

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING GROUP (ETR)

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As a core statutory function of the Agency, IARC's education and training programme has made a substantial contribution to the development of human resources for cancer research in many countries and has also helped to shape the Agency's research strategy and widen its network of collaborators.

Key achievements of IARC's education and training programme during 2014–2015 are presented here. Whereas the Education and Training Group (ETR) coordinates the Agency's activities in these areas, many initiatives are led by the research Groups.

#### POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

During 2014–2015, new IARC Postdoctoral Fellowships were awarded to 23 postdoctoral fellows from 17 different countries (Figure 1). Research Return Grants were awarded to six fellows from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to establish their research activity in their own country. Most fellowships were co-funded by the European Union under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions–People–COFUND Programme.

Under the bilateral agreement with Cancer Council Australia, one new IARC-Australia Postdoctoral Fellowship

**Table 1. Senior Visiting Scientist Awards, 2014 and 2015**

2014	
Professor Michael Leitzmann	University of Regensburg, Regensburg, Germany
Professor Walter Prendiville	University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, USA, and Beacon Hospital, Dublin, Ireland
Professor Kyle Steenland	Department of Environmental Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, USA
2015	
Professor Fanghui Zhao	Department of Cancer Epidemiology, Cancer Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing, China

was awarded and two were extended for an additional year. Under the bilateral agreement with the Irish Cancer Society, the first IARC-Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship was awarded in 2014.

#### SENIOR VISITING SCIENTIST AWARD AND EXPERTISE TRANSFER FELLOWSHIP

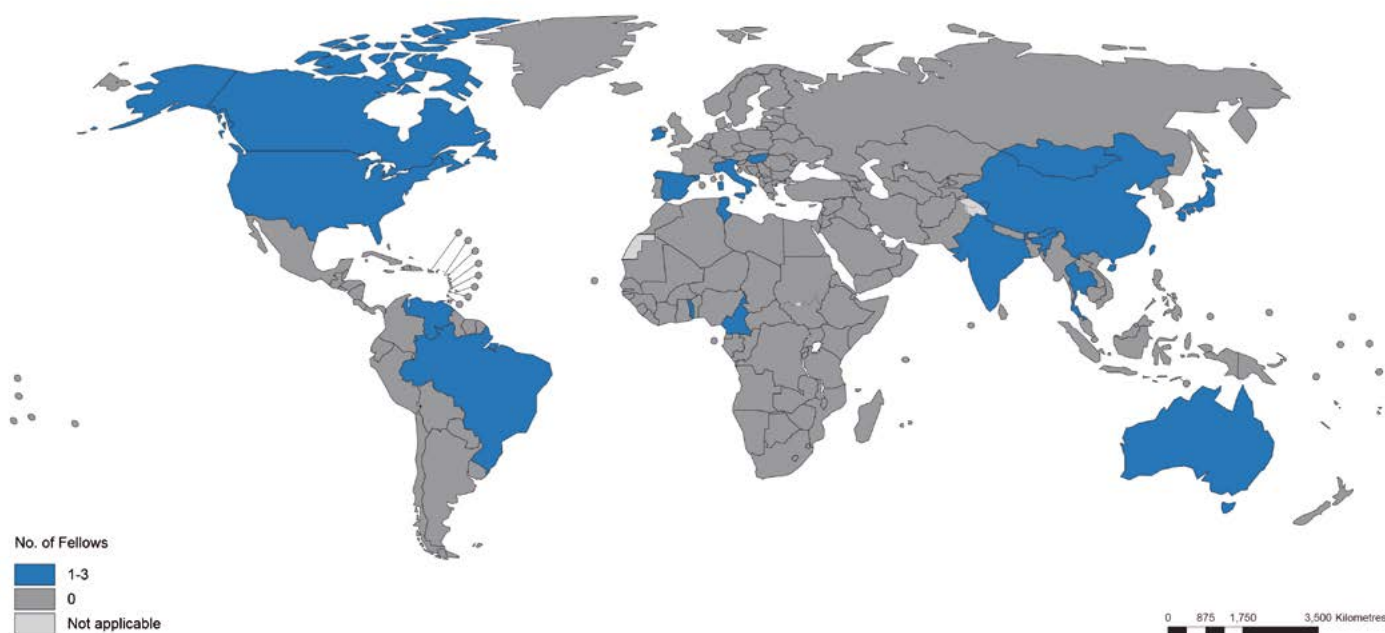
Four Senior Visiting Scientist Awards were conferred in 2014–2015 (Table 1). Beyond the development of collaborative research projects, the Senior Visiting Scientist Award often leads to the expansion of important research initiatives or the joint production of key resources for capacity-building.

