

5 December 2014

Dimitrios Trichopoulos (1938–2014)

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is deeply saddened by the passing of internationally esteemed epidemiologist Professor Dimitrios Trichopoulos.

Professor Trichopoulos held a special place at IARC and was deeply appreciated for his key role in the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC) study and many other international studies on the causes of cancer. We are equally grateful for his many contributions as a faculty member for the IARC Epidemiology Courses and his participation in numerous meetings and



committees. In 2007, Professor Trichopoulos received the IARC Medal of Honour and gave the fourth Sir Richard Doll Lecture, titled *Breast Cancer: Epidemiology and Etiology*.

Born in Volos, Greece, on 9 December 1938, Professor Trichopoulos received his medical training in Athens, Greece, and joined the Harvard School of Public Health in 1967. He remained at Harvard throughout his life, while continuing to actively support the advancement of epidemiology in his home country and throughout Europe. He served as Director of the Harvard Center for Cancer Prevention and Chairman of the epidemiology departments of the University of Athens, School of Medicine and the Harvard School of Public Health, and was an Adjunct Professor of

Medical Epidemiology. He received numerous awards and distinctions, including the Brinker International Award for Breast Cancer Clinical Research and several honorary doctorates. He also co-edited two text books on epidemiology and cancer etiology published by Oxford University Press.

Professor Trichopoulos's primary research interest was the evaluation of the hypothesis that hormone-dependent cancers such as breast cancer have their origins in the intrauterine life. His publications also include influential early work linking hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and tobacco smoking with hepatocellular cancer, and acute psychological stress with cardiac death. But perhaps his most recognized achievement was the demonstration of the health effects of passive smoking, which has resulted in enormous social and political change.

Professor Trichopoulos passed away on 1 December. He is survived by his wife and lifelong collaborator, Antonia, who is also an eminent epidemiologist. He will be sadly missed by all who had the good fortune to experience his extensive knowledge, enormous integrity, and unfailing kindness.