

ANNUAL REPORT YEAR IN REVIEW - 2024

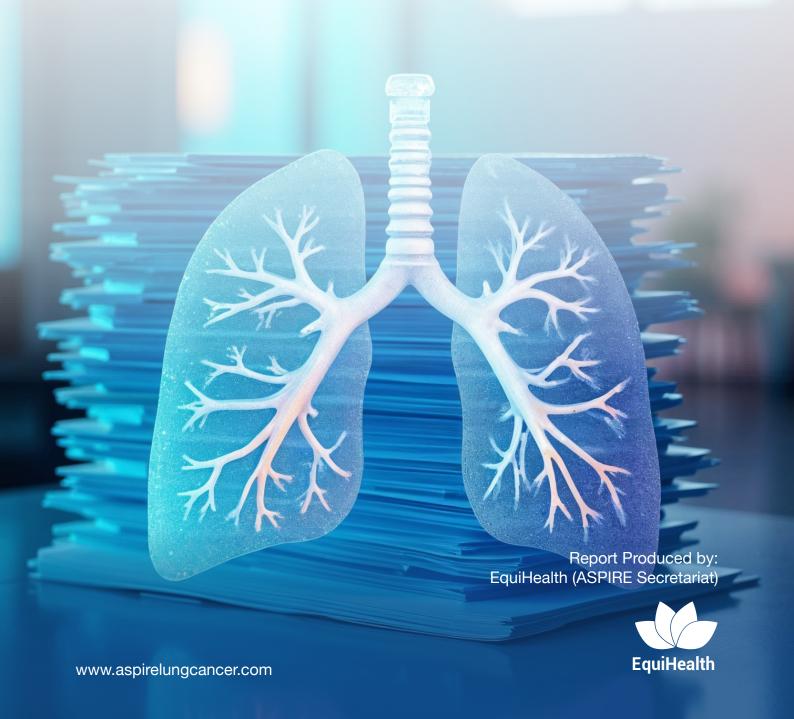


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Executive Summary

About ASPIRE:



ASPIRE (Asia-Pacific Policy Review & Engagement) for Lung Cancer is a collaborative multilateral effort dedicated to driving meaningful improvements in lung cancer care across the region. Its vision is to foster a holistic, patient-centred approach to lung cancer management through policy change, multi-sectoral stakeholder collaboration, and evidencebased advocacy. By bridging existing gaps, ASPIRE strives to ensure that every patient receives the timely and effective care they deserve.

Key Achievements in Year 1:

In its inaugural year, ASPIRE laid a strong foundation by forging key partnerships and launching strategic initiatives.

Notable achievements include:



Publishing the first edition of the flagship White Paper, featuring insights from nine Asia-Pacific health systems



Laying the groundwork for policy dialogues by establishing initial networks with Ministries of Health (MOH) in select health systems



Hosting the first policy roundtable in Hong Kong, creating a platform for meaningful discussions on lung cancer care and policy

These efforts contributed to raising awareness and fostering dialogue on lung cancer in the Asia-Pacific region, garnering support from multi-sectoral stakeholders including clinical and academic leaders, patient advocates, healthcare organisations and government bodies.

Although challenges were encountered, such as navigating diverse healthcare systems and policy frameworks, these experiences provided valuable insights for future progress.



In Year 2, ASPIRE intends to build on the momentum generated and focus on amplifying its influence to drive meaningful advancements in lung cancer policy across the region.

Key priorities include:

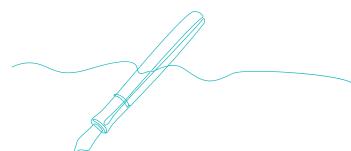
- » Hosting four policy roundtables, starting with Thailand and Taiwan, followed by South Korea and a combined edition involving low- and middle-income health systems, as well as continuing with the second edition of the Hong Kong roundtable
- » Expanding the evidence base with a 2nd edition of the White Paper featuring insights from China and Singapore
- » Supporting research initiatives on topics such as lung cancer screening and next-generation sequencing biomarker access
- » Strengthening stakeholder engagement, deepening relationships with policymakers, clinical leaders, and patient advocacy organisations, and expanding regional visibility through key events and collaborations



Call to action

ASPIRE invites all stakeholders—governments, healthcare providers, healthcare organisations, patient groups, researchers, and industry partners—to collaborate in advancing lung cancer care across the Asia-Pacific region. By working together, stakeholders can ensure lung cancer remains a priority on national and regional health agendas, improving outcomes for patients. Your support is critical in shaping the future of lung cancer care in the region.

