

5 International cancer research organizations to watch

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The global cancer epidemic requires transnational collaboration because it's a worldwide problem, and the information superhighway we call the Internet has catalyzed the advancement of international cancer research in recent years.

There are several international research organizations tackling various aspects of cancer, and there is a lot of overlap. I looked at 5 different international cancer research groups, and found the one unifying objective in the mission statements of all six organizations was **to study the causes and prevention of cancer**. Beyond that, each organization has its own “niche” within the cancer market.



International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) – This is an arm of WHO that is dedicated to promoting international collaboration in cancer research. The IARC has a special interest in conducting research in low- and middle-income countries plagued by cancer. They aim to be a global reference for cancer information. They host a global cancer “biobank” which houses 10 million samples for 1 million subjects, and these samples are made available for scientists to apply innovative lab-based methods for the advancement of cancer research. The IARC also provides fellowships, courses and publications related to epidemiology and cancer registration. The IARC’s relationship with WHO provides a direct pathway to translate research findings into policy. The organization staffs over 300 scientists from 50 countries in seven sections of cancer study:

1. Mechanisms of carcinogenesis
2. Molecular pathology
3. Infections
4. Environment and radiation
5. Nutrition and metabolism
6. Genetics
7. Early detection and prevention

International Cancer Research Partnership (ICRP) – The ICRP is an alliance of cancer organizations across multiple countries, but predominantly US-based organizations. Partners include the American Institute of Cancer Research and the American Cancer Society (among many others). They have a unique data management system called the CSO (Common Scientific Outline) to pool data from all over the world, which they claim represents \$12 million in grant-funded research from 55 organizations. They also have seven sections of cancer study:

1. Biology
2. Etiology (causes)
3. Prevention
4. Early detection, diagnosis, and prognosis
5. Treatment
6. Cancer control, survivorship, and outcomes
7. Scientific models

American Institute of Cancer Research (AICR) – This organization is primarily involved with funding cancer research worldwide, on a project basis. They are especially interested in basic research as opposed to clinical research. They are involved with cancer studies in 22 countries, including the US, Australia, Sweden and Israel. They don't employ any scientists or conduct research themselves; rather, they raise funds and award those funds to deserving scientists around the world who are passionate about finding causes and preventing cancer.

World Cancer Research Fund International (WCRF International) – Simply put, the WCRF “leads and unifies a global network of cancer charities dedicated to the prevention and control of cancer by means of healthy food and nutrition, physical activity, and body weight.” They don't seem much different from some other international cancer research groups, but they do have a special focus on lifestyle-related causes of cancer.

International Cancer Alliance for Research and Education (ICARE) – This organization has carved out a clear niche in the cancer research market. They “support cutting edge cancer research and provide high-quality, focused, user-friendly, cancer information to each patient as well as their physician on an on-going, and on a personalized basis.”

So, it seems the need for international collaboration for cancer research initiatives is being met by a number of different groups across the globe, each with its own unique approach to advancing the science. WHO and IARC are directly involved in policy matters, the ICRP is dedicated to pooling data worldwide, the AIRC funds much of the research, WCRF International focuses specifically on a lifestyle-based solution for cancer prevention, and ICARE is working to match patients and doctors with the best solution.

“In the 21st century, health is a shared responsibility involving equitable access to essential care and collective defense against transnational threats.” Well said, WHO.

With the increased use of the Internet, the international population is more connected than ever before. Although we may be connected through a computer, we are also connected on a biological level. Threats overseas and in poorer countries may spread and cause unprecedented health problems worldwide, like the Ebola epidemic in 2014. This is a concept WHO refers to as **health security**, and it requires a worldwide collaborative effort.

See the complete, original article here: <https://www.patexia.com/feed/global-cancer-prevention-made-possible-by-collaborative-research>