



**Contacts:**

Chris Martin

Vice President, Public Relations

[CMartin@DavidJamesGroup.com](mailto:CMartin@DavidJamesGroup.com) | 630-670-2745

Becky Bunn, MSc

IASLC Project Specialist

[Becky.Bunn@IASLC.org](mailto:Becky.Bunn@IASLC.org) | 720-254-9509

**Lung Cancer Patient Advocates Receive Attendance to the IASLC 17th World Conference on Lung Cancer  
*Five Individuals to Travel to Vienna, Share Advocacy Strategies***

DENVER-- Five individuals who are critical in the fight against lung cancer will have their attendance to the 17<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC) funded as part of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer's (IASLC) Patient Advocacy Awards. This program is open to patient advocates and advocacy organizations that have minimal funds, and aims to improve relationships from the bench to the bedside by increasing links to patient advocates and advocacy organizations around the world. The winners will receive complimentary registration and travel expenses for the IASLC 17th World Conference on Lung Cancer held Dec. 4-7, 2016 in Vienna, Austria.

The recipients of the Patient Advocacy Awards are Ide Mills, USA; Elizabeth Dessureault, Canada; Ewelina Szymtke, Poland; Kazuo Hasegawa, Japan; and Lillian Leigh, Australia. These winners will have the opportunity to meet with other lung cancer advocates and advocacy organizations at the IASLC 17<sup>th</sup> WCLC to discuss strategies to better raise awareness for thoracic cancers.

"Patient advocates are a vital component in the fight against lung cancer, and we find it necessary to provide these individuals and organizations with tools and opportunities to grow their advocacy efforts," said Fred R. Hirsch, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Pathology at the University of Colorado Cancer Center and School of Medicine, and CEO of the IASLC. "The recipients of this award will be able to meet with physicians, researchers, and fellows, and gain new educational insights that will help strengthen their efforts in cancer-related advocacy. These efforts will have an impact in their hometowns and across the globe."

The IASLC WCLC is the world's largest meeting dedicated to lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies, attracting more than 6,000 researchers, physicians, and specialists from more than 100 countries. The IASLC 17<sup>th</sup> WCLC will feature an educational track focused on Patient Advocacy, so advocates and advocacy organizations that did not receive an award are encouraged to register for the IASLC 17<sup>th</sup> WCLC and to attend as delegates.

To register for the IASLC 17<sup>th</sup> WCLC, visit <http://wclc2016.iaslc.org/registration-accommodation/registration/>. For more information on the IASLC 17<sup>th</sup> WCLC, visit: <http://wclc2016.iaslc.org/>.

**About the WCLC:**



[www.iaslc.org](http://www.iaslc.org)

The WCLC is the world's largest meeting dedicated to lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies, attracting more than 6,000 researchers, physicians, and specialists from more than 100 countries. The goal is to increase awareness, collaboration, and understanding of lung cancer, and to help participants implement the latest developments across the globe. Organized under the theme of "Together Against Lung Cancer," the conference will cover a wide range of disciplines and unveil several research studies and clinical trial results. For more information, visit <http://wclc2016.iaslc.org/>.

**About the IASLC:**

The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) is the only global organization dedicated to the study of lung cancer. Founded in 1974, the association's membership includes more than 5,000 lung cancer specialists in over 100 countries. Visit [www.iaslc.org](http://www.iaslc.org) for more information.

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