



# International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

## Orientation session for new Scientific Council members

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[International Agency for Research on Cancer](https://www.iarc.who.int/)



*ORS for Scientific Council members, 12 January 2021, by web conference*

I - IARC's mission, and main areas of activity

II - IARC's governance, operations  
and financing

My dear Sir,

The idea of promoting cancer research in an international institution draws on a generous inspiration, and I consider it desirable that France participate in it.

It seems, in fact, consistent with its traditions that France should engage in a work where three aspirations can be found: cooperation between peoples, the improvement of the human condition, and the advancement of science.

I have therefore asked the Minister of Public Health to take all necessary initiatives in this regard.

May I ask you to make this known to all the public figures who co-signed with you the message that was sent to me, and I beg you to accept, my dear Sir, the assurances of my deepest respect.

Ch. de Gaulle

# A bit of history

## THE BIRTH OF IARC

### WHA18.44 Establishment of an International Agency for Research on Cancer

The Eighteenth World Health Assembly,

Cognizant of Article 18 of the Constitution which provides, *inter alia*, that one of the functions of the Health Assembly shall be to establish such other institutions as it may consider desirable, with a view to promoting and carrying on research;

Considering that the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America have agreed to sponsor the creation and to participate in the functioning of an International Agency for Research on Cancer<sup>1</sup> in accordance with the provisions of its Statute;

Considering that many governments have expressed their interest in the creation of such an Agency; and  
Considering resolution WHA17.49 of the Seventeenth World Health Assembly,

DECIDES to establish an International Agency for Research on Cancer which shall carry on its functions in accordance with the provisions of its Statute (annexed).

Handb. Res., 7th ed., 1.7.6; 1.11

*Twelfth plenary meeting, 20 May 1965 (Committee on Programme and Budget, sixth report)*

I PLEDGE THE STRONG AND CONTINUING SUPPORT OF MY COUNTRY TO ITS IMPORTANT WORK. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THE STAFF TO HAVE EXCELLENT PHYSICAL FACILITIES IN WHICH TO CONDUCT THEIR URGENTLY NEEDED STUDIES. PARA SINCERELY PARA RICHARD NIXON PARA ROGERS

