

# International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

## Orientation session for new Scientific Council members

Charu Mehta, Director of Administration and Finance, ad interim

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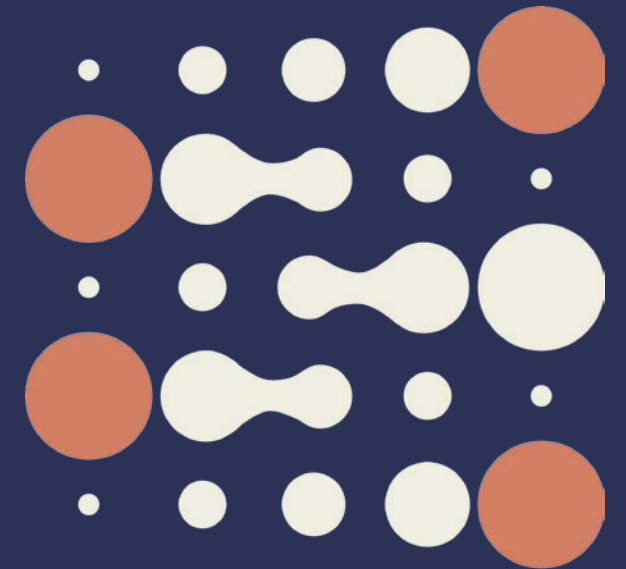
Nathalie Lamandé, Governing Bodies & Meetings Coordinator

Elisabete Weiderpass, Director

International Agency  
for Research on Cancer



*ORS for Scientific Council members, 6 February 2024, Lyon, France*



# Agenda

- I - IARC's mission, and main areas of activity
- II - IARC's governance, operations and financing
- III – IARC Ethical Framework and data protection

# IARC's Mission: research on cancer prevention

- ◆ .. is the **specialized cancer agency** of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ◆ .. promotes **international collaboration** in cancer research.
- ◆ .. identifies the **causes of cancer** so that **preventive measures** may be adopted.
- ◆ .. conducts research in **LMICs through partnerships and collaborations** with researchers in these regions.



A global reference for cancer information ♦ Causes and prevention of cancer ♦  
Global cancer biobank ♦ Producing evidence-based science for global cancer control policies

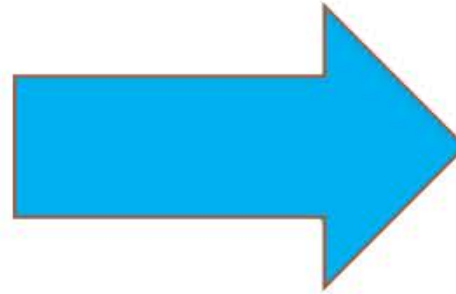
# IARC and WHO: a complementary partnership

## International Agency for Research on Cancer



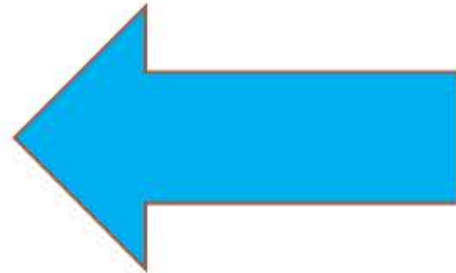
### RESEARCH ON CANCER PREVENTION

Evidence-base for cancer prevention and control programmes



## World Health Organization

Translates the scientific evidence into guidelines and policies



# Strategic objectives

## LEVEL 1: TO REDUCE THE BURDEN AND SUFFERING FROM CANCER GLOBALLY

LEVEL 2

### OBJECTIVE 1

Describing the occurrence of cancer

### OBJECTIVE 2

Understanding the causes of cancer

### OBJECTIVE 3

Evaluating cancer prevention interventions

### OBJECTIVE 4

Synthesizing and mobilizing knowledge and strengthening global capacities in cancer science

