The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) commends the Cancer Moonshot Initiative Blue Ribbon Panel for its ambitious recommendations to accelerate progress against cancer.

"We applaud the Blue Ribbon Panel for its work and the National Cancer Institute's National Cancer Advisory Board for convening the panel," said ASCO President Daniel F. Hayes, MD, FASCO. "In addition, we are most grateful to President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden for conceptualizing and launching the Cancer Moonshot Initiative. ASCO stands ready to help implement this report's findings, along with the other efforts of the Cancer Moonshot Initiative when they are announced in October."

ASCO submitted key recommendations to the Panel for the implementation of the Cancer Moonshot Initiative, focused on harnessing cutting-edge information technology and other innovations to hasten the trajectory of progress in cancer research. ASCO's recommendations included enhanced access to clinical outcomes databases, like the Society's CancerLinQ™, to help learn from all cancer patients and a sustained, well-funded national cancer research system and clinical cancer research infrastructure. ASCO is pleased that these recommendations were incorporated into the final report.

"The panel's thoughtful work makes an important contribution to the Cancer Moonshot Initiative," said Dr. Hayes. "The recommendations could significantly expedite our nation's progress against cancer if implemented. For this to happen, it is crucial that Congress provide the necessary funding to support the priority projects identified by the Blue Ribbon Panel and those we will hear about from the Task Force and Vice President's Executive Reports later this year."

The Panel, which includes experts from all of facets of cancer care, has been deliberate and open
in seeking feedback from the cancer community on how best to implement the Cancer Moonshot Initiative. ASCO hosted a "listening session" for the NCI at its June 2016 Annual Meeting where the Panel received feedback and ideas directly from ASCO meeting attendees. Vice President Biden also addressed ASCO's Annual Meeting attendees in person. Watch Vice President Biden's address to the clinical oncology community.

On September 6, 2016, ASCO also sent a letter to Vice President Joe Biden recommending several immediate and practical actions that he could take during the remainder of his term in the White House -- steps that could make a lasting impact in the effort to discover new cancer treatments. Read the full letter to Vice President Biden.

About ASCO:

Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. (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.