ALEXANDRIA, Va. — CancerLinQ LLC and the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC), the professional society for genetic counselors, announced today that they have entered into a strategic alliance. With the collaboration, NSGC leaders and members will provide expertise to CancerLinQ®, the American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) health information technology platform aimed at improving the quality of cancer care using real-world cancer data.

“Genetic counseling is an increasingly important component of cancer care, and the professional community of genetic counselors is a voice that we must capture in the CancerLinQ® initiative,” said CancerLinQ LLC Chief Executive Officer Kevin Fitzpatrick. “The CancerLinQ® team is committed to building a consortium of partnering organizations focused on better serving all members of the cancer care community. The genetic counseling community will add an important new voice to our deliberations.”

At present, there are more than 4,000 genetic counselors in the U.S., who provide personalized help to patients as they make decisions about their genetic health conditions. They have advanced training in medical genetics and counseling to identify risk factors in family history, interpret genetic test results, and guide and support patients seeking more information about issues that include:
• Which genetic tests may or may not be right for them?
• How inherited diseases and conditions may affect them or their families?
• How family and medical histories may impact the chance of disease occurrence or recurrence?

The increased accessibility of genetic testing has yielded benefits to patients. As more and more individuals are able to access testing services to screen for cancer genes, more data can be collected, analyzed, and interpreted to help providers improve treatment decisions leading to personalized, high-quality care.

“NSGC is excited to join the CancerLinQ® initiative and provide insight from the perspective of genetic counselors,” said NSGC President Erica Ramos. “We look forward to contributing our genetics knowledge as a member of the CancerLinQ Oncology Leadership Council to improve the quality of comprehensive clinical care received by patients.”

NSGC Past President and cancer genetics expert Joy Larsen Haidle, MS, CGC, will serve as the society's representative on the CancerLinQ Oncology Leadership Council, the strategic advisory body comprised of all official partner organizations that guides the growth and direction of CancerLinQ. NSGC will have the ability to access CancerLinQ Discovery™, a research and insights program that provides access to curated sets of statistically de-identified clinical data from the CancerLinQ® platform, for NSGC to use internally within its organization to learn from and understand the current, real-world state of cancer care in the United States.
The collaboration with NSGC is one of many that CancerLinQ LLC, a wholly owned nonprofit subsidiary of ASCO, has entered with a coalition of partners and thought leaders, including government agencies, medical specialty societies, and life sciences companies. Since 2016, the American Academy of PAs, American Society of Radiation Oncology, Cancer Informatics for Cancer Centers, College of American Pathologists, DIA, Food and Drug Administration, Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association, National Cancer Institute, Oncology Nursing Society, and Society of Gynecologic Oncology have joined forces with CancerLinQ LLC. Additionally, in November 2016, AstraZeneca became a founding enterprise partner with CancerLinQ Discovery™. These partnerships offer the CancerLinQ® team guidance and insights that ultimately can contribute to the quality and efficiency of the cancer care delivery system.

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 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.

About the National Society of Genetics Counselors
Founded in 1979, the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) is the leading voice, authority and advocate for the genetic counseling profession. Representing more than 3,600 health care professionals, the organization is committed to ensuring that the public has access to genetic services. For more information, visit www.nsgc.org.