ASCP Joins UICC’s World Cancer Day Initiative to Raise Awareness of Unequal Access to Cancer Detection, Treatment and Care Services

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CHICAGO (PRWEB) February 03, 2018 -- ASCP Joins UICC’s World Cancer Day Initiative to Raise Awareness of Unequal Access to Cancer Detection, Treatment and Care Services

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• World Cancer Day 2018 highlights the global equity gap in accessing early detection, treatment and care services
• UICC calls for more equal access to reduce premature cancer and non-communicable disease deaths by 25% by 2025 in line with WHO targets
• Consolidated country-by-country statistics on cancer incidences and mortalities, national cancer control plans and registries and access to radiotherapy based on latest GLOBOCAN and WHO data

World Cancer Day: On Sunday, Feb. 4, World Cancer Day raises awareness of the millions of people worldwide facing unequal access to cancer detection, treatment, and care services. With cancer leaders, health professionals and supporters across the world pushing for urgent action to reduce the rate of premature cancer deaths globally, the day calls for diagnostic and treatment access to be prioritized.

The global target of a 25% reduction in premature deaths from cancer and non-communicable diseases* (NCDs) by 2025 is possible. However, to deliver on this global commitment†, the current inequities in risk factor exposure, and in access to screening, early detection and timely and appropriate treatment and care, must be addressed.

Professor Sanchia Aranda, President of UICC and CEO of Cancer Council Australia: “Set in 2011, the World Health Organization’s target to cut premature NCD deaths by 25% within 14 years is coming towards its half way mark. We can meet the target, but more action than ever will be required. Inequality in access to prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care makes reducing premature deaths from cancer difficult. If we are committed to achieving this goal, we must act quickly and decisively to make access to cancer services more equal all around the world.”

Dan A. Milner, Jr., MD, MSc(Epi), FASCP, Chief Medical Officer, the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP): “ASCP is pleased to join with the UICC on World Cancer Day to raise awareness of the importance of improving access to quality cancer diagnostics and treatment as part of the UICC’s ‘We Can. I can.’ campaign.”

World Cancer Day, led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), every year rallies the world’s voices against what the World Health Organization (WHO) recently recognized for the first time as the leading cause of global morbidity.

Today, there are an estimated 8.8 million deaths from cancer every year. However, it is the low- to middle-
income countries who are bearing the brunt, as approximately 70% of deaths occur in developing countries, which are the most ill-equipped to cope with the cancer burden.

Inequities are also acutely experienced in high- to middle-income countries, particularly within certain populations, including the indigenous, immigrant, refugee, rural, and lower-socioeconomic populations.

Professor Sanchia Aranda:
“In the last year of the ‘We can. I can.’ campaign for World Cancer Day, we hope to inspire real action from governments and civil society in addressing the inequities in cancer diagnosis, treatment and care, which unfortunately largely affects the most vulnerable populations in every country.”

For example, approximately 650,000 people in Africa develop cancer annually, and about 510,000 cancer deaths occur annually due to limited treatment and resources. (There is one pathologist per approximately 1 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa.) ASCP, through its Partners for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Africa initiative, is establishing telepathology laboratories in multiple resource-limited areas, including Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Haiti to provide patients with access to rapid cancer diagnostics and appropriate care and treatment.

Meanwhile, ASCP is also working with Novartis and the American Cancer Society (ACS) to devise a common approach to improve access to cancer treatment in several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. ASCP is building healthcare capacity for immunohistochemistry (IHC) analysis in seven hospital laboratories in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania. ACS is supporting the training of healthcare professionals in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda to ensure quality processes in the transportation of biopsy samples and in the administration of chemotherapy. Novartis will provide funding to support the technical work. This initiative will serve as a pilot for the future roll-out of similar activities to other countries.

As an urgent response to the global equity gap and the critical need for an in-country response, UICC today officially launched, Treatment for All. It marks the second new initiative by UICC in as many years to mobilize national action to improve access to diagnosis and treatment for cancer, and is a direct acknowledgement that the cancer burden cannot be alleviated exclusively through prevention to reduce cancer incidence. ASCP supports the Treatment for All initiative as its concept is a central pillar of the ASCP Partners project.

