Since 2012, ASCO has sponsored its annual Quality Care Symposium. In developing this symposium, ASCO recognized the emerging importance of quality improvement and measurement in clinical practice and the value to the oncology community of a forum for sharing ideas and experiences. Moreover, it was recognized that there is a science of quality measurement based in the collection and systematic analysis of data that could empower practices to substantiate and continuously improve their initiatives and patient care.

The ASCO Quality Care Symposium has effectively brought together representatives from community and academic practices working on quality improvement initiatives and the transformation of cancer care delivery. This involves the collaboration of investigators with diverse academic and clinical backgrounds. The impact has been to infuse quality projects and programs with more rigor and systematic approaches and to inform researchers about the key issues that affect care and the realities of implementing programs and disseminating results in clinical practice. Many trainees also attend and are provided with an understanding of potential career paths in quality and access to colleagues and mentors through a variety of career development fora.

As alternative payment models like Medicare’s Oncology Care Model (and planned Oncology Care First Model) and private payer models have become more common, the symposium has provided a setting for the community to present and discuss data on the impact of changing reimbursement and incentives and, particularly, the value-based care transformation activities that accompany many of these payment models. Indeed, the symposium has become the preferred meeting for addressing value-based practice transformation strategies in key areas, including clinical pathways, patient navigation, reduction of disparities, coordination of care, diversion from emergency department use, optimization of resource use, patient-reported outcomes, financial navigation, development of regional quality networks, analysis of claims data and innovative technologies. Staple areas of quality improvement, such as safety and equity, have appropriately grown in emphasis through many of these models, with additional resources to further develop and evaluate programs in these areas.

This special issue of JCO Oncology Practice includes publications from presentations at the 2019 Quality Care Symposium. These articles reflect the breadth of salient contemporary topics encompassed in oncology quality and value programs. They exemplify the common themes of the meeting: a commitment to improving the experiences and care of patients and to bringing scientific rigor to quality programs and projects.

The 2019 Symposium was held on September 6-7 in San Diego, CA, with most participants from the United States and Canada but a growing presence from Europe and Asia. Abstracts spanned the key areas of safety; technology and innovation; equity and disparities; cost, value, and policy; and patient experience. Panels included representatives from practices, policy organizations, payers, patients, and researchers. Topics for panels spanned from solutions to address disparities to clinical pathways to building multisite quality networks. Multiple sessions included presentations of programs and studies in the key areas, and several generated the articles in this special issue.

The 2020 ASCO Quality Care Symposium will be held on October 9-10 in Chicago, IL. We encourage abstract submissions in all of the aforementioned topics as well as research focused on the delivery of survivorship, palliative and supportive care, tools and methods for quality improvement research, interventions to reduce disparities, topics related to implementation and de-implemention science, and research focused on team-based care. Additional information can be found at https://meetings.asco.org/quality/save-date. We hope to see you there!
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ASCO's Quality Care Symposium and the Evolving Science of Value-Based Care

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Open Payments is a public database containing information reported by companies about payments made to US-licensed physicians (Open Payments).

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