March 2, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), representing more than 11,000 global members of the radiation oncology treatment team, we congratulate you on your election as the 46th U.S. President and commit to working with you to achieve advances in cancer care for Americans and patients around the world.

Radiation oncology is a central modality in the treatment of cancer, with approximately two-thirds of cancer patients receiving radiation for cure and palliation of pain. As you know, investments in cancer research, including those you supported as a Senator and Vice President, have led directly to several impactful improvements in cancer outcomes, including development of advanced technologies that increase cure rates and reduce side effects among cancer patients.

In 2017, ASTRO was proud to support your Cancer Moonshot Initiative. We would like to reiterate our strong support of your leadership and ask that you again pursue a transformative vision for cancer research and care. Radiation oncology is a highly computational and technical field, and well poised to engage in frontier informatics and data science approaches to cancer care. Importantly, research in combination approaches of radiation and various immunotherapeutics as well as mechanisms of tumor resistance will be among the priorities that can greatly impact patients in the near future. Radiation Oncology has never been more competitive as a specialty, drawing the best and brightest trainees, many with multiple advanced degrees (i.e. M.D., PhD.s) into the field. We are eager to actively participate in the Moonshot and subsequent initiatives, and believe our expertise and passion can provide meaningful contributions.

Recently, National Cancer Institute Director Dr. Ned Sharpless convened a Radiation Oncology Working Group to identify unanswered questions critical to advancing the field of radiation oncology. The prioritized areas are:

- Mechanisms of Radiation Resistance
- Drug Development and Radiation Modalities
- Immunotherapy and Radiation
- Radiopharmaceuticals
- Proton and Particle Therapy
- Data Science / Informatics Approaches
Importantly, many of these domains are not critical only to advances in the field of radiation oncology, but also for advances in oncology broadly. We welcome the opportunity to engage with you and your Administration on every level of the Moonshot Initiative.

Sincerely,

Laura I. Thevenot
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Vice President Kamala Harris
    Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health
    Ned Sharpless, Director of the National Cancer Institute
    Eric Lander, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy