

IARC COMMUNICATIONS (COM)

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THE COMMUNICATIONS (COM) GROUP FORMS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENTATION OF A HOMOGENEOUS IMAGE OF ALL ASPECTS OF IARC WORK TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, THE MEDIA, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AS WELL AS PROVIDING A SERVICE TO THE RESEARCH GROUPS IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO INFORMATION.

PUBLICATIONS/EDITING SERVICE

The COM Group assists all scientific Groups in disseminating their research results by providing editorial support and guidance, including publication of articles, papers and op-ed pieces in international scientific journals, supported by graphic services, both for illustrations of publications and posters, and for the layout of the finished print-ready products. The Editor takes an active part in the preparation of manuscripts for submission of scientific papers, as well as for volumes in the book production series. He now also forms part of the faculty of the IARC Summer School, and has developed a courses on writing journal articles, annual reports, poster presentations and abstracts. In the future these classes may be offered to all IARC trainees in addition to Summer School students.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF IARC PUBLICATIONS

Since the dissemination of IARC publications was passed on to our parent Organization in 2006, the agreement that governed IARC's relations with WHO Press was renegotiated in 2009, thus rejuvenating the Publications program and enabling it to fund sustained efforts, particularly in the areas of the WHO Classification of Tumours ("Blue Books") series, which remain the Agency's best-sellers, and are among the top-selling titles for WHO Press. Further, a new mechanism agreed by the Governing Council now allows a larger share of the revenue from the sale of IARC publications to be transferred back into the program. In addition, the agreed re-establishment of the Advisory Committee on Publications, with terms of reference updated to reflect the new strategic vision set forth for the Agency from 2009, was given priority for managing and planning publications projects in the longer term.

NEW IARC PUBLICATIONS

The Agency published a number of publications under the IARC imprint in the period under review:

- One digital aide for diagnosis, by the IARC Screening Group: *Digital Manual for the Early Diagnosis of Oral Neoplasia* (IARC, 2008);
- the second volume of the **WHO Classification of Tumours, Fourth Edition** (2008) (*Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues*);
- two **Working Group Reports** (Volume 5, *Vitamin D and Cancer* (IARC, 2008) and *IARC Code of Good Scientific Practice* (IARC, 2008));
- the **World Cancer Report 2008** (IARC, 2008);
- one new volume in the **IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans** (Vol. 97, *1,3-Butadiene, Ethylene Oxide and Vinyl Halides (Vinyl Fluoride, Vinyl Chloride and Vinyl Bromide)* (IARC, 2008));
- one **IARC Scientific Publication** (*Atlas of Cancer Mortality in the European Union and the European Economic Area, 1993-1997* (IARC, 2008));
- and two volumes of the **IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention**, entitled *Methods for Evaluating Tobacco Control Policies* (IARC, 2008) —Volume 12— and *Evaluating the Effectiveness of Smoke-free Policies* (IARC, 2009) —Volume 13.

A number of these titles have been posted on the IARC website in digital format, either coinciding with their print publication or shortly thereafter (see <http://www.iarc.fr/en/publications/pdfs-online/>). In addition, a major overhaul of *Cancer Incidence in Five Continents, Volume IX* was undertaken early in 2009 to correct a large number of errors in the initial print run. The reprinted title and its pdf version have now been available since mid-2009.

WEB SERVICES

The COM Group maintains the Agency's bilingual internet site. It has become clear that modern knowledge sharing and transfer should rest on modern communications technology, mostly

web-based. In this area also, 2009 has seen a major and very quick overhaul of the IARC facilities. More publications are now accessible through the main website, while a number of ancillary websites are being developed with other Groups in-house. The IARC website is the core of the Agency's outward communications effort, and should move into a content management system architecture in the near future.

The Group also manages the Intranet service, which provides staff with many administrative resources, and maintains several central databases for the Personnel and Finance offices. From early on in 2009, it was assessed that these large efforts, which are expected to carry over into the next biennium and beyond, called for additional human resources, and a professional webmaster position was advertised in the fourth quarter of 2009.

