

## IARC Newsletter - January 2021

### EDITORIAL

Dear friends of the Agency,

As the world marks Cervical Cancer Awareness Month in January, I would like to share with you how IARC's research is contributing to the implementation of [WHO's strategy for the elimination of cervical cancer](#) as a public health problem. IARC is re-evaluating the effectiveness of cervical cancer screening, monitoring and evaluating cervical cancer elimination in sub-Saharan Africa, evaluating human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination interventions in low- and middle-income countries, and evaluating the effectiveness of programmes for cervical cancer screening and the treatment of precancerous lesions in different settings. Over the next five years, IARC will evaluate the efficacy and effectiveness, as well as model the impact, of HPV vaccination programmes (including, for example, those with reduced dosing schedules) in different implementation scenarios. The evidence gained will support health authorities in implementing HPV vaccination programmes.

Cervical cancer is one cancer the world can actually eliminate; it's time to do it.

I am delighted to start 2021 with this conviction and look forward to continuing our work on cancer prevention research, to help bring about a world where fewer people develop cancer.

Sending you [my best wishes](#) for the New Year,

**Dr Elisabete Weiderpass, IARC Director**

### IARC NEWS



IAEA, IARC, WHO  
PARTNER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION  
DEVELOPING STANDARDIZED MECHANISMS  
AND PARTNER PLATFORM

© WHO/IAEA/IARC [Living with cervical cancer in Ghana](#)

**WHO-IAEA-IARC impact partners meeting on enhancing support for government cancer control actions**

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HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
Department of Epidemiology

**Identification of Carcinogenic Hazards to Humans: the IARC Approach**

**IARC Director presents the 171st Cutter Lecture on Preventive Medicine**

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## A multicentre implementation research study to tackle inequality in the cervical cancer screening continuum in Estonia, Portugal, and Romania

The overall goal of this EU-funded project led by the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) is to identify strategies to improve participation of vulnerable women in the cervical cancer screening continuum. Context-specific interventions will be co-created through stakeholder engagement. IARC will lead the work package aiming to implement and evaluate the co-created interventions in real programmatic settings in **Estonia, Portugal, and Romania**.

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## Effectiveness of HPV vaccination programme in Bhutan

Scientists from IARC and partner institutions conducted a study to estimate the effectiveness of a vaccination programme against human papillomavirus (HPV) that was implemented in Bhutan in 2010 for girls aged 12–18 years and achieved almost 90% coverage of the target population. The overall reduction in the prevalence of vaccine-targeted HPV types was 93%. The study was published in *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Watch the video of Dr Iacopo Baussano providing additional insight into the article.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



## Cervical cancer prevention in women living with HIV (WLHIV)

WLHIV are at elevated risk of **HPV infection**, **cervical precancer**, and cancer. IARC, HRP/WHO, and African partners are generating evidence on the effectiveness of **screening and treatment** approaches in WLHIV. To accelerate **cervical cancer elimination**, hybrid effectiveness–implementation studies for integrating HPV vaccination and screening into HIV care clinics are being designed.

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### HPV-BASED CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING IN DIFFERENT SETTINGS



IARC, together with international partners, is evaluating **screening strategies** suitable for different settings: cytology with HPV triage, VIA or HPV testing followed by ablative treatment, use of rapid HPV tests, HPV self-sampling, and novel biomarkers.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

The **ESTAMPA** multicentre study in **Latin America**, coordinated by IARC, is evaluating the performance of techniques/strategies to triage HPV-positive women needing further clinical assessment and proposed approaches for **the implementation of HPV-based cervical screening**.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

IARC, together with international partners, is conducting implementation research to support countries' efforts to reach the 2030 cervical cancer elimination goals. Studies on the adoption of WHO guidelines and on the acceptability and feasibility of HPV-based screening are under way.

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