

24 February 2016

New Inauguration of IARC Regional Hub in Izmir, Turkey

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Turkey, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the cancer agency of the World Health Organization (WHO), is inaugurating the Izmir Cancer Registry as an IARC Regional Hub for Cancer Registration on 24 February 2016. The plaque will be unveiled by Dr Freddie Bray, Head of the IARC Section of Cancer Surveillance, together with Dr İrfan Şencan, Director of the Public Health Administration of Turkey.

The Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development (GICR, <http://gicr.iarc.fr>), led by IARC/WHO, is an international partnership that combines technical support, training, and advocacy to ensure that cancer registry systems are developed across the world to inform national cancer control. The Izmir Hub will provide the necessary support, training, advocacy, and research opportunities to cancer registries across the 29 countries in North Africa and Central and West Asia. Activities include consultations, tailored education, and the fostering of research and networking capacity.

Since GICR activities in the Hub region started in October 2013, 16 training events, at both basic and advanced levels, have been organized in the region and two training visits to Izmir Cancer Registry have taken place; to date, more than 200 cancer registry professionals have been trained. New training resources have been developed, including the first Russian-language basic cancer registration course. Eight site visits have been carried out and recommendations provided to Algeria, Egypt, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Uzbekistan, and West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Currently, only 68 of the world's countries (mainly those considered as high-income) are equipped with high-quality population-based cancer registry data, while a further 62 countries (largely those considered as low- and middle-income) have, as yet, no reliable data.

The newly inaugurated Izmir Hub is part of a larger network of IARC Regional Hubs in Asia, Africa, and South America, which aim to improve the availability and the quality of data in order to inform national cancer control policies in all countries worldwide.