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# IARC and WHO

## A complementary partnership

International Agency for Research on Cancer



RESEARCH ON CANCER PREVENTION

Evidence-base for cancer prevention and control programmes

Translates the scientific evidence into guidelines and policies

International Agency for Research on Cancer





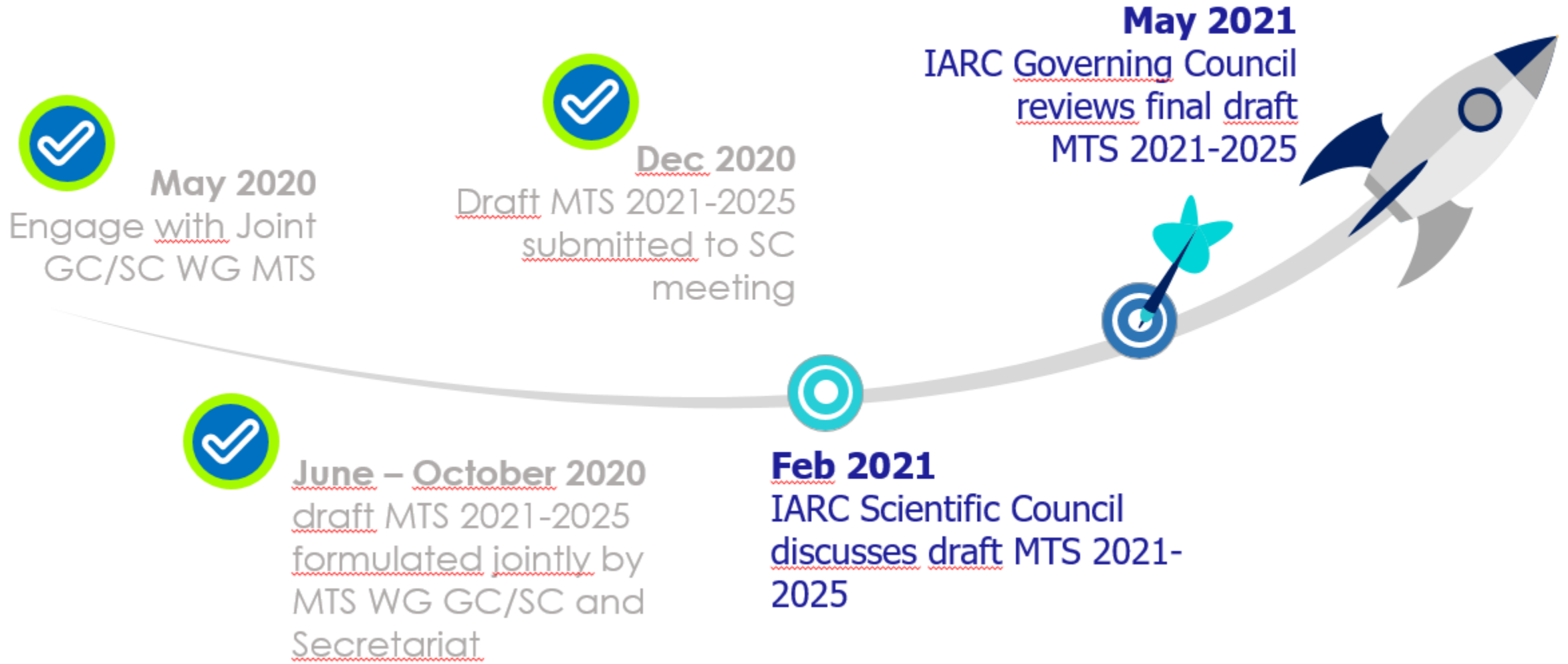
# IARC's Mission - Statute

*Agent of international collaboration in cancer research.*

- Planning, coordinating and developing research in all phases of the causation, treatment and prevention of cancer;
- Collection and dissemination of information on the epidemiology of cancer, on cancer research and on the causation and prevention of cancer throughout the world;
