

Foreword

Almost 60 years have passed since Sir Richard Doll and colleagues published the first volume of *Cancer Incidence in Five Continents (CI5)* as a compendium of reliable cancer incidence data in different geographical locations. Now in its 12th volume, this long-standing collaboration between the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR) serves as a unique source of cancer incidence data from high-quality population-based cancer registries (PBCRs) around the world. Each volume provides comparable quinquennial data on incident cancers and serves as a unique documentation of the current and evolving magnitude and profile of cancer in different locations.

In the first volume of CI5, data on only 32 PBCRs in 29 countries were compiled. Over subsequent decades, international cancer registry coverage has expanded, and this 12th volume of CI5, based on cancers diagnosed during the period 2013–2017, contains high-quality cancer incidence data from 460 PBCRs in 65 countries. The exponential rise in the number of PBCRs worldwide points to PBCRs being recognized as a cornerstone of cancer research and cancer control. Yet there remain challenges, old and new. The most pressing is to ensure that countries in transitioning regions invest in improvements in data collection, recognizing PBCRs as an asset rather than a cost in health planning.

Led by IARC, a complementary programme to CI5 is the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development (GICR), the first worldwide strategy to inform cancer control through better data. Given that only two in three countries currently have high-quality cancer registration data, the GICR focuses on supporting the sustainable development of PBCRs in transitioning regions where the need is greatest, ultimately seeking to save lives by providing decision-makers with the information they need to tackle the cancer burden. The GICR is a partnership with leading cancer organizations committed to strengthening the quality, availability, and use of cancer data. A marker of its success will be to see a larger proportion of PBCRs in transitioning countries included in future volumes of CI5.

I take this opportunity to personally thank all the registry staff of each of the PBCRs worldwide for submitting their cancer incidence data to this volume of CI5 and, in doing so, supporting IARC's primary aim of promoting international collaboration in cancer research.

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