



Report of the 56th Scientific Council Session

International Agency for Research on Cancer
Lyon, France

Christine Friedenreich, PhD, FCAHS, FRSC
May 11-12, 2020

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



Scientific Council – 56th session



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New Members

Country	Name
Germany	Ulrike Haag
Hungary	Péter Nagy [unable to attend]
India	Ravi Mehrota
Ireland	William Gallagher
Italy	Pietro Pichierri [unable to attend]
Morocco	Karima Bendahhou
Norway	Tone Bjørge
Republic of Korea	Jone Bae Park
Russian Federation	Sergey Ivanov
Sweden	Gunilla Enblad

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SC 56 Biennial Report

Elisabete Weiderpass, Director



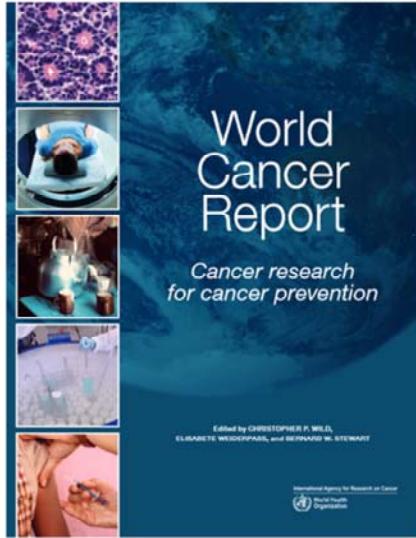
- The Scientific Council congratulated the Director and the Agency on the Biennial Report 2018-19
- There was some discussion regarding how publications are benchmarked and the SC supported the on-going tracking of citations
- The SC recognized the efforts of the IARC Communications group during the past year in increasing awareness of the Agency's scientific output

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World Cancer Report

Cancer research for cancer prevention



Topic areas:

- The global cancer burden
- Causes of cancer including hazardous circumstances
- Biological processes in cancer development
- Inequalities that affect cancer prevention
- Preventing particular tumour types
- The basis for, and outcomes from, prevention strategies

World Cancer Report webpage

https://www.iarc.fr/cards_page/world-cancer-report/

Publication: 4 February 2020

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EU General Data Protection Regulation

- IARC is not subject to GDPR legislation
- IARC is seeking sustainable solution while adhering to UN personal data protection and privacy principles
- Committee for Information Security and an Information Security Office established in 2018
- WHO/IARC Data Protection Policy developed in 2019
- On-going discussion to establish “standard contractual clause” to cover all data transfers
- IARC to work with Participating States who do not have adequate data security measures in place

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Request for GC Special Funds

- SC supports the request to the GC at their 62nd session for:
 - €350,000 for necessary infrastructure for IT platform
 - Storage servers (€115,000)
 - Computer servers (€70,000)
 - Network equipment (€25,000)
 - Data management and analysis software (€120,000)
 - Professional services and platform maintenance (€20,000)
 - €115,000 for plasma phospholipid fatty acid profiling (approved in May 2018) will be returned to GCSF as scientific priorities for this program have changed

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Education and Training

- SC recommendations:
 - Continue the excellent work and enhance training by developing more online training
 - Continue training scientists particularly from LMICs
 - Continue monitoring the outcomes of its ETR activities
- WHO Academy discussion:
 - Being established in Lyon
 - IARC to work with WHO office in Lyon and the WHO Academy to form three pillars of the new Global Health Hub

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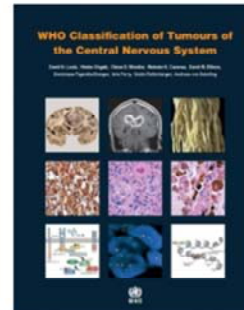
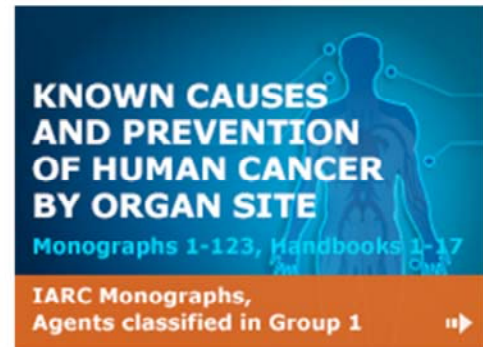


Resource Mobilization

- SC recognized and strongly supported new resource mobilization strategy
- SC discussed restrictions with corporate donations
- SC supported different mechanisms proposed for increased funding from donors for IARC
- SC suggested creating a Resource Mobilization Advisory Group to provide connections with potential donors
 - Separate group to advise senior leaders at IARC on opportunities for resource mobilization
 - Terms of reference and composition of this advisory group to be developed

Evidence Synthesis and Classification Review Update

- Handbook Program (IHB)
- Monograph Programme (IMO)
- WHO Classifications of Tumours (WCT)
- WCT and IMO groups have developed strategic plans and IHB is refining its plan
- Internal/external collaborations improved particularly with WHO
- Handbooks Preamble completed
- Funding received for Cervical Cancer Screening Handbook
- More funding needed for IHB program



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Poster Presentations by IARC Scientists



- SC appreciated reviewing research projects with IARC Scientists particularly the early career investigators and trainees

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Evaluation of the IARC MTS 2016-2020

- SC recognized rigour of external evaluation by advisory group and agreed with the recommendations
- SC suggested that recommendations #5 and #6 be expanded to cover needs and options and suggested specific wording changes for attention of the GC (see notes below for exact wording)

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Recommendation #5: “As computational biology needs an increasingly important component of laboratory capacity, IARC should regularly update the SC and the GC on capacity for computational biology in the future”.

