

International Agency for Research on Cancer



World Health
Organization



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May 2025



Dear friends of IARC,

Are you as excited as I am about the 60th anniversary of IARC? We launched a whole year of festivities, events, and surprises on 7 May, during the session of the IARC Governing Council. Subscribers to this newsletter can rest assured that they won't miss out on any of the news, because we will be sending regular "IARC@60" special editions throughout the year. You can also stay up to date by [visiting the campaign website](#).

This launch was not the only highlight of the Governing Council session: IARC also warmly welcomed Portugal as its 30th Participating State. This partnership marks a significant step in IARC's mission to advance global cancer research and control and further enhance international collaboration in the fight against cancer.

The journal *Nature* recently identified the top 25 most-cited papers published so far this century, from any scientific discipline. IARC researchers had written not one but two of the papers ranked among the top 10. Therefore, it's no surprise that our recent research has made international headlines. In this newsletter, you will find a selection of some studies that have generated and driven the conversation around cancer prevention. These include a study identifying trends and potential causes in relation to the global incidence of lung cancer, a paper predicting that the numbers of breast cancer cases and deaths will rise globally, and further evidence that a single-dose schedule of vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV) could be a game-changer for controlling cervical cancer in low-resource settings.

I would like to highlight one further paper: a groundbreaking study published in *Nature* has identified a distinct mutational signature associated with colibactin - a genotoxin produced by certain strains of *Escherichia coli* - and its potential role in colorectal cancer development. Notably, the colibactin signature was observed more frequently in tumours from younger patients, shedding light on possible microbial contributions to the increasing incidence of early-onset colorectal cancer. These findings offer new insights into cancer etiology and open promising avenues for prevention.

A core part of the Agency's mission is capacity-building of cancer researchers worldwide, and candidates have been selected to take part in the two modules offered during the IARC Summer School 2025. Online sessions began on 12 May, and on-site instruction will start on 23 June. Everyone at the Agency is looking forward to the exchanges and unique energy brought to these events by the international participants - and the fruitful collaborations that are sure to emerge.

IARC has completed six decades of research into the causes of cancer and six decades of action to control this terrible disease, which is already the leading cause of death in 177 of 183 countries, with the number of cases and deaths expected to increase globally. The argument for greater support for research into cancer prevention becomes more evident with each day, as does our determination to continue our mission for six more decades, or however long it takes, to put an end to cancer before it begins.

Best wishes,

Dr Elisabete Weiderpass
IARC Director

• IARC News



Portugal joins IARC as a new Participating State, strengthening global collaboration in cancer research

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Global lung cancer incidence according to subtype: new study highlights rising adenocarcinoma rates linked to air pollution

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New research highlights the potential of single-dose HPV vaccination to advance cervical cancer prevention in low-resource settings

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Breast cancer cases and deaths are projected to rise globally

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IARC Monographs evaluation of the carcinogenicity of automotive gasoline and some oxygenated gasoline additives

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New study explores the link between education level and risk of breast cancer by subtype in the EPIC cohort

[Read more](#)

- Focus on recent awareness days marked by IARC



World Oral Health Day

Dr Harriet Rungay and Dr Shama Virani of the IARC Oral Cancer Team presented the causes, burden, and symptoms of oral cancer in a new video to mark World Oral Health Day 2025.

Dr Rungay and Dr Virani lead some of the IARC research projects that examine risk factors and prevention programmes for oral cancer.

[Read more](#)



International Women's Day

Dr Dilani Samarawickrema Lokuhetty joined IARC in 2023 to lead the World Health Organization (WHO) Classification of Tumours programme. This series (also known as the WHO Blue Books) is arguably the most important publication in cancer research and treatment. It is regarded as the gold standard for the diagnosis of tumours and is used by pathologists the world over.

In a new video to mark International Women's Day 2025, Dr Lokuhetty shared insights learned during her career, her view of the current status of women in scientific fields, and the woman from history or the present that she would most like to meet, and why.

[Read more](#)

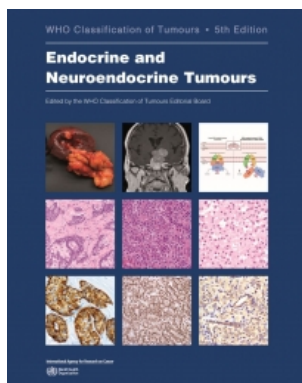


International HPV Awareness Day

IARC marked International Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Awareness Day with a video explaining its latest study on the most effective ways of using HPV testing to prevent cervical cancer. Almost all cases of cervical cancer are caused by HPV infection. In 2022, more than 660 000 women developed cervical cancer and nearly 350 000 women died of cervical cancer.

In the video, Dr Smita Joshi of Prayas, a non-profit organization based in Pune, India, presented the results of the study, which was a randomized controlled trial comparing two strategies of screening for HPV infection in women living with HIV.

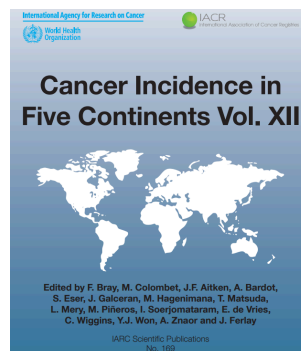
[Read more](#)



WHO Classification of Tumours: Endocrine and Neuroendocrine Tumours now available in print format.

Endocrine and Neuroendocrine Tumours is Volume 10 in the 5th edition of the WHO series on the classification of human tumours. This series (also known as the WHO Blue Books) is regarded as the gold standard for the diagnosis of tumours and comprises a unique synthesis of histopathological diagnosis with digital and molecular pathology.

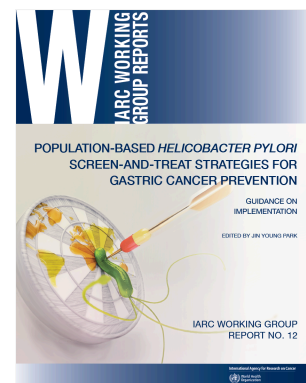
[See WHO Classification of](#)



Cancer Incidence in Five Continents, Volume XII now available in print format

IARC, in collaboration with the International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR), is pleased to announce that *Cancer Incidence in Five Continents*, Volume XII (CI5-XII) is now available for sale in print format.

The book is also available for free download in PDF format. The CI5 series presents comparable data on cancer incidence for all countries around the world for which high-quality data have been made available by population-based cancer registries.



Population-based *Helicobacter pylori* screen-and-treat strategies for gastric cancer prevention: guidance on implementation

A new IARC Working Group Report provides recommendations for implementing population-based *Helicobacter pylori* screen-and-treat strategies for gastric cancer prevention.

The Report refers to a range of key considerations for implementation of these strategies for primary prevention.

A series of videos with the chapter authors provides



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

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