- Conducting studies on the natural history of cancer;
- Education and training of personnel for cancer research.

*Still well-adapted to the cancer research needs of the future.*

# The Medium-Term Strategy 2021-2025



# IARC's fundamental areas of MTS 2021-2025

## CANCER PREVENTION

Who gets cancer?

Why do we get cancer?

Which measures work to prevent it?

Mobilising the knowledge gained  
(Building global capacity)

Describe the occurrence  
*Data for action\**

Understand the causes  
*Understanding the causes\**

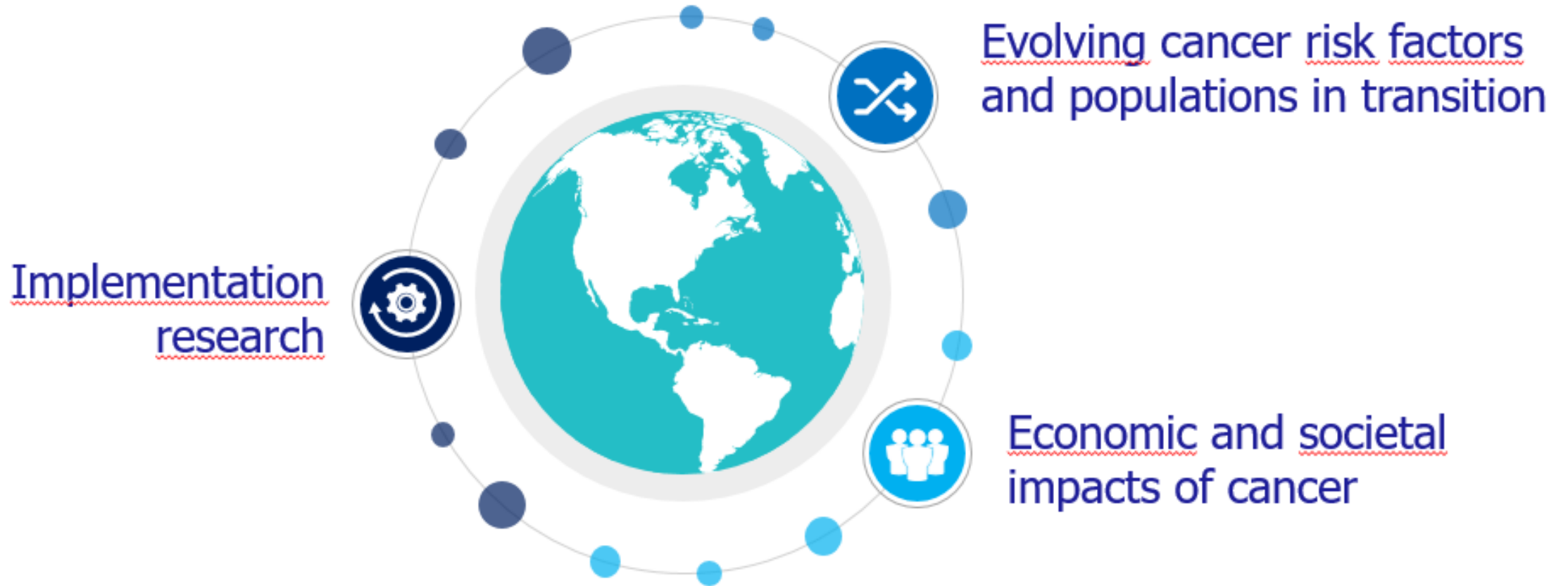
Evaluate data  
Prevention and implementation  
*From understanding to prevention\**