Recommendation #6: Given its to obtain additional laboratory, computational biology, and other disciplinary expertise through collaboration, Visiting Scientists, secondments from Participating States and other partners, as well as offer opportunities for training in computational biology to junior scientists in the field. The result of these efforts moving forward”.

Medium Term Strategy 2021-2025

- MTS Working Group SC/GC will be established in May 2020
- Review of the MTS in September 2020 to be done
- SC members for the MTS Working Group will be:
 - Dr Christine Friedenreich (Chair of SC, Canada)
 - Dr Maria Sibilina (Austria)
 - Dr Ravi Mehrotra (India)
 - Dr Janne Mikael Pitkäniemi (Finland)
- Four sub-committees of the SC have been created to provide advice on the MTS 2021-2025 that include all SC members

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Section Review Panel 2021

- Section of Genetics (Head: Dr Paul Brennan)
- Dr Jong Bae Park and James Cerhan will participate in the GEN Review Panel with Dr Cerhan as the Chair
- Review will occur immediately preceding the 57th SC meeting in February 2021

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Cross-cutting Scientific Themes

- Topic #1: Social inequalities and cancer (Lead: Salvatore Vaccarella, with CSU, SCR/EDP, ENV)
 - SC strongly supported the continuity of this topic and noted its timeliness and relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals
- Topic #2: Health economics in cancer research (Lead: Filip Meheus with CSU, GEP, WHO/HQ)
 - SC strongly endorsed this new theme and suggested that IARC provide data, expertise and capacity building for LMICs in this area, subject to available resources

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Nouveau Centre

- SC reviewed the three scenarios for completing the furnishing and equipment and recognized the need to help support IARC in advocating for investment in the Nouveau Centre
- SC members all participated in the laying of the first stone ceremony at Gerland.



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Infection Section Review Panel Members

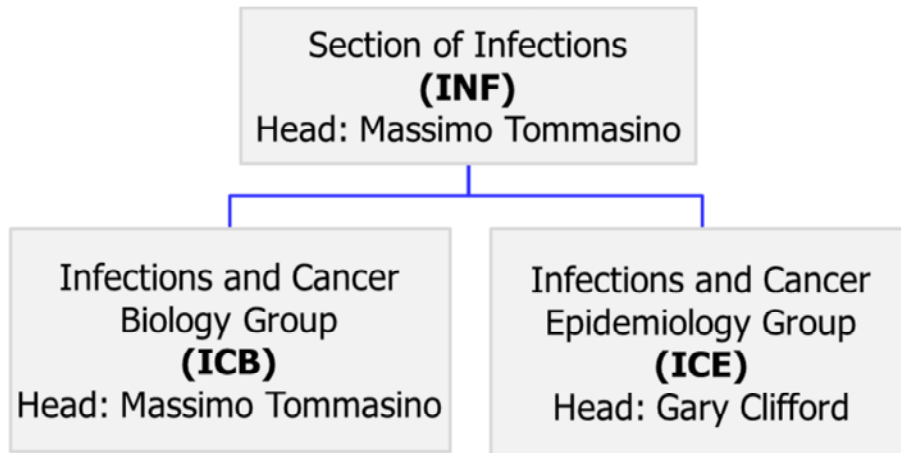
- Jacqueline Clavel (Chair)
- Maria Sibilia (Co-Chair)
- Paul Lambert
- Denise Galloway
- Amber D'Souza
- Eduardo Franco



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INF Section: Organizational Structure



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Evaluation and Recommendations for INF

- Strong consensus that INF is an **essential component fostering the mission of IARC**
 - **Both groups ICB and ICE are very strong** on their own
- Synergy between **between ICB and ICE** is a strong added value and is considered to be a fundamental asset of the INF Section
- The RP strongly recommends that IARC pursues **replacement of Dr. Tommasino** with an internationally renowned scientist pursuing mechanistic studies on pathogen-associated cancers
- RP strongly recommends **replenishing the faculty of ICE** to its original level
- The RP supports consideration of **synergies between INF and other investigators in IARC** with overlapping activities

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Overall evaluation of the INF section

	Quality		Relevance
	Past	Future	
1- ICB Group	Outstanding	Outstanding	Perfect fit
2- ICE Group	Outstanding	Outstanding	Perfect fit
INF Section	Outstanding	Outstanding	Perfect fit

RP recommended that INF should be supported at the highest level as its outstanding value is recognized

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The overall assessment is that ICB's work is a **Perfect Fit** with the mission of the IARC

Mechanistic studies from the ICB are a key component to IARC's mission to assess the role of pathogens in human cancers, and prevent, diagnose and treat these cancers. In this context, the interplay between ICB and ICE has evolved to be even stronger in the last five years and is likely to continue to flourish. This is considered to be a fundamental strength of the INF Section, which was also recognized by the trainees of the INF as a strong benefit.

