

**Innovative virtual “poster” (flash talk) session
18–20 January 2022**

Recommendations from the SC members

Flash talks from the Laboratory support, Biobanking and Services (LSB) and from the six Scientific Branches: Nutrition and Metabolism (NME), Genomic Epidemiology (GEM), Early Detection, Prevention and Infections (EPR), Epigenomics and Mechanisms (EGM), Evidence Synthesis and Classification (ESC), and Learning and Capacity Building (LCB) were presented and discussed.

Cancer Surveillance (CSU) and Environment and Lifestyle Epidemiology (ENV) were not included in the poster session as they were both undergoing their quinquennial review.

A. Scientific Council (SC) comments on scientific work

The following criteria were used for the scientific evaluation:

1. Alignment with the IARC Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2021–2025
2. Collaboration across Branches
3. International collaboration
4. Address the emerging priorities
5. Potential impact of the research proposal on the unmet needs in cancer control

1. Alignment with the MTS 2021–2025

- All posters/projects presented within each Branch are in line with IARC MTS 2021–2025.

2. Collaboration across Branches/International collaboration

- Close collaborations between NME, GEM, and LSB within Pillar 2 have been highlighted during the poster session.
- Thin collaborations between the Branches within Pillar 3 (EPR, EGM) have been noted.

3. International collaboration

- Broad international collaboration has been highlighted for all Branches.

4. Address the emerging priorities

- Most of the projects presented within each Branch fit very well into some aspect of the three main IARC emerging priorities.

5. Potential impact of the research proposal on the unmet needs in cancer control

- Much of the work within NME (Pillar 2, understanding the causes) can be regarded as basic research. There should be a focus on bringing this work into knowledge translation and developed for the needs in cancer control, i.e. “from understanding to Prevention”.
- Most of the projects presented have the potential for key impact on cancer control, especially concerning early detection and prevention.

B. General comments and recommendations

- The originality and scientific insights of the presentations were excellent.
- The balance between young and senior scientists was satisfactory.
- In order to facilitate the high-level research, the continuous support of statistics and bioinformatics is crucial, with particular attention to mediation/pathway analyses, gene-environment interactions, and multi-omics analyses. The SC recommends that IARC management make sure that increased need for expertise in innovative data-analytics is provided.
- The SC recommends intensifying internal collaboration across Branches, particularly for Branches within Pillar 3 (EPR, EGM).

C. Specific recommendation on the design of the virtual session

- The SC acknowledges the excellent work performed and the quality of presentations.
- The SC judges favorably the exercise of virtual posters/videos by the IARC personnel, and subsequent live discussion.
- The SC thanks the Secretariat for making available the pre-recording videos of the presentations beforehand.
- The SC is satisfied by the design of the virtual session, the early career scientists being given enough space and time for an interactive and dynamic session.
- The SC recommends that the Branch Heads give a short overview of the general scientific activities within each Branch before the presentation of posters, enabling the SC members to have an overview of each project presented within the general scientific context of the Branch.
- The SC recommends including a take-away message at the end of all presentations.
- The SC recommends allowing more time between the presentation of posters and the drafting of recommendations (2 days).

D. Suggestion for next year virtual poster session (SC/59)

- The Secretariat suggests bringing forward the date of the virtual poster session to the first week of December 2022 (e.g. Tuesday 6 to Thursday 8 December for three two-hour sessions for presentation and discussion of posters and Tuesday 13 December for drafting of the overall recommendations for SC/59).