



July 2022



Dear friends of the Agency,

I am delighted to share with you the outcomes of several high-level meetings I recently attended for strategic discussions on cancer prevention and control.

On 24 June, I welcomed Dr Hans Kluge, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Europe; Professor Jérôme Salomon, Director-General for Health of the French Ministry of Health and Prevention; and delegates from their organizations to IARC for strategic discussions on improving cancer prevention and control in Europe and worldwide.

On 23 June, IARC participated in a high-level meeting in Paris on the Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer. The meeting, titled “Mission Cancer: joining European forces to understand cancer”, was organized by the French National Alliance for Life Sciences and Health (Aviesan) and the French National Cancer Institute (INCa) in the context of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU). UNCAN.eu - a European Initiative to Understand Cancer is an EU-wide research programme to support the development and implementation of effective cancer prevention strategies and policies within Member States and the EU. IARC is part of the UNCAN.eu programme; an initiative on social inequalities in cancer research is being led by Dr Salvatore Vaccarella of the Cancer Surveillance Branch.

On 23 June, I met His Excellency M. Fahad Al Ruwaily, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to France, at his residence to discuss challenges of cancer control in Saudi Arabia and the importance for Saudi Arabia of joining IARC as a Participating State.

On 13-17 June, five delegates from the Ministry of Health of Brazil visited IARC to learn about the Agency's activities and discuss possible further collaboration between IARC and Brazilian institutions, notably within the framework of the Latin America and the Caribbean Code Against Cancer and the PRECAMA study of premenopausal breast cancer in women in Latin America.

And finally, representatives from IARC's Participating States gathered virtually for the Sixty-Fourth Session of the IARC Governing Council (12-13 May 2022). The IARC COVID-19 and Cancer Initiative (IARC-C19) was presented to the Council by Dr Freddie Bray and Dr Isabelle Soerjomataram to request support and funding for the initiative. IARC-C19 will be further developed and coordinated with existing initiatives in this area, including the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence, in order to complement and enhance collective efforts.

Best regards,

**Dr Elisabete Weiderpass**  
IARC Director

- IARC News



Delegates from the Ministry of Health of Brazil visit IARC

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Professor Cristina Stefan receives the IARC Award for Women in Cancer Research 2022

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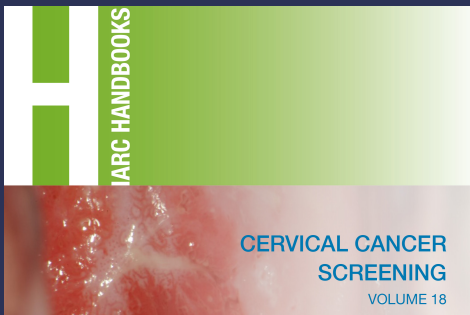
Bladder Cancer Awareness Month 2022

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IARC marks World No Tobacco Day 2022

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Publication of *IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention* Volume 18: Cervical Cancer Screening

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Global burden of oesophageal cancer: new estimates from GLOBOCAN 2020

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- Focus on the Environment and Lifestyle Epidemiology Branch



### Breast cancer survival in sub-Saharan Africa

The IARC-led African Breast Cancer - Disparities in Outcomes (ABC-DO) cohort study continues to provide insights into opportunities to prevent breast cancer deaths in the sub-Saharan African setting. Recent publications in *The Lancet HIV* and *The Lancet Oncology* highlight the survival deficits in women living with HIV and associated with the lack of comprehensive and complete treatment.

[Visit the ABC-DO website](#)



### Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)

PAHs are widespread environmental pollutants, and individual exposure comes mainly from smoking, ambient air pollution, and PAH-containing foods. Results from the SYNERGY project, published in *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*, show that occupational exposure to PAHs is associated with increased risk of lung cancer in the early studies, and that the effect of smoking and PAHs together is greater than the additive effect of each exposure alone, especially in women.

[Visit the SYNERGY website](#)



### World Code Against Cancer Framework

The new World Code Against Cancer Framework is an IARC-led initiative to develop and disseminate Regional Codes Against Cancer to promote cancer prevention globally. The framework provides an umbrella strategy, based on a common and rigorous methodology, to maintain the coherence of the different Regional Codes. It is based on the synthesis and evaluation of the evidence on lifestyle, environmental, occupational, and infectious risk factors and effective medical interventions, translated into cancer prevention recommendations at the individual and population level.

[Visit the website](#)

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### Oesophageal cancer in Africa

The activities of the African Esophageal Cancer Consortium (AfrECC) have been highlighted by *Nature Reviews Cancer*. The IARC Oesophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma African Prevention Research (ESCAPE) studies in Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Kenya form a critical research component of AfrECC.

[Visit the ESCAPE website](#)



### The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the future incidence of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in children

Researchers from IARC and partners have estimated that reduced contacts with other children during COVID-19-related lockdowns could lead to a 6% increase in cases of leukaemia in children aged 2-6 years in Germany in 2020-2024.

[Read more](#)



### IARC and Cancer Prevention Europe launch learning-programme certification and French version

Cancer Prevention Europe has added an evaluation component (in both English and French), enabling those enrolled in the programme to earn a certificate of completion. Follow this free online learning programme on primary and secondary prevention of cancer!

[Access the learning platform](#)



The IARC Cross-Cutting Working Group on Cancer Prevention Knowledge Translation and Transfer (KTT WG) produces the *Evidence Summary Brief series* to call attention to scientific studies leading to cancer prevention.

[Click here to subscribe and receive future IARC Evidence Summary Briefs](#)

#cancerresearchthatmatters

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