Dr. Cary Adams, Chief Executive Officer of UICC:
“The tsunami of cancer cases anticipated in the coming decades requires a persuasive and robust response at all levels – global and national. Treatment for All, in tandem with its sister initiative, C/Can 2025: City Cancer Challenge, will work to accelerate progress by translating global commitments to evidence-, safety- and quality-based national actions.” ASCP is the lead medical laboratory organization for the C/Can 2025: City Cancer Challenge.

By empowering individuals, cities, countries and governments to lever Treatment for All’s four pillars of cancer treatment and care, we can achieve:
• Improved quality of cancer data for public health use
• Increased number of people with access to early detection and accurate cancer diagnosis
• Greater timely and quality treatment for early and metastatic disease
• At a minimum, basic supportive and palliative care service for the current 32.6 million people living with cancer.
Today, on World Cancer Day, ‘We can. I can.’ improve access and deliver on the global target of a 25% reduction in cancer and NCD premature deaths by 2025.

*Non-communicable - or chronic - diseases are diseases of long duration and generally slow progression. The four main types are cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes.

†The global community has committed to reduce premature deaths from cancer and NCDs by 25% by 2025 as set out in the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

‡The major modalities of treatment for cancer includes radiotherapy, surgery and medicines including chemotherapy

§The wide disparity in cancer services and patient outcomes depending on where you live is often called the Postcode Lottery

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

About World Cancer Day 2018
World Cancer Day takes place every year on Feb. 4 and is the single initiative under which the world can unite to raise the profile of cancer in a positive and inspiring way. Spearheaded by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), World Cancer Day takes place for the last year under the tagline ‘We can. I can.’, which explores how everyone – as a collective or as individuals – can do their part to reduce the global burden of cancer. Just as cancer affects everyone in different ways, everyone has the power to take action to reduce the impact that cancer has. World Cancer Day is a chance to reflect on what you can do, make a pledge and take action. For more information, please visit: www.worldcancerday.org.

About World Cancer Day activities and grassroots events
Local and international associations around the world are coming together to hold events dedicated to raising awareness and education about cancer, including the Chain for Change in Canada and the One Step at a Time Cancer Warrior Walk in South Africa. For more information about specific events, please visit: www.worldcancerday.org/map.

About ASCP
Founded in 1922 in Chicago, ASCP is a medical professional society with more than 100,000 member board-certified anatomic and clinical pathologists, pathology residents and fellows, laboratory professionals, and students. ASCP provides excellence in education, certification, and advocacy on behalf of patients, pathologists, and laboratory professionals. To learn more, visit www.ascp.org. Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ascp_chicago and connect with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ASCP.Chicago.

About the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)
UICC is the largest international cancer-fighting organization, with over 1,000 member organizations across 160 countries representing the world's major cancer societies, ministries of health, research institutes, treatment centers and patient groups. The organization is dedicated to taking the lead in convening, capacity building and advocacy initiatives that unite the cancer community to reduce the global cancer burden, promote greater equity, and integrate cancer control into the world health and development agenda.

UICC and its multi-sectorial partners are committed to encouraging governments to look towards the implementation and scale-up of quality and sustainable programs that address the global burden of cancer and
other NCDs. UICC is also a founding member of the NCD Alliance, a global civil society network that now represents almost 2,000 organizations in 170 countries. For more information, please visit: www.uicc.org

About Treatment for All
Over the last seven years, the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) has united the cancer community to position cancer on the global health and development agenda, with the inclusion of cancer and non-communicable diseases in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 and culminating in the successful adoption of a cancer resolution at the World Health Assembly in 2017.

‘Treatment for All’ is the name of a new, bold and inspiring advocacy initiative run by UICC. It calls on the international cancer community to address the global equity gap in access to cancer services by getting behind four essential pillars of cancer treatment and care:

• Improving the quality of cancer data for public health use
• Increasing the number of people with access to early detection and accurate cancer diagnosis
• Providing timely and quality treatment for early and metastatic disease for all
• Providing a basic supportive and palliative care service for all.

For more information, please visit: www.uicc.org/TreatmentforAll

Consolidated data tables:
1. Cancer incidences and mortalities by country (GLOBOCAN, 2012)
2. Countries with national cancer control plans and cancer registries (World Health Organization, 2014)
3. Number of radiotherapy machines and machines per one million population by country (IAEA, 2017)
To access the data tables, please visit: http://www.worldcancerday.org/exclusive-content-uicc-members

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