

Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 May 2020

To be held by webconference (due to COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions)

BIENNIAL REPORT ON PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES, 2018–2019

1. As per Governing Council Resolution [GC/58/R6](#), the Director is requested to report on publication activities on a biennial basis.
2. Publications are generally the responsibility of the Communications Group (COM). Currently the Section of Evidence Synthesis and Classification (ESC) manages three flagship publication series: the *IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans*, the *IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention*, and the *WHO Classification of Tumours* series ("Blue Books").

Digital strategy and dissemination of publications

3. COM continued to focus on streamlining and standardizing publishing workflows, along with careful investment in technology during the 2018–2019 biennium.
4. The internal Manuscript Clearance System that was launched in March 2016 to provide greater oversight for external journal articles produced by Agency staff was significantly enhanced, with version 2 launching in March 2018.
5. As part of a long-term strategy of consolidating IARC publications on one central portal, the IARC Publications website (<http://publications.iarc.fr>) gained prominence as the authoritative site for providing access to IARC Monographs.
6. The Agency entered into an agreement with the US National Library of Medicine in 2015 for the deposit of its IARC Monographs and Working Group Report series in the NLM's digital repository, NLM Bookshelf. Addenda to this deposit agreement in 2016 and again in 2019 have expanded the number of IARC title eligible for deposit.
7. September 2019 saw the release of the new digital subscription website, WHO Classification of Tumours Online (<http://tumourclassification.who.iarc.int>), at the European Congress for Pathology held in Nice, France. The much-anticipated digital subscription website currently features the complete digital contents of the eight most recent volumes of this renowned series (Central Nervous System 4th ed. rev., Head and Neck 4th ed., Endocrine Organs 4th ed., Eye 4th ed., Skin 4th ed., Digestive System 5th ed., Breast 5th ed., Soft Tissue and Bone 5th ed.), along with whole slide images. As of 31 December 2019, 340 users subscribed to this new platform and the site had over 600 subscribers as of 31 March 2020.
8. This biennium also saw the production of the new *World Cancer Report: Cancer Research for Cancer Prevention*, another IARC flagship publication. Considerable efforts were made to coordinate between this publication and the *WHO Report on Cancer: Setting Priorities, Investing Wisely and Providing Care for All*, released simultaneously as the IARC *World Cancer Report*

in 2020. In line with WHO's expansion of its Open Access policy to include WHO-published books, *World Cancer Report* is one of IARC's first open access books.

9. The reporting requirements for the Agency's Medium-Term Strategy (2016–2020) gave COM an opportunity to experiment with new bibliometric tools and vendors. The Agency ran a one-year trial of Altmetric that continued to July 2018, which yielded a number of interesting results showing social media attention to IARC research output.

10. The 2018–2019 biennium was a period of productive collaboration with WHO Publishing. Recognizing the efficiencies and other benefits to be had in aligning publishing workflows with those of HQ, the Agency entered into an agreement with WHO Press for IARC authors' use of standing copyright agreements between WHO and major health publishers. Transactional permissions granted by IARC for the use of Agency-copyrighted materials have also been aligned with WHO practices. COM, WHO Press, and WHO Legal Counsel also worked jointly to harmonize copyright licenses with US NIH in order to facilitate the involvement of NIH authors on WHO- and IARC-produced publications.

Open Access

11. Following Governing Council Resolutions [GC/57/R11](#) in 2015 and [GC/60/R12](#) in 2018, approving the use of €50 000 per annum from the Governing Council Special Fund (GCSF) for Open Access publishing, 27 articles were supported in 2018 and 31 articles in 2019. While comparative baseline figures are only available for 2014, tracking of IARC's OA journal article output since the establishment of the fund in 2015 suggests that the GCSF has had a notably positive impact on OA publishing at the Agency.

Table 1: Proportion of immediate open access to total journal output

Year	Gold	Hybrid	Immediate OA total	Standard publication	TOTAL
	(Fully OA journal)	(APC payment in subscription journal)			
2014	78 (21%)	27 (7%)	105 (28%)	269 (72%)	373 (100%)
2015	77 (21%)	50 (13%)	127 (34%)	248 (66%)	375 (100%)
2016	93 (25%)	51 (14%)	142 (39%)	226 (61%)	370 (100%)
2017	110 (29%)	50 (13%)	160 (43%)	216 (57%)	376 (100%)
2018	91 (24%)	51 (14%)	142 (38%)	236 (62%)	377 (100%)
2019	119 (30%)	52 (13%)	171 (43%)	223 (57%)	394 (100%)

12. The Governing Council is requested to approve the continued use of up to a maximum of €50 000 per annum for two years (2021 and 2022) from the GCSF for open access publishing, subject to the availability of sufficient cash balances in the fund.