Building capacity  
for research  
*Knowledge Mobilization\**

*\*Names of IARC Pillars*

International Agency for Research on Cancer

# IARC's emerging priorities of MTS 2021-2025





# Cancer Research that matters

- IARC **high-quality, independent research on cancer** producing the **evidence base** to governments, WHO..
- IARC producing the **most authoritative reference materials on cancer** (Monographs, Handbooks of cancer prevention, WHO classification of tumours, Global cancer statistics)
- IARC coordinating **international research collaborations**, with a focus on **low- and middle-income countries** (*growing cancer burden*)
- IARC expertise evaluating the **effectiveness of specific interventions** at the population level (implementation research)
- IARC building **capacity for research** by training researchers from **low- and middle-income countries**

# Describe the occurrence

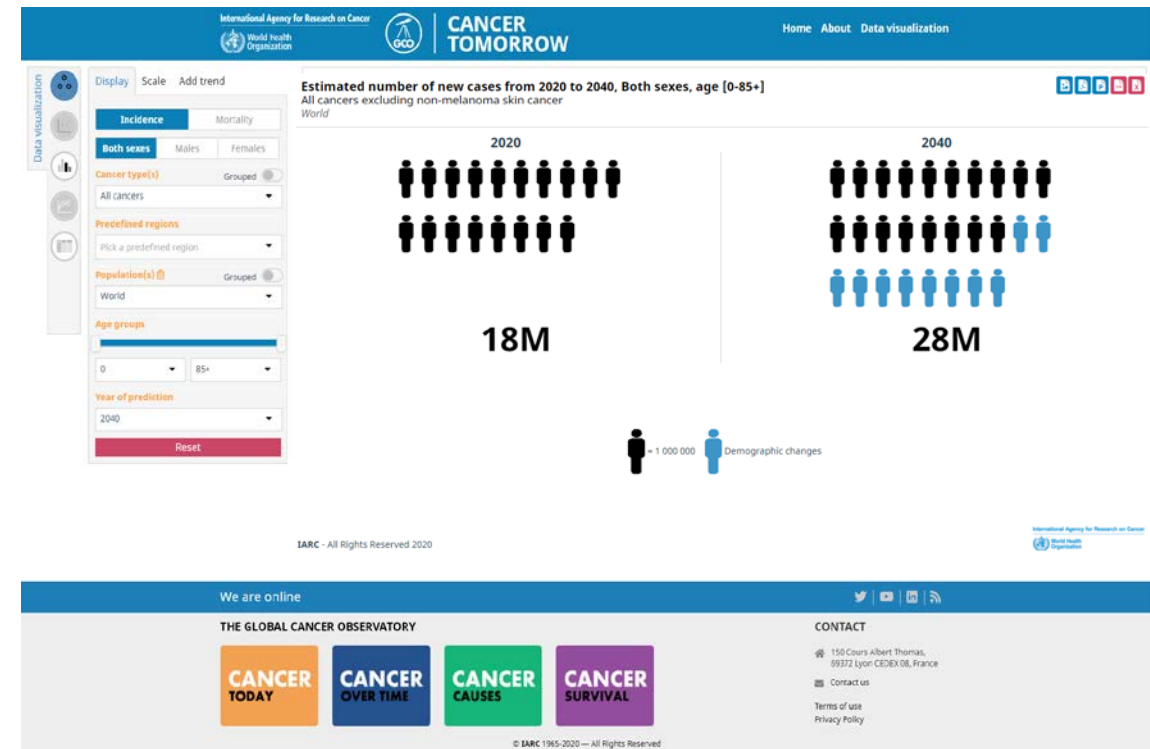
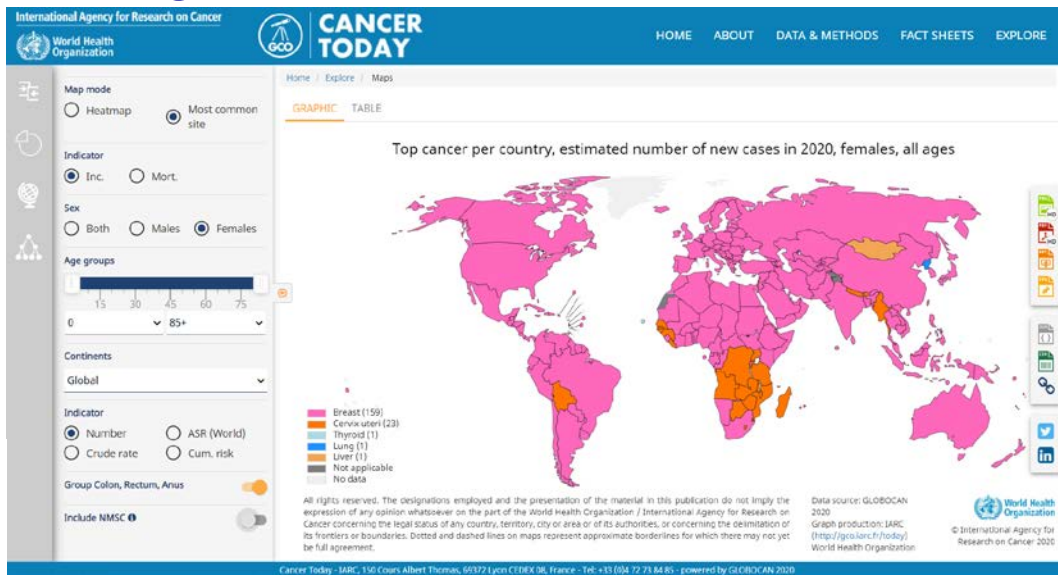
## *Data for action*



# GLOBAL CANCER OBSERVATORY



- 19.1 million new cancer cases worldwide in 2020
- Breast has surpassed lung cancer as leading cause of cancer incidence.
- 28 million predicted cancer cases by 2040



