

Sixth edition of World Cancer Research Day: Driving progress against cancer, together

Lyon, France, 24 September 2021 – For the sixth consecutive year, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) joins with the wider international cancer research community to celebrate World Cancer Research Day on 24 September. World Cancer Research Day is a global movement that seeks to raise awareness of the importance of cancer research to increase survival, facilitate access to scientific advances worldwide, and reduce the global burden of cancer. This year, international experts in the field of oncology and cancer research will focus on how research improves the survival and quality of life of patients with cancer.

“World Cancer Research Day is an important event to highlight the critical role of research by scientists worldwide in addressing the global cancer burden,” says IARC Director Dr Elisabete Weiderpass. “Improving early detection methods and expanding access to cancer screening programmes are among the best ways to detect cancer when it is at its most treatable, which means that patients diagnosed with cancer have increased chances of survival and may have options for less-strenuous treatment. A greater understanding of emerging cancer risk factors is key to turning the tide on the increasing incidence rate of cancer, by helping people make better choices for their health and by helping governments enact policies that most effectively reduce exposure to these risk factors. Finally, addressing social inequalities across the cancer continuum, both between and within countries, is a global priority.”

Cancer is a major public health problem and the second leading cause of death worldwide. The global burden of cancer continues to grow and is expected to double by 2040, compared with the number of cases in 2012. This situation requires coordinated action that brings together all the international efforts with initiatives such as World Cancer Research Day, in which international entities unite to promote cancer research and make a global call to raise awareness of the importance of cancer research and the current challenges that need to be addressed to ensure that research advances and results can reach patients as soon as possible.

Boosting cancer research in all countries

With the theme of "Cancer Research Works: Driving Progress Together", this sixth edition of the World Cancer Research Day campaign aims to show that cancer research works when efforts are coordinated and adequate resources are available. Thanks to research, cancer survival worldwide has increased in recent years; however, there are still significant differences between countries in the survival rates of some types of cancer. The objective is to find common strategies aimed at progressively reducing these regional differences in survival, and also at increasing survival for those cancer types for which it is low or stagnant.

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Note to the Editor

World Cancer Research Day is a global initiative jointly coordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC; www.iarc.who.int) and nine other organizations: the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR; www.aacr.org), the Spanish Association Against Cancer (AECC; www.aecc.es), the AIRC Foundation for Cancer Research (www.airc.it), the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO; www.asco.org), Cancer Research UK (CRUK; www.cancerresearchuk.org), the European Association for Cancer Research (EACR; www.eacr.org), the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO; www.esmo.org), the United States National Cancer Institute (NCI; www.cancer.gov) and National Institutes of Health (NIH; www.nih.gov), and the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC; www.uicc.org).

Further information is available from:

- World Cancer Research Day website: <https://www.worldcancerresearchday.com>
- Twitter (@WCRD24Sept)
- Facebook (@WorldCancerResearchDay)
- Instagram (@worldcancerresearchday).

For more information, please contact

IARC Communications, at com@iarc.fr

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 and 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.fr.