Message from the **ASPIRE Director:**





William Brown **ASPIRE Director**

Dear ASPIRE Partners, Contributors, and Members,

As we reflect on ASPIRE's founding year, our journey to address the pressing gaps in lung cancer policy and care across the Asia-Pacific region has been both humbling and inspiring. The motivation behind founding this consortium was rooted in the urgent need for a unified approach to improving outcomes for lung cancer patients. Thanks to your unwavering support, we have made significant initial progress toward this goal.

In our inaugural year, we have been fortunate to achieve several key milestones that reflect the power of collaboration and collective action. From establishing a presence across leading cancer platforms and connecting with like-minded organisations and stakeholders, to contributing to evidence-based insights through our flagship white paper, we are laying a strong foundation for a better care and brighter future forlung cancer patients across the region.

These achievements would not have been possible without the generous efforts of our founding members, partners, contributors, and our dedicated team. Your contributions have been instrumental in making ASPIRE's launch a resounding success, and I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to each of you.

This report highlights the progress we've made together and sets the stage for the work ahead. As we move into 2025, our focus will be on expanding our efforts, amplifying our impact, and driving meaningful change in patient care and outcomes. I am excited about what we will accomplish in the year ahead and warmly invite you to contribute to our shared mission. Together, we can pave the way toward a future where equitable lung cancer care becomes the norm, not the exception.

William Brown, **ASPIRE Director**

1. Introduction

Lung cancer remains one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths worldwide, and the Asia-Pacific region is no exception, experiencing rising incidence and mortality rates¹.



In response to these challenges, ASPIRE for Lung Cancer—a collaborative multilateral effort aimed at improving lung cancer outcomes in the region—was established in February 2024.

Our mission is to enhance patient care and outcomes by addressing systemic barriers to effective lung cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment through policy advocacy. By leveraging a collective voice and generating evidence-based insights, we aim to drive policy reforms that foster long-term change and improve the lives of patients.

ASPIRE is anchored in a set of strategic goals outlined in our Charter, which includes nine key pillars that guide our work. At the core of our approach is advocacy for political action and funding to enhance access to and the quality of care across the region. Additionally, we are guided by a comprehensive 5-year roadmap, which outlines our priorities and commitments to ensuring sustainable progress.

As we reflect on our year of launch, we take pride in the foundational structures we have established. Our Charter and 5-year workplan provide a clear framework as we move into Year 2 of our journey.

This report highlights our achievements in the first year, the progress made in advocating for solutions, and our recommendations for the year ahead. It reinforces the collaborative efforts needed to ensure that lung cancer care becomes equitable and effective for all patients, irrespective of geography or economic status.

2. Year in Review

ASPIRE's inaugural year has been marked by the establishment of a strong foundation, highlighted by the steady expansion of our presence, the forging of strategic collaborations, and the launch of impactful projects and initiatives. These efforts have positioned us as a pivotal voice in advancing lung cancer care across the Asia-Pacific region. As we look back on our foundational year, we take pride in the milestones achieved, made possible through the collective efforts of our esteemed partners, contributors, and the dedicated ASPIRE team.

LAUNCH AND ESTABLISHMENT

February 2024 - Official Launch:

Supported by its founding members, ASPIRE was officially launched on 04 February 2024, aligning with World Cancer Day. This milestone was marked by a press release and culminated in an in-person Official Launch Event on 20 February in Singapore, signalling the beginning of meaningful dialogues and collaborations





Keynote Speakers

The event featured a distinguished line-up of speakers:

- Prof. Dorothy Keefe (Cancer Australia) underscored the importance of government-funded national lung cancer screening, exemplified by Australia's upcoming national screening programme set to commence in 2025;
- Prof. Martin Wong (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) highlighted success stories of effective government-funded screening initiatives in Taiwan and drawing potential learnings to strengthen local advocacy efforts;
- Mr. Norman Ng (Hong Kong Lung Cancer Patient Concern Group) shared his personal journey with lung cancer and emphasised the critical role of the patient voice in advancing care







In addition, the Dr Herbert Loong and Dr Daniel Tan, Co-Chairs of Asia Pacific Coalition Against Lung Cancer (APCLC) supported the event by making an address, marking the start of future collaborative efforts toward achieving our shared goals.

Charter and Roadmap:

In addition to the keynote presentations, ASPIRE unveiled its foundational Charter, outlining nine key strategic pillars that underpin its mission to advance lung cancer care. A complementary five-year roadmap was also introduced, showcasing a long-term vision and commitment to sustainable progress.