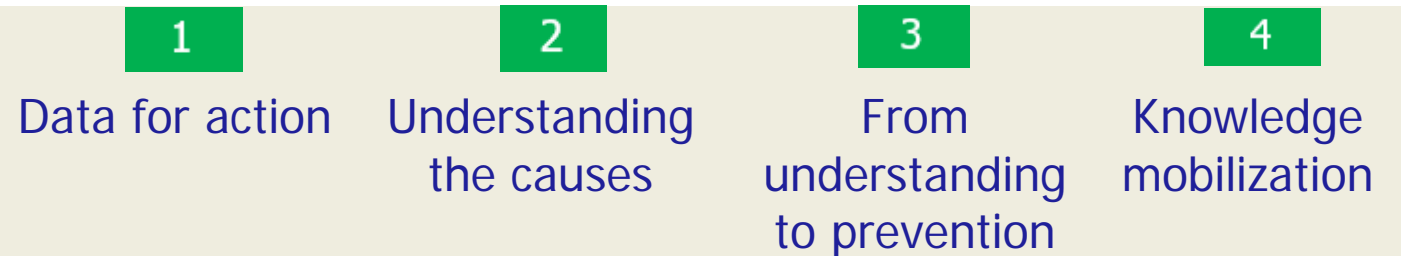
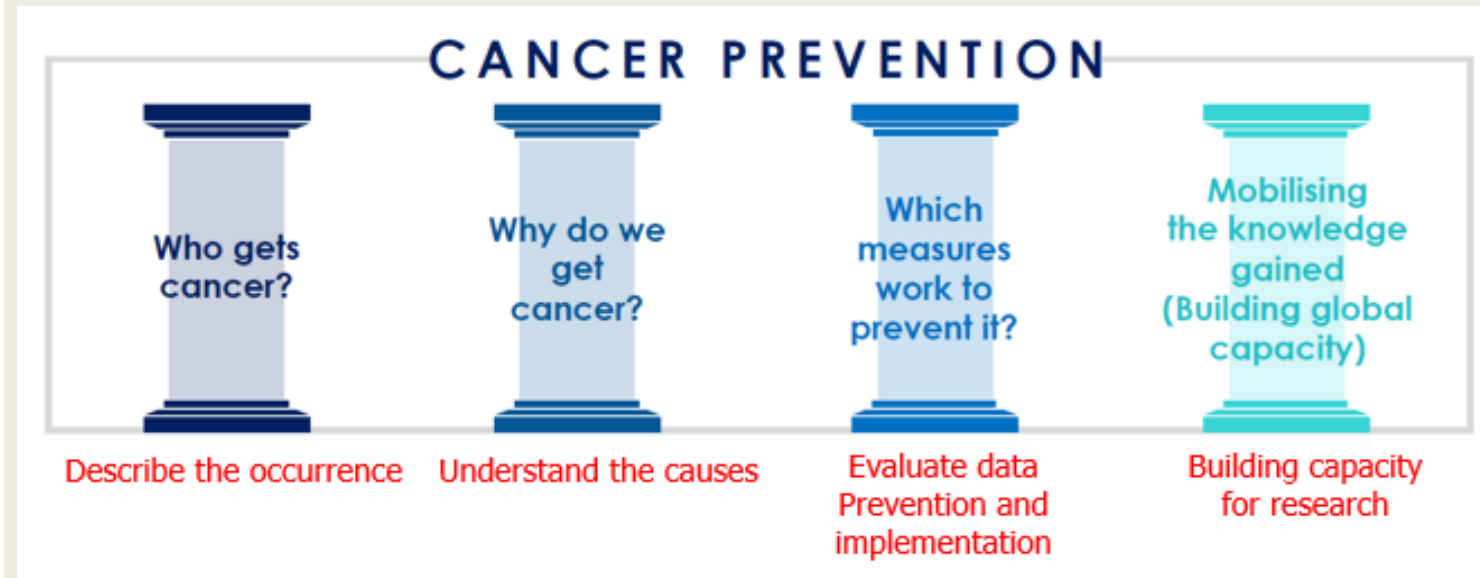
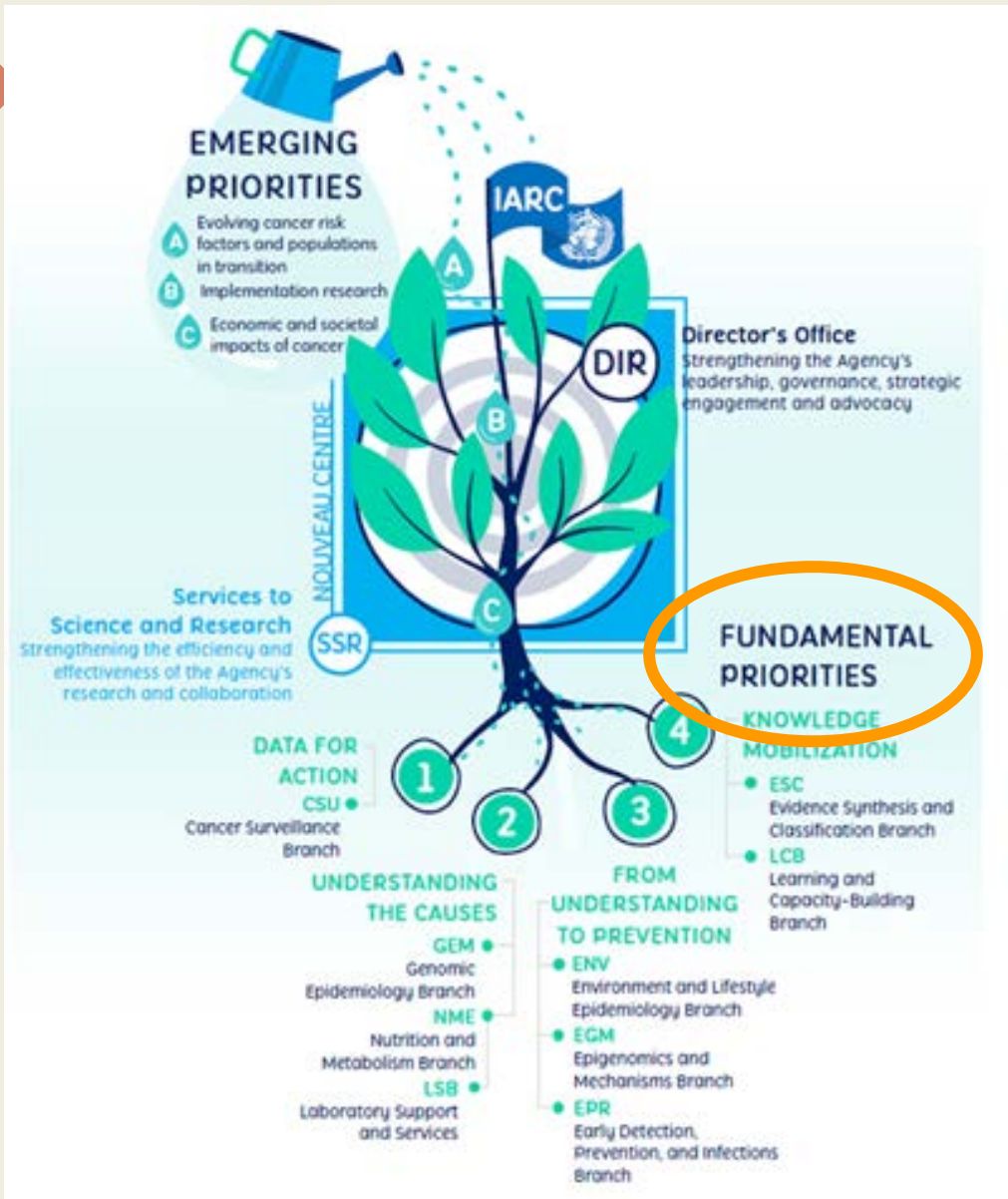
### OBJECTIVE 5

