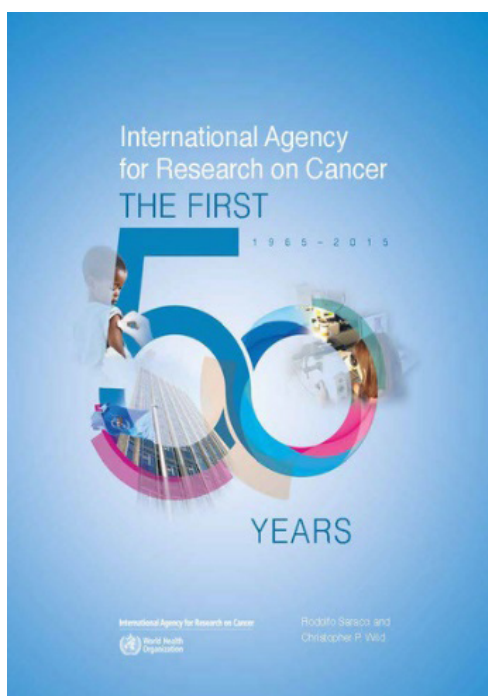


The First 50 Years of International Agency for Research on Cancer (2015–1965)



The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) was born of an idea of redirecting some of the huge amount of money that the most powerful nations were investing in their military services just after the Second World War to use these funds not to fight each other but to fight against cancer, a common enemy of all. Fifty years ago France proposed the establishment of an international cancer institute under the auspices of the World Health Organization (WHO). Since its creation in 1965 IARC has conducted research worldwide and helped thousands of cancer researchers from developing countries improve their skills through fellowships, courses, and collaborative projects. IARC has shaped the face of cancer research through the establishment of cancer registries around the world, through cancer epidemiology research, and through its training program. IARC has provided the indispensable cancer evidence base for WHO's public health work. IARC's governing body has grown from the five founding countries to 24 and its activities span a wide

range of research fields that inform global decision-making for cancer control. Within WHO, IARC is the only body that conducts its own research program and disseminates its findings to the world. It is internationally recognized for setting the agenda in cancer research and prevention.

You can find more about the birth of IARC by reading the book that the agency has recently published (available at <http://www.iarc.fr/en/publications/books/iarc50/index.php>). It describes the Agency's major achievements over the past five decades in terms of the development of tools for conducting cancer research, the identification of risk factors, and the evaluation of preventive interventions. By examining IARC's history, the authors illustrate how, despite the changing landscape of cancer research, the original vision continues to be a valid response to the needs for cancer prevention and control worldwide. This is ever more the case as the disease burden falls more heavily on developing countries, and international collaborative studies are increasingly

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