



IACR EXECUTIVE BOARD – NEW APPOINTMENTS – November 2008

Elections took place in September to replace the President, General Secretary and five Regional Representative (in Asia, Africa, North America, Europe and Oceania), A total of 75 members of 292 voting members took part (participation 26%).

The Executive Board is now as follows:

Elected:

President: Brenda Edwards (USA).

General Secretary: Freddie Bray (Norway)

Regional Representatives:

North America: Betsy Kohler (U.S.)

Africa: Charles Gombe (Congo)

Europe: Sabine Siesling (Netherlands)

Asia: Hideaki Tsukuma (Japan)

Oceania: Francine Baumann (New Caledonia)

Continuing in Office:

Regional (Europe): Marc Colonna (France)

Regional (North America): Lynn Ries (U.S.)

Regional (South America): Eduardo Laura (Argentina)

Regional (Asia): Surapon Wingon (Thailand)

Past President: Max Parkin (UK)

Officers took up their functions at the Executive Board meeting held in November 2008, prior to the Annual Meeting in Sydney (Australia).

The Board also acknowledged the work of Mr Egil Engen as Treasurer. Dr Lynn Ries took over this position in January 2009.

A NEW DIRECTOR AT IARC

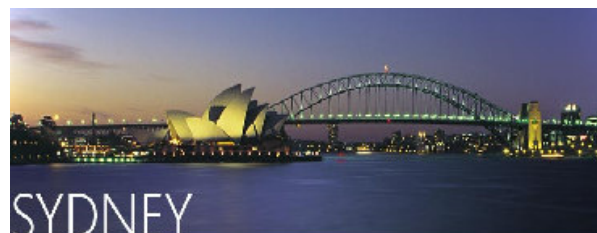


Professor Christopher Wild was elected Director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer for 5 years starting January 1st, 2009. He was Professor of molecular epidemiology and Director of the Leeds Institute of Genetics, Health and Therapeutics (LIGHT, Leeds, UK).

Professor Wild is a former head of environmental carcinogenesis at IARC (1995-6), Chair of the UK Molecular Epidemiology Group and a member of the UK Biobank Ethics and Governance Council (London, UK). His research focuses on understanding the interaction of environmental and genetic risk factors in disease.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

The **30th Annual Meeting** of the International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR) was held in Sydney, Australia, from 18 to 21 November 2008, in partnership with Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA). Registries from 42 countries were represented. The meeting was hosted by the New South Wales Cancer Registry.



Graham Giles and his team worked very hard with all the committees and put together a very comprehensive scientific programme and wonderful social events.

The theme of the meeting was "Information In, Information Out", and the topics included: Upper GI cancers, malignant melanomas, NMSC, information systems and clinical cancer registries, cancer patterns and trends in the Asia Pacific region, the use of cancer registries for clinical research, and the use of cancer registries for epidemiological research.

Keynote speakers were Derek Alderson (UK), Bruce Armstrong (Australia), Charles Balch (USA), Marianne Berwick (USA), David Forman, (UK), Adele Green (Australia), Jonathan Lederman (UK), Takeshi Sano (Japan), John Thompson (Australia) and David Whiteman (Australia).

Overall, 98 speakers contributed in the 14 scientific sessions. In addition, 92 posters were displayed in the foyer of the Convention Centre.

The meeting gave the participants an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience with their peers from many different countries, and with participants from the COSA meeting, so inspiring them to further international collaboration.

The conference was preceded by courses on record linkage and the use of CanReg version 5. The IACR Executive Board also held its annual meeting on Monday, 17 November.

The Annual General (business) Meeting of the Association took place on 20 November. This was the occasion for the Executive Board to report on activities of the Association in the preceding year and for members to receive a financial report from the Treasurer.

- The issue of membership subscription payment was raised. Members were reminded that whereas payment of subscriptions from registries in low to medium income countries could be voluntary, this is not the case for all other registries.
- After the report, members were given a presentation by Sharon Whelan on the work she has undertaken to retrace the history of the association. Further information on this project is specified below.

Social events

Members of IACR were officially welcomed during a ceremony held at the Sydney Maritime Museum, followed by a joint dinner with COSA members in the Shangri-La Hotel.

On the second evening, a night cruise was organised for IACR members around the various harbours and of course the famous Sydney Bridge and Opera House.

The last evening gave the opportunity for IACR and COSA members to take part in a gala dinner in the Convention Centre.



The 31st IACR Meeting was held in New Orleans (USA) from 3 to 5 June 2009

The primary theme of the conference is the use of cancer registry data in cancer control planning and its impact on public health. The scientific programme included sessions devoted to the following subthemes:

- Cancer registries and screening
- Cancer survival and survivorship
- Childhood cancer
- International perspectives on data quality
- Trends and Projections

Pre conference workshops were held as follows:

Survival Analysis: Two-day workshop: June 1-2

Data Quality & International Comparisons: one-day workshop: June 1

Predictions of Cancer Incidence: half-day workshop: June 2

EUROPE – ENCR ACTIVITIES

The Steering Committee of the ENCR met 7-8 April 2009. IACR was represented by Dr Max Parkin, who was elected Chair of the Committee. The first meeting of EURO COURSE Steering Board took place 8-9 April. The main purpose of the EURO COURSE project is to improve the use of cancer registries in European countries through program owners' and researchers' networking, information exchange and benchmarking of best practice.

MEMBERSHIP 2008-2009

In 2008, we welcomed 13 new members, three from Africa and South America, one from North America and Europe, and five from Asia. In 2009, we welcomed three more members from Europe, one from South America and one Corporate member. The Association has 630 members.

HONORARY MEMBERS

IACR members who have made a substantial contribution to cancer registration, either nationally or internationally, are honoured by the Association during an award ceremony which takes place during the annual meeting. They are given a lifelong status as an Honorary Member of the IACR in recognition of their work.

