ASCO Research Community Forum Meeting

Researchers from around the country joined together for two days of learning and collaboration at ASCO’s headquarters in the greater DC metro area for the 2019 ASCO Research Community Forum (RCF) meeting that took place September 22-23, 2019. Experts in the field led timely presentations and discussions that coincided with the meeting’s theme of Working Smarter. Working Together.

The meeting featured a keynote address by Dr. Richard Pazdur of director of the FDA Oncology Center of Excellence, a workshop “When the FDA calls: Introduction to audit readiness”, two town halls and general sessions covering topics including leveraging technology, clinical trial accrual, and staffing and workload management strategies. The meeting also debuted a toolkit which contains links to helpful references as well as templates, checklists, and forms related to FDA audits and audit readiness, which can be accessed online.

Check out the ASCO in Action article to read more about the meeting and view meeting presentations online.

Save the date: 2-Part Webinar Series on FDA Audit Readiness

Part 1: February 13th, 2020, 2:00PM-3:00PM

Part 2: Date to be announced

Save the date for this 2-part webinar on FDA audit readiness, which will take participants on a journey through the FDA inspection process. The goal of the webinars is to share experiences to make FDA inspections less daunting. The first webinar, taking place February 13th, will include reflections from FDA and a principal investigator, who will share case studies and lessons learned on site selection and the investigator role. The second webinar, date to be announced, will offer strategies for effective pre-audit preparation and post-audit follow-up.

In case you missed it

ONS-ASCO Webinar “Offering Clinical Trials can Make a Difference: Patient and Care Team Perspectives”

The Oncology Nursing Society and ASCO held a joint webinar on December 11, 2019, to discuss the benefits and challenges of being involved in clinical trials, especially in the community setting. The panel featured Daniel Flora, MD, PharmD, Michele Lacy, RN, BSN, OCN, and patient advocate Leila Hamroun-Yazid, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP. The speakers shared practical strategies and resources to ensure clinical trial access and participation, including how to effectively discuss clinical trials with patients and colleagues. To access the webinar recording, visit the RCF website.
Toolkit of Resources
The RCF has developed a toolkit to offer resources related to FDA audits and audit readiness. The toolkit includes links to helpful references as well as templates, checklists, and forms related to FDA audits and audit readiness.

Access this toolkit and more online.

Other resources and tools developed by the ASCO Research Community Forum to support your research program include:

- Insurance Coverage of Clinical Trials Toolkit
- Billing Compliance Solutions
- Research Contract Negotiation Resources
- ASCO Research Program Quality Assessment Tool
- ASCO Clinical Trial Workload Assessment Tool
- A Library of Resources for Conducting and Managing Trials
- Adverse Events Reporting Decision Aid

Visit asco.org/research-community-forum to access free resources and tools for conducting and managing clinical trials.

**Current Initiatives**
ASCO RCF Task Forces are moving forward two key ASCO RCF initiatives:

- **Site feasibility assessments for oncology clinical trials** – This Task Force is working to reduce site burdens associated with sponsor and CRO trial feasibility assessments – a critical pain point identified by research sites. In its efforts to establish a solution, the group brought together multiple stakeholder groups and collected data through surveys. The Task Force’s findings, and a statement with recommendations to improve the feasibility assessment process, will be released in 2020.

- **Resource development and connecting research sites** – This Task Force is overseeing the development of resources, including new At-a-Glance summaries covering building a research program, physician and research team participation and engagement, physician investigator and research staff responsibilities, and awareness and accrual strategies. Have an idea for a new At-a-Glance topic? Email the ASCO RCF at researchcommunityforum@asco.org.
• **Adverse Events reporting** - Access the ASCO Adverse Events Reporting Toolkit offering sample clinical case studies, references and a decision aid to assist physician investigators and research staff in determining whether an adverse event should be reported to a trial sponsor as a serious adverse event and attributed to the investigational drug. View the manuscript discussing a pilot study of the decision aid [online](#).

• The ASCO RCF Steering Group is in the process of identifying new initiatives to focus on in 2020 in addition to establishing a vision and strategic plan for the ASCO RCF.

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**ASCO Updates**

Learn more about recent projects from around ASCO below.

**Registration Open! 2020 ASCO Medical Oncology In-Training Exam**
Enroll your training program in this low-stakes exam designed for self-evaluation and program improvement. Evaluate your trainees’ progress within your program and with peers from around the world. Exam dates are February 25-26, 2020. [Register today](#).

**Virtual Mentoring Program Applications Open**
ASCO is accepting applications for the 2020 Virtual Mentoring Program (VMP). The VMP is a yearlong program designed to support members who have unmet mentoring needs. This program is open to domestic and international ASCO members and pairs oncologists with a mentor via virtual technology. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2020.

**ASCO Survey Finds Major Gaps in Americans’ Knowledge of Cancer Prevention, E-Cigarettes, and End-of-Life Care**

**Explore New CENTRA Website to Access Information on ASCO’s Research Efforts and Statements**

**ASCO Launches New Payment Reform Model to Transform Cancer Care Delivery and Enhance Quality of Patient Care**

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**ASCO RCF On the Road**
The ASCO RCF exhibited at several meetings this year including ASCO Annual Meeting, Association of Cancer Institutes’ Clinical Research Initiative Meeting, ASCO Quality Care Symposium, and the SWOG Annual Meeting. The ASCO RCF also presented a poster at the ASCO Quality Care Symposium discussing the RCF’s impact on community research since its inception in 2011. The poster is available for access via the [ASCO meeting library](#). Stay tuned for more information about where the ASCO RCF will be exhibiting in 2020.

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**Get Involved**
Join the [RCF Online Forum](#) or email [researchcommunityforum@asco.org](mailto:researchcommunityforum@asco.org) to get involved with the ASCO RCF, connect with like minds, and join the conversation today.

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**
The ASCO RCF volunteers and staff want to wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy new year!