

International Agency for Research on Cancer



World Health
Organization



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October 2021



Dear friends of the Agency,

Cancer is a major and growing societal challenge for Europe. A Mission on Cancer has been integrated into the new European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe (2021-2027), and I was selected as an expert member of the Cancer Mission Board, responsible for defining the priorities of the Mission. The Mission will address the whole cancer control continuum, from prevention to survivorship support, across all Member States. Synergies will be further developed with national cancer plans, in particular the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, published on 3 February 2021 by the European Commission. On 30 September 2021, IARC had the honour of welcoming Professor Véronique Trillet-Lenoir during a Distinguished Speaker seminar. As Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Cancer Control in the European Parliament, Professor Trillet-Lenoir is responsible for defining the European Parliament's position with regard to this plan. IARC, through its expertise, will inform initiatives in primary and secondary cancer prevention and will help to assess progress in achieving the objectives of the Cancer Mission and the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. During this event, I proposed to Professor Trillet-Lenoir to become a **Friend of IARC**, and she officially accepted to join our team of ambassadors.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted lifelong learning systems, generating a growing demand for digital learning. French President Emmanuel Macron, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and Professor Agnès Buzyn, the appointed Executive Director of the WHO Academy, attended a groundbreaking ceremony on 27 September for the Academy's future campus here in Lyon, and I was honoured to be part of this historic event. The Academy will provide millions of people around the world with rapid access to the highest quality training courses in health. The Academy will be an essential platform for disseminating knowledge, and an important future partner for IARC.

Best regards,

Dr Elisabete Weiderpass
IARC Director

• IARC News



IARC launches its first crowdfunding campaign to equip the Nouveau Centre

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IARC at UNGA76 Science Summit

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IARC marks World Cancer Research Day 2021

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Get to know IARC researchers!
New profile in Portraits of Scientists series

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Comparing cancer and cardiovascular disease trends in 20 middle- or high-income countries 2000-19: a pointer to national trajectories towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal Target 3.4

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Modelling the impact of increased alcohol taxation on alcohol-attributable cancers in the WHO European Region

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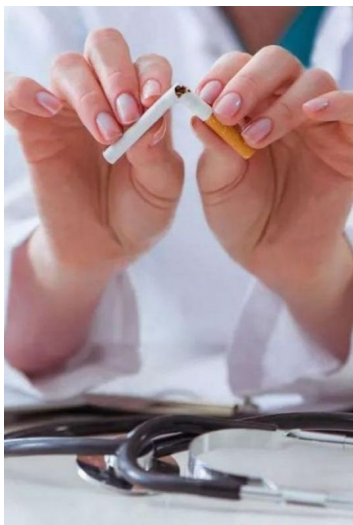
- Understanding the causes of cancer



Nutrition: The Nutri-Score: A science-based front-of-pack nutrition label

The Nutri-Score is a clear and simple front-of-pack nutrition label that rates the nutritional quality of food products. Recent epidemiological analyses have demonstrated reduced mortality and cancer risk related to higher consumption of foods with favourable Nutri-Score ratings. Therefore, the Nutri-Score may help consumers make informed choices about the nutritional quality of their diet, incentivize food manufacturers to improve the nutritional quality of their products, and help governments implement efficient strategies to prevent cancer and other nutrition-related diseases.

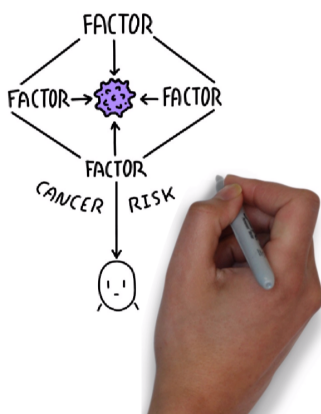
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Quitting smoking after diagnosis of lung cancer improves survival and reduces the risk of disease progression

In a collaborative study led by IARC, 517 patients with newly diagnosed lung cancer who were current smokers were recruited from two centres in the Russian Federation. After an average of 7 years of follow-up, significant benefits were found for quitting smoking after diagnosis. Patients who quit smoking lived almost 2 years longer and without recurrence of their disease than those who continued smoking. Benefits of smoking cessation were evident among all patients regardless of their smoking intensity and tumour stage.

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Polygenic risk scores improve cancer risk prediction and stratification

A recent study demonstrated that incorporating polygenic risk scores can improve the accuracy of cancer risk prediction compared with predictions based on information on modifiable and demographic risk factors only. The study also demonstrated that individual changes in modifiable risk factors, such as smoking or body mass index, can meaningfully reduce the risk of most cancer types regardless of genetic predisposition.

[Watch video](#)

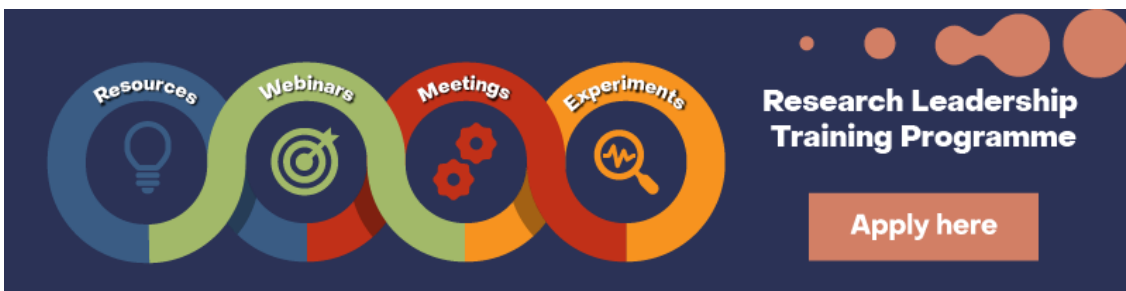


Webinar (in French): Mieux manger pour ma santé : Alimentation avant, pendant et après un cancer

Register to attend the live event on healthy eating before, during, and after cancer as part of the “*Serie d’échanges*” between the Centre Léon Bérard (CLB) and IARC. The presentations of Aline Al Nahas, a PhD student in nutrition at IARC, and Dr Antoine Pierre, a nutritionist at CLB, will be punctuated by a culinary interlude by the Lyonnais chef Grégory Cuilleron and Alix Goerens, a dietician at CLB (all in French).

19 October 2021, 18:00-19:30

Save the date



Launch of *World Cancer Report Updates* self-paced e-learning modules: Based on content from past webinars, each module includes a video teaser, lectures, questions and answers, a quiz, and a certificate of completion. Four modules are now freely available.

[Read more](#)



Novel biomarkers of alcohol intake: Using metabolomics, 2-hydroxy-3-methylbutyric acid was identified as a novel biomarker of alcohol drinking and was associated with risk of hepatocellular carcinoma, pancreatic cancer, and liver disease mortality in two European cohorts.

[Read more](#)



New project on lymphomas: Supported by a large grant from the United States National Cancer Institute, this project aims to create a data coordinating centre to facilitate the collaborative research activities of the International Lymphoma Epidemiology Consortium (Inter-Lymph).

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#cancerresearchthatmatters

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