Strengthening the Agency's leadership, governance, strategic engagement, and advocacy

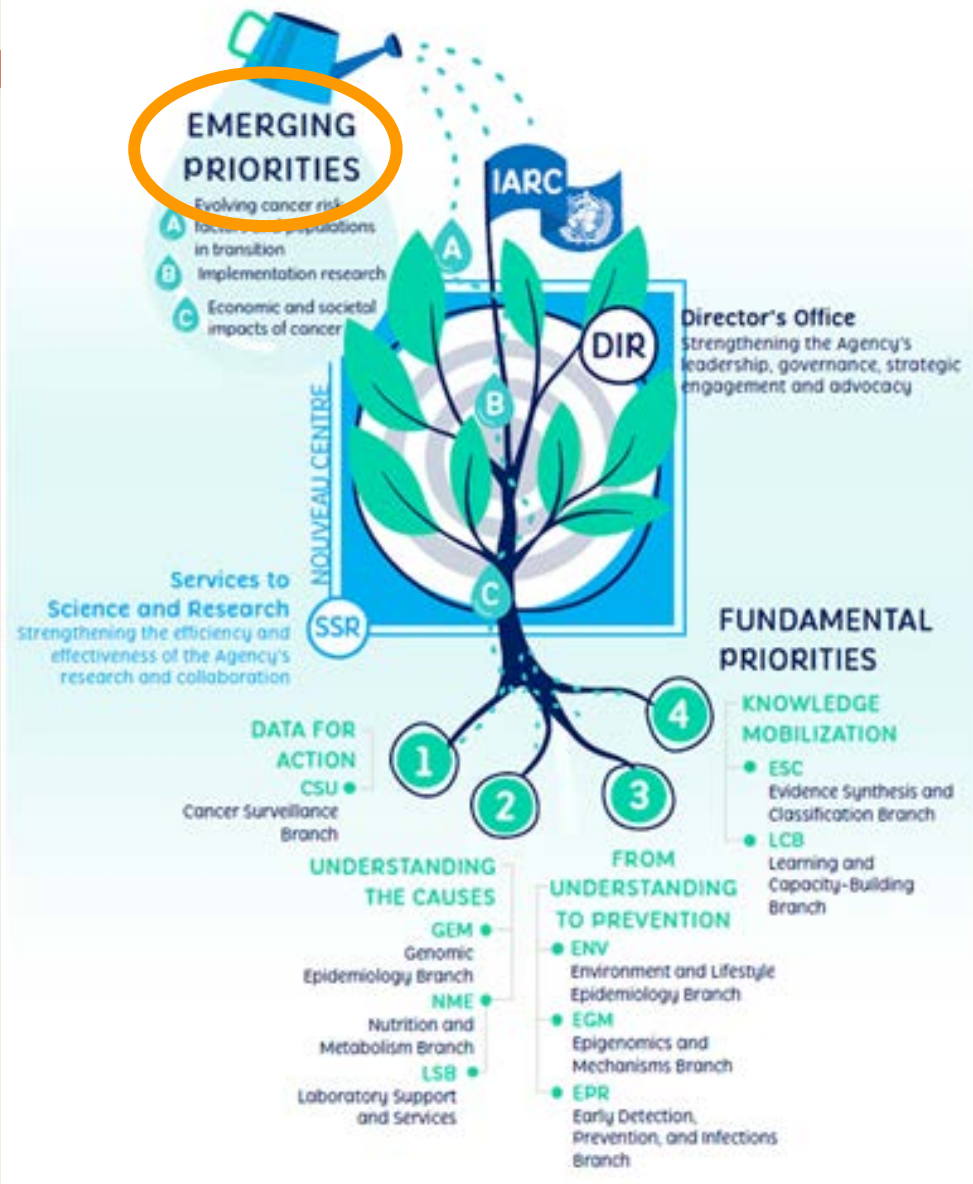
### OBJECTIVE 6

Strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency's research and collaboration

# IARC Medium-Term strategy 2021-2025



# IARC Medium-Term strategy 2021-2025



Implementation research



Evolving cancer risk factors and populations in transition

Economic and societal impacts of cancer

Document GC/63/6A

[https://events.iarc.who.int/event/29/attachments/67/154/GC63\\_6A\\_MTS\\_2021-2025.pdf](https://events.iarc.who.int/event/29/attachments/67/154/GC63_6A_MTS_2021-2025.pdf)

