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Dr Elisabete Weiderpass re-elected as IARC Director

Lyon, France, 11 May 2023 – The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is pleased to announce the re-election of Dr Elisabete Weiderpass as the Director of this specialized cancer agency of the World Health Organization (WHO). At its annual meeting in Lyon, the IARC Governing Council, which is composed of representatives of the 27 IARC Participating States plus the Director-General of WHO, today reappointed Dr Weiderpass for a second five-year term. Dr Weiderpass first took office on 1 January 2019. IARC Directors are elected for a five-year term and are eligible for one further five-year term.

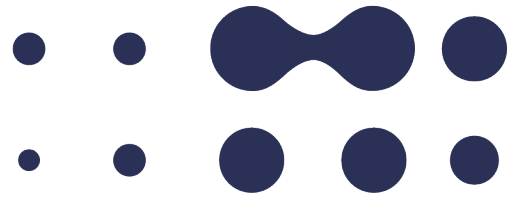
“I am delighted to receive the continuing support and confidence of the IARC Governing Council,” says Dr Weiderpass. “The number of new cancer cases worldwide is expected to rise by more than 55% before 2040. We know that up to 50% of all cancer cases can be prevented. The next five years represent a critical opportunity to prevent this huge rise in incidence through effective and proven interventions. I look forward to leading the Agency during this period to increase the impact of our research, conduct cancer research that matters, and, together with our partners, create a world where fewer people develop cancer.”

Dr Weiderpass is a Brazilian cancer researcher who is a naturalized Swedish and Finnish citizen. She is an expert in cancer epidemiology and cancer prevention. During her first term as IARC Director, Dr Weiderpass directed the definition and implementation of the IARC Medium-Term Strategy for 2021–2025, with an increased focus on evolving cancer risk factors and populations in transition, implementation research, and economic and societal impacts of cancer, as well as the restructuring of the IARC research Sections and Groups into multidisciplinary Branches and Teams. To improve the implementation of cancer prevention interventions globally, Dr Weiderpass gave a strong endorsement to strengthening coordination and collaboration with WHO to enable more effective links between science and policy.

As IARC Director, Dr Weiderpass has overseen the completion of IARC's new headquarters building and the relocation of the Agency to the Lyon Biodistrict. During her first term, IARC also welcomed Hungary and China as new Participating States. Dr Weiderpass took over as IARC Director from Dr Christopher P. Wild, who served two five-year terms from 2009 to 2018.

For more information, please contact

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The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is part of the World Health Organization. Its mission is to coordinate and conduct research on the causes of human cancer, the mechanisms of carcinogenesis, and to develop scientific strategies for cancer control. The Agency is involved in both epidemiological and laboratory research and disseminates scientific information through publications, meetings, courses, and fellowships. If you wish your name to be removed from our press release emailing list, please write to com@iarc.who.int.