CancerLinQ and National Cancer Institute Announce Partnership to Enhance Patient Care and Strengthen Cancer Surveillance

Data sharing collaboration to offer insights to support clinical care, augment quality improvement and enrich research capabilities

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CHICAGO, IL. – CancerLinQ LLC and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) today announced a partnership to facilitate the exchange of information between CancerLinQ® participating oncology practices and NCI’s Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) program, one of the primary sources of data on cancer incidence and survival in the United States. The partnership aims to put valuable population-level cancer data at oncologists’ fingertips, while also strengthening the nation’s cancer surveillance efforts through a national data sharing collaboration.

“CancerLinQ is becoming a community that learns together to improve patient care,” said Clifford A. Hudis, MD, FACP, FASCO, CEO of ASCO and Chairman of the CancerLinQ Board of Governors. “It already includes oncologists, nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, patient advocates, IT specialists and researchers across the country. In partnering with the National Cancer Institute, we’re closer than ever to creating a comprehensive ecosystem that will enable a virtuous cycle of learning across the cancer care continuum.”

“When the cancer community combines its resources, we can greatly increase our chances of improving cancer care,” said Lynne Penberthy, MD, MPH, Associate Director for the Surveillance Research Program within the NCI. “This collaboration will provide cancer data that are difficult to capture from traditional surveillance methods. These additional sources will enhance our ability to understand patient care and outcomes.”

The new partnership includes two major phases. Initially, NCI and CancerLinQ will incorporate national SEER data on patients diagnosed with cancer into CancerLinQ’s core quality improvement and data-sharing platform, which is now in use at nearly 90 academic institutions and community
SEER is composed of 18 central cancer registries currently covering approximately 30% of the U.S. population, and includes de-identified population-level data on patient demographics, cancer diagnosis, including tumor morphology and stage at diagnosis, first course of treatment, laboratory data, and follow-up for vital status. With integrated access to SEER data in an easy-to-visualize format, CancerLinQ participants will be able to view and draw comparisons between regional- and national-level SEER data and their own practice data, enhancing the ability to inform clinical care and decision making for their patients.

In a second phase, NCI and CancerLinQ will pilot a system in selected geographic regions for care providers to quickly and seamlessly upload and transmit their own practice data to the SEER program directly through the CancerLinQ portal. In the U.S., healthcare facilities and providers diagnosing or providing treatment to cancer patients are legally mandated by each state to report cancer information to their respective cancer registry. This NCI and CancerLinQ data sharing effort holds the promise to make legally-mandated cancer surveillance reporting activities more timely, efficient and complete, and will enhance the richness of SEER databases for population-level research with longitudinal, real-world data and insights from CancerLinQ.

“We are delighted to have NCI as a CancerLinQ partner,” said Kevin Fitzpatrick, Chief Executive Officer of CancerLinQ LLC, “As diagnosis and treatment has been shifting from an inpatient to more of an outpatient setting, CancerLinQ serves as a steward of real-world data on patients who have been seen in all types of practice settings. This important collaboration with SEER aligns with our mission to convene the oncology community and offer our support to accelerate the understanding and impact of the burden and effects of cancer across the United States.”

The collaboration with NCI is one of many that CancerLinQ has announced in recent months. CancerLinQ also announced today that it will partner with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to use real-world data from CancerLinQ to help answer questions about the best use of emerging cancer treatments and inform future regulatory decision-making.

Previously, CancerLinQ has announced official partnerships with a number of organizations, including the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), American Society of Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), Cancer Informatics for Cancer Centers (CI4CC), College of American Pathologists (CAP), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN), Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), and Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO). In addition, AstraZeneca, is the founding enterprise partner for CancerLinQ Discovery™, which launched in November 2016 and will provide curated, de-identified sets of clinical data for those interested in pursuing hypothesis-driven research. Together, these partnerships will help
CancerLinQ achieve its vision of building strategic alliances to create a multidisciplinary coalition that learns from every patient to rapidly improve the quality of care for people with cancer.

CancerLinQ is supported in part through the Conquer Cancer Foundation, whose generous donors have helped make the system possible. Major supporters include Amgen; Astellas; AstraZeneca; Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals Inc.; Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Cancer Treatment Centers of America®; Chan Soon-Shiong Family Foundation; Genentech BioOncology™; HELSINN; Janssen Oncology; Lilly; Raj Mantena, RPh; Novartis Oncology; Pfizer Oncology; Thomas G. Roberts, Jr., MD, and Susan M. DaSilva; and Susan G. Komen®.

CancerLinQ® and CancerLinQ Discovery™ are projects of CancerLinQ LLC. For more information on how to participate or partner with CancerLinQ, please visit CancerLinQ.org.

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.

About CancerLinQ LLC

CancerLinQ LLC is a wholly-owned nonprofit subsidiary of American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. established for the development and operation of the CancerLinQ® initiative. CancerLinQ is a health information technology platform aimed at enhancing and improving the understanding and treatment of cancer. To learn more, visit www.cancerlinq.org.