# Pillar 1 – Data for Action



## Cancer registry support and collaboration

- Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development (GICR)
- Launch of an **e-learning series of 14 modules\***
- **E-NNOVATE partnership** to pilot linkage of electronic medical records to population-based cancer registries
- **3 new IARC–GICR Collaborating Centres in sub-Saharan Africa**



## Disseminating cancer data and statistics

- **Cancer Incidence in Five Continents, Volume XII**
- National estimates (**GLOBOCAN**) of the cancer burden in **185 countries** for **2022**
- New estimates of lung cancer for the main histological subtypes
- Updates of attributable fractions for infection
- Survival estimates



## Descriptive studies

- **IARC COVID-19 and Cancer Initiative**
- International Partnership for Resilience in Cancer Systems
- Assessments of the current and future burden from specific cancer types
- Evidence base for cancer prevention
- Baseline estimates for the WHO global cancer initiatives



## Economic burden of cancer

- Country-specific analyses
- Economic evaluations of preventive strategies
- Economic impact of cancer diagnosis among women (*Lancet Commission on Women, Power, and Cancer*)
- Review of financial hardship in childhood cancer



## Social inequalities and cancer

- Socioeconomic inequalities in cancer mortality across Europe
- Global estimates of the number of maternal orphans due to cancer
- Socioeconomic inequalities in lung cancer in the Nordic countries



## Childhood cancer

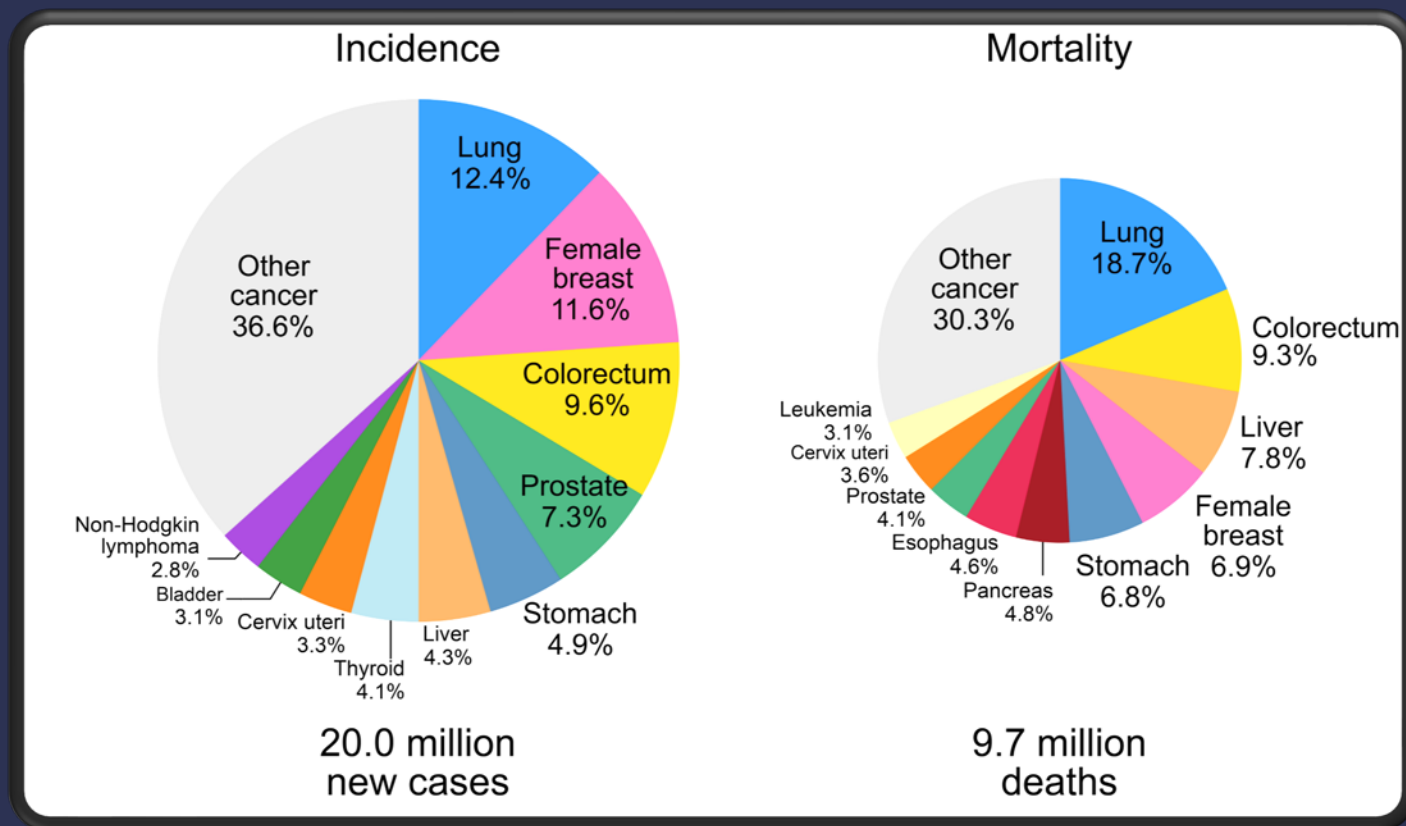
- ChildGICR programme
- International Incidence of Childhood Cancer
- Childhood cancer incidence in Latin America
- International Classification of Childhood Cancer, 3rd edition
- Cancer Risk in Childhood Cancer Survivors