PUBLIC AND MEDIA RELATIONS

The Public Relations Service ensures relations between the Agency and the media, writing and distributing press releases, and organising press conferences. By means of a database of media contacts around the world, the service dispatches press releases to about 3500 e-mail addresses, press agencies, individual journalists and decision-makers. The impact of this effort is evident from the news coverage raised by several releases over the biennium that made headlines around the world. This service coordinates the issue of press releases on new evaluations within the Monographs programme with publication of a summary in the *Lancet Oncology Policy Watch* section, which offers the Agency a regular tribune for independent and transparent results.

LIBRARY

The Library supports the information and research needs of IARC scientists through a wide range of electronic resources, a traditional print library collection, and by providing responsive, user-centred reference and instructional services. Desktop access to electronic information is facilitated by participation in resource-sharing and collaborative programmes with the WHO Library and Information

Networks for Knowledge. The Library's Intranet website is the gateway for the delivery of information services and resources to the IARC community, and it too is being redesigned to accommodate more functionality and respond to growing needs of modern research. This provides access to the library catalogue, electronic journals, databases, electronic reference resources and document delivery services. The IARC Library also responds to external needs by providing reciprocal services to specialised libraries in Lyon and by welcoming reference enquiries from the public.

In 2009 the Library led a reflection on the nature and definition of Key Performance Indicators, and on the way these can relate to the new Medium-term Strategy for the Agency and what is expected of IARC's research as accountability and sustainability are of increasing relevance and importance to Participating States.

TRANSLATION

The Translation Service provides translations from English to French of all official documents of the Governing Council and Scientific Council of IARC, as well as articles, technical documents, correspondence, memoranda and other texts for all the scientific and administrative Groups. It also organises successful language courses in both working languages for the Agency's staff, as well as administering the United Nations language proficiency examinations.

IARC EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Dr P. Boffetta, Responsible Officer, Fellowship and Courses Programme (until August 2009)

Dr Z. Herceg, Responsible Officer, Fellowship Programme (from September 2009)

Miss M. Heanue, Coordinator, Courses Programme

Mrs E. El Akroud, Assistant, Fellowships

Mrs S. Anthony, Assistant, Courses Programme

ONE OF THE STATUTORY FUNCTIONS OF THE AGENCY IN ITS MISSION TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT OF ALL PHASES OF CANCER RESEARCH IS THE TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF PERSONNEL. THE AGENCY SEEKS TO ACHIEVE THIS AIM THROUGH ITS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME AND ITS COURSES PROGRAMME, WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF CANCER RESEARCH AND PREVENTION IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON LOW- AND MEDIUM-RESOURCE COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THOSE IN WHICH SUCH WORK IS NOT WELL ESTABLISHED, AND TO TRAIN FUTURE COLLABORATORS IN THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME OF THE AGENCY.

IARC RESEARCH TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS

The aim of this programme is to provide young scientists with training in a research Group at the Agency in aspects of cancer research ranging from biostatistics and epidemiology to environmental chemical carcinogenesis and mechanisms of carcinogenesis, so that they can return to their own country to implement and develop programmes in cancer research or cancer control. The fellowships are especially intended for scientists from low- and medium-resource countries or for scientists from other countries with projects of benefit to low- and medium-resource countries. Heavy demand means there is strong competition, and fellows are chosen by a selection committee of both IARC and external scientists.

Postdoctoral Fellowships

In the 2008-2009 biennial period, postdoctoral fellowships were awarded to junior scientists from Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and Thailand. Postdoctoral fellowships are awarded for one year, and can be extended for a second year pending satisfactory performance. A small grant towards starting a collaborative research project is awarded to selected fellows upon completion of their fellowship. Since 2004, when the programme was restructured to focus on low- and medium-resource countries, 46 fellowships have been awarded, 39% to scientists in the field of epidemiology and 65% to scientists from Asian countries.



*Master's/PhD Fellowships
(up to four years)*

Two PhD fellowships were awarded in 2008, to a junior scientist from Jordan, under joint supervision with the University of Glasgow, UK, and to a junior scientist from the People's Republic of China, under joint supervision with Innsbruck University, Austria.

The Italian Association for Cancer Research continued its generous support of the Fellowships Programme and an application for funding from the EC- FP7 Marie Curie Actions - People - COFUND programme was successful.