In 2008, this award went **Dr Bruce Armstrong**, **Dr Bob MacLennan** and **Dr David Roder**, from Australia

Bruce Armstrong is an epidemiologist with a career spanning academia and public service (including a period as Health Commissioner for Western Australia). He has been a long term advocate of cancer registration, authoring a defining publication on the role of the cancer registry in cancer control (1992). He was Deputy Director of IARC from 1991 to 1992.

Bob MacLennan, is also an epidemiologist. He worked in the International Agency for Research on Cancer in the 1970s, before returning to Queensland Institute of Medical Research in Brisbane, Australia. He worked especially on oral cancer and its relationship to tobacco, lime and betel in Melanesia. He edited the first WHO Manual on Cancer Registration "*Cancer Registration and its Techniques*" (1978).

David Roder was formerly Director of the South Australia Cancer Registry. Since his retirement he has remained active as a consultant on cancer registration in several Asian countries.

In 2009, this award went to **Dr Fabian Corral**.

Fabian Corral is a medical doctor, pathologist. In 1974 he started to set up a population based cancer registry in Quito, and by 1986 the registry produced cancer incidence data that have been published in last 4 volumes of Cancer Incidence in Five Continents. He was the IACR Regional Representative for South and Central America from 1992 to 1998. Today he hopes to establish the Quito Cancer Registry as a training centre for registrars in South America.

DR. JUOZAS KURTINAITIS

Dr. Juozas Kurtinaitis passed away on 28 November, 2008, after a sudden illness. Juozas worked as a head of the Lithuanian Cancer Registry for almost the entire post-Soviet era, 1990-2006, before his retirement. He was known as a strong pioneer, promoter, and personality in cancer registration under very difficult conditions. He was able to make the Lithuanian Cancer Registry qualify for publication in Cancer Incidence in Five Continents and the data have been used in many other important international studies. Some of these are still to appear, including the health and cancer consequences of the Lithuanian cleanup workers of the Chernobyl accident.

Since 1974, Juozas worked in experimental oncology and received his basic training in epidemiology at the Tampere School of Public Health in Finland in the years 1996, 1997 and 2002. He subsequently got his doctorate in Public Health at the University of Kaunas in Lithuania. Juozas made longer-term visits abroad to Norway, UK and Germany for projects related to cancer registration and epidemiology. He participated in international radiation-related studies coordinated by the IARC and in the EU projects for developing health indicators in the field of cancer.

Juozas is survived by a wife and son and many friends remember him as a smiling optimist, not shaken by any obstacles encountered on the way for the search of truth.

FELLOWSHIPS

The purpose of the **Calum Muir Fellowship** is to support travel and living expenses for IACR Members, visits to other centres, or attending specific meetings, to enhance their experience and competence in cancer registration.

Applications for fellowships are available through our website. Contributions to the Calum Muir Fund are also welcome.

When invoiced for your membership, please remember that your contribution to the Calum Muir Fellowship is very important for the training of colleagues to enhance the work in their own registry. Be generous!

Also note that a small fellowship is available through the **Constance Percy Memorial Fund** to support one or two members from low resource countries to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Association. Applications must be made through the website to the IACR Secretariat.

In 2009, Mary Phoebe Amulen of the Kampala Cancer Registry and Bourama Coulibaly and Sekou Malle of the

Bamaka Cancer Registry received the Calum Muir Fellowship to support their training. Eric Chokunonga benefited from the Constance Percy Memorial Fund to attend the IACR meeting

WEBSITE

The IACR website can be accessed on:

www.iacr.com.fr

It contains a full list of members, and links to their websites. **Please check whether the information that the Association has about you is correct.** The website is a forum for announcing activities of the Association, or any other information that is relevant or likely to be of interest to IACR members. Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat (iacr@iacr.fr) if you would like to post an item.

CANREG5 - AN OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE PACKAGE FOR CANCER REGISTRATION

CanReg5 is the latest version of the CanReg cancer registration software developed at IARC. One of the most important changes is that it is now managed as an open source project. Other improvements include stronger network support, a more modern database engine and a more user-friendly design. A closed beta test of CanReg5 has been going on in selected registries since January 2009. Interested parties that want to either test the software or help in translating it can sign up for the open beta testing by writing to ervikm@iacr.fr. CanReg5 is scheduled for release in 2009.

"THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANCER REGISTRIES – A 40 YEARS ODYSSEY"

By Sharon Whelan

Sharon has worked actively for the Association for over 30 years. In 2007, when IACR celebrated its 40th anniversary, she was asked to compile a publication on the history of the Association.

The aim of the publication is to reflect on the history of IACR since its launch in 1966. It includes a description of the aims of the Association, the way IACR is run, and its activities throughout the last 40 years. Input from past and present members will be welcome – anecdotes, photos, memories.

AUTOMATION IN CANCER REGISTRATION

A group had been set up that would provide leadership in the field of automated cancer registration with an aim to coordinate the evaluation of current methods and establish consensus standards. Lynn Ries updated the Board on progress achieved during the groups' monthly telephone conferences. A survey is being drafted to find out what types of electronic registration are in use by registries worldwide.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2009 AORTIC Conference: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania - 11-14 November 2009

2010 IACR Annual Meeting: Yokohama, Japan 11-15 October 2010

IACR CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE

We are striving for an updated contact database. A form will be attached to the invoices with the details we hold on our database. Please complete and return the form to us to inform us of contact information changes at your registry. Send all new contact information to iacr@iacr.fr, or to the IACR Secretariat, 150 Cours Albert Thomas, 69372, Lyon Cedex 08, France. You can also reach us at: +33 (0)4 72 73 84 17