\*In partnership with Vital Strategies and the African Cancer Registry Network (AFCRN) and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies



# GLOBOCAN 2022 estimates launch, January 2024

The distribution of new cases and deaths for the top 10 most common cancers in 2022, both sexes



• 15 January, Geneva

• Launch for permanent missions of IARC's 27 Participating States

• Dedicated factsheets and video messages for each Participating State

• 30 January, Geneva

• WHO/IARC press briefing on the 2022 estimates launch on the Global Cancer Observatory



# Pillar 2 – Understanding the Causes

**IARC Biobank** has **6 million** biological specimens collected worldwide; is running 60 international projects with 250 partners

**DISCERN project** to understand the causes of three poorly understood cancers in Europe

**New early biomarkers** of cancer risk

Mutational signatures of **5** cancers across **5** continents: **Mutographs Grand Challenge project**

**PROMINENT Grand Challenge project** to uncover the main factors and processes that drive the transformation of normal cells into cancer cells

**Rare Cancers Genomics initiative**  
Molecular characterization of rare cancers



**Nutrition- and metabolism-related causes of cancer**

**500 000** participants in the **EPIC study** in **10** European countries, with **10 000** country-specific foods and beverages in the database



Environmental, lifestyle, occupational, and radiation-related causes of cancer



# Pillar 3 – From Understanding to Prevention



- **Global cancer burden attributable to infections**



- **Epigenetic origins and markers of childhood cancer risk**



- **4th edition of European Code Against Cancer**
- **World Code Against Cancer Framework:** an IARC-led collaborative multi-stakeholder initiative to promote cancer prevention globally
- **Launch of 1st edition of Latin America and the Caribbean Code Against Cancer**



- **Implementation research**
  - Effectiveness of **HPV vaccination** on **HPV prevalence** in low- and middle-income countries
  - **ENIGMA and GISTAR studies** to implement evidence-based preventive interventions in gastric cancer
  - Effectiveness of cancer screening
  - New screening algorithms to inform the WHO Guidelines Development Group for cervical cancer screening and treatment
- **CanScreen5:** screening programmes from 84 countries in 2023
- Efficacy and safety of thermal ablation and cryotherapy for cervical precancers
- **ABC-DO African breast cancer cohort:** ample insights into survival gaps for breast cancer in Africa

# Pillar 4 – Knowledge Mobilization

## **IARC Monographs Programme**

- 5 Working Group meetings (Volumes 131–135) and 2 Scientific Workshops
- 19 classifications: 7 agents never before evaluated by IARC, and re-evaluations of 12 agents

## **IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention Programme**

- Volume 19 (Oral Cancer Prevention)
- Volume 20A (Reduction or Cessation of Alcoholic Beverage Consumption)
- Volume 20B (Alcohol Control Policies) in preparation

## **WHO Classification of Tumours Programme**

Published in print:

- *Central Nervous System Tumours*, 5th edition (2022)
- *Urinary and Male Genital Tumours*, 5th edition (2022)
- *Paediatric Tumours*, 5th edition (2023)
- *WHO Reporting System for Lung Cytopathology*, 1st edition (2023)
- *WHO Reporting System for Pancreaticobiliary Cytopathology*, 1st edition (2023)

As beta versions online:

- Head and Neck Tumours*, 5th edition
- Endocrine Tumours*, 5th edition
- Haematolymphoid Tumours*, 5th edition
- Skin Tumours*, 5th edition
- Eye and Orbit Tumours*, 5th edition
- Genetic Tumour Syndromes*, 5th edition



# Pillar 4 – Training and E-learning

- **281** Early Career and Visiting Scientists from
- **65** different countries hosted at IARC during 2022-2023

IARC Summer School 2023 online and face-to-face sessions at the new IARC headquarters building in Lyon:

- **36** participants from
- **26** countries

Annual IARC-GICR Summer School with the National Cancer Center of the Republic of Korea held virtually in 2022 and in person in 2023

- **9** IARC Postdoctoral Fellowships awarded to candidates from low- and middle-income countries
- **2** Fellowships on paediatric cancers (agreement with Children with Cancer UK)
- **26** training courses and webinars targeting low- and middle-income countries in 2022

Collaborative development of the WHO Academy's Learning Experience Platform (LXP)

## IARC World Cancer Report Updates Learning Platform

- **8** live webinars
- **7** self-paced e-learning modules based on the content of the webinars
- **1** immersive and interactive self-paced module on Pollution and Cancer
- **2** modules of a teaching toolkit on Cancer Research for Cancer Prevention



**3836** registered users



from **152** countries

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# IARC Participating States



## IARC 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 Governing Council’s (GC) “Subcommittee on the Admission of New PS”
- Approval by more than 2/3 majority of the GC present and voting



# 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/HQ Director-General (or representative)
  - representatives are appointed by and represent their Governments
- GC **meets at least once per year** in Lyon (*virtual in 2021 and 2022*), usually in May, in the two weeks 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 **one four-year term**
- Meets once per year in Lyon (*virtual in 2021, 2022 and 2023*), in late January/February
- Specific tasks/responsibilities:
  - periodic evaluation of the Agency's activities (participating in the peer-review of Branches)
  - 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 (MTS) and its evaluation
- Scientific Council members can **brief their Governing Council members – advocacy role**
- Scientific Council members can **advise Governing Council members on their replacement**

