ASCOR Statement on Lancet’s Global Cancer Survival Study

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For immediate release
January 30, 2018
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“Over the past few decades we've seen global cancer death rates drop thanks to dramatic improvements in diagnosis and treatment. But the unfortunate reality is that millions of patients worldwide are not yet reaping the benefits of the progress we've made because of inability to access care. All too often, where someone lives dictates their chances of surviving cancer.

“Every patient should have access to the highest quality care, no matter where they live. In all countries, cancer care providers need education and guidance, opportunities to share knowledge with their colleagues, and access to effective therapies and diagnostic tools. In addition, the international community must continue to work together to achieve a deeper understanding of the interrelated causes of health disparities and how to effectively address them.

“The CONCORD-3 study reinforces the foundational role that quality registry data serves in deepening this understanding. Furthermore, by highlighting instances of particularly rapid improvements in survival, such as gastrointestinal cancers in southeast Asia, the study highlights opportunities for members of the global cancer community to learn from one another.

“As World Cancer Day approaches, ASCO remains committed to reducing health disparities in
cancer care around the earth, in part by connecting the global cancer community through programs in more than 50 countries and working with our members in more than 100 countries. We commend the authors of this study for bringing greater attention to this important issue and flagging areas for focus and action.”

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.