



## Conference IARC@60: Cancer Research into Action

A new era of cancer prevention and control

May 19–21, 2026

### Historical Context

Founded in 1965 through the collaborative effort of five founding members: Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, Italy, and France, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) serves as the specialized cancer agency of the World Health Organization (WHO). IARC embodies a multilateral commitment to placing science at the heart of public health policy and fostering international cooperation.

The IARC@60 conference, held in Lyon, reaffirms the Agency's enduring dedication to these founding principles within today's global landscape.

### Objective of the Conference

The IARC@60 conference aims to launch a bold new era in cancer prevention and control by translating scientific research advances into impactful, real-world public health actions. IARC's vision is clear: to create a world where fewer people suffer from cancer, now and for future generations. The IARC@60 conference will spotlight the transformative power of science to shape healthier societies, with a focus on leveraging data to guide policies, discovering emerging risk factors, and strengthening the communication of scientific evidence to drive global change.

### Thematic Focus

The IARC@60 conference, titled "Cancer Research into Action," will showcase the essential continuum that begins with global cancer data, then fundamental research, advances through the effective dissemination and broad use of scientific evidence by a wide range of stakeholders, and culminates in the translation of this knowledge into impactful public policies. This integrated approach, spanning from discovery to implementation, is critical to ensuring that, together, we can drive meaningful improvements in public health. The three-day conference will be structured around the following key themes:

## **1- Discovery and innovation for cancer prevention**

The primary thematic focus will center on the foundational pillars of cancer research, highlighting the latest discoveries in cancer burden, epidemiology, risk factors, biology, genetics, and early detection biomarkers. Key sessions will explore how these scientific advances are deepening our understanding of cancer and informing innovative strategies for prevention and early detection.

## **2- Translating Research into public health action**

The second thematic focus will emphasize the critical importance of translating scientific research into tangible public health action. Discussions will highlight the need for scientists to effectively communicate their findings to a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations and healthcare professionals as well as our sister agency the World Health Organization, to ensure their research drives meaningful, real-world impact. By engaging a wide range of stakeholders, the conference seeks to establish a continuum from fundamental research to measurable health outcomes. This integrated approach is essential for transforming scientific discoveries into tangible public health benefits, reinforcing the critical role of science in advancing global health.

## **3- Science-policy interface for global change**

The final thematic focus will highlight the power of collective action among researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and partners in advancing cancer control. It will showcase successful case studies where collaboration has driven significant public health benefits and underscore the importance of sustained engagement with the political ecosystem to ensure that research findings translate into meaningful, real-world impacts.

## **Conclusion**

The IARC@60 conference marks a pivotal moment in the global effort to combat cancer. By convening a diverse group of scientists and public health professionals, the conference underscores the vital role of science in driving public health advancements. It serves as a call to action- inviting collective commitment to a shared vision of a future where fewer people suffer from cancer, and where the continuum of cancer research—from discovery to implementation—drives meaningful and lasting improvements in global health.