

The International Collaboration for Cancer Classification and Research (IC³R): Translating research findings into clinical and diagnostic management

Lyon, France, 11 November 2020 – The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is pleased to announce the launch of a new website dedicated to the Agency's International Collaboration for Cancer Classification and Research (IC³R), available at <https://ic3r.iarc.who.int/>.

First envisioned in 2019 and established in 2020 by IARC and partners, IC³R is a consortium of institutions that provides a unique forum for the coordination of evidence generation, synthesis, and evaluation, as well as for the promotion of standards and evidence-based practice for cancer classification and research.

"IC³R was created to address the challenges in translating research findings into clinical management," says Dr Iciar Indave, IC³R coordinator and systematic reviewer in the WHO Classification of Tumours Group at IARC. "International collaboration offers a unique opportunity to coordinate scientific evidence, standard-setting, and best practice recommendations in the field of tumour classification."

Research on cancer aims to help patients at risk through prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment. Most countries have clear pathways for translating clinical trial results into practice through drug approval and clinical guidelines, but not always for the translation of evidence into tumour diagnosis.

In a recent white paper published in the *International Journal of Cancer*,¹ authors from preeminent institutions with an interest in tumour classification and diagnosis provide details of IC³R's vision and the six main areas of activity on which the consortium's work will focus. They also present the challenges IC³R will address and potential solutions it will provide to enhance the translation of research findings into practice.

Areas of focus include harmonizing data in cancer research, identifying evidence gaps, setting standards, improving quality management and establishing best practices, updating the evidence, and addressing copyright considerations, with other activities to be added as consortium members identify additional needs.

The WHO Classification of Tumours series, published by IARC and known worldwide as the WHO Blue Books, sets the international standards for cancer diagnosis, putting the WHO Classification of Tumours Group in a privileged position that will allow IC³R to have an important impact on future tumour classification and cancer research.

¹ Cree IA, Indave Ruiz BI, Zavadil J, McKay J, Olivier M, Kozlakidis Z, et al. (2020). The International Collaboration for Cancer Classification and Research. *Int J Cancer*. Published online 20 August 2020; <https://doi.org/10.1002/ijc.33260>

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“Advances in cancer management depend on tumour classification, which underpins diagnosis for individual patients,” says Dr Ian Cree, head of the WHO Classification of Tumours Group and principal investigator for IC³R. “However, important challenges for the translation of research findings into tumour classification and cancer diagnosis remain. IC³R now plays a vital role in helping to identify high-priority activities for translating knowledge into clinical diagnostic practice to benefit patients.”

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The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is part of the World Health Organization. Its mission is to coordinate and conduct research on the causes of human cancer, the mechanisms of carcinogenesis, and to develop scientific strategies for cancer control. The Agency is involved in both epidemiological and laboratory research and disseminates scientific information through publications, meetings, courses, and fellowships. If you wish your name to be removed from our press release emailing list, please write to com@iarc.fr.