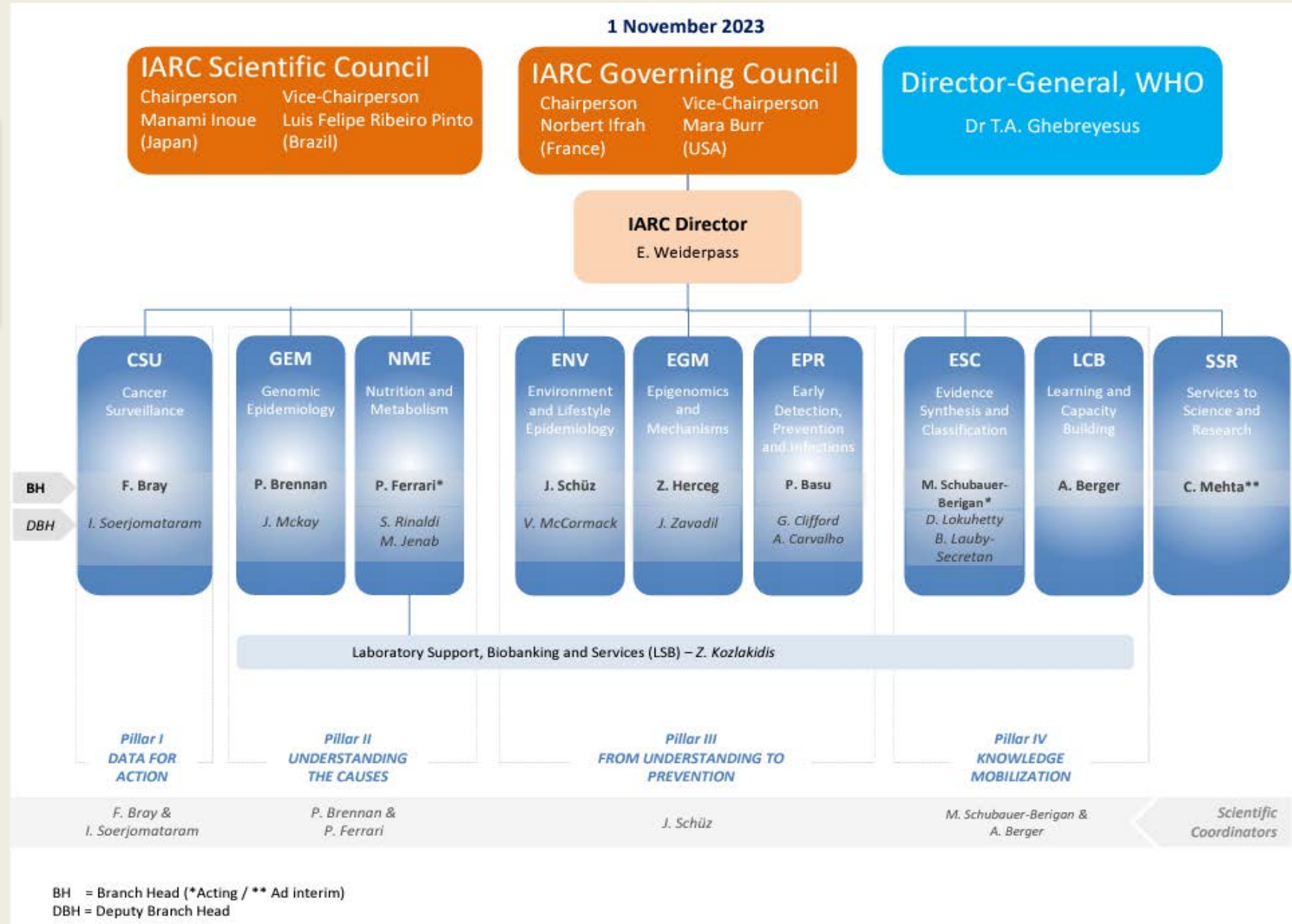
# IARC Director

- **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)

## Organizational structure:

- 4 Pillars
- 8 scientific Branches
- 1 administrative/operations Branch



# Review of IARC scientific activities

## Two complementary levels of review:

### I - Peer-review of Branches

- Primary mechanism for evaluating the scientific quality of the outputs of individual Branches
- Assesses the alignment of the programmes of the Branches 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 Medium-Term Strategy

- 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 Branch structure

# Scientific Peer-Review Process

- The objective is to conduct a detailed review of the scientific activities of each IARC Branch 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 Branch reviewed approx. every 5 years (2 Branches 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 Branch 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 (PS)

- RB approved for the **biennium 2024-2025** is **€48 683 313**
- RB covers core staff and operational costs, and a modest non-staff budget

