

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS JOINT COMMITTEE ON CANCER

What is the American Joint Committee on Cancer?

The American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) established the way cancer is communicated. Clinicians and the surveillance community count on the AJCC for the most comprehensive anatomic staging data available, the Cancer Staging Manual and Cancer Staging Atlas. These AJCC publications are recognized as the authoritative guides for cancer staging information and are used by tens of thousands of medical professionals every day.

Evidence-based anatomic staging continues to be the critical factor to understanding cancer and treating patients. New breakthroughs in oncologic, radiologic, pathologic and molecular science are opening up ever-more promising possibilities for precisely defining a prognosis and recommending a treatment based on a patient's individual data. In this time when cancer science is evolving at a faster and faster pace, the AJCC's central role as the preeminent source of cancer staging information has never been more crucial to the clinical, surveillance, research and patient advocate communities.

It is with this obligation in mind that the AJCC will continue to harness the energy of hundreds of dedicated volunteers at the forefront of the fight against cancer in a collaborative, focused and unwavering effort to improve the care of every cancer patient.

Member Organizations

The AUA is one of AJCC's 22 member organizations. Membership is reserved for those organizations whose missions or goals are consistent with or complementary to those of the AJCC. These organizations generally demonstrate involvement or activity in one or more of the following areas: cancer epidemiology, patient care, cancer control, cancer registration, professional education, research, or biostatistics.

The Mission of the American Joint Committee on Cancer

The American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) provides worldwide leadership in the development, promotion and maintenance of evidence-based systems for the classification and management of cancer in collaboration with multidisciplinary organizations dedicated to cancer surveillance and to improving care.

The AJCC is committed to achieving five key objectives:

- Facilitate a timely and rigorous, evidence-based process to support a biologically relevant system for classification and outcome prediction of cancer that is compatible with systems of cancer population surveillance
- Proactively educate the oncology community through the development and delivery of effective programs and products to guide patient care
- Promulgate research and serve as the clearinghouse to support the development of clinically relevant predictive tools, prognostic factors and other indicators that classify and predict cancer
- Foster collaborative relationships with AJCC member organizations and organizations with similar objectives in support of systems to diagnose and treat cancer
- Support and be responsive to public and private efforts to improve care and predict outcomes for cancer patients

ACS's Role in AJCC

The American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) was established in 1959 to formulate and publish systems of classification of cancer, including staging and end results reporting, which will be acceptable to and used by the medical profession for selecting the most effective treatment, determining prognosis, and continuing evaluation of cancer control measures.

In addition to this partnering effort, the College has served as the administrative support arm of the AJCC. The housing of the AJCC office and support staff in the ACS headquarters in Chicago, IL, and the continued role of the Medical Director of the Cancer Program of the College as executive director of the AJCC, has fostered this close relationship.

Terms/Time Commitment**Responsibilities and Privileges of Liaison Organizations**

1. Term of office shall be for three years, with eligibility for re-election for one additional three - year term.
2. Each representative shall participate actively in the meetings and activities of the Full Committee. They have voting privileges but cannot hold office. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, a Liaison Organization may be asked to replace a representative whose activity and attendance does not meet the expectations of the appointment.
3. To disseminate information of the Committee's activities to members of their organization, and to stimulate the use of the AJCC systems of classification, staging, recording, and reporting.
4. Only when serving as ad hoc committee member shall they qualify for reimbursement by the Committee for travel expenses.
5. Committee members attend the AJCC Annual Meeting, which is typically a 2-day meeting annually held in July. Other meetings of subcommittees are typically via conference call as needed.