Activities carried out in 2014 by Dr Esther de Vries (The Netherlands), who was awarded an Expertise Transfer Fellowship in 2013, enabled the evaluation and improvement of cancer registry data in Colombia as well as the running of training activities.

#### SHORT-TERM FELLOWSHIPS

In collaboration with the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), the UICC-IARC Development Fellowship enables one participant of the IARC Summer School to return to IARC for a period of 3 months for further training and collaborative work. In 2014, this fellowship was awarded to a researcher

**Figure 1. IARC Postdoctoral Fellowships awarded in 2014 and 2015, by country of origin. © IARC.**



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data source: IARC  
Map production: IARC  
World Health Organization

from Sri Lanka. In 2015, this initiative was expanded thanks to the increased contribution of UICC, which allowed the support of three researchers, from Ethiopia, Ukraine, and Serbia.

#### HOSTING ENVIRONMENT

The Agency also hosts a number of trainees, students, postdocs, and visiting scientists supported by project funds from the research Groups. A total of 270 Early Career and Visiting Scientists worked at IARC during the biennium.

The Agency continued to support the Early Career Scientists Association (ECSA), which was created in 2013. Among other activities, ECSA successfully held its first Scientific Day in April 2014, followed by a Scientific and Career Day in April 2015. Within the framework of the IARC Postdoctoral Fellowship Charter, which allows a more structured approach to postdoctoral training at IARC, and in collaboration with ECSA, ETR continued to develop the programme of generic courses for Early Career Scientists (Table 2).

Relationships with universities have been strengthened or developed. At the local level, links with two doctoral schools

**Table 2. Generic courses for Early Career Scientists, 2014 and 2015**

#### Research skill development

Epidemiology for non-epidemiologists: a short introduction

Biostatistics: generalized linear models using Stata

BioConductor for integrative genomic analyses

#### Responsible conduct of research

Biomedical research ethics

#### Communication skills

Presentation skills

Effective scientific posters

#### Leadership and management

Project management (twice)

Grant writing (three times)

Financial management (twice)

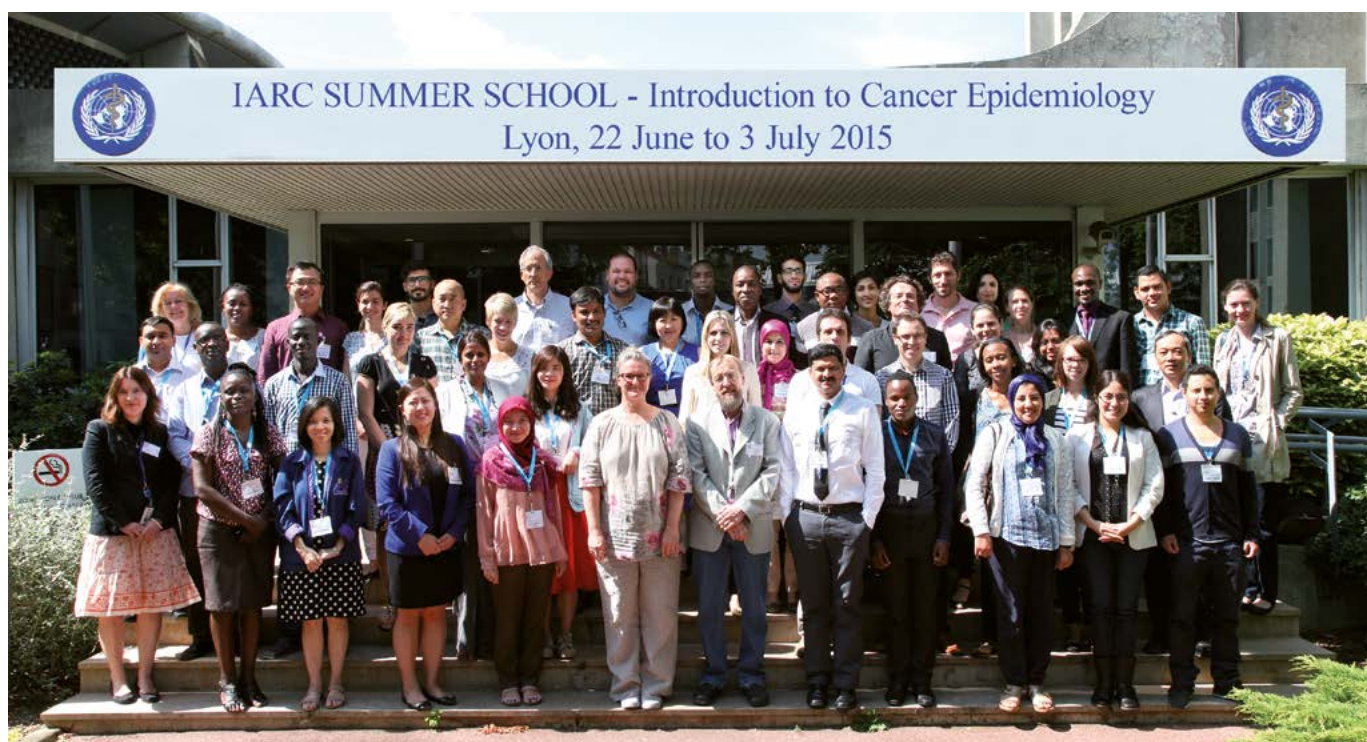
Task management (twice)

