

## IARC Newsletter - April 2021

### EDITORIAL

Dear friends of the Agency,

New **global cancer estimates from IARC** indicate that the global cancer burden increased to 19.3 million new cases and 10 million deaths in 2020. This is projected to rise to 28.4 million new cancer cases in 2040. The largest increases are expected to occur in low- and middle-income countries.

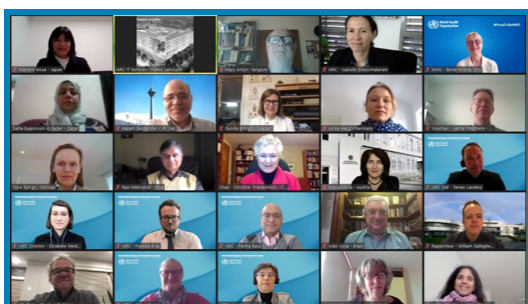
Among the most striking developments revealed by the new IARC estimates is that, for the first time, female breast cancer overtakes lung cancer in terms of number of new cancer cases worldwide, with 2.3 million breast cancer cases diagnosed in 2020. Breast cancer now accounts for 11.7% of all new cancer cases in both sexes, and 24.5% of cancer cases in women. The time to act is now. The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Global Breast Cancer Initiative (GBCI) on 8 March 2021, on International Women's Day. The primary objective of the initiative is to reduce global breast cancer mortality by increasing access to breast cancer early diagnosis and prompt comprehensive cancer management. IARC took part in the official launch of the GBCI and highlighted the large variety of research on breast cancer that the Agency is involved in (including etiology, early detection, and screening), on its website and social media. Indeed, IARC already has a wide range of programmes, research studies, and publications that fit perfectly into the GBCI that can support WHO in the implementation of efficient and cost-effective solutions. A prime example is the African Breast Cancer - Disparities in Outcomes Study (ABC-DO) on breast cancer survival, which is coordinated by IARC.

Working in unison with WHO, IARC will provide strategic guidance to support governments in prioritizing cancer in general, and breast cancer in particular, as part of their national health agendas, offering broader health, social, and economic benefits. Millions of deaths from breast cancer can be averted if the reductions in breast cancer mortality already achieved in high-income countries are also achieved in low- and middle-income countries.

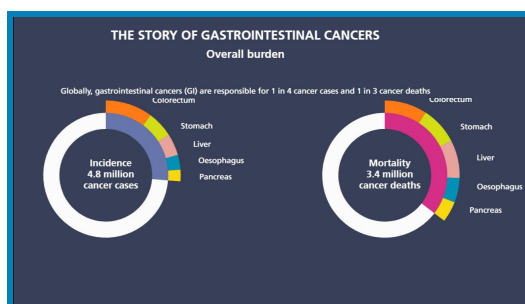
Best regards,

**Dr Elisabete Weiderpass, IARC Director**

### IARC NEWS



**IARC Scientific Council meets via web conference**



**Launch of Cancer Stories – Gastrointestinal Cancers**

[READ MORE](#)



**World Cancer Day 2021:  
Spotlight on IARC research  
related to physical activity and  
nutrition**

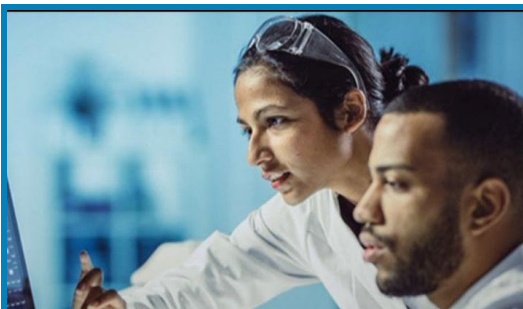
[READ MORE](#)

[READ MORE](#)



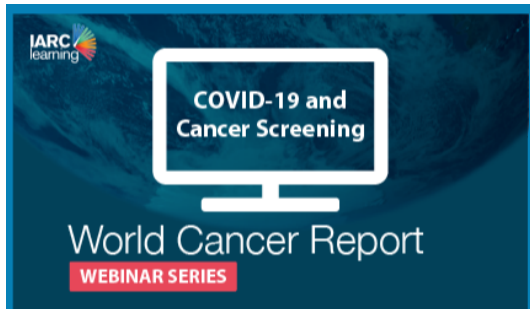
**Special Issue of *Cancer  
Epidemiology* on childhood  
cancer, coordinated by IARC  
guest editors**

[READ MORE](#)



**Highlighting the work of the  
Agency through portraits of  
IARC scientists**

[READ MORE](#)



***World Cancer Report* Updates:  
COVID-19 and Cancer Screening  
live webinar on 6 May 2021:  
Save the date!**

[READ MORE](#)

## FOCUS ON BREAST CANCER



### **The Global Breast Cancer Initiative: a [strategic collaboration](#) to strengthen health care for non-communicable diseases**

Working in unison with other United Nations agencies and partners, WHO and IARC will provide strategic guidance to support governments in prioritizing cancer in general, and breast cancer in particular, as part of their national health agendas. In many of its research projects, IARC demonstrates its commitment to the WHO Global Breast Cancer Initiative. For the past five years, IARC has coordinated the African Breast Cancer - Disparities in Outcomes Study ([ABC-DO](#)), aiming to understand how to improve breast cancer outcomes among women affected by breast cancer in sub-Saharan Africa. Learn more from Dr Valerie McCormack, Co-Principal Investigator of ABC-DO.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



## World Cancer Day 2021: Breast cancer overtakes lung cancer in terms of number of new cancer cases worldwide

According to recent [global cancer estimates from IARC](#), the global cancer burden increased to 19.3 million new cases and 10.0 million deaths in 2020. Worldwide, one in 5 people develop cancer during their lifetime, and one in 8 men and one in 11 women die from the disease.

[READ MORE](#)



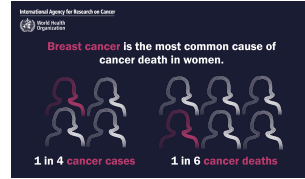
**International Women's Day - 8 March 2021:** New report highlights key measures to improve breast cancer outcomes in sub-Saharan Africa.

[READ MORE](#)



**Global Breast Cancer Initiative:** A Catalyst for Change in Global Oncology and Noncommunicable Diseases by Dr Benjamin O. Anderson, Consultant, Cancer Control, WHO

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



To mark **World Cancer Day 2021**, IARC highlighted some of its key research projects, and [recently published](#) IARC research on breast cancer.

[READ MORE](#)



Was this email forwarded to you?  
Subscribe to our newsletter to stay informed

[SIGN UP NOW](#)

Copyright © 2021 International Agency for Research on Cancer, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you have engaged with IARC in the past or because you opted in on our website.

Our mailing address is:  
International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)  
150 Cours Albert Thomas  
Lyon 69008  
France

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

Kindly note that the [WHO/IARC privacy policy](#) applies.