# Understand the causes

## Cancer research that matters



# Prevention and implementation

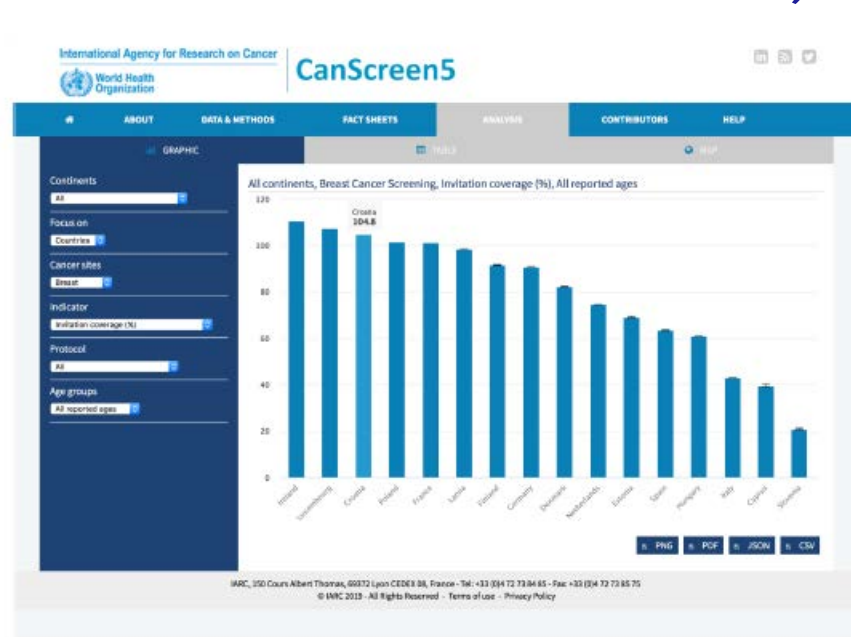
## *From understanding to prevention*



### Implementing HPV vaccination programmes

### Implementing screening programmes (cervical, breast, colorectal cancers)

### The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Code against cancer





# Knowledge Mobilization

## *Evidence synthesis*

### The IARC *Monographs* Programme



The **IARC Monographs** identify environmental factors that are carcinogenic hazards to humans: chemicals, occupational exposures, lifestyle factors...

- Evaluation of more than **1000 environmental agents**
- Identification of more than **400 carcinogenic to humans**



# Knowledge Mobilization *Capacity building*

## Pre- and post-doctoral Fellowships

- IARC post-doctoral Fellowships with a focus on LMICs
- Bilateral partnerships e.g. Cancer Council Australia, Irish Cancer Society, Norwegian Research Council, Children with Cancer UK

## Senior Visiting Scientists

- For scientific exchange with established scientists

## Training courses (e-learning offerings)

- Related to IARC expertise in cancer surveillance, Biobanking, cancer prevention and early detection, the World Cancer Report Webinars (HPV vaccination, social inequalities)



# IARC: an influential publications programme



International Agency for Research on Cancer

I - IARC's mission, and main areas of activity

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# Participating States

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## IARC GOVERNANCE

Scientific Council  
and  
Governing Council



● IARC's Founding members







# IARC's Participating States

- Any member of WHO may become an IARC Participating State (PS) provided:
  - Undertake to “observe and apply the provisions of the IARC Statute ”
  - Should be “able to contribute effectively to the scientific and technical work of the Agency”
- Applications from new PS are evaluated by the GC's “Subcommittee on the Admission of New PS”
- Approval by more than 2/3 majority of the GC

# Role of the Governing Council

- The Governing Council (GC) oversees the work of the Agency
- It is composed of one representative of each Participating State and the WHO Director-General (or representative)
  - delegates are appointed by and represent their Governments
- GC meets at least once per year in Lyon, usually in May the week prior to WHO's World Health Assembly
- Specific tasks/responsibilities:
  - decide on changes to IARC's Statute, Rules and Regulations
  - elect the IARC Director
  - adopt the budget
  - considering the recommendations of the SC:
    - adopt the Medium Term Strategy and the programmes of the Agency
    - approve any special projects

# Role of the Scientific Council

- Reviews IARC's scientific activities providing advice and making recommendations on the scientific aspects of its **programme, strategy and priorities**
- Composed of senior scientists from all PS, selected on the basis of competence, **not as national representatives**
- Members are appointed by the GC for **four-year terms**
- Meets once per year in Lyon, in late January/February
- Specific tasks/responsibilities:
  - periodic evaluation of the Agency's activities (participating in the peer-review of Sections/Groups)
  - evaluation of special projects proposed by the Agency
  - advising the GC on the scientific aspects of the Programme
  - advising the GC on the evaluation of the MTS and its implementation

