First Oncology Practice in Saudi Arabia Certified by U.S. Quality Cancer Care Program

MNGHA-Cancer Center Is Eighth International Practice to be Certified by American Society of Clinical Oncology
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ALEXANDRIA, Va. -- The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is expanding its geographic reach and the number of international practices certified in delivering high-quality cancer care based on its rigorous standards. The MNGHA-Cancer Center in Saudi Arabia, the first in the Middle East, joins seven other practices in Brazil, Greece, Romania, and Spain in achieving ASCO's Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI®) Certification.

"When a practice voluntarily spends valuable time and resources in the pursuit of high-quality cancer care, it is demonstrating its commitment to its patients and community," said QOPI Certification Program Steering Group Chair Robert D. Siegel, MD, FACP. "QOPI Certification demonstrates a practice's excellence, as well as its dedication to a culture of continuous improvement and a willingness to excel."

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Cancer Center, King Abdulaziz Medical City, CR, Ministry of National Guard -- Health Affairs is a tertiary governmental hospital. Earlier this year, the center completed the voluntary quality assessment survey at their practice, achieved ASCO's standards for quality cancer care delivery, and earned its QOPI certification in October, which will remain in effect for three years.

"Participation in the QOPI Certification Program had a strong positive impact on the staff awareness of the quality measures and how to utilize them to improve the quality of care and
patient safety," said Chair of the Department of Oncology at King Abdulaziz Medical City Abdul Rahman Jazieh, MD, MPH.

QOPI is a voluntary self-assessment program that helps oncology practices to assess and improve the quality of the care they provide to patients. More than 750 oncology practices have registered for QOPI, including the international practices from the five countries identified above.

The QOPI® Certification Program, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of ASCO that began in 2010, recognizes the delivery of high-quality care to patients in outpatient hematology-oncology practices. The QOPI Certification Standards serve as the framework for the program and as a guide to the best practices in oncology care. Individual practices are eligible to receive QOPI Certification based on their compliance with QOPI standards as assessed during an on-site survey. The QOPI quality standards address practice performance in several key areas, including:

- Creating a safe environment -- staffing, competencies, and general policy
- Treatment planning, patient consent, and education
- Ordering, preparing, dispensing, and administering chemotherapy
- Monitoring after chemotherapy is given, including adherence, toxicity and complications.

More than 300 practices worldwide have current QOPI Certification.

"We are excited to see this geographic expansion of the QOPI Certification Program, and we congratulate MNGHA-Cancer Center on their achievement," said International Quality Task Force Chair Mohammad Jahanzeb, MD. "They have devoted a great deal of time and effort to achieving QOPI Certification and are displaying their commitment to excellence in the area of high-quality care for patients with cancer. I commend Dr. Jazieh for his great leadership."

In June 2016, ASCO announced that the Contemporary Oncology Team of Athens, Greece, had become the first international practice to receive QOPI Certification. In April 2017, ASCO announced that Instituto de Oncologia do Vale had become the first practice in Brazil to receive QOPI Certification. Five months later, three practices in Spain achieved QOPI Certification: Servicio de Oncología Medica - Hospital Universitario General de Valencia, Servicio de Oncología Medica - Instituto Valenciano de Oncología, and Servicio de Oncología Medica - Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal. Earlier this year, the first Romanian practice
received QOPI Certification.

ASCO is dedicated to innovative quality improvement programs, such as QOPI and QOPI Certification, to foster the delivery of high-quality patient care around the world. For more information, please visit: https://practice.asco.org/quality-improvement/quality-programs.

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 nearly 45,000 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 QOPI Certification Program LLC

QOPI Certification Program LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. (ASCO®) dedicated to recognizing exemplary commitment to safety and quality in oncology patient care. Practices that have achieved QOPI® Certification have scored well on key QOPI® quality measures and have met chemotherapy safety standards established by ASCO and the Oncology Nursing Society in various areas of treatment and chemotherapy safety.

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