

Welcome to Participants

Symposium on Cervical Cancer Screening and Management of Cervical Abnormalities in Adolescents and Young Women

We would like to welcome you on the behalf of the Practice Improvement in Cervical Screening and Management (PICSM) Committee, under the sponsorship of the ASCCP and in partnership with the ACS, to the Symposium on Cervical Cancer Screening and Management of Cervical Abnormalities in Adolescents and Young Women. Over the past eight years increasing understanding of the natural history of HPV and cervical neoplasia has changed guidelines dramatically. Nowhere has this been more of a “sea change” than in cervical screening and management of adolescents and young women with abnormal cytology and histology. However, implementation of guidelines is often the biggest challenge, particularly when significantly divergent from previous practice.

Therefore this conference is not about changing guidelines, but rather about exploring strategies to increase adoption of evidence-based consensus guidelines already in existence. Toward this goal we review all pertinent data providing the foundation for current recommendations on when cervical cancer screening should begin and on best management practices for adolescents and young women having abnormal cytology and histology. We will discuss issues that make cervical screening and management of adolescents and young women unique and explore how to best communicate with the medical community these best practices. All will have the opportunity to participate and contribute through discussions from the floor, and in breakout sessions where we will pool our collective talents and diverse knowledge to come up with communication strategies that will further the adoption of existing guidelines. We will also work to identify gaps where more information and research is needed, both to support existing guidelines and in expectation that new information and changing technologies will continue to evolve guidelines in the future.

The Symposium has approximately 50 invited participants, including general gynecologists, gynecologic oncologists, family physicians, nurse practitioners, pathologists, cytopathologists, epidemiologists, and others who are recognized experts in the cervical cancer prevention. Many also have extensive experience in the care of adolescents and young women. Attendees represent 22 professional organizations and Federal agencies that are formally attending this meeting.

We have a day and a half to use our collective talents, knowledge and experience to help the medical community to provide the best care for the adolescents and young women that we serve. We thank you for sharing with us your commitment and enthusiasm for this endeavor.

Anna-Barbara Moscicki MD, Chair
J. Thomas Cox MD, Co-chair