Mechanisms of Carcinogenesis Section Review Panel

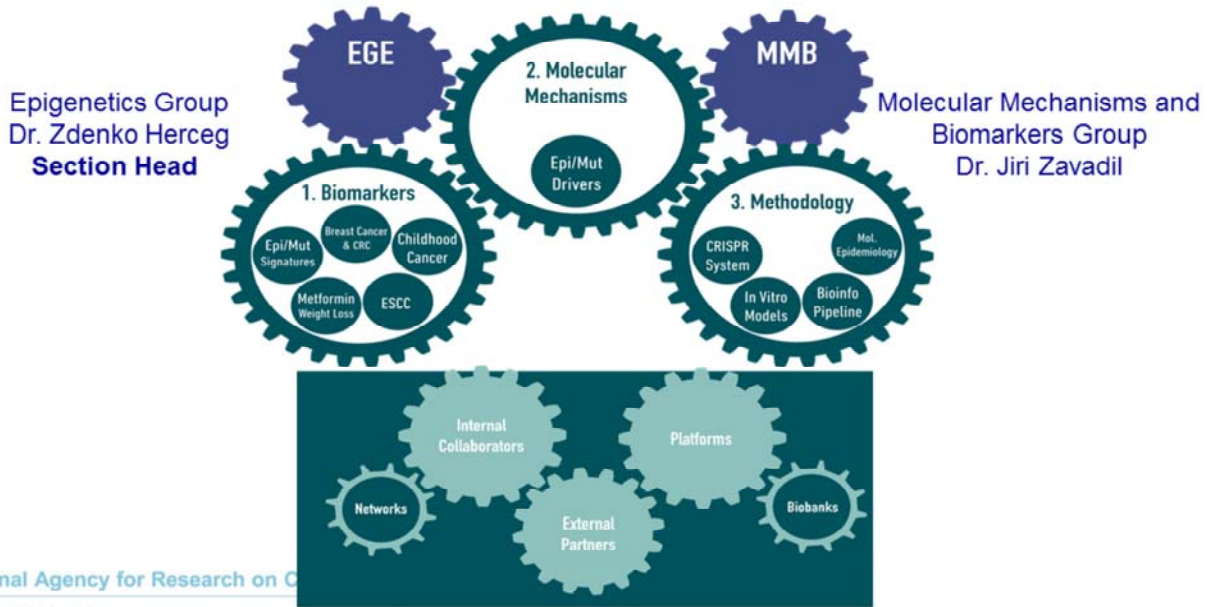
- Pilar Sánchez-Gómez (Chair)
- Joao Viola (co-Chair)
- Marc Audebert
- Daniel Carvalho
- Barbara Parsons
- Rebecca Fry



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MCA Section Review



MCA's **vision** is to **advance understanding of cancer causes** by investigating genetic and epigenetic patterns and interrelated molecular pathways deregulated by exposure risk factors.

Primary objectives are threefold:

1. **Identify genetic and epigenetic changes** associated with **risk exposures** and **cancer risk**
2. Investigate **functional role** of these **molecular changes**
3. **Develop (epi)genomic methodologies, profiling strategies and bioinformatics/biostatistics tools** (applicable to cancer research relevant, although not exclusive, to **LMICs**) and state-of-the-art in vitro models

MCA's research is carried out in **close collaboration with IARC scientists and external collaborators**, many of which are part of **unique international networks** established to share **technological platforms** and **biological resources**. Section's emphasis is on **enhancing interdisciplinarity** and **creating synergy and added value** within IARC.

Evaluation of MCA

- MCA leaders internationally-recognized; many world-wide collaborations
- Training next generation of cancer researchers with LMIC emphasis
- MCA provides key mechanistic data for Monograph program
- MCA shapes bioinformatics core of Agency

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Evaluation of MCA

Group	Past Performance		Future Plans		Section/Group Head
	Quality	Relevance	Quality	Relevance	
EGE	Outstanding Forefront	Perfect fit	Outstanding Forefront	Perfect fit	Outstanding Forefront
MMB	Outstanding Forefront	Perfect fit	Outstanding Forefront	Perfect fit	Outstanding Forefront
MCA Section	Outstanding Forefront	Perfect fit	Outstanding Forefront	Perfect fit	Outstanding Forefront

RP stated that MCA is essential to IARC mission

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Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 57th SC Session



Dr Christine Friedenreich
(Canada) was elected as
Chairperson

Dr Janne Mikael
Pitkäniemi (Finland) was
elected as Vice-
Chairperson



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