Revenue from the sale of IARC publications by WHO Press

13. Net revenue from the sale of IARC publications in 2018–2019 amounted to €2 542 902 (€1 279 970 in 2018, and €1 262 932 in 2019). In accordance with Resolution [GC/56/R12](#), 75% of revenue is returned to the IARC publications programme.

Table 2: Publications – Revenue from sales (in Euros)

Year	Revenue from sales of all publications by WHO Press	Revenue from sales of 'Blue Books' by WHO Press	Revenue from sales by WHO paid to IARC ^a	Other revenue from publications (ePub and royalties)
2014	789 892	741 222 (94%)	787 494	7 733
2015 ^b	849 608	836 634 (98%)	848 924	3 838
2016	1 450 727	1 436 443 (99.0%)	1 450 172	15 795
2017	1 756 548	1 752 327 (99.8%)	1 751 567	12 201
2018	1 280 242	1 272 663 (99.4%)	1 279 970	9 601
2019	1 258 412	1 255 618 (99.8%)	1 262 932 ^d	48 079 ^e

^a After freight charges were deducted from overall figure.

^b Following an error on the part of WHO Press, the figures on "Revenue from sales" for 2015 reported in the Director's Report in 2016 (Document [GC/58/3](#)) were underestimated.

^c The figure reported in the 2016 Director's Report included revenue from other sources (ePub and royalties), which is now shown separately in the above table.

^d For 2019, the total revenue included the reimbursement of €4549 for cost of direct shipment from printer to Stylus paid by IARC.

^e Other revenue in 2019 also included the subscription fee of WHO Classification of Tumours Online (see paragraph 7).

14. The Blue Books series on its own (print) generated 99.4% of the overall publications sales revenue for IARC in 2018 and 99.8% in 2019.

Table 3: Publications – Volume of sales

Year	Total sales	Sales of 'Blue Books'
2014	16 279	14 844 (92%)
2015 ^a	15 469	14 696 (95%)
2016	25 295	24 677 (98%)
2017	33 786	33 544 (99%)
2018	23 911	23 530 (98%)
2019	21 037	20 908 (99%)

^a Following an error on the part of WHO Press, the figures on "Volume of sales" for 2015 reported in the Director's Report in 2016 (Document [GC/58/3](#)) were underestimated.

Publications in 2018–2019

During the 2018–2019 biennium, IARC published the following reference publications:

- **WHO CLASSIFICATION OF TUMOURS**

[WHO Classification of Tumours of the Skin, 4th edition \(print\)](#)

[WHO Classification of Tumours of the Eye, 4th edition \(print\)](#)

[WHO Classification of Digestive Tumours, 5th edition \(print\)](#)

[WHO Classification of Breast Tumours; 5th edition \(print\)](#)

- ***IARC MONOGRAPHS***

[Volume 113, DDT, Lindane, and 2,4-D \(print\)](#)

[Volume 114, Red Meat and Processed Meat \(print and PDF\)](#)

[Volume 115, Some Industrial Chemicals \(print and PDF\)](#)

[Volume 116, Drinking Coffee, Mate, and Very Hot Beverages \(print and PDF\)](#)

[Volume 117, Pentachlorophenol and some related compounds \(print and PDF\)](#)

[Volume 118, Welding, Molybdenum Trioxide, and Indium Tin Oxide \(print and PDF\)](#)

[Volume 119, Some Chemicals that cause tumours of the urinary tract rodents \(print and PDF\)](#)

[Volume 120, Benzene \(PDF\)](#)

[Volume 121, Styrene, Styrene-7,8-oxide, and Quinoline \(PDF\)](#)

[Volume 122, Isobutyl Nitrite, \$\beta\$ -Picoline, and Some Acrylates \(PDF\)](#)

- ***IARC HANDBOOKS***

[Volume 16, Absence of Excess Body Fatness \(print and PDF\)](#)

[Volume 17