



# World Cancer Congress Geneva, Switzerland 18—20 Oct 2022



## About UICC

The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) is the largest global membership organisation dedicated to the fight against cancer. Founded in Geneva in 1933, UICC has over 1,200 member organisations in 172 countries. UICC's mission is to both unite and support the cancer community in its efforts to reduce the global cancer burden, promote greater equity and ensure that cancer control remains a priority on the global health and development agenda.

UICC has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and has official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) and partnerships with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UICC is committed to working in partnership, and engages over XX partners, including associations, companies and foundations, to amplify and extend its collective impact.

UICC is a founding member of the NCD Alliance, the McCabe Centre for Law & Cancer, the International Cancer Control Partnership (ICCP) and established the City Cancer Challenge Foundation in January 2019.

**For more information on UICC, please visit:** <https://www.uicc.org/who-we-are/about-us>

## About the World Cancer Congress

The World Cancer Congress unites the global health and cancer community with a multidisciplinary programme that features the latest successful interventions in cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care.

The Congress was awarded 'Best Conference Development' and 'Best use of social media' at the [2017 Association Excellence Awards](#).

The first International Cancer Congress was held in Madrid in 1933. It led to the foundation of the International Union Against Cancer in 1935, renamed the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) in 2010. The last edition took place in Malaysia in 2018.

[www.worldcancercongress.org](http://www.worldcancercongress.org)



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## What is cancer?

Cancer is a disease which occurs when changes in a group of normal cells within the body lead to an uncontrolled, abnormal growth forming a lump called a tumour; this is true of all cancers except leukaemia (cancer of the blood). If left untreated, tumours can grow and spread into the surrounding normal tissue, or to other parts of the body via the bloodstream and lymphatic systems, and can affect the digestive, nervous and circulatory systems or release hormones that may affect body function.

For more information, visit [www.worldcancerday.org/what-cancer](http://www.worldcancerday.org/what-cancer)

## Global cancer facts

- Cancer is the **second-leading cause** of death worldwide.
- The International Agency for Research on Cancer estimates that one-in-five men and one-in-six women worldwide will develop cancer over the course of their lifetime, and that one-in-eight men and one-in-eleven women will die from their disease. This equates to **an estimated 19.3 million new cases and 10 million people dying from cancer in 2020**.
- By 2040, the number of new cancer cases worldwide are expected to rise to **30 million**.
- Approximately **70% of all cancer deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries** (LMICs). These countries are least well placed to deliver the services needed by people living with cancer or manage the social or economic consequences of this burden.
- At least **one third** of common cancers are preventable. Genetic mutations play a role in **5-10% of cancers**.
- Up to **3.7 million lives could be saved each year** by implementing resource appropriate strategies for prevention, early detection, and treatment.
- The total economic cost of cancer has been estimated at **USD 1.16 trillion**. This translates into a loss of productivity and household income, reduction of quality of life, disability, and ultimately premature death.

## Cancer and COVID-19

- Cancer organisations around the world are experiencing sharp declines in funding and operational resources
- A pulse survey conducted by UICC with over 100 of its member organisations in 55 countries, revealed that almost three-quarters experienced reductions in income of anywhere from 25% to 100%. An analysis of the survey is available **in *The Lancet Oncology***.
- Cancer patients have suppressed immune systems and so due to their fears – as well as those of family members – related to COVID-19, they may cancel or delay hospital visits. A similar fear of contagion may mean that people do not seek in-person medical advice, thus delaying the start of treatment. Restrictions on travel



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and social distancing guidelines also represent barriers to seeking care.

- Less prevention, delayed treatment and suspended early detection programmes and diagnoses **could lead to a higher number of deaths due to cancer** in the months and years to come.
- For stories on specific regional challenges and responses, as well as how cancer care is adapting to and looking beyond COVID-19, **please visit the dedicated webpage.**
- **Impact around the world**
  - **Asia:** *The Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Care in the Post Pandemic World: Five Major Lessons Learnt from Challenges and Countermeasures of Major Asian Cancer Centres*
  - **Canada:** *Measuring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on organized cancer screening and diagnostic follow-up care in Ontario, Canada*
  - **Europe:** *Covid-19 & Cancer Data Intelligence*
  - **Latin America:** *Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Oncology Clinical Research in Latin America*
  - **India:** *Impact of COVID-19 on cancer care in India: a cohort study*
  - **United Kingdom:** *Economic impact of avoidable cancer deaths caused by diagnostic delay during the COVID-19 pandemic: A national population-based modelling study in England, UK*
  - **United States:** *New cancer diagnoses fell sharply as the coronavirus pandemic first hit; and Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Care: How the Pandemic Is Delaying Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment for American Seniors*