EXPERTISE TRANSFER FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship is to enable an established and experienced investigator to spend from six to twelve months in an appropriate host institute in a low-to medium-resource country in order to transfer knowledge and expertise in a research area relevant to the host country and related to the Agency's programme. In 2008, the fellowship was awarded

to Professor Robert J. Biggar (State Serum Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark, formerly National Cancer Institute Viral Epidemiology Branch, Bethesda, MD, USA) to spend a total of eight months in the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India.

VISITING SCIENTIST AWARD

No Award was made in 2008. In 2009 the Award was given to Professor Julian Peto (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK) to spend six months in the Infections and Cancer Epidemiology Group and to Professor David B. Richardson (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA) to spend six months jointly in the Biostatistics Group and in the Radiation Group.

TRAINEES, STUDENTS, POSTDOCS AND SENIOR VISITING SCIENTISTS AT IARC

It is part of the Agency's mission to provide education and training in the field of cancer research, as well as to provide appropriately qualified persons with training and experience in cancer

research and related support areas at IARC in positions that provide some complementary support to the Agency's activities. With that in mind, in addition to the fellowship programme, IARC welcomes a substantial number of trainees, master's/doctoral students, technical students, postdocs and visiting scientists each year (between 80 and 100), who come with either outside funds or who are funded in part or in total by the Agency.

In the future, IARC will place more emphasis on developing an integrated and expanded programme of education and training, and these activities will include the strengthening of the Fellowships Programme. Young scientists from high-income countries will be encouraged to devote a career to international cancer research, which can complement the direct training of researchers from these regions. To this end, IARC will seek partnerships with other providers in order to maximise its contribution without duplication of effort and resources.

The main activity of the courses programme has been the IARC Summer School, organised in Lyon, which has been supplemented by specialised courses outside Lyon.

*IARC Summer School on Cancer Epidemiology, Lyon, France
2-27 June 2008 and 15 June-3 July 2009*

The IARC Summer School has continued to evolve since its introduction in 2005. The programme is advertised toward the end of each year and has recorded up to 250 applications. About one half of the suitable candidates are retained on the basis of their background, their involvement in cancer research and the potential benefit of the training for their own institute and country. Participation is possible in one or more modules, depending on interest and expertise of the applicants and availability of resources.

In 2008 the basic programme remained the same; the first module on Cancer Registration, and the second module a 2-week course on Introduction to Cancer Epidemiology. There was also an advanced module on Methodological Issues in the Design and Analysis of Gene and Environment Studies.

There were a total of 81 participants from 41 different countries: Albania (1), Algeria (1), Argentina (2), Austria (1), Brazil (6), Bulgaria (1), Canada (1), China (5), Egypt (2), Estonia (1), Finland (1), France (1), Germany (2), Gambia (1), India (5), Indonesia (1), Iran (1), Ireland (1), Italy (7), Jordan (2), Malaysia (1), Nepal (1), the Netherlands (3), Nicaragua (1), Pakistan (1), Peru (2), the Philippines (1), Poland (2), Seychelles (2), Singapore (2), Spain (1), Sri Lanka (2), Sudan (2), Sweden (1), Syria (1), Taiwan, China (1), Thailand (2), Turkey (4), United Kingdom (1), USA (4), Vietnam (2) and Yemen (1).

Forty-one participants were from low- and medium-resource countries, and 36 received partial or full financial support. IARC participants originated from 12 countries: Algeria, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Netherland,

Pakistan, Poland, Sweden, Taiwan, China and the USA.

In 2009 only the first module on Cancer Registration, and the second module, a two-week course on Introduction to Cancer Epidemiology, were offered.

There were a total of 54 participants from 35 different countries: Australia (1), Austria (2), Bahrain (1), Barbados (1), Belarus (1), Brazil (4), Bulgaria (1), Cameroon (1), Chile (1), China (3), India (8), Iran (1), Italy (1), DPR Korea (2), Republic of Korea (1), Lithuania (1), Malaysia (1), Mongolia (1), Netherlands (2), Nigeria (1), Peru (1), the Philippines (1), Romania (1), Serbia (1), Slovakia (1), South Africa (1), Sri Lanka (1), Sweden (1), Switzerland (3), Tanzania (1), Thailand (4), Togo (1), Turkey (1) and Vietnam (1).

