ASPHO’s support of members was reinforced, responsive, and re-envisioned during a turbulent 2020. Good governance and dedicated volunteers helped overcome uncharted challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, including changes in work environment and care delivery, a spotlight on race and inequities, and the cancellation of the ASPHO Conference. Aspiring to meet the strategic plan vision ‘to be the leading society for pediatric hematology/oncology in a changing environment,’ ASPHO quickly developed educational, professional development, and wellness programs and resources for the new virtual landscape while developing a diversity, equity, and inclusion plan and achieving key advocacy gains for the field.

Society Snapshot

Despite the impact of COVID-19, membership at year-end was a healthy 1,957, reflecting ASPHO’s value to a diverse base of subspecialist physicians, researchers, trainees, allied health professionals, and hospitalists.
Strategic Plan Pillars and 2020 Highlights

**DISCOVERY:** ASPHO will foster the quest for, and application of, novel discoveries in pediatric hematology/oncology.

- Renewal of affiliate agreement to cosponsor *Pediatric Blood & Cancer (PBC)*, owned and published by Wiley, with the International Society of Paediatric Oncology
- Published 412 abstracts submitted for the 2020 Conference in *PBC* to share highly rated and awarded discoveries
- Promoted grant and research opportunities to members
- Delivered a Virtual Learning Series featuring the ASPHO/ASH Choosing Wisely® presentation, Clinical Aspects of Evaluating and Treating COVID-19 Patients in PHO, and 24 top-rated research abstracts on basic and translational science, clinical trials and outcomes, HSCT/cellular therapy, and hemostasis, thrombosis, and red cell pathology

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS & ADVOCACY:** ASPHO will be recognized as the leading voice for pediatric hematology/oncology.

- Continued collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Hematology/Oncology (AAP SOHO) through joint policy review groups to evaluate guidelines, policies, books, and other documents, integrating pediatric hematology/oncology expertise of both organizations
- Along with our coalition partners, ASPHO contributed to the Title VII Health Care Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2019 and the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program (PSLRP) from the Educating Medical Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency and Readiness (EMPOWER) for Health Act of 2019 becoming law through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in March 2020
- ASPHO contributed to Congress passing H.R. 133, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 in December 2020 which included funding related to sickle cell disease along with several bills and initiatives that are vital for childhood cancer care and research, including the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act. This was done with our coalition partners, including the Alliance for Childhood Cancer (Alliance) and the Sickle Cell Disease Coalition (SCDC)
- Signed on to thirteen letters supporting the legislation above while working actively with AAP, the Alliance, SCDC, and the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON)
- Published statement condemning racism and supporting equitable health care

**EDUCATION:** ASPHO will meet the comprehensive educational needs of pediatric hematology/oncology professionals, incorporating discovery.

- Completed the Education Strategy which outlines a comprehensive approach to education product development and diversification, with the larger goal of meeting the educational needs of ASPHO members and the PHO community in new and creative ways
- Launched a podcast, ASPHOCast, on clinician wellness topics
- Collaborated on the COG Fall Meeting session on “Recent Advances in Pediatric and AYA Lymphomas”
- Offered additional educational resources, including five live webinars with top specialists in the field on BMF, Non-Pain Symptoms, Uterine Hemostasis, Physician Wellness, and COVID-19 lessons learned; two sponsored webinars on innovative treatments; bimonthly case quizzes; and 28 on-demand lectures and corresponding 400 self-assessment questions with the KARE Toolkit

The ASPHO 2020 educational programs featured

- 77 thought leaders
- 35 CME credits offered
- 1564 attendees
CAREER DEVELOPMENT: ASPHO will be recognized by the pediatric hematology/oncology community as the leading resource and support system for their continuous career advancement.

- In a year where networking and mentoring were challenging, ASPHO continued to support opportunities for early career guidance by hosting an Early Career Roundtable and Townhall for early careerists in addition to the popular Mentoring Program
- Piloted a mid-career mentoring program
- Provided Training Committee representation on the Council of Pediatric Subspecialties (CoPS) focusing on early career pathways and pediatric subspecialty workforce discussions
- Hosted Wellness Week with virtual yoga, a 5k, and webinar to support specialists during pandemic

WORKFORCE: ASPHO will identify and advocate for integrative solutions responding to changing workforce dynamics.

- Hosted virtual townhall conversations for Division Directors and Program Directors
- Created and disseminated the ASPHO 2020 Telehealth Survey and submitted a comment letter to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) which urged the current telehealth expansion to continue beyond COVID-19
- Produced a comprehensive Compensation and Benefits Report which delivers specific and detailed compensation data for the PHO profession
- Updated the workforce strategy to outline a clear approach and guide ASPHO’s work to create awareness, share workforce trends, and retain subspecialists

Endeavors to create a positive member experience include Diversity Advisory Group recommendations to improve ASPHO’s DEI efforts based on responses to the Member Experience and Diversity Needs Assessment; establishing Cancer Predisposition and Informatics, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Special Interest Groups based on member interest, increasing the number of SIGs to 15. The online member community remains a valued resource, hosting 374 Clinical Forum and specialized community conversations throughout the year.

Financials

2020 OPERATING REVENUE*

- Membership 33%
- Education 11%
- General Administration 5%
- Publications 3%

2020 OPERATING EXPENSES*

- Conference/Insurance Settlement 47%
- General Administration 33%
- Education 14%
- Membership 8%

*Preliminary FY20 financial information

The Society’s reserves of $1.96M at year’s end are above the recommended benchmarked range for healthcare associations and are sufficient to support 11 months of operating expenses.
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