# Communication between Governing and Scientific Councils – a crucial relationship

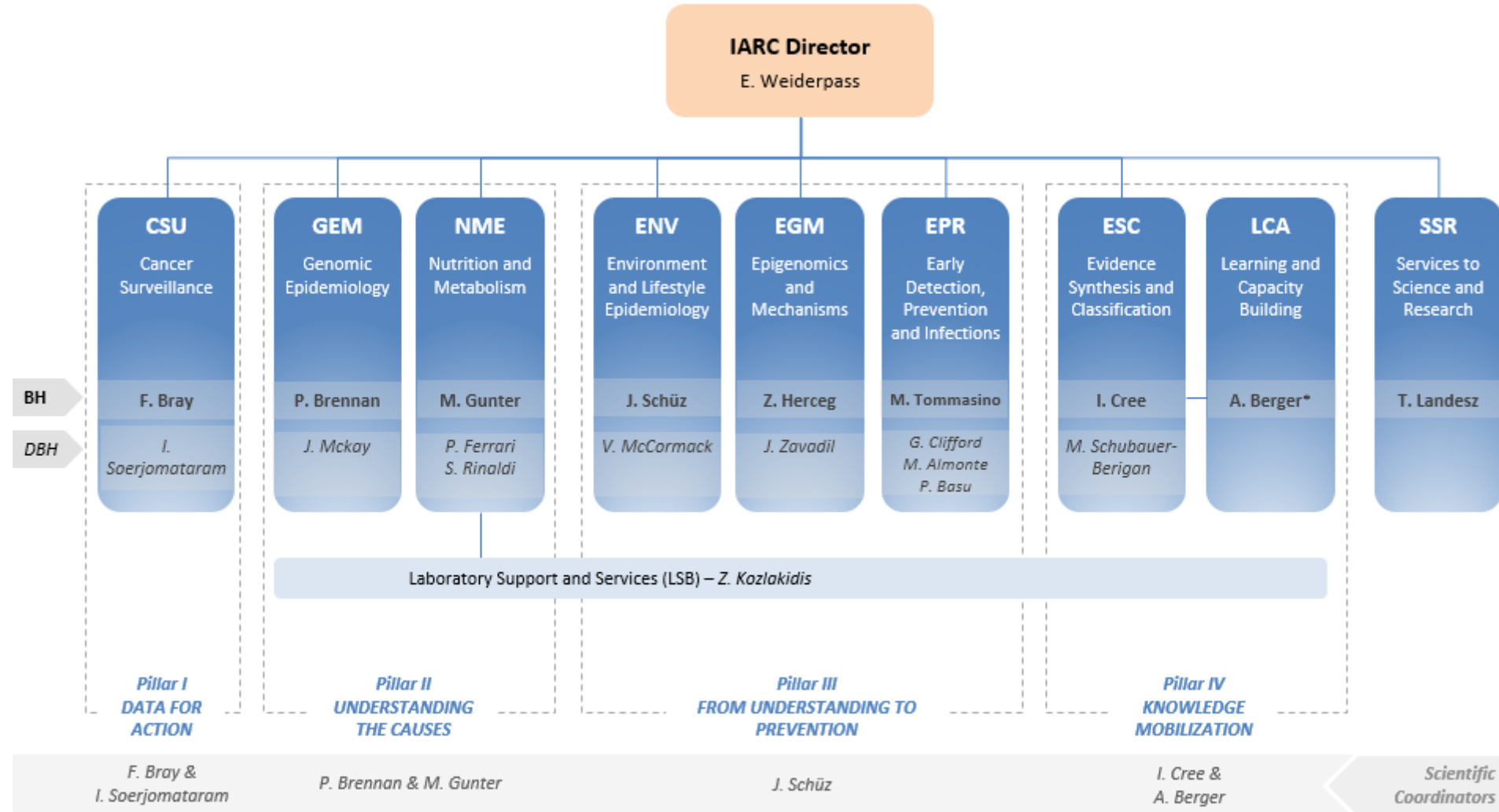
- **Regular teleconferences** between the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of both Councils and the Director
- **Joint Working Groups**, e.g. to advise on the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy
- Scientific Council members can **brief their Governing Council members** – advocacy role
- Scientific Council members can **advise Governing Council members on their successor**

# IARC Director

- Provides leadership and sets the strategy and direction for the Agency
- Ex-officio Secretary of the GC, SC and of any of their committees and working groups
- Formulates the IARC Medium Term Strategy
- Responsible for preparing the Agency's biennial programme and budget
- Reports to the SC and GC annually on progress of the implementation of the scientific programme



# IARC organizational structure (effective from 1 January 2021)



BH = Branch Head  
DBH = Deputy Branch Head

\*LCA Branch Head reports to ESC Branch Head.