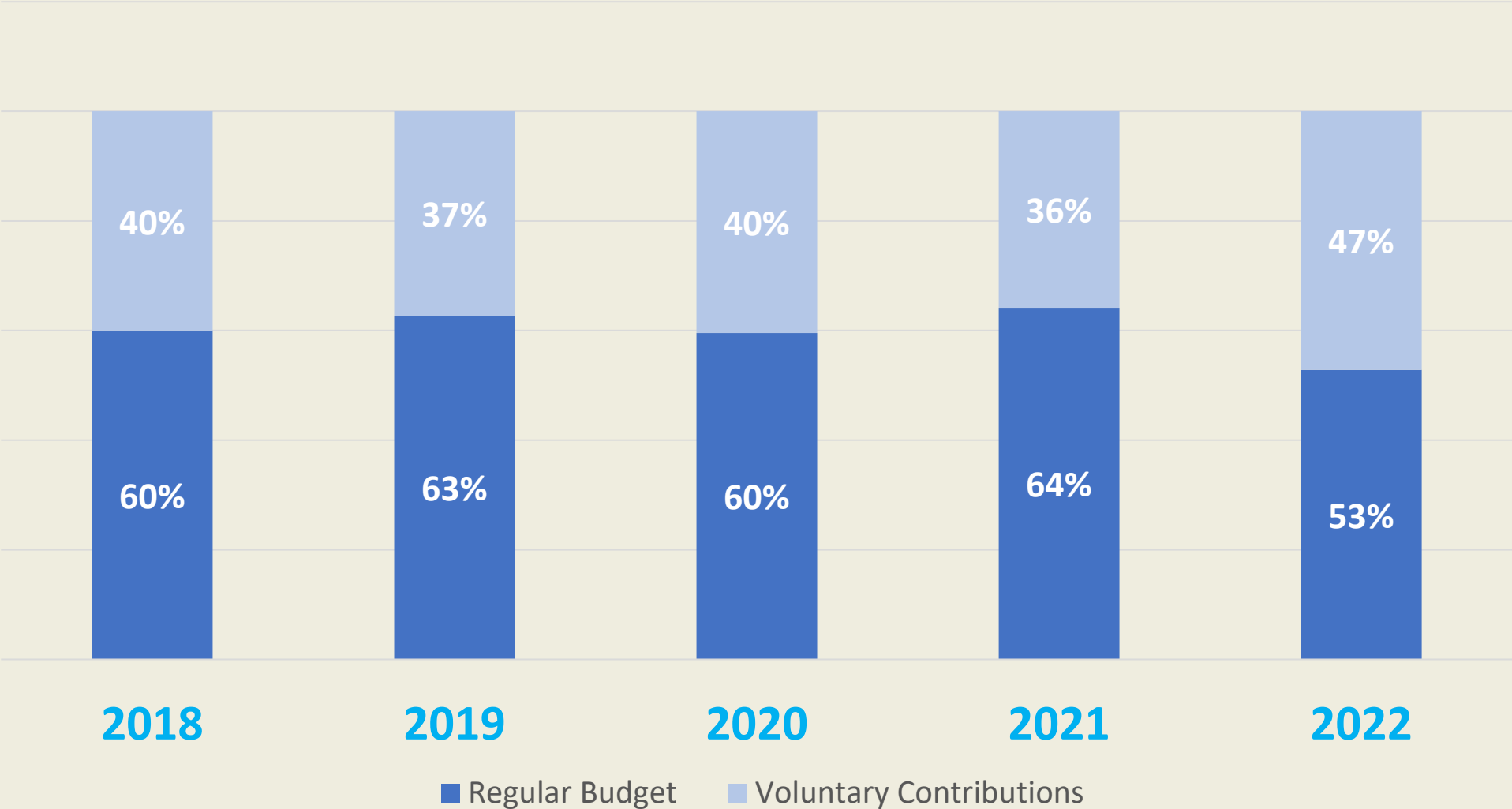
**Extrabudgetary sources** – mainly from:

- **Voluntary Contributions** – from competitive grants, direct contributions and donations (*main donors: European Commission, NIH USA, INCa France, MRC, BMGF, World Cancer Research Fund, Cancer Research UK ...*)
- **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 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 two years (*Fin. Reg. Article 4.3*)
- All PS make a similar contribution/voice, ensuring equity in decision making

# Expenditure financed from Voluntary Contributions compared to Regular Budget



# A New Building for IARC



The International Agency for Cancer Research (IARC) inaugurated its new building in Lyon on 12 May in the presence of the Governing Council, dignitaries from Participating States, and the principal funders of the project.

*Merci beaucoup Minister François Braun for France's support and for being home to @IARCWHO. We value our partnership and all the efforts to put science at the heart of health policies around the world. Together! Dr Tedros*

*Honoré d'avoir inauguré à Lyon le nouveau siège du Centre international de recherche sur le cancer (CIRC) de l'OMS. Grâce à de meilleures capacités de recherche et de coopération scientifique internationale, nous pourrons mieux prévenir cette maladie partout dans le monde. François Braun, Ministre de la Santé*

**The fund-raising campaign raised over 1,6 M€ for the New Building**

**11 500 m2 and 500 workstations**

# A “Nouveau Centre” for new ambitions



## NEW BEGINNING

Located in the Lyon Gerland-Biodistrict area of Lyon, the Nouveau Centre opened its doors on 2 January 2023 (moving October-December 2022). As the IARC’s new flagship premises, it will become a central element of the agency’s identity. A Nouveau Centre for a renewed IARC.

## ‘OPEN SCIENCE’

The culture of the Nouveau Centre is centred on ‘openness’. This will be promoted through open days, conferences and events, expanded biobank access to national and international partners, etc, Thus giving an opportunity for the IARC to interact with a broader public.

## STRATEGIC LOCATION

Strategically located, its proximity with other key players in the field of global health, like the WHO Academy, both national and international, will increase not only collaborations but also the IARC’s visibility.

## COLLABORATIVE SPACE

A modern building with state of the art infrastructure, the Nouveau Centre will become a space to host world renowned scientists, experiments and innovative projects; flagship events and conferences as well as bring together multi-sectoral donors, influencers and ambassadors. An opportunity to position IARC’s excellence

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## Effective safeguard of IARC reputation

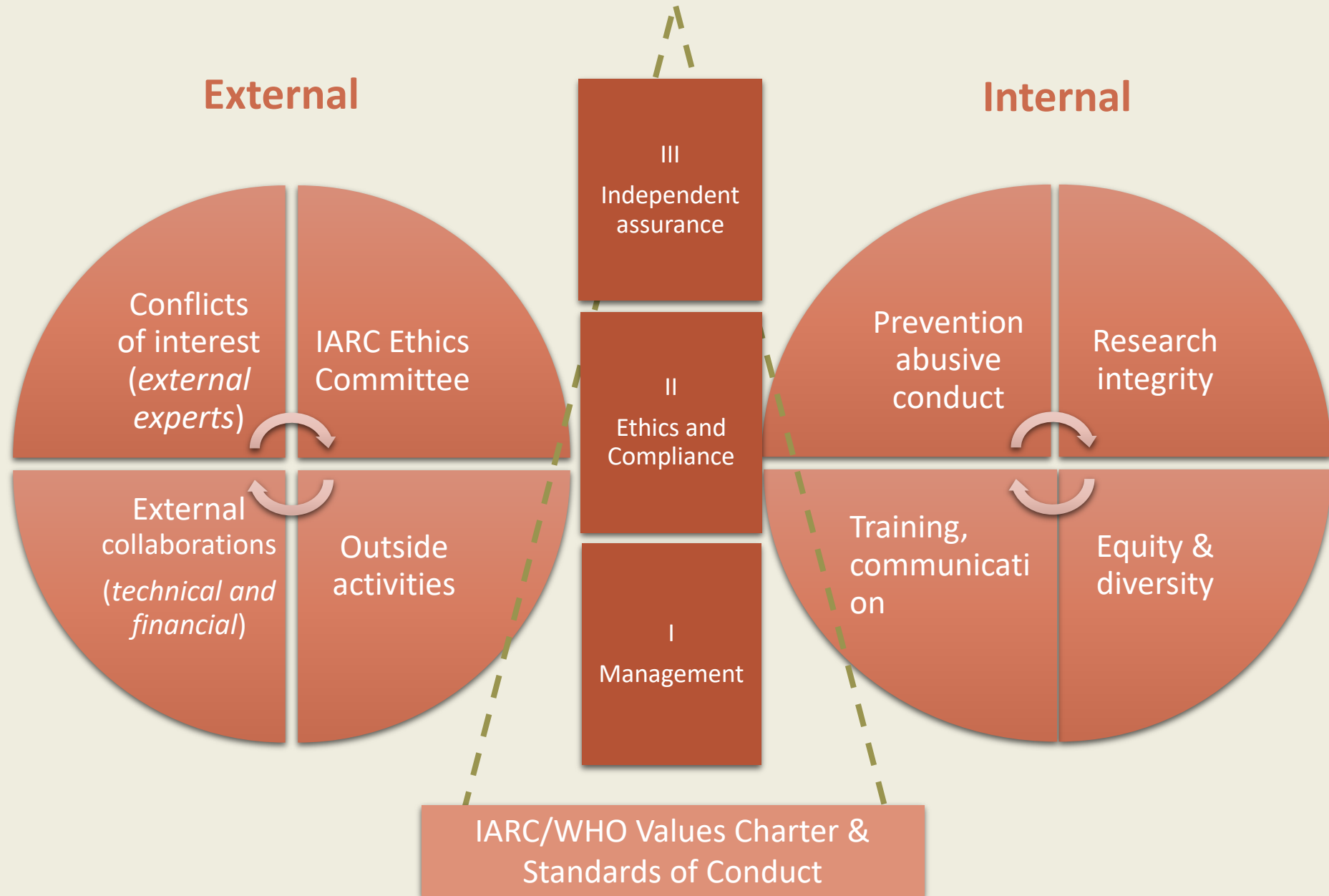
- ❖ **IARC Reputation:** credibility, objectivity, trust
- ❖ Quality of our work and collaborations
- ❖ Alignment of decisions with IARC's culture and mandate

# Main components

- **IARC/WHO Values Charter & Standards of Conduct**
- **Mitigation of reputational risk:**
  - External experts and engagements with non-state-actors
  - IARC Ethics Committee on research
  - Data protection
  - Research integrity
  - Resolution channels
  - Communication, mandatory trainings, initiatives
  - Regular update of policies and procedures
- **Independent and objective assurance** on the adequacy and effectiveness and to set directions:
  - Scientific Council, Governing Council
  - Internal audit



# Three lines model to achieve organizational objectives



# Data protection at IARC

IARC works continuously, in collaboration with WHO, on **strengthening our data protection framework** integrating new developments and internationally recognized standards

The IARC **Data Protection Officer** was appointed in January 2022

The IARC **Data Protection General Awareness training** is mandatory for all personnel to be taken every year

The **IARC Data Protection Policy**, was published on our public website in 2021, has been widely shared with our collaborators and is well received

**Sharing of data** with our collaborators via our **Scientific IT Platform**, in accordance with internationally recognized standards (*the initial pilot phase has been successful*)

**Solutions** were found for several data protection challenges **ensuring scientific collaboration**;

Continued **collaboration** with the EC, EDPS, several networks of International Organizations and data protection authorities to **work on long-term solutions to simplify data sharing**

# Thank you

International Agency  
for Research on Cancer