Twenty-seven participants were from low- and medium-resource countries, and 23 received partial or full financial support. IARC participants originated from 9 countries: Belarus, Brazil, Cameroon, China, India, Iran, Mongolia, the Netherlands and Thailand.

Financial support for these courses was received from the U.S. National Cancer Institute, the European Commission (through the ECNIS Network of Excellence), the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Alliance for Cervical Cancer Prevention and various WHO Regional Offices.

International Course on Introduction to Cancer Registration and its Application to Cancer Epidemiology, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 22 to 27 September 2008

This course, developed specifically for cancer registry staff, was held in conjunction with National Cancer Center of the Republic of Korea. The aim was to provide an intensive introduction to the methodology of cancer registration and the use of cancer registry data, and to provide instruction in the epidemiological methods that are appropriate to this purpose. Priority was given to participants from Asia and the Pacific.

There were 29 participants from 12 countries (Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, New Caledonia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam).

International Course on Introduction to Cancer Registration and its Application to Cancer Epidemiology, Beijing, People's Republic of China, 14 to 18 September 2009

This course was held in conjunction with the Cancer Institute of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CICAMS), with aims similar to those of the course held in 2008 in Korea. There were 34 participants from four different countries (China, Mongolia, the Philippines and Vietnam).

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION OFFICE (SCO)

UNTIL EARLY 2009, THE SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION OFFICE (SCO) WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATION OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEES (THE IARC INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD AND THE ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE), SPECIFICALLY ARRANGING FOR REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE TWO COMMITTEES, WITH LOGISTICS ASSISTANCE FROM THE DOCUMENTS OFFICE. SCO ALSO LIAISED WITH THE IARC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL, SUPERVISED THE GRANTS OFFICE AND MAINTAINED RELATIONS WITH CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPATING STATES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS. DURING 2009 THE SUPPORT STRUCTURES TO THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE WERE RESTRUCTURED AND THE SCO WAS ABOLISHED, BEING REPLACED BY DEVOLVED RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHER STAFF.

The two-tiered ethical review structure introduced in 2005 improved operational procedures and documentation of the ethical review process but, as noted in the Director's introductory remarks, it consumed considerable resources, and thus it was transformed into a single Institutional Review Board following consultation with the Scientific and Governing Councils of the Agency and others. The new single-body Institutional Review Board for 2010 will have an independent Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, three Agency staff members, and seven members from other bodies including the WHO Research Ethics Review Committee, and including members from low- and middle-income countries.

In addition, in order to save valuable resources, new videoconferencing facilities were installed at the Agency in 2009, enabling members to participate in the meetings more fully and increase the diversity of expertise within the Board. A small ad hoc group of international experts will be appointed, with whom the Board may consult occasionally on issues deemed to be beyond its own expertise.

The IARC Grants Office (IGO), previously a part of SCO and now supervised by the DAF, is dedicated to supporting IARC researchers in securing external grants. In this regard, it acts as a liaison between IARC and funding agencies, and supports researchers in their competitive bids. To this aim, a dedicated grants office intranet site with a range of information on funders and deadlines has been developed and a newsletter service put in place that reminds scientists about upcoming deadlines of relevant funders dedicated to cancer research. IGO has set up a central repository of all information on grants as from 1 January 2003. This information is available to all staff through the intranet, and it is planned to display some of the information on the IARC external web site in the near future. IGO offers materials for grant writing including books, articles and hyperlinks, and runs a series of general and specialized workshops on grant writing. In addition, the grants office has been established as the focal point to ensure compliance with necessary registrations and miscellaneous funder requirements. As regards individualised services, IGO now offers funding opportunity analyses that are carried out with a particular project idea in mind. Several applications have been submitted in the recent past following this targeted approach. Finally, researchers at IARC will find help with externally funded projects on any issue that might arise in regards to application

procedures and forms, eligibility criteria, negotiations of grant or consortium agreements, project transfers or periodic and final reports.