of the University of Lyon have been reinforced. At the international level, a collaboration with the University of Warwick (United Kingdom) has been set up for the hosting of doctoral students.

#### IARC SUMMER SCHOOL IN CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY

The IARC Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology was held in Lyon in June–

**Figure 2. IARC Summer School 2015, Module 2: Introduction to Cancer Epidemiology. © IARC/Roland Dray.**



July in 2014 and 2015, with the goal of improving the methodological and practical skills of cancer researchers and health professionals. Modules on cancer registration (Cancer Registration: Principles and Methods in 2014 and Cancer Survival Methods for Cancer Registries in 2015) and cancer epidemiology (Introduction to Cancer Epidemiology) were organized each year (Figure 2).

During the biennium, the Summer Schools enabled the training of a total of 133 researchers and health professionals from 63 countries, 112 of them (84%) from 50 different LMICs. The Summer School modules were very well received by the participants.

Additional financial support for the Summer School came from the United States National Cancer Institute (NCI) as well as from the Nordic Cancer Union (NCU) and the Klinik und Poliklinik für Gynäkologie, Martin Luther University, Halle, Germany.

#### SPECIALIZED AND ADVANCED COURSES

Specialized or advanced courses are organized by IARC's scientific Groups, sometimes with the support of ETR. The majority of these courses are associated with collaborative research projects, where IARC is transferring skills needed to conduct the projects and to enable the subsequent implementation of

the research findings in the countries concerned. In some instances, specialized courses are co-organized with external partners and held at diverse locations throughout the world (Table 3). During the biennium, these courses enabled the training of a total of about 1100 scientists and health professionals.

#### E-LEARNING

Complementing its redesigned website (<http://training.iarc.fr/>), ETR launched an IARC Education and Training Newsletter in 2014, aimed at former Early Career and Visiting Scientists at IARC as well as course participants.

IARC is seeking to expand the production of e-Learning resources. A system to record and disseminate presentations, training courses, workshops, and other materials online was set up by the Agency in 2014. The system was used to capture some sessions of the Summer School and of the first Russian-language cancer registration course, held in Kazakhstan. The materials are available from the websites of ETR and the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development (GICR).

Partnership initiatives have been pursued to develop e-Learning materials and courses. Collaborations have been established with the Institut Català d'Oncologia (ICO), Spain, leading to the launch of a joint

Figure 3. Flyer for the joint IARC-ICO online course in cancer epidemiology.



online course in cancer epidemiology aimed at Latin American countries (<http://www.e-oncologia.org/cursos/postgrado-fundamentos-metodologicos-investigacion/#.VjO5lNKrTIU>; Figure 3), and with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (United Kingdom), involving IARC's contribution to the contents of an e-Learning module, Introduction to Cancer Epidemiology ([http://dl.ishtm.ac.uk/download/open-access/gn09/EPM307\\_GN09\\_010\\_010.html](http://dl.ishtm.ac.uk/download/open-access/gn09/EPM307_GN09_010_010.html)).