Online presence

Following the launch, ASPIRE established a digital presence through the creation of an Official Website and our LinkedIn Page. These platforms provide a hub for engagement, knowledge-sharing, and dialogue while amplifying our outreach and influence.



WEBINAR AND EVENTS

June 2024 - ASPIRE Webinar Series (A China Perspective):

On 24 June 2024, ASPIRE hosted its inaugural webinar, focusing on the lung cancer landscape in Mainland China — a health system with a vast population and diverse healthcare dynamics, yet lung cancer remains a leading cause of cancer-related deaths, highlighting the urgent need for attention.

Distinguished speakers Prof. Xu Wang Hong from Fudan University and A/Prof. Zhang Tian Tian from Jinan University shared insights on critical topics, including the health economics of lung cancer screening and the importance of identifying high-risk populations, particularly given unique regional risk factors.

The event underscored the significance of incorporating region-specific and health system-tailored approaches to enhance lung cancer screening and care.



August 2024 - Siemens World Lung Cancer Day Webinar:

On 01 August 2024, ASPIRE was invited to introduce its consortium and share a preview of the forthcoming White Paper's preliminary findings and recommendations during Siemens' World Lung Cancer Day Webinar.



September 2024 – 1st Edition of the Hong Kong Policy Roundtable:

On 24 September 2024, ASPIRE convened its inaugural Policy Roundtable, launching the Lung Cancer Care Continuum Policy Forum Series: An Evidence Review on Local Scientific & Clinical Efforts in Hong Kong. This series of four discussions aims to address local challenges and co-develop actionable solutions for improving lung cancer care.



Attended by a total of 14 multi-specialty local experts and patient advocates, the roundtable featured the latest research and findings in lung cancer management, with a strong emphasis on prevention, screening and early detection as key topics.

The attendees comprised:

Prof. Tony Mok

Assoc Prof. Herbert Loong, MBBS FRCP FASCO

Prof. Martin Wong Dr. Joseph Siu Kie Au

Prof. Rina Hui

Assoc. Prof. David Lam Assist. Prof. Derek Cheung Dr Vince Varut Vardhanabhuti

Assist. Prof. Molly Li

Assoc. Prof. Yin Ting Cheung

Dr. Johnny KS Lau

Dr. Alan Sihoe

Assist Prof. Wai Kei Jacky Lam

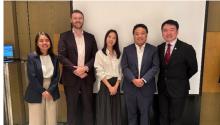
Mr. Alex Yam Ms. Katy Tong

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Asia Pacific Coalition against Lung Cancer.

The exchange of knowledge and expertise at this first roundtable played a pivotal role in sparking further conversations and collaboration in lung cancer care in Hong Kong. It also established a reference model for future health system-specific roundtables, setting a benchmark for impactful dialogues across the region.









October 2024 - ACLC Poster Presentation:

ASPIRE presented its flagship White Paper through a poster presentation at the IASLC Asia Conference on Lung Cancer (ACLC) 2024, held from 17 to 19 October 2024.

This platform facilitated networking opportunities with leading experts, thought leaders, and patient advocates, setting the stage for future engagement in regional and global policy task forces.





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November 2024 - ASPIRE White Paper Launch Webinar:

On 22 November 2024, to mark the official release of the White Paper "Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Lung Cancer Care and Access in the Asia-Pacific Region", ASPIRE hosted a Launch Webinar. The webinar highlighted key findings on the state of lung cancer care across the Asia-Pacific region and featured five actionable recommendations to enhance access, care, and outcomes.

Beyond offering a snapshot of the White Paper's key findings, a distinguished panel of local lung cancer experts and dedicated patient advocates from diverse healthcare systems across the Asia-Pacific shared invaluable insights on local challenges, untapped opportunities, policies, and initiatives specific to their regions.

We extend our sincere thanks to the following speakers:



Prof Chong-Jen Yu
Department of Internal Medicine,
National Taiwan University Hospital



Prof. Tran Thi Thanh Huong Vietnam National Cancer Institute



Mr. Sanjeev Sharma Programme Director, Lung Connect India Foundation



Ms. Vandana Mahajan Lead Counsellor, Lung Connect India Foundation

The White Paper marks the beginning of an era of ongoing dialogues. With this evidence-based tool, ASPIRE aims to spark meaningful conversations, foster collaboration, and drive tangible improvements in lung cancer care for patients across the region.

Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Lung Cancer Care and Access in the APAC Region

White Paper Launch Webinar Friday, 22nd November



November – December 2024 – Other Key Events:

ASPIRE also participated in several major regional and local events, including the ESMO Asia Congress 2024, NCCS LEAP's Hopeful Voices 2024: Advancing Lung Cancer Care Through Patient Advocacy, and Lung Connect's NGO Workshop. These varied engagements allowed us to connect with a diverse range of stakeholders, foster deeper ideation and opportunities, and spur momentum, while amplifying ASPIRE's regional presence and outreach.

















PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH:

July 2024 - White Paper Infographic Series:

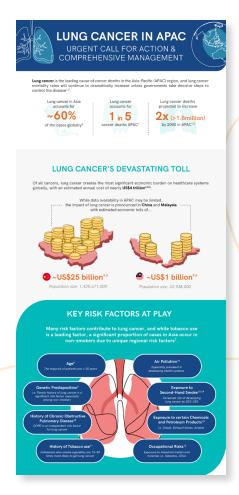
Ahead of the launch of the White Paper "Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Lung Cancer Care and Access in the Asia-Pacific Region", ASPIRE released a three-part infographic series to offer impactful preliminary insights in a visually engaging format.

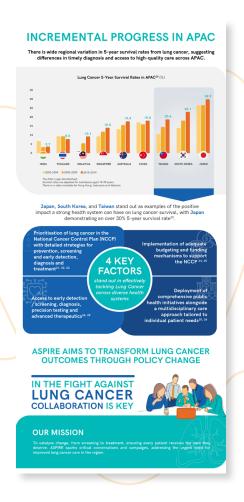
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The series highlighted the unique lung cancer burden in the Asia-Pacific, particularly focusing on the high proportion of never smokers. It also provided valuable insights into associated challenges and opportunities for reducing mortality, raising awareness and driving engagement leading up to the White Paper release.

Additionally, the series was prominently featured on Oncodaily, a leading platform for cancer-related news and insights, further extending its reach and impact.





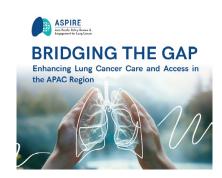


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November 2024 - Flagship White Paper:

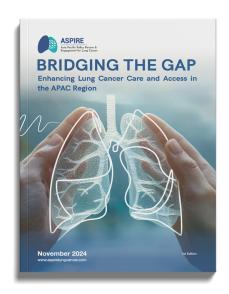
Marking our commitment to improving lung cancer care, ASPIRE officially unveiled its flagship White Paper, "Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Lung Cancer Care and Access in the Asia-Pacific Region" on 22 November 2024, during Lung Cancer Awareness Month.

The White Paper is accompanied by comprehensive Health System Profiles, which feature a structured indicator framework for an in-depth assessment of lung cancer care landscapes.



These profiles were made possible through the invaluable contributions of local experts and patient advocates, ensuring the robustness and accuracy of the insights. They provide a thorough evaluation of lung cancer care across the continuum in nine APAC health systems.

This milestone represents a concerted effort to driving evidence-based solutions that empower policymakers and healthcare leaders to catalyse actionable change in lung cancer care across the region.





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THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Beyond conventional publications, ASPIRE contributed to a recent article by Healthful For You, titled "Your Lungs Matter: How Awareness and Advocacy Can Save Lives." published on Convergence Concepts.

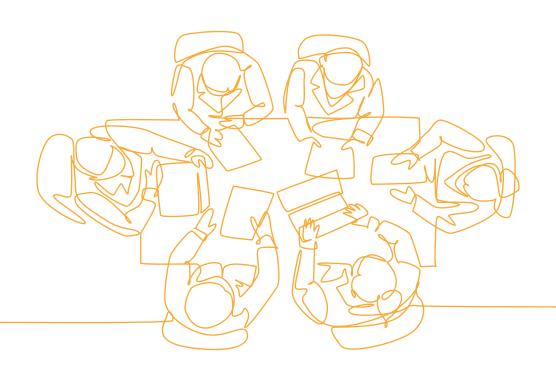
The article underscored the critical importance of early detection, comprehensive screening and robust patient advocacy in combatting lung cancer. It also sheds light on the unique challenges faced in the Asia-Pacific region, where lung cancer disproportionately affects never-smokers, particularly women. This reinforces the urgent need for tailored, context-sensitive approaches to address these multifaceted issues effectively.

