

# Achieving Health Equity Through Shared Decision-Making: Evolution of Plain Language Summaries (PLS)

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## Insights

- Our medical, legal, and governance teams established internal policies for the development of plain language summaries (PLS)
- Post-publication PLS dissemination policies are in development with multiple internal and external stakeholders, including discussions with patient advocacy groups (PAGs) about PLS
- There is a continued need to expand dissemination directly to patients in order to improve health literacy and to bridge gaps in the healthcare provider-patient dialogue

## Introduction

- The importance of making research results more accessible and understandable to patients is recognized<sup>1</sup>
- PLS of scientific data support shared decision-making in the clinical setting, which may result in improved patient outcomes<sup>1,2</sup>
- To increase patient access to scientific data, we executed an 18-month pilot on the development of PLS for our oncology congress presentations. We had company-wide guidance in 2020, which was integrated into our publications standard operating procedure (SOP)<sup>3-5</sup>
- An unmet need exists for PLS in a variety of formats, including manuscript PLS of publications (PLSPs)<sup>3</sup> to further support patient health literacy, as noted by healthcare providers (HCPs) and PAGs<sup>2</sup>

## Our Journey

### OPTIMIZATION OF PLS DELIVERABLES

- Abstract PLS (aPLS) were developed in a 2018 pilot program for oncology congress presentations, and a company-wide publication policy for all types of PLS was established in 2020 (Figure 1). Updated policies around PLS and enhanced publication content were established in 2021 and continue to evolve
- Efforts since 2020 have focused on
  - Optimizing PLS templates for readability by collaborating with PAGs and academic organizations
    - We surveyed patients and PAGs on PLS preferences (survey results at poster 42 and QR code)
  - Refining our internal health literacy best practices while adapting to different learning preferences of patients
- Additionally, we used a novel, internally-developed, AI-based health literacy tool to assess language and reading levels in patient-facing materials

### EXPANDED DEVELOPMENT: PILOTING NOVEL PLS FORMATS

- Using established SOPs, novel forms of PLS could be developed by authors if they were submitted to peer-reviewed journals, including patient-friendly podcasts involving patient-authors (Figure 1)
- Manuscript PLSPs of key clinical trials and real-world evidence studies were created by authors and published in *Future Oncology*, with over 19,000 combined downloads since publication (Figure 2)<sup>6-12</sup>
  - Several PLSPs were translated to Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish

