



## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

### Director

Dr Christopher P. Wild

### Director's Office team

#### Scientific officer

Dr Eduardo Seleiro

#### Bioethics and compliance officer

Dr Chiara Scocianti

### Personal assistant to the Director

Ms Margot Geesink

### Secretary

Ms Laurence Marnat

### Senior visiting scientist

Dr David Forman

### Special advisor

**(Noncommunicable Diseases)**

Dr Silvia Franceschi

### Special advisor (Cancer Control)

Dr Rengaswamy Sankaranarayanan

(until October 2017)

The Office of the Director comprises a small team that supports the Director in his oversight and coordination of the implementation of the Agency's scientific strategy and programme, as well as three Groups – the Communications Group (COM), the Education and Training Group (ETR), and the Laboratory Services and Biobank Group (LSB) – together with the Gambia Hepatitis Intervention Study (GHIS), a long-term scientific project of IARC, which is managed by the Director. The activities of these four Groups are described in the following sections.

In addition to providing administrative support to the Director's activities, the team in the Office of the Director assists in the coordination of a range of internal and external initiatives, including by supporting several 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, assisting

the Director in the development of strategic partnerships with the Agency's network of institutional collaborators, in particular with WHO, and supporting the coordination of cross-cutting scientific initiatives and programmes with inputs from across the Agency. Some examples are given here of key activities in these areas during the 2016–2017 biennium.

The Director's office provides the secretariat to the regular meetings of the Senior Leadership Team, and in April 2017 organized a two-day off-site retreat, during which IARC senior personnel discussed topics related to engagement with non-state actors, management of reputational risks, and strategies for resource mobilization.

A new position of Bioethics and Compliance Officer was created in the Director's Office to address the increasing demands in support of two key areas: (i) providing a dedicated secretariat to the IARC Ethics Committee, which

is responsible for the efficient and transparent ethical evaluation of all IARC projects, and (ii) ensuring the robust and consistent management across the Agency of potential conflicts of interests from external experts who participate in IARC activities.

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 National Cancer Center of the Republic of Korea and the National Cancer Center Japan, with the Hospital Universitario San Ignacio in Colombia, and with the Centre Léon Bérard in Lyon, France. The Director attended the first International Conference on Cancer Prevention and Control in Beijing, China, in November 2017, and a partnership agreement was signed between IARC and the National Cancer Center of China to strengthen their collaboration in various areas.

The Director's Office assists in the 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. A major new initiative in this area supported by the Director's Office is the production of a global status report on cancer, jointly led by IARC and WHO (Management of Noncommunicable Diseases group). This report is being developed in response to a request from WHO Member States in the cancer resolution (WHA70.12) adopted at the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017, which called for a public health and policy-oriented report providing evidence-based guidance on cancer prevention and control. The Director attended the WHO Global Conference on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) held in Montevideo, Uru-

guay, on 18–20 October 2017. During the closing session, he delivered a speech about the role of research in addressing the NCD challenge within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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. A consortium agreement was established with several major European research organizations with a strong focus on cancer prevention research, with the Director's Office coordinating and providing the secretariat to this initiative.

Finally, a major highlight in the biennium was the organization of the international scientific conference "Global Cancer: Occurrence, Causes, and Avenues to Prevention", to mark the 50th anniversary

of the establishment of IARC. The resounding success of this initiative reflected an efficiently coordinated Agency-wide effort supported by the Director's Office.

The 50th anniversary celebrations vividly illustrated the impact of IARC's research worldwide but also brought into sharp relief the increasing demands on the Agency in the face of a growing global cancer burden. In times of economic restraint, to meet these challenges IARC must approach resource mobilization in innovative ways. In this context the Director's Office is leading an Agency-wide Resource Mobilization Task Force, supported by advice from external experts and Governing Council members, in order to identify and establish new partnerships and donor contributions in the coming biennium.