

## Office of the Director

**Director** 

Dr Christopher P. Wild

**Director's Office team** 

Scientific officer
Dr Eduardo Seleiro

Personal assistant to the Director Ms Margot Geesink

Administrative assistant

Ms Susan Haver-Legros (until September 2014)

**Secretary** 

Ms Laurence Marnat

Senior visiting scientists

Dr David Forman Dr John Groopman (until September 2014) Sir Andrew J. Hall (until May 2014)

Special advisor (Noncommunicable Diseases)

Dr Silvia Franceschi

Special advisor (Cancer Control)

Dr Rengaswamy Sankaranarayanan

THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR COMPRISES A SMALL TEAM THAT SUPPORTS THE DIRECTOR IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IARC'S STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME, AS WELL AS THREE GROUPS WHOSE ACTIVITIES SPAN ACROSS THE AGENCY – THE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP (COM), THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING GROUP (ETR), AND THE LABORATORY SERVICES AND BIOBANK GROUP (LSB) – TOGETHER WITH THE GAMBIA HEPATITIS INTERVENTION STUDY (GHIS), A LONG-TERM SCIENTIFIC PROJECT OF IARC, WHICH IS MANAGED BY THE DIRECTOR. THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE FOUR GROUPS ARE DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS.

The team in the Office of the Director is responsible for assisting in the coordination of specific scientific initiatives, particularly cross-cutting projects involving multiple research Sections; for supporting the establishment and development of strategic partnerships with IARC's network of scientific, governmental, and nongovernmental institutional collaborators; and for assisting in exchanges with the Scientific and Governing Councils and with current and potential Participating States. The Director's Office also supports the activities of several advisory groups and committees, notably the Senior Leadership Team and the IARC Ethics Committee.

Several high-level partnership agreements were signed during the 2014–2015 biennium to formalize and promote institutional collaborations in cancer research and in cancer prevention and control, including with the Lalla Salma Foundation for Cancer Prevention and Treatment in Morocco, with the Health Ministers' Council for the Gulf Cooperation Council States and the Gulf Centre for Cancer Control and Prevention, and with the United States National Cancer Institute's Center for Global Health (NCI-CGH).

In addition, the Director's Office, together with a small working group comprising Dr Silvia Franceschi, Special Advisor on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs), and Dr Rengaswamy Sankaranarayanan, Special Advisor on Cancer Control, supports and advises the Director in the coordination of collaborations with a number of key partners in global policy development for cancer prevention and control, including the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters and regional offices, the International Atomic Energy Agency's Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (IAEA-PACT), the NCI-CGH, and the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).

An important focus is the ongoing collaboration with WHO and other partners supporting the planning and implementation of the Global Monitoring Framework for the Prevention and Control of NCDs. Agency staff members participated in numerous planning meetings in the context of the various WHO initiatives in this area, and contributed to the updates of the Global Status Report on NCDs 2014 and of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of

NCDs. More broadly, IARC continues to work alongside other United Nations (UN) agencies in the UN Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, supporting the development and implementation of the global response to NCDs. IARC contributes in particular to the areas of improved surveillance of cancer, through the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development (GICR), and of cervical cancer control, including through collaborative research with the WHO Human Reproduction Programme.

A major undertaking for the Director's Office over the biennium was supporting the development of the IARC Medium-Term Strategy for 2016–2020. The process for the development of the Medium-Term Strategy involved broad internal consultation and reflection at all levels of the Agency's personnel, as well as external consultation with the Agency's stakeholders, structured in two stages, the first aimed at key opinion leaders in cancer research, public health, and international cooperation, and the

second aimed at the broader community of IARC's collaborators. Another novel component in the development of the Medium-Term Strategy was the creation of the IARC Project Tree, a framework linking the contribution of each individual project, presented in the Programme and Budget, with the strategic priorities of IARC articulated through the Medium-Term Strategy.