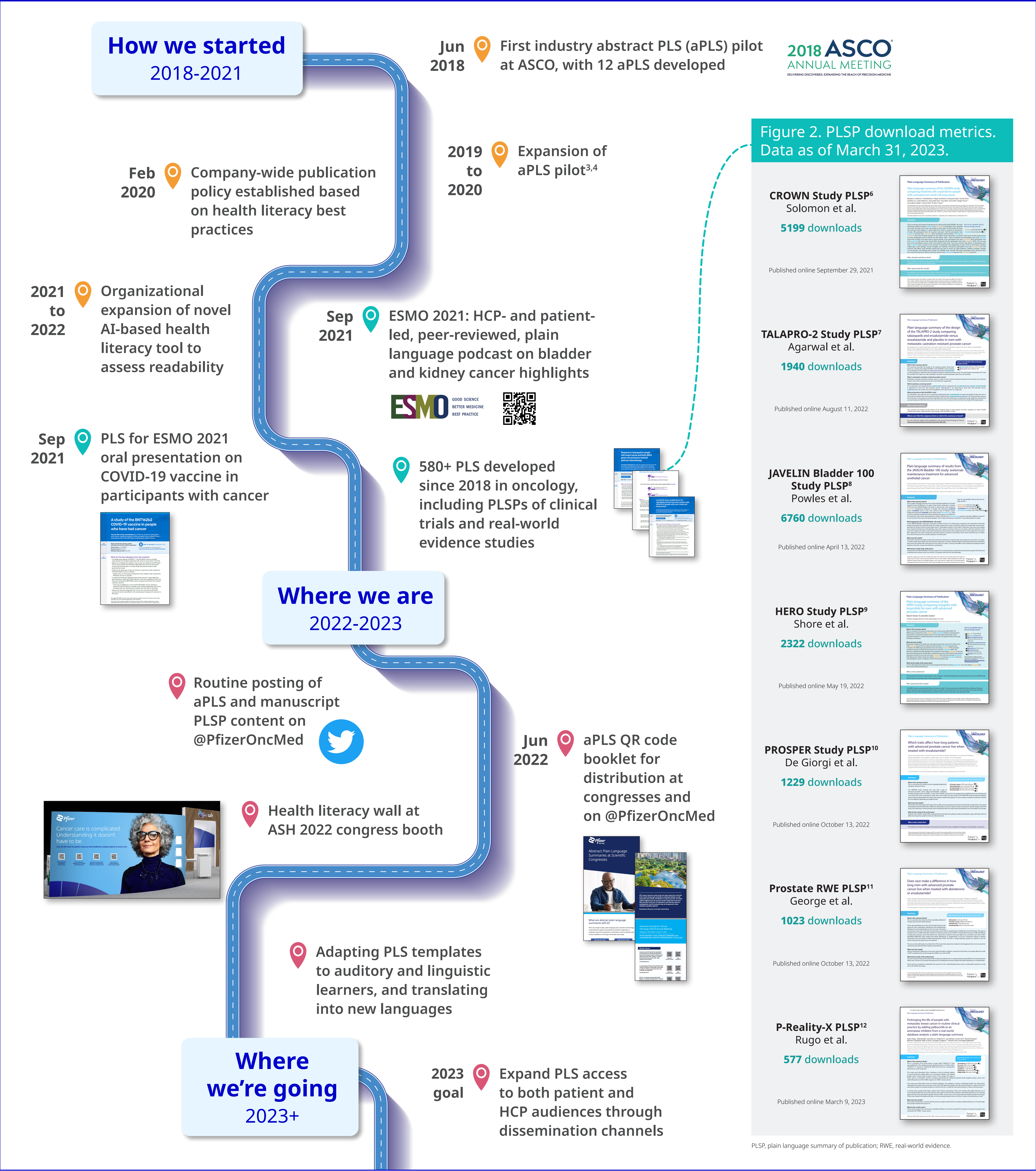
### INCREASING ACCESS AND DISSEMINATION OF PLS

- We continue working with medical, legal, and governance teams in partnership with PAGs to establish new processes to elevate visibility and accessibility of PLS
- aPLS QR code booklets were approved for dissemination around congress meetings and digitally (on @PfizerOncMed) to elevate awareness and accessibility of aPLS. Booklets include direct links to aPLS and an overview of what they are, how they are used, who they are for, and why industry develops them
- Manuscript PLSPs have also been approved for social media
- At the 2022 American Society of Hematology (ASH) annual meeting, the first Health Literacy Corner was established at our congress booth, highlighting resources to help patients understand publications. Resources available by QR code included
  - How to read an abstract
  - Common terms used in abstracts and clinical trials
  - Understanding the clinical trial process and the basics of medical meetings
  - Booth-featured articles saw an overall increase in views from baseline during the ASH congress period, with about 2.5 minutes spent on each page

## Objective

To describe novel approaches for optimizing PLS development and dissemination to enable equitable access to scientific data and health information

Figure 1. Evolution of plain language summaries.



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\*PLSP is a term preferred by the Future Science Group Publishers to describe secondary, peer-reviewed plain language publications of manuscripts. Adis and Springer Nature journals are now offering similar stand-alone plain language publications; however, their preferred lexicon is "PLSR." Additionally, Taylor & Francis publishers are in the process of launching stand-alone PLSPs. This highlights an opportunity for industry stakeholders to create a shared lexicon as the adoption of PLSPs increases.