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COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS:

Throughout the year, ASPIRE forged strategic partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders, including leading clinicians, academic groups, medical societies, patient advocacy organisations, governmental bodies, and healthcare leaders.

These collaborations fostered cross-sector dialogue, knowledge exchange, and joint initiatives that have been instrumental in laying the foundation for sustainable and impactful change in lung cancer care across the region.



IMPACT AND CONTRIBUTIONS

ASPIRE has made a notable impact in advancing lung cancer care across the Asia-Pacific, establishing a strong base for collaboration, policy engagement, and increased awareness. These efforts have driven meaningful change throughout the region.

Key contributions included:



Advancing Knowledge and Awareness:

Through a series of focused initiatives, ASPIRE has heightened awareness of lung cancer's unique challenges in the Asia-Pacific. Our flagship White Paper, complemented by infographics and webinars, provided a clear overview of the lung cancer landscape and burden, highlighting critical gaps and actionable opportunities. These efforts have informed stakeholders and sparked meaningful conversations about prioritising lung cancer care in broader health agendas.



Building Regional Influence:

ASPIRE has established itself as a unifying platform for lung cancer advocacy across the region. Through participation in several notable cancer platforms such as ACLC 2024 and ESMO 2024, we have strengthened our reputation as a trusted regional voice. These engagements have built a foundation for future partnerships and elevated the profile of lung cancer within broader health discussions.



Catalysing Policy Momentum:

ASPIRE has initiated engagements with key policy stakeholders who have provided valuable input for our White Paper. Through this White Paper and our roundtable discussions, we have offered evidence-based insights on addressing challenges in prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment. These efforts have laid the foundation for future policy engagements in lung cancer care across the region.



Forging Collaborative Networks:

Recognising the impact of collective action, ASPIRE has engaged a diverse network of stakeholders, including clinicians, academic leaders, patient advocates, and healthcare organisations. These strategic collaborations have fostered shared responsibility and commitment, aligning efforts and resources for advocacy. By amplifying underrepresented voices and facilitating dialogue, ASPIRE is building a sustainable, inclusive approach to improving lung cancer care.

KEY CHALLENGES AND LEARNINGS

While ASPIRE has made commendable progress, these achievements did not come without challenges. We navigated various hurdles that were instrumental in shaping our future direction and refining our strategy.

Key challenges included:



Engaging Diverse Stakeholders:

Building consensus among stakeholders from various sectors with differing priorities proved challenging. However, this emphasised the importance of flexibility and fostering open dialogue in our approach.

Navigating Regional Variations:

The Asia-Pacific region's diversity required us to adapt our initiatives to local contexts. This highlighted the need for a scalable, flexible model tailored to the unique needs of each health system.

Raising Awareness Amid Competing Health Priorities:

With lung cancer care being one of many critical health issues in the region, consistent advocacy was necessary to ensure its prioritisation on both national and regional health agendas.

3. Stakeholder Engagement & Collaboration

ASPIRE's achievements in its launch year can be attributed to the strong partnerships and collaborations we've established across a range of stakeholder groups, paving the way for more tangible changes in the forthcoming year:

Clinical and Academic Leaders

By forming strategic alliances with leading clinicians and academic institutions, we ensure that our initiatives are evidence-based, impactful, and aligned with the latest research advancements.

National Ministries of Health (MOH):

We initiated preliminary touchpoints with Ministries of Health (MOHs) in select health systems to introduce ASPIRE's mission and efforts. These engagements have established a foundation for deeper dialogue and collaboration opportunities on lung cancer policy development.



Non-Governmental / **Patient Advocacy Organisations**

> We have worked closely with patient advocates to ensure that the voices of those directly impacted by lung cancer remain central to our advocacy efforts, ensuring that our work reflects their needs and priorities.

Policymakers and Government Stakeholders

We pursued strategic collaborations with a diverse range of government stakeholders. By capitalising on these opportunistic engagements, we aim to align our regional efforts with national health priorities, ensuring that our policy recommendations are effectively embedded within government-led strategies for lasting impact.

Global and Regional Health Organisations

Our presence at global forums such as ESMO 2024 and the IASLC Asia Conference on Lung Cancer (ACLC) 2024 has facilitated collaborations with international health organisations, bringing a global perspective to regional challenges and enhancing our advocacy.

These collaborations are essential in creating a unified, multifaceted approach to improving lung cancer care. Moving forward, ASPIRE will continue to build these partnerships and engage with a broader network of stakeholders to drive systemic change.

