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## Kingdom of Saudi Arabia joins International Agency for Research on Cancer

**Lyon, France, 15 May 2024** – The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) today welcomes the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a new Participating State, underscoring the commitment to advancing cancer research and prevention in the country.

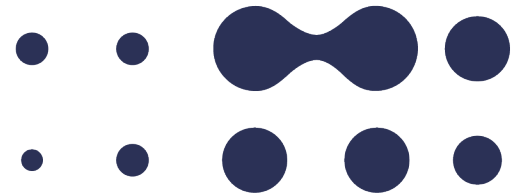
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia faces a significant burden of cancer, and the disease is a top priority for research funding. In the most recent national cancer registry incidence report by the National Cancer Center of the Saudi Health Council, there were an estimated 28 100 new cases of cancer and approximately 13 400 cancer-related deaths in the country in 2022, according to [IARC's latest global database](#). The most frequent cancer types for both sexes combined were breast cancer, colorectal cancer, and thyroid cancer.

Recognizing the need for research on cancer screening and prevention and quality of care, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has prioritized cancer control within its broader health care, as outlined in Saudi Vision 2030. The country's inclusion as a new IARC Participating State provides an opportunity to develop a comprehensive collaboration programme aimed at enhancing the capacity for cancer research and addressing the need for cancer control.

Priority areas of collaboration between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and IARC include cancer registration, early detection and screening, research, capacity-building, and the evaluation of cancer control programmes.

Modifiable risk factors such as elevated body mass index, smoking, social habits, and environmental and occupational exposures contribute significantly to the increasing cancer burden in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Interventions targeting these factors are in line with the government's agenda to fight noncommunicable diseases and will be a key focus of the collaboration with IARC.

"IARC is committed to reducing the global burden of cancer through international collaboration and evidence-based research. We are thrilled to welcome the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as our 28th Participating State," says IARC Director Dr Elisabete Weiderpass. "This marks a significant opportunity to foster partnerships and collaborative research programmes and will lead to a deeper understanding and effective control of cancer. These collaborations not only contribute to advancing cancer research but also provide important insights for other countries facing similar challenges."



**For more information, please contact**

Veronique Terrasse, Communications Officer, at [terrassev@iarc.who.int](mailto:terrassev@iarc.who.int)  
or IARC Communications, at [com@iarc.who.int](mailto:com@iarc.who.int)

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.who.int](mailto:com@iarc.who.int).