

International Agency for Research on Cancer



World Health
Organization



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Director

Dr Elisabete Weiderpass

Director's Office team

Scientific officer

Dr Eduardo Seleiro
(until February 2019)

Programme officer (scientific collaboration)

Dr Véronique Chajès

Bioethics and compliance officer

Dr Chiara Scoccianti

Strategic engagement and resource mobilization officer

Mr Clément Chauvet

Consultant scientist

Dr Beatrix Lahoupe

Executive assistants

Ms Nadia Akel
Ms Margot Geesink
(until August 2019)

Secretary

Ms Laurence Marnat

The Office of the Director comprises a small team that supports the Director in the implementation of the strategy of the Agency and its research activities. The Director is guided by the Medium-Term Strategy, which is developed in a large consolidation process with internal and external stakeholders and is refined and adopted in close collaboration with the IARC Scientific and Governing Councils.

In addition to providing administrative support to the Director's activities, the team in the Office of the Director assists with the coordination of a range of internal and external initiatives. This work includes supporting internal advisory groups and committees, contributing to the preparation of Governing and Scientific Council meetings and related initiatives with current and prospective IARC Participating States, coordinating cross-cutting resource mobilization and scientific initiatives and programmes

with input from across the Agency, and assisting the Director in the development of strategic partnerships with the Agency's network of institutional collaborators, particularly the World Health Organization (WHO).

The bioethics and compliance team is also hosted in the Director's Office, to give it maximal independence from the scientific work conducted within the Agency. This team provides a dedicated secretariat to the IARC Ethics Committee, which is responsible for the efficient and transparent ethical evaluation of all IARC projects, and ensures the robust and consistent management of potential conflicts of interest of external experts who participate in IARC activities.

The Office of the Director provides the secretariat to the regular meetings of the Senior Leadership Team, and in February 2019 organized a 1-day

off-site retreat where IARC senior staff discussed topics related to IARC's future scientific strategy, communications strategy, engagement with potential new Participating States, and IARC's values.

In line with the mandate of the Agency, several high-level partnership agreements were signed or renewed during the biennium, in order to promote collaborations with other cancer research institutes around the world, including with the African Academy of Sciences; the Danish Cancer Society; the German Cancer Research Center; the Centre Léon Bérard in Lyon, France; the Iranian Cancer Research Centre; the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy; the National Cancer Center of the Republic of Korea; and the Union for International Cancer Control in Geneva, Switzerland.

In addition, with the creation of the senior position of Strategic Engagement

and Resource Mobilization Officer, the Agency has been increasing its efforts to raise the necessary funds for its future infrastructure and research programme.

The Office of the Director also assists with the cross-cutting coordination of collaborations with key partners in global policy development, technical cooperation, and advocacy for cancer prevention and control, including with WHO headquarters and regional offices and with other governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

Importantly, 2019 marked the first year that IARC was present at Regional Committee meetings of WHO. The Director received invitations to both the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Committee meetings, held in Copenhagen and Tehran, respectively.

An example of a cross-cutting project supported by the Director's Office is the Cancer Prevention Europe initiative, which aims to develop a strong rationale for

promoting cancer prevention research in Europe in the coming years. This initiative started in 2017 and has continued to gain momentum during this biennium, establishing itself as an important voice in Europe on cancer prevention. The resounding success of this initiative has helped to make the European Commission Mission on Cancer a reality. The selection of the Director as one of the 15 experts on the Mission Board for Cancer highlights the important role of the Agency in setting the global cancer research agenda.