**Table 3. Specialized and advanced courses, 2014 and 2015**

Course title	Location	Number of participants	External collaborations
<b>2014</b>			
Cervical cancer screening and treatment with cold coagulation	Fez, Morocco	11	Fondation Lalla Salma – Prévention et Traitement des Cancers
Course on visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA), colposcopy, and treatment of cervical neoplasia	Barshi, India	15	Tata Memorial Centre Rural Cancer Project, India; National Cancer Control Programme, Sri Lanka; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through the Alliance for Cervical Cancer Prevention (ACCP)
Training course on screening and treatment of cervical neoplasia	Kigali, Rwanda	14	National Cancer Institute Rwanda; UICC
Training course on colposcopy and LEEP procedures in the management of abnormal cytology	Bangkok, Thailand	57	National Cancer Institute Thailand; Thai Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology
Master Trainers course on cervical cancer screening and treatment of precancerous lesions	Barshi, India	17	Tata Memorial Centre Rural Cancer Project, India
GoToWebinar training on EPIC-Soft GloboDiet	Online courses (4)	45	
Cancer survival methods for cancer registries	Chennai, India	29	UICC; GICR
Building blocks for cancer system performance measurement and evaluation (Spanish)	Ottawa, Canada	18	GICR; IARC Regional Hub for Latin America
Basic training in cancer registration	Mozambique	5	AFCRN (IARC Regional Hub for Sub-Saharan Africa)
Cancer registration (for Francophone countries)	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	11	AFCRN (IARC Regional Hub for Sub-Saharan Africa)
Cancer registration	Cairo, Egypt	25	WHO EMRO
Cancer registration	Yangon, Myanmar	80	IARC Regional Hub for Southern, Eastern and South-East Asia; NCI Bangkok
Cancer registration workshop	Shanghai, China	80	United States National Cancer Institute; GICR
IARC cancer registration course (for Russian-speaking registries)	Astana, Kazakhstan	28	IARC Regional Hub for Northern Africa, Central and Western Asia; National Institute for Postgraduate Medical Education, Kazakhstan; Central Asian Cancer Institute, Kazakhstan
Principles of cancer registration and CanReg	San Salvador, El Salvador	52	IARC Regional Hub for Latin America
Uses of cancer registry data in cancer control research	Ankara, Turkey	25	IARC Regional Hub for Northern Africa, Central and Western Asia; GICR; MECC; NCIC; UC Irvine
<b>2015</b>			
Cancer registration	Russian Federation	34	IARC Regional Hub for Northern Africa, Central and Western Asia; GICR; WHO EURO; European Network of Cancer Registries (ENCR); Petrov Research Institute of Oncology, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation
Second training course on cervical pathology – ESTAMPA study	Cuernavaca, Mexico	20	Instituto de Salud Publica de Mexico (INSP); WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research; UICC; Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
Reunión de Consenso de Colposcopia – Estudio multicéntrico de tamizaje y triaje de cáncer de cuello uterino usando pruebas del virus del papiloma humano (ESTAMPA)	Bogotá, Colombia	26	San José Hospital, Bogotá, Colombia
Colposcopy and LEEP procedures in the management of abnormal cytology	Myanmar	34	National Cancer Institute Thailand; TSCCP, Thailand; University of Medicine, Magway, Myanmar; AOGIN
Training course on early detection of breast, cervical, colorectal, and oral cancer	Sri Lanka	110	National Cancer Institute Sri Lanka; WHO Country Office; UICC

**Table 3. Specialized and advanced courses, 2014 and 2015 (continued)**

Course title	Location	Number of participants	External collaborations
Cervical cancer screening and management of preinvasive lesions	Thailand	20	National Cancer Institute Thailand; TSCCP, Thailand
Workshop on colposcopy	Morocco	30	African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC)
GloboDiet reference manager application training: Malta	Online course	5	EU-MENU
GloboDiet train-the-trainers course: Malta	Online course	7	EU-MENU
GloboDiet train-the-trainers course: Malta	Lyon, France, and online course	7	EU-MENU
GloboDiet introduction training – organization of the work: Ireland and Africa	Lyon, France, and online course	3	EU-MENU
GloboDiet training for Latin America (Brazil and Mexico): specific procedures to develop GloboDiet-related files	Online courses (continuous)	7	EU-MENU
Evaluation of GloboDiet in the African context	Online courses	37	EU-MENU
CanReg5 course	The Gambia	5	MRC Gambia; AFCRN (IARC Regional Hub for Sub-Saharan Africa)
CanReg5 training	Mexico	4	IARC Regional Hub for Latin America; INCAN Mexico
Cancer registry workshop	Islamic Republic of Iran	20	Iran University of Medical Sciences; Ministry of Health, Islamic Republic of Iran; IARC Regional Hub for Southern, Eastern and South-East Asia
Cancer registry, basic data analysis	Thailand	35	National Cancer Institute Thailand; IARC Regional Hub for Southern, Eastern and South-East Asia; GICR; IACR
Population-based cancer registry workshop	Indonesia	70	United States National Cancer Institute; Jakarta Cancer Registry; IARC Regional Hub for Southern, Eastern and South-East Asia
CanReg5 course, Pre-meeting Workshop, 37th IACR Meeting	India	20	IACR; Tata Memorial Centre; CDC
Examining solutions for cancer registration in low- and middle-income countries, Pre-meeting Workshop, 37th IACR Meeting	India	30	IACR; Tata Memorial Centre; CDC
Population-based cancer registry workshop	Panama	22	PAHO/INC
Cancer registration in the Gulf countries: principles and updates	Kuwait	19	GICR; Gulf Centre for Cancer Control & Prevention (GCCP); Kuwait Ministry of Health
BCNet training	Lyon, France	25	LMICs Biobank and Cohort Building Network (BCNet)