# Review of IARC scientific activities

## Two complementary levels of review:

### I - Peer-review of Sections/Groups

- Primary mechanism for evaluating the scientific quality of the outputs of individual Sections and Groups
- Assesses the alignment of the programmes of the Sections and Groups to the Agency's Strategy and their contribution to its broader Mission
- Rolling 5-year cycle independent from the Medium-Term Strategy

### II - Review of the implementation of the IARC MTS

- Evaluates the overall progress in the implementation of the MTS by monitoring results and their alignment to the stated priorities
- Assesses the impact of the Agency's activities and their contribution towards fulfilling its high-level strategic objectives
- Evaluates the implementation of the Agency's programmes transversally across the organisation, independently from the Section/Group structure

# Scientific Peer-Review Process

- Objective is to conduct a detailed review of the scientific activities of the Groups comprising each IARC Section providing:
  - an **assessment of scientific quality and merit** of the work performed **based on past achievements and future plans**;
  - an assessment of **how well it fits with the overall mission of IARC**
- Each Section reviewed approx. every 5 years (2 Sections per year)
- Review Group composed of 5-7 members with appropriate expertise, including at least two members of the SC
- Report of the Review Group presented to the SC by the Chairperson
- Each IARC Group scored in relation to:

## Scientific quality

- **O** (Outstanding)
- **F** (Forefront)
- **C** (Competitive)
- **NC** (Not Competitive)
- **U** (Unsatisfactory)
- **P** (Preliminary)

## Relevance to IARC's mission

- Perfect fit
- Good fit
- Questionable fit
- Poor fit

# IARC Programme and Budget

- Biennial Programme and Budget prepared by the IARC Secretariat
- SC reviews the Programme and Budget and makes recommendations to the GC
- GC considers recommendations, approves the Programme and adopts the Budget
- GC approves special projects and decides on allocation of supplementary funds

# IARC funding sources and composition of budget

**Regular Budget (RB)** – comes from the assessed contributions on Participating States

- RB approved for the biennium 2020-2021 is **44 149 793 euros**
- RB covers core staff and operational costs, and a modest non-staff budget (~100,000 euros per annum per Group)

