



## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

<b>Director</b> Dr Elisabete Weiderpass	<b>Strategic Engagement and External Relations (SEE)</b>	<b>Executive assistant to the Director</b> Ms Nadia Akel (until February 2023) Ms Sally Moldan
<b>Director's Office team</b>	<b>Strategic engagement and resource mobilization officer</b> Mr Clément Chauvet	<b>Secretaries</b> Ms Laurence Marnat Ms Sylvie Nouveau
<b>Programme officer</b> Dr Véronique Chajès	<b>Communications officer</b> Ms Véronique Terrasse	<b>Consultants</b> Mr Olivier Exertier Ms Manami Shoji
<b>Ethics and compliance officer</b> Dr Chiara Scocianti	<b>Information assistants</b> Mr Nicholas O'Connor Ms Morena Sarzo	<b>Trainees</b> Ms Houda Bouabdallah (until May 2022) Ms Manami Shoji (until March 2023)

The Office of the Director provides strategic leadership to the Agency by setting scientific and managerial priorities and providing specialist knowledge in strategic engagement, resource mobilization, communications, and external relations, as well as expertise in bioethics, ethics, and compliance.

The Director's Office supports the Agency in the implementation of the *strategic scientific priorities*, as set out in the IARC Medium-Term Strategy 2021–2025. The Agency continues its work on cancer research priorities identified in the Medium-Term Strategy and has taken a step closer towards fulfilling its mission of “cancer research that matters”. The Agency continues to address its *founda-*

*mental research priorities* and is gradually strengthening its engagement in three *emerging priorities*, notably *implementation research*. Progress in the implementation of the Medium-Term Strategy will be assessed within an evaluation framework composed of pertinent key performance indicators (KPIs), as approved by the IARC Governing Council in May 2022.

*Ethics and compliance* are an integral part of the Director's Office, to ensure ethical, evidence-based, and human rights-based research and research integrity, freedom from conflicts of interest, and accountability, and to protect the Agency's reputation. Thus, the major role of the Director's Office in ethical appraisal is based on ensuring rigorous science and promoting

a clear ethical vision that reflects the trust placed in IARC by its Participating States, external stakeholders, and the public, and that encourages positive behaviours and conduct throughout the Agency. It supports and monitors IARC personnel's adherence to the highest principles of ethical and professional conduct, including research integrity, and to the IARC Accountability Framework. The Director's Office produced the 2021–2022 biennial report on research ethics for the IARC governing bodies.

The Director's Office continues to promote *strategic partnership* by *strengthening and expanding* the Agency's network of Participating States, governmental and nongovernmental partners, funding

agencies, and collaborators. After strategic discussions that were initiated in 2022–2023, at least two countries have shown a strong interest in becoming IARC Participating States in 2024: Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The Agency signed nine *Memoranda of Understanding*, with the Sociedade Beneficente Israelita Brasileira Albert Einstein in Brazil, the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health in Georgia, the Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York in the USA, the National Cancer Registry operated by the National Institute of Oncology in Hungary, the Programme National de Lutte contre le Cancer in Côte d'Ivoire, the National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research, Bengaluru in India, the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) in Switzerland, Charles University in Czechia, and the National Central Cancer Registry and the National Cancer Center in China.

In addition, the Agency renewed four Memoranda of Understanding, with the Beijing Genomics Institute at Shenzhen/China National GeneBank in China, the National Cancer Center Japan, the National Cancer Center of the Republic of Korea, and the Danish Cancer Society in Denmark.

The Agency continues to strengthen its collaboration with local partners, both scientifically and through co-organized public events.

The Director's Office continues to promote coherent *resource mobilization*. Since 2020, IARC has been officially recognized by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee as an international organization eligible to receive official development assistance (ODA) funding; this has offered more opportunities for resource mobilization.

The Director's Office reached out to the current IARC Participating States for possible investment in some 100% ODA-compliant low- and middle-income countries, which could help them to fulfil their development objectives. For example, the IARC Secretariat has recently held discussions with the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport of the Netherlands for them to fund a large project on childhood cancer in Africa.

During the 2022–2023 biennium, the Director's Office developed a new *communication strategy*, which covers three different axes: (i) an “institutional communication” component, which aims to increase the visibility of the Agency; (ii) a “dissemination for impact” component, which aims to increase the dissemination of the Agency's specific scientific activities; and (iii) a “fundraising and resource mobilization” component, which aims to increase income generated by the fundraising campaigns, events, and other related activities.

During the biennium, the Director's Office had some *important achievements*. In May 2023, the IARC Governing Council re-elected Dr Elisabete Weiderpass as Director of IARC for a second five-year term. The Director is an expert member of the European Mission Board for Cancer, an integral part of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, to advise the European Commission on the implementation of the actions launched (e.g. the European Initiative to Understand Cancer; UNCAN.eu), and since 2023 she has been the “ambassador” for international organizations.

To improve the implementation of cancer prevention interventions globally, the Agency gave a strong endorsement to further intensifying the coordination and collaboration with WHO, to enable more effective links between science and policy. In 2022–2023, IARC and WHO

finalized a joint strategic work plan for 2023–2025, which is now being implemented, and intensified the coordination of technical activities. This strategic plan will support the provision of relevant indicators to inform and evaluate progress in scaling up the three WHO global cancer initiatives (i.e. the Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative, the Global Breast Cancer Initiative, and the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer) and, more broadly, support the implementation of national cancer control plans.

After 50 years in the tower building in the Grange Blanche district, IARC moved into its new headquarters in the Gerland Biodistrict of Lyon at the end of 2022. On 12 May 2023, the Agency held an official inauguration ceremony for the new building, which was attended by the French Minister of Health and Prevention, local government officials, members of the IARC Governing Council, dignitaries from IARC Participating States, representatives of WHO, national and international collaborators, and the principal funders of the construction project.

IARC developed an innovative *mobilization strategy* to mobilize in-kind and financial resources for the new headquarters building. As a result, the Agency secured in-kind donations from more than 13 different companies. The most iconic and visible locations in the new building were furnished by these companies: the reception areas, the cafeteria, and the social areas. The Agency also obtained an in-kind donation of 93 new height-adjustable desks for its new offices.

With its iconic shape, the new building embodies the Agency's vision for Open Science and international collaboration in cancer research. It will become a beacon for cancer research and a catalyst to strengthen collaborations between scientists, health professionals, and the general public.