

AECA Champions Cancer Moonshot Efforts

For the past 20 years, the American Eurasian Cancer Alliance (AECA) has been dedicated to improving cancer control programs and patient outcomes by bringing global initiatives to life. Working closely with Leading U.S. and international partners, AECA specializes in establishing collaborations between North American and Eurasian scientists, physicians, clinical facilities, and organizational partners, with an overall aim to support innovation in the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer. This includes key engagement with an Obama administration public-private international health task force focused on driving progress in non-communicable disease legislation.

With an ambitious goal put forth by the reignited Cancer Moonshot effort in 2022 - to reduce the death rate from cancer by at least 50% over the next 25 years and improve the experience of patients and families living with and surviving cancer - the U.S. government would be best served by leveraging a network of researchers worldwide that could join forces by sharing data and knowledge to accelerate new approaches. A disease that knows no borders requires a response that doesn't either.

Working jointly with global leaders such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), AECA is pursuing an agenda to ensure that cancer control continues to be a priority in the world health and development arena. WHO estimates that between 30-50% of cancer cases could be prevented by modifying or avoiding key risk factors and implementing existing evidence-based prevention

strategies. AECA works with Eurasian nations to strengthen national policies and programs to reduce exposure to cancer risk factors and encourage healthy lifestyles, with two key endeavors to promote tobacco control and vaccination programs. Since implementing Eurasian tobacco control legislation nearly two decades ago, AECA continues to connect U.S. and Eurasian leaders in the field to provide opportunities to share lessons learned and discuss future initiatives.

The <u>U.S. Code of Federal Regulations</u> makes clear that foreign clinical data can be the sole basis for granting marketing approval to a new drug by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, pivotal legislation that has provided the foundation for international clinical trials for infections such as human papillomavirus (HPV). By allowing research to be conducted in other nations, the U.S. has both provided valuable therapeutic preventatives to underserved populations and gained insights translatable to other populations. AECA recently supported an effort between UNICEF and the Uzbekistan Ministry of Health to launch a nationwide HPV vaccination campaign, which will undoubtedly thwart future illness and death of a preventable disease.

As outlined in the 2016 Cancer Moonshot Report to the President, AECA wholeheartedly supports and promotes the five pillars for international commitment to change the culture of the global fight against cancer. Moving into this new phase of the initiative, AECA provides an optimal platform to accelerate scientific and educational efforts between U.S. and Eurasian stakeholders. With years of experience in patient data and bio-specimen harmonization efforts, as well as coalition building between nations to ensure an equitable participation of investment, AECA has a successful track record of optimizing global platforms to make substantial improvements in international cancer research and treatment protocols.



Sophia Mahaelson, PhD