**Extrabudgetary sources** – mainly from

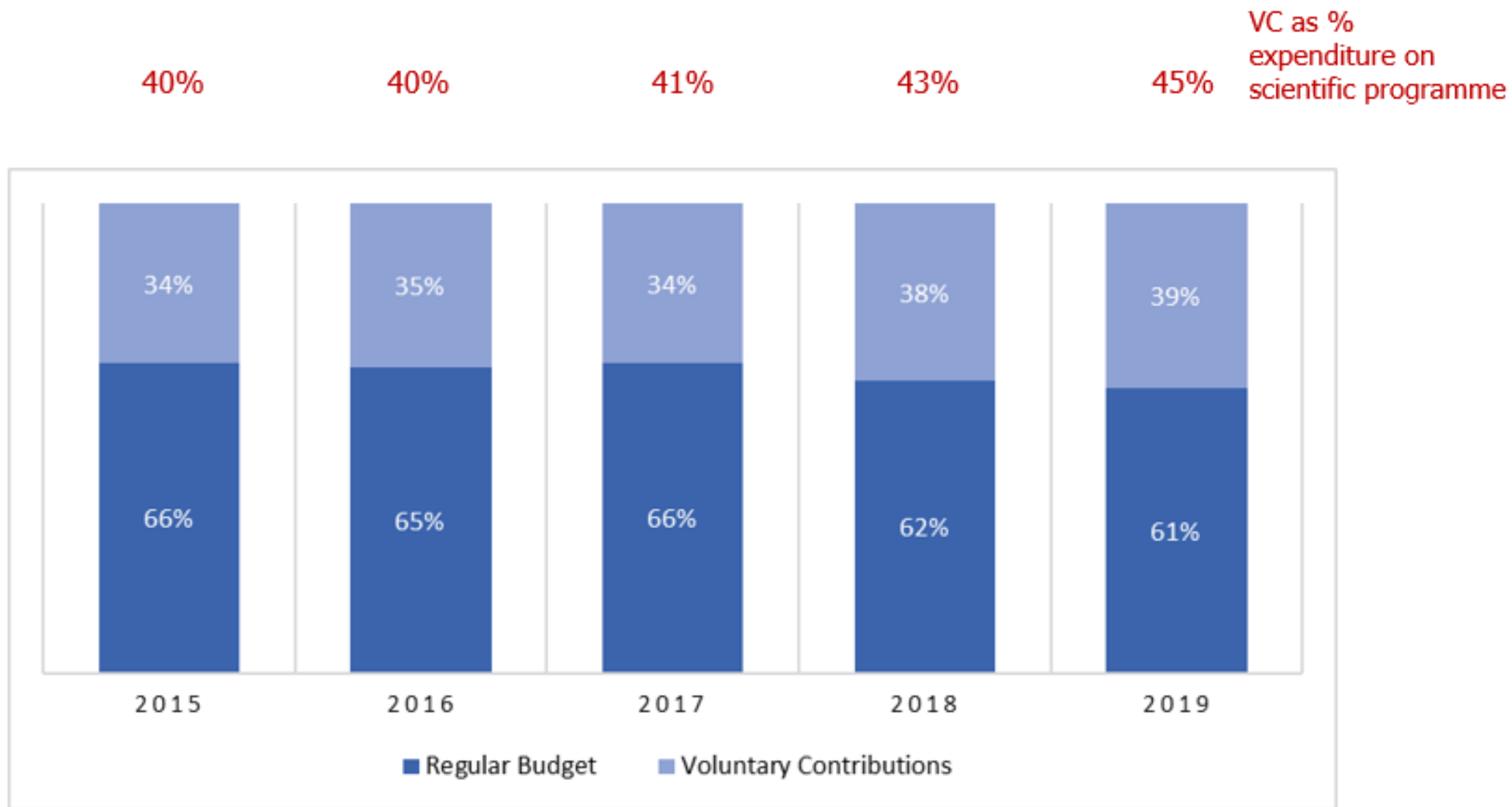
- **Voluntary Contributions** – from competitive grants, direct contributions and donations (*main donors: Cancer Research UK, NIH USA, World Cancer Research Fund, BMGF, INCa France, European Commission ...*)
- **Programme Support Costs or Indirect Costs** – generated from overheads recovered on research grants
- **Governing Council Special Fund** – variety of sources i.e. revenue from sales of publications, interest income, contributions from new Participating States (unbudgeted assessment), and miscellaneous income



# Assessed Contributions on Participating States

- Calculation of the assessed contribution from IARC Participating States (PS)
  - 70% of the Regular Budget is borne equally by all PS
  - 30% is assessed in accordance with a unit system based on each country's participation in the WHO scale of assessment:
    - Group 1 ( $\geq 8\%$  in WHO scale) - 8 units
    - Group 2 ( $\geq 4\%$  and  $< 8\%$  in WHO scale) - 4 units
    - Group 3 ( $\geq 2\%$  and  $< 4\%$  in WHO scale) - 2 units
    - Group 4 ( $\geq 0.5\%$  and  $< 2\%$  in WHO scale) - 1 units
    - Group 5 ( $< 0.5\%$  in WHO scale) - 0 units
- Gradual increase in financial participation in the first 3 years
- All PS make a similar contribution/voice, ensuring equity in decision making

# Expenditure financed from Voluntary Contributions compared to Regular Budget





# The Nouveau Centre



International Agency for Research on Cancer



# A successful start



On 6 February 2020, we all participated in the First Stone Ceremony for the "Nouveau Centre", the new IARC headquarters building in the Biodistrict of Gerland in Lyon.



**Lyon : Avec son futur siège, le Centre international de recherche sur le cancer veut s'affirmer**



**Lyon : première pierre pour le QG de lutte contre le cancer**



**Lyon: la lutte contre le cancer déménage à Gerland**



**Lyon : Une première pierre pour faire de la ville le centre mondial de lutte contre le cancer**

# IARC – an organization in the right place at the right time

- **Growing problem:** 19.1 million new cases in 2020 predicted to rise to 28 million by 2040
- Greatest increases in **low- and middle-income countries**
- Cancer **prevention is essential**, but neglected
- **International collaboration** is increasingly required – *international studies to answer national questions*
- **Independence** of judgement is increasingly valued





# Thank you!