

Media Advisory

New findings on lung cancer screening, risk factors, progress, and patient experience to be unveiled at the World Cancer Congress 2026

Congress will also highlight emerging insights into the impact of conflict on cancer care, AI, and advances in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Wednesday 23 September 2026 (Hong Kong, China) Some 2,000 scientists, public health officials, civil society representatives, and cancer control experts from over 120 countries are expected to attend the [World Cancer Congress 2026](#) convened by the Union for International Cancer Control ([UICC](#)) and hosted by the Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society ([HKACS](#)), taking place in Hong Kong, 24-26 September 2026.

Media are invited to attend the hybrid official press conference on **Thursday 24 September at 1.30pm, HKT**. The event will feature a study on lung cancer screening, presented by the International Agency for Research on Cancer ([IARC](#)), the WHO cancer research agency, and to be published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* at the time of the press conference.

The report examines the benefits, harms and cost-effectiveness of different screening approaches, provides an assessment of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and biomarkers, and considers practical issues related to implementation, participation, and smoking cessation within lung cancer screening programmes.

Speakers will also present updates on the implementation of Australia's National Lung Cancer Screening Programme, progress in global cancer control, perspectives from Hong Kong and China, and the role of patient advocacy in shaping cancer policy and care. (*See below for more information on IARC and lung cancer screening.*)

What: World Cancer Congress official press conference

When: Thursday 24 September, 13:30-14:20 HKT ([Find your time here](#))

Where:

- **Online:** Zoom webinar. [Register here](#) to attend the press conference online. A recording of the press conference will be available after the event.
- **Onsite:** Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Room S223. [Register here](#) to attend in person.

Who:

- **Cary Adams**, CEO of UICC
- **Dr Anne Lee**, Vice-Chairman, HKACS

- **Béatrice Lauby-Secretan**, Head, IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention Programme, and co-author of “IARC Perspective on Lung Cancer Screening”, in *New England Journal of Medicine*.
- **Rasika Bombatkar**, advocate, Lung Connect India, diagnosed with lung cancer at age 26 years ([read her story](#))
- **Prof. Dorothy Keefe**, CEO of Cancer Australia, a UICC member

Further information:

Materials, such as select abstracts and sessions presented at Congress, can be found [here](#).

The full conference programme schedule can be accessed [here](#).

[Online registration to the World Cancer Congress](#) provides access to the digital programme, including recordings of sessions and abstract presentations, available on demand. **Registration to the World Cancer Congress is not required to attend the press conference virtually.**

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To request the embargoed IARC report, arrange an interview, or for other information:**Eric Grant (*on site in Hong Kong*)**

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Background: IARC evaluation of lung cancer screening

The key findings presented by IARC at the World Cancer Congress are part of its latest evaluation of the evidence on lung cancer screening, conducted as part of *Volume 21 of the IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention*, expected to be published in 2027. The scientific rationale and principal findings of the evaluation will be published simultaneously in the embargoed *New England Journal of Medicine* Special Report, *The IARC Perspective on Lung Cancer Screening* on Thursday 24 September.

The evaluation includes evidence on:

- the effectiveness of low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) screening in reducing lung cancer mortality;
- potential harms of screening, including false-positive results, overdiagnosis and radiation exposure;
- cost-effectiveness of lung cancer screening programmes;
- strategies to identify individuals at highest risk;
- the role of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, risk prediction models and biomarkers;
- approaches to increasing participation in screening programmes; and
- the integration of smoking cessation support within lung cancer screening pathways.

The evaluation forms part of IARC's ongoing programme of evidence reviews assessing the effectiveness of cancer prevention and early detection interventions.

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About the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) is the largest and oldest international cancer organisation dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer around the world. Founded in 1933, UICC has more than 1,100 members in over 170 countries and territories. Its membership base includes the world's major cancer leagues and societies, research institutes, treatment centres, hospitals, public health agencies and patient support groups. UICC also boasts more than 80 strategic partners.

UICC enjoys consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and has official relations with the following institutions: WHO, IARC, IAEA, UNODC. UICC is a founding member of the NCD Alliance, the McCabe Centre for Law & Cancer and the International Cancer Control Partnership (ICCP). UICC established the City Cancer

Challenge Foundation in January 2019 and the Access to Oncology Medicines (ATOM) Coalition in 2022.

UICC's mission is both to 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.

www.uicc.org

About the Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society

Founded in 1963, by Professor John HO Hung-chiu, it is the oldest non-profit cancer organisation in Hong Kong. For over 60 years, HKACS has remained committed to preventing, fighting, and curing cancer. In addition to providing medical assistance, free in-patient care services, and comprehensive support, HKACS keeps pace with medical advancements by offering up-to-date cancer education and holistic care. We walk hand-in-hand with patients and caregivers throughout their cancer journey, empowering them in the fight against cancer. For more information, please visit www.hkacs.org.hk

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.

It is the only conference of its kind that brings together patient groups, the private sector, UN organisations and health and cancer NGOs from around the world.

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 Geneva, Switzerland in 2024.

www.worldcancercongress.org