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International Agency for Research on Cancer

World Health Organization



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October 2026



Dear friends of IARC,

It is with great pleasure that I open this issue of the IARC Newsletter with some very special news. At an Extraordinary Session of the IARC Governing Council on 24 September 2026, the Republic of Indonesia became IARC's newest Participating State.

We warmly welcome Indonesia to the IARC community and congratulate Minister of Health Budi Gunadi Sadikin on fulfilling the commitment he made at the IARC 60th anniversary conference in May 2026, when he expressed his hope that the Indonesian flag would soon be flying outside the IARC building. I very much look forward to working with our new Indonesian colleagues to strengthen our shared understanding of cancer and advance cancer prevention and control.

As we welcome new partners, we remain firmly focused on some of the major preventable causes of cancer, including tobacco use and infections with human papillomavirus (HPV), *Helicobacter pylori*, and hepatitis viruses. Two recent landmark IARC publications - the latest in the IARC Evidence Summary Briefs series and a major study published in *The Lancet Oncology* - illustrate both the enormous potential of cancer prevention and the work that remains to be done.

The latest Evidence Summary Brief presents evidence that stopping smoking even after a cancer diagnosis can substantially improve survival and reduce the risk of cancer progression. The study in *The Lancet Oncology* estimates that 2.3 million new cancer cases worldwide in 2024 - approximately 12% of all new cancer cases - were attributable to infections.

These findings give us reason for both optimism and urgency. They show how much suffering can potentially be prevented through knowledge we already have, while reminding us that millions of people continue to develop cancers associated with preventable causes. They reinforce the importance of IARC's mission: cancer research for cancer prevention.

We are, of course, not alone in this mission. This was demonstrated once again at the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) World Cancer Congress, which was held in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (China) on 24–26 September 2026. A large IARC delegation presented some of our latest research and contributed to discussions with the global cancer community about how evidence can be translated into more effective cancer prevention and control.

I encourage you to explore the rest of this issue of the IARC Newsletter to discover more about this work and the many other activities taking place across the Agency. I also invite you to consider how you can work with us, collaborate with us, or support our efforts towards our shared vision of a world where fewer people develop cancer.

Best wishes,
Dr Elisabete Weiderpass
IARC Director

• IARC News



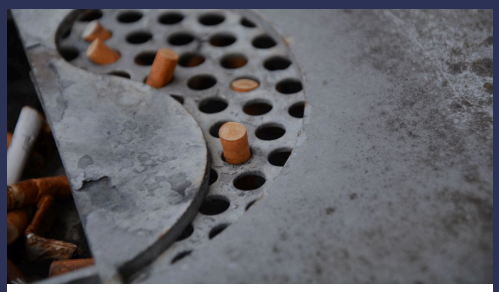
Indonesia joins IARC as a new Participating State, strengthening global collaboration in cancer research

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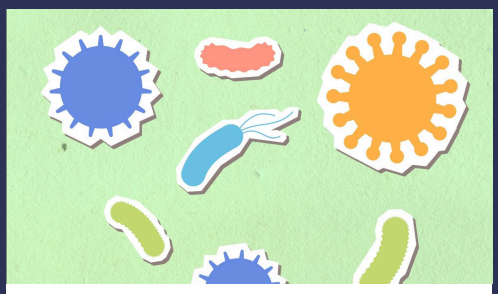
IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention Volume 21: The IARC perspective on lung cancer screening

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Tobacco cessation after cancer diagnosis: a fundamental component of cancer care (IARC Evidence Summary Brief No. 8)

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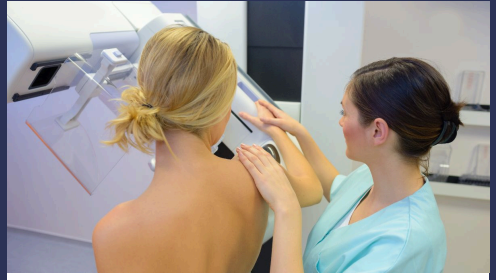
Global burden of cancer attributable to infections in 2024: One in eight cancers worldwide linked to infections

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IARC scientists present their latest research at the UICC World Cancer Congress 2026

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IARC marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2026

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• Focus on other recent events marked by IARC



IARC opens for ECLIPSE

As part of the Engaging Citizens in Cancer Literacy, Prevention, Science & Education (ECLIPSE) project, IARC welcomed members of the public to engage directly with our researchers during European Researchers' Night and will soon launch *Researchers at School*, which brings cancer research and prevention into the classroom and encourages exchanges between researchers and students.

ECLIPSE is a Horizon Europe-funded project aiming to make cancer research more accessible and to strengthen dialogue between science and society.

Read more



10th anniversary of World Cancer Research Day

IARC marked the 10th anniversary of World Cancer Research Day, celebrated annually on 24 September. This global initiative, which was established by IARC and nine other leading cancer research organizations in 2016, has grown into a landmark date to promote and support international collaboration and highlight the importance of research for cancer control and prevention. This year's theme, "Advancing Cancer Research Together", focused on the central role of patients in the research process.

Read more
View the video of the anniversary event in Brussels, Belgium



Liver Cancer Awareness Month

Almost 850 000 people developed liver cancer and more than 730 000 people died from the disease in 2024, according to the most recent estimates of the global cancer burden by researchers from IARC. Liver cancer is the seventh most common cancer type in the world and the third most common cause of cancer death.

IARC scientists led a webinar on 14 October 2026 titled

"Research Priorities for Liver Cancer Prevention", to mark Liver Cancer Awareness Month and present the latest research on the topic, the evidence gaps, and the most pressing issues related to liver cancer control. The recording of the webinar is available.

Watch the recording of the webinar



Introducing the IARC Summer School Sponsorship Programme!

For the first time ever, the IARC Summer School will launch a Sponsorship Programme that will enable donors to directly support and connect with participants.

This exciting initiative will create opportunities for meaningful exchanges and lasting connections between donors and participants. Each contribution will become part of a shared journey of learning and meaningful impact.

Would you like to know more?

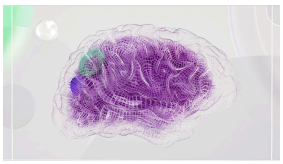
Contact us at iarclearning@iarc.who.int



***WHO Classification of Tumours*: Genetic Tumour Syndromes now available in print format**

Genetic Tumour Syndromes is the final volume 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 Tumours*: Genetic Tumour Syndromes



IARC and partners collaborate on an AI system to improve the diagnosis and treatment of brain tumours

IARC and partners will collaborate to design and implement an innovative AI-based multistage system to support precise diagnosis and therapy for patients with brain tumours. The work will be conducted as part of the European Unified Cancer diagnostics and treatment AI agent (EUcanAI) project.

The goal of EUcanAI is to develop networked AI systems, specialized for each individual treatment step – patient consultation, diagnostics, and therapy planning – to support fast, reliable care in line with clinical guidelines.

Read more about the EUcanAI project



IARC and partners launch *Lancet Oncology* Commission on Cancer Genomics and Precision Oncology at the World Cancer Congress

IARC scientists are among an international team of researchers who have launched a new initiative, the *Lancet Oncology* Commission on Cancer Genomics and Precision Oncology. The Commission was announced during the UICC World Cancer Congress in Hong Kong SAR (China).

The goal of the new Commission is to detail the difficulties faced in delivering high-quality cancer care around the world, alongside a new, detailed plan aimed at tackling them.

Read more about the new Commission



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.

Click here to subscribe and receive future IARC Evidence Summary Briefs

#cancerresearchthatmatters

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