THE GAMBIA HEPATITIS INTERVENTION STUDY

INITIATED IN 1986, THE GAMBIA HEPATITIS INTERVENTION STUDY (GHIS) IS A JOINT ENDEAVOUR OF IARC, THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF THE UK AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA, AIMED AT ASSESSING THE PROTECTIVE EFFICACY OF INFANT HEPATITIS B VIRUS (HBV) VACCINATION OF INFANTS AGAINST CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE AND LIVER CANCER IN ADULTS. THE GAMBIA, IN WEST AFRICA, IS A COUNTRY OF HIGH ENDEMICITY FOR CHRONIC HBV CARRIAGE. CONTAMINATION OF THE DIET BY AFLATOXIN, A CARCINOGENIC MYCOTOXIN, IS WIDESPREAD. THESE TWO FACTORS HAVE A SYNERGISTIC EFFECT ON THE RISK OF HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA (HCC).



Childhood vaccination in The Gambia

The design of this trial is based on the long-term follow-up of a cohort of 125 000 subjects born between 1986 and 1990, the four years of progressive introduction of HB vaccination in the country. The main instrument for follow-up is the National Cancer Registry. Based on current data, we foresee that the final outcome of this trial will be measurable between 2015 and 2020.

Over the past two years, efforts have concentrated on improving the detection and diagnosis of cancer disease (with particular focus on chronic liver diseases and liver cancer) and on assessing the

long-term immunity against HBV in vaccinated adolescents. A large cross-sectional study in the GHIS cohort has shown that although protection against HBV infection has decreased, the protection against acquisition of the carrier status, the risk factor for HCC, remains remarkably high. In addition, a survey of those vaccinated since 1990 shows that the Government vaccination programme has reduced the prevalence of carriage to less than 1% in those under five years of age. The surveys are compatible with a significant reduction of the burden of chronic liver diseases in the forthcoming years.

Current work focuses on developing operational protocols for identifying vaccinated subjects through record linkage strategies using the vaccination database developed between 1986 and 1990. Research priorities concentrate on the study of the natural history of liver cancer, and in particular on the assessment of the role of cirrhosis as a precursor disease in early cancer. In the long term, we plan to develop interventions aimed at improving early diagnosis, controlling viral replication in chronically infected subjects, managing chronic liver disease and, whenever feasible, proposing appropriate treatment to liver cancer patients.

The study was moved from the Cluster on Pathology and Prevention to the Director's Office in 2009 in order to place increased priority on this flagship project. The Governing Council in May 2009 agreed additional support to permit recruitment of a clinician (hepatologist) to provide leadership to the project in The Gambia during the next critical phase.

ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE (ERC)

IN 2006, A NEW IARC ETHICS REVIEW SYSTEM WAS CREATED WITH TWO DISTINCT COMPONENTS, THE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB) AND THE ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE (ERC).

THE IARC INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)

The IRB met every two months in Lyon for ethical evaluation of all IARC projects. The IRB was composed of nine members, five members from outside the Agency and four from the Agency staff. Its membership for the period of the biennium was as follows:

- Professor Jean-Pierre Boissel, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, Claude Bernard University
- Dr Paul Brennan, Head, Genetic Epidemiology Group, IARC
- Dr Marc Guerrier, Deputy Director, Department of Ethics Research, University Paris 11
- Ambassador Mireille Guigaz (Chair)
- Ms Ghyslaine Martel-Planche, Molecular Carcinogenesis and Biomarkers Group, IARC
- Mr Bernard Pedeux, former Head of Human Resources, COFRADEL Group
- Dr Martyn Plummer, Infections and Cancer Epidemiology Group, IARC
- Dr Pierre-Jean Souquet, Head, Pneumology & Thoracic Oncology Unit, Lyon-Sud Hospital
- Dr Bakary Sylla, Infections and Cancer Biology Group, IARC

THE IARC ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE (ERC)

The ERC was composed of nine senior members from the international community, with the aim of ensuring international consistency and completeness in ethical approval. Its membership for the period of the biennium was as follows:

- Professor Clement Adebamowo (Nigeria), surgeon and bioethicist
- Dr Kazem Behbehani (Kuwait), former Assistant Director-General at WHO/HQ
- Mr David Byrne (Ireland) (Chair), former Commissioner of the European Union
- Professor Ketayun Dinshaw (India), former Director of Tata Memorial Cancer Centre in Mumbai
- Ambassador Mireille Guigaz (France) (Chair, IRB), Ambassador of France to the FAO, former Déléguée Générale of Cancéropôle Lyon-Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- Lord Mackay of Clashfern (United Kingdom), former Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain
- Professor Edith Olah (Hungary), oncologist and President Emeritus of the European Association for Cancer Research (EACR)

- Professor Jae-Gahb Park (Republic of Korea), former President of the Korean National Cancer Center
- Dr Luis Pinillos Ashton (Peru), former Director-General of the Peruvian National Cancer Institute and Minister of Health in Peru

In the period from 2006, the IRB met five to six times per year in Lyon. The ERC met twice per year, with one meeting held in Lyon in conjunction with the IRB meetings and one in one of the WHO Regions. In the current biennium, meetings were held in Mumbai, India (16–17 January 2008) and Dasman, Kuwait (15–16 December 2008), with a joint meeting of the ERC and IRB at IARC on 23–24 June 2008.

During 2008–2009, the IRB met eight times (up to September 2009). During this period, 61 applications were processed. Forty-eight were cleared after ethical review, 8 were requested to be resubmitted, 2 were rejected, 1 was given conditional clearance contingent upon the principal investigator making some modifications before the study began, and 2 were considered not to be within the competence of the IRB (submitted after study completion).



Joint Meeting of the IARC Ethics Review Committee and Institutional Review Board
LYON, 23-24 June 2008



The incoming Director asked the Scientific Council in its 45th Session in 2009 to review the work of the ERC and whether the two-tier system of ethical review was still optimal for the Agency's needs. As a consequence the Scientific Council invited the Director to prepare recommendations to the Governing Council to adapt the ethics review process by establishing a single committee, the IARC Institutional Review Board (IRB) to both:

- provide an ethical evaluation of all IARC projects, and
- ensure international consistency and completeness regarding ethical approval.

This proposal was approved by the Governing Council in May 2009 at its 51st Session. The new Committee will comprise 12 members from diverse backgrounds: an independent chair and vice chair (both external), three members of IARC staff and seven additional

members external to the Agency. Among these it is proposed that one should be from the local cancer research community, one should be a general medical practitioner or senior nurse preferably with experience of practice in an ethnically diverse community, one lay member having no professional experience of science or medicine, one from the WHO Research Ethics Review Committee (WHO ERC), one member with bioethics training, and two members from low- and medium-income countries with backgrounds in science, law or other relevant areas. Recent investment in modern video-conferencing facilities at the Agency will help circumvent the problem of attendance by participants from outside of France.

The appointments to the new IRB will be made by the Chairman of the Governing Council. The new structure will be implemented in January 2010.

IARC GOVERNING COUNCIL AND SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL



THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER (IARC) IS GOVERNED BY ITS OWN GOVERNING BODIES, THE IARC GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE IARC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL.

GOVERNING COUNCIL

IARC's general policy is directed by a Governing Council, composed of the Director-General of the World Health Organization and Representatives of the Participating States. It meets every year in ordinary session in Lyon, usually the week prior to the WHO World Health Assembly. The Council elected Dr Christopher Wild in May 2008, to serve a five-year term; he took office on January 1, 2009. The Chairperson of the Governing Council prepares the meetings together with the Secretariat, and advises the Director throughout the year.

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

The Scientific Council consists of highly qualified scientists selected on the basis of their technical competence in cancer research and allied fields. Members of the Scientific Council are appointed as experts and not as representatives of Participating States. When a vacancy arises on the Scientific Council, the Participating State that nominated the departing member may nominate up to two experts to replace that member.

Scientific Council members are appointed for four-year terms by the Governing Council. The Scientific Council reviews the scientific activities of the Agency and makes recommendations on its programme of permanent activities and priorities. The Scientific Council meets every year in ordinary session in late January-early February.