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4. Financial Overview

ASPIRE's first year of operation was characterised by prudent financial management, ensuring effective resource allocation to drive key initiatives. The funding was strategically directed towards the following key areas:



Research and Publications:

A considerable portion of our budget was allocated to the development of the flagship White Paper and accompanying research, offering valuable insights into lung cancer care and health system challenges and opportunities across the region.

Event Participation and Stakeholder Engagement:

Resources were also allocated to our participation in prominent events such as ACLC 2024, ESMO 2024 and the first edition of the Hong Kong policy roundtable, where we raised awareness and strengthened our regional presence.

Operational Costs:

Investments were made in building a solid operational foundation, including the establishment of digital platforms and creation of essential resources to support ongoing engagement with stakeholders.

Moving forward, we plan to leverage these investments to scale our operations and maximise the impact of our initiatives. Transparency and accountability will remain a priority as we explore new funding avenues to sustainably support ASPIRE's continued mission.

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5. Looking Ahead



Building on the momentum of our founding year, ASPIRE's second year will focus on evidence-based advocacy, using insights to drive health system-specific initiatives and strengthen strategic collaborations, ultimately leading to meaningful policy changes and tangible improvements in lung cancer care across the Asia-Pacific region.



Strengthening Policy Engagement

By forming strategic alliances with leading clinicians and academic institutions, we ensure that our initiatives are evidence-based, impactful, and aligned with the latest research advancements.



Expanding Regional Presence and Stakeholder Engagement

We have worked closely with patient advocates to ensure that the voices of those directly impacted by lung cancer remain central to our advocacy efforts, ensuring that our work reflects their needs and priorities.



Advancing the Evidence Base for Lung Cancer Care

Our presence at global forums such as ESMO 2024 and the IASLC Asia Conference on Lung Cancer (ACLC) 2024 has facilitated collaborations with international health organisations, bringing a global perspective to regional challenges and enhancing our advocacy.



Strengthening Impact through a Flagship Summit

We pursued strategic collaborations with a diverse range of government stakeholders. By capitalising on these opportunistic engagements, we aim to align our regional efforts with national health priorities, ensuring that our policy recommendations are effectively embedded within government-led strategies for lasting impact.



Consortium Growth and Expansion

We initiated preliminary touchpoints with Ministries of Health (MOHs) in select health systems to introduce ASPIRE's mission and efforts. These engagements have established

By setting these clear goals, ASPIRE is well-positioned to advance its mission, expand its regional influence, and drive collaborative, evidence-based solutions to address pressing challenges in lung cancer care. We remain committed to fostering meaningful partnerships and creating lasting impact through our strategic initiatives.

6. Conclusion & Acknowledgements

ASPIRE's founding year has marked a pivotal step in advancing lung cancer care across the Asia-Pacific region. Our initiatives, partnerships, and achievements have laid a strong foundation for continued growth. We have gained valuable insights, built essential connections, and fostered crucial discussions. As we reflect on this year, we remain committed to maintaining momentum, expanding networks, strengthening collaborations, advocating for policy improvements, and supporting key stakeholders—all with the ultimate goal of addressing the region's urgent needs in lung cancer care. Moving forward, we aim to expand our impact and drive lasting improvements for lung cancer patients.

The success of ASPIRE's first year is a testament to the collective efforts and unwavering support of our diverse stakeholders. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our founding members, strategic partners, clinical and research experts, patient groups, and policy stakeholders, whose contributions have been instrumental in shaping our achievements. Your collaborative spirit, expertise and steadfast support have significantly advanced our mission and amplifying our impact on lung cancer across the region.

Finally, we wish to recognise the dedication and tireless efforts of the ASPIRE team, whose relentless commitment has brought our shared vision to life. Thank you for playing an integral role in the success of our launch year.



7. Governance

Members

We will continue to deepen engagement with our funding members and strategic partners



Funding Members:

















Strategic Partners:





Join Us in Shaping the **Future of Lung Cancer Care**

As ASPIRE enters its second year, we are eager to build on this momentum with your continued collaboration. Together, we can shape the future of lung cancer care across the Asia-Pacific region and drive meaningful improvements in patient outcomes.

Contact Information

For further enquiries, collaboration opportunities, or become a part of our Consortium, please feel free to reach out to us at:

Fmail:

ASPIRE Email: aspire.secretariat@eq-health.com

ASPIRE Consortium Director: William Brown (wbrown@eq-health.com)

ASPIRE Consortium Manager: Judy Li (jli@eq-health.com)





We look forward to having you join us on this journey.

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