

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Statement from ASH, AACR, AACI, ASTRO, ASPHO, and LUNgevity Foundation on the Administration's Executive Order on Immigration

(WASHINGTON, February 1, 2017) — As the world's leading organizations representing laboratory researchers, physician-scientists, clinicians, the nation's cancer centers, and patient advocates committed to improved care for patients with cancer and blood diseases, we express our deep concern about the Administration's executive order that has denied U.S. entry to people who bring unique expertise to the practice of medicine and the conduct of cancer and biomedical research. Our nation depends on the contributions of the greatest minds from around the world to maintain the high quality of our biomedical research enterprise and health care services.

The benefits of scientific collaborations are amplified by our diversity. Limiting the exchange of ideas, practices, and data across cultures has the potential to significantly retard scientific progress and adversely affect public health. Any loss of researchers and physicians will render the United States less competitive over time, and our traditionally strong research institutions and the patients they serve will be negatively affected.

We remain deeply concerned that restricting travel will prohibit participation in scientific meetings, where cutting-edge science and treatment methods are often first introduced. These in-person meetings and other global exchanges are vitally important because they provide unparalleled opportunities for collaborations and information-sharing. Such scientific and medical meetings are absolutely essential to the conquest of cancer and blood diseases.

Much of the progress that has been achieved against cancer and blood diseases has been fueled by researchers from all corners of the world. For this progress to continue it is going to require an even greater commitment to collaborations among international organizations, governments, public and private institutions, and individuals dedicated to this cause.

Therefore, we respectfully call on the Administration to consider the negative impact of its executive order on our nation's ability to attract the world's best scientific and clinical talent to participate in the fight against cancer and blood diseases, irrespective of their country of origin. This includes those

immigrants who are inspired by the opportunity to bring their scientific curiosity and intellect to our country.

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### **American Society of Hematology**

The American Society of Hematology (ASH) ([www.hematology.org](http://www.hematology.org)) is the world's largest professional society of hematologists dedicated to furthering the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disorders affecting the blood. For more than 50 years, the Society has led the development of hematology as a discipline by promoting research, patient care, education, training, and advocacy in hematology. ASH publishes *Blood* ([www.bloodjournal.org](http://www.bloodjournal.org)), the most cited peer-reviewed publication in the field, which is available weekly in print and online. In 2016, ASH launched *Blood Advances* ([www.bloodadvances.org](http://www.bloodadvances.org)), an online, peer-reviewed open-access journal.

### **American Association for Cancer Research**

Founded in 1907, the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) is the world's oldest and largest professional organization dedicated to advancing cancer research and its mission to prevent and cure cancer. AACR membership includes more than 37,000 laboratory, translational, and clinical researchers; population scientists; other health care professionals; and cancer advocates residing in 108 countries. The AACR marshals the full spectrum of expertise of the cancer community to accelerate progress in the prevention, biology, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer by annually convening more than 25 conferences and educational workshops, the largest of which is the AACR Annual Meeting with almost 19,500 attendees. In addition, the AACR publishes eight prestigious, peer-reviewed scientific journals and a magazine for cancer survivors, patients, and their caregivers. The AACR funds meritorious research directly as well as in cooperation with numerous cancer organizations. As the Scientific Partner of Stand Up To Cancer, the AACR provides expert peer review, grants administration, and scientific oversight of team science and individual investigator grants in cancer research that have the potential for near-term patient benefit. The AACR actively communicates with legislators and other policymakers about the value of cancer research and related biomedical science in saving lives from cancer. For more information about the AACR, visit [www.AACR.org](http://www.AACR.org).

### **Association of American Cancer Institutes**

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) comprises 96 premier academic and freestanding cancer research centers in the U.S. and Canada. AACI is dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer by enhancing the impact of the leading academic cancer centers. For more information about AACI, please visit: [www.aaci-cancer.org](http://www.aaci-cancer.org).

### **American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)**

ASTRO is the premier radiation oncology society in the world, with more than 10,000 members who are physicians, nurses, biologists, physicists, radiation therapists, dosimetrists and other health care professionals who specialize in treating patients with radiation therapies. As the leading organization in radiation oncology, the Society is dedicated to improving patient care through professional education and training, support for clinical practice and health policy standards, advancement of science and research, and advocacy. ASTRO publishes three medical journals, *International Journal of Radiation Oncology • Biology • Physics* ([www.redjournal.org](http://www.redjournal.org)), *Practical Radiation Oncology* ([www.practicalradonc.org](http://www.practicalradonc.org)) and *Advances in Radiation Oncology* ([www.advancesradonc.org](http://www.advancesradonc.org)); developed and maintains an extensive patient website, RT Answers ([www.rtanswers.org](http://www.rtanswers.org)); and created the Radiation Oncology Institute ([www.roinstitute.org](http://www.roinstitute.org)), a nonprofit foundation to support research and education efforts around the world

that enhance and confirm the critical role of radiation therapy in improving cancer treatment. To learn more about ASTRO, visit [www.astro.org](http://www.astro.org).

### **The American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology**

The American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (ASPHO) membership includes over 2000 members dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children and adolescents and with blood disorders and cancers. The Society works to actively advance programs and initiatives in professional education, scientific and clinical research, training, and practice issues. For more information, visit [www.aspho.org](http://www.aspho.org).

### **LUNGevity Foundation**

LUNGevity Foundation is firmly committed to making an immediate impact on increasing quality of life and survivorship of people with lung cancer by accelerating research into early detection and more effective treatments, as well as by providing community, support, and education for all those affected by the disease. Our vision is a world where no one dies of lung cancer. For more information about LUNGevity Foundation, please visit [www.LUNGevity.org](http://www.LUNGevity.org).