BUDGET

For the biennium 2008–2009, the IARC Governing Council voted a regular budget of US\$ 44 751 000. Of this, 75.42% was allocated to research programmes. A number of projects are also funded by extrabudgetary sources, both national and international. In the 2006–2007 biennium, 34.25% of the Agency's overall expenditure was financed by extrabudgetary funds.

PARTICIPATING STATES AND REPRESENTATIVES AT IARC GOVERNING COUNCILS

FIFTIETH SESSION, 14–16 MAY 2008

NORWAY

Dr Lars E. Hanssen, Chairperson
The Norwegian Board of Health
Oslo

Ms Henrietta Blankson
The Research Council of Norway
Oslo

FINLAND

Professor Pekka Puska,
Vice-Chairperson
National Public Health Institute
Helsinki

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN

AND NORTHERN IRELAND
Dr Mark Palmer, Rapporteur
Medical Research Council
London

AUSTRALIA

Dr Julie Hall
Department of Health and Ageing
Canberra

AUSTRIA

Dr Hemma Bauer
Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and
Research
Vienna

BELGIUM

Ms Leen Meulenbergs
SPF Santé publique, Sécurité de la
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CANADA

Dr Sylvie Stachenko
Public Health Agency of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

Mr Nick Previsich
International Affairs Directorate
Health Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

Dr Philip E. Branton
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DENMARK

Professor Herman Autrup
University of Aarhus
Aarhus

FRANCE

Madame Pascale Flamant
Institut national du Cancer (INCa)
Boulogne-Billancourt

M. Eric Postaire
Direction générale de la Recherche et
de l'Innovation
Ministère de la Recherche
Paris

Dr Rosemary Ancelle-Park
Ministère de la Santé et des Solidarités
Paris

Mme Natacha Tolstoï
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
Paris

Madame Brigitte Guillemette
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INDIA

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Nations Office at Geneva
Geneva

IRELAND

Dr Tony Holohan
Department of Health and Children
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ITALY

Dr Filippo Belardelli
Institut supérieur de la Santé
Rome

JAPAN

Dr Hiroyoshi Endo
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
Tokyo

Dr Hajime Inoue
Tokyo

NETHERLANDS

Dr Jan Willem Hartgerink
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
The Hague

Mr Jeroen Hulleman
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
The Hague

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Dr Duk-Hyoung Lee
Ministry for Health, Welfare and Family
Affairs
Seoul

Dr Young-Sung Lee
National Cancer Center
Seoul

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Dr Oleg P. Chestnov
Ministry of Health and Social
Development
Moscow

Professor Galina Makhakova
Ministry of Health and Social
Development
Moscow

Professor David Zaridze
Russian N.N. Blokhin Cancer Research
Centre
Moscow

SPAIN

Dr Carlos Segovia
Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo
Madrid

SWEDEN

Professor Håkan Billig
Swedish Research Council – Medicine
Stockholm

Professor Karin Forsberg Nilsson
Swedish Research Council – Medicine
Stockholm

SWITZERLAND

Dr Gérard Escher
Secrétariat d'Etat à l'Education et à la
Recherche
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Dr Diane Steber Büchli
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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Dr Margaret Chan
Director-General

Dr Ala Alwan
Assistant Director-General, Health
Action in Crises

Mr Gian Luca Burci
Legal Counsel

Mrs Joanne McKeough
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Dr Andreas Ullrich
Chronic Diseases Prevention and
Management (CPM)

OBSERVERS

Dr Harry Comber
Vice-Chairperson, Scientific Council

Dr Elaine Ron
Chairperson, 44th Session of IARC
Scientific Council

EXTERNAL AUDIT

Mr S.B. Pillay
Office of the Comptroller and Auditor
General of India
New Delhi, India

FIFTY-FIRST SESSION, 14–15 MAY 2009

NORWAY

Professor Lars E. Hanssen, Chairperson
The Norwegian Board of Health
Oslo

Dr Henrietta Blankson
The Research Council of Norway
Oslo

FINLAND

Professor Pekka Puska, Vice-
Chairperson
National Institute for Health and Welfare
Helsinki
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
Dr Mark Palmer, Rapporteur
Medical Research Council
London

AUSTRALIA

Mr Sanjeev Commar
Permanent Mission of Australia to
the United Nations Office and other
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