ASCO reached more than 40,000 members, including more than 13,000 international members and many allied health professionals. His many significant contributions include the launch of CancerLinQ™, ASCO’s groundbreaking health information technology platform that harnesses big data from millions of patient records to deliver high-quality, personalized care to people with cancer and cancer survivors, and the Targeted Agent and Profiling Utilization Registry (TAPUR) Study, the Society’s first-ever clinical trial that addresses gaps in the understanding of and access to targeted therapies; the creation of the Leadership Development Program to ensure strong leadership in oncology for future generations and FASCO
designation for members with standout volunteer service; the hiring of the organization's first Chief Medical Officer; and the establishment of several important new departments to support the diverse needs of ASCO members. Each of these accomplishments is a testament to Dr. Lichter’s commitment to improving the lives and meeting the needs of patients with cancer, their families, and their caregivers.

Prior to becoming the CEO of ASCO, Dr. Lichter held leadership roles at the University of Michigan, including Chair and Professor of Radiation Oncology (1984-1998) and Dean of the Medical School (1998-2006), and at the National Cancer Institute, including Director of the Radiation Therapy Section of the Radiation Oncology Branch. His research, focusing on better defining radiation doses to spare normal, healthy tissue in patients with cancer has contributed to radiation treatment planning standards around the world. In 2002, he was elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science. He has received Gold Medals from the American Society for Radiation Oncology and the Radiological Society of North America in recognition of his contributions to cancer research, education and clinical care, and leadership of his peers in clinical oncology.

The Allen S. Lichter Visionary Leader Award will honor Dr. Lichter’s commitment and contributions to ASCO and will continue his legacy by encouraging and recognizing extraordinary leadership in oncology. The annual award lecture will be delivered at the ASCO Annual Meeting, with the inaugural lecture taking place in 2017.

About ASCO:

Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is committed to making a world of difference in cancer care. As the world’s leading organization of its kind, ASCO represents more than 40,000 oncology professionals who care for people living with cancer. Through research, education, and promotion of the highest-quality patient care, ASCO works to conquer cancer and create a world where cancer is prevented or cured, and every survivor is healthy. ASCO is supported by its affiliate organization, the Conquer Cancer Foundation. Learn more at www.ASCO.org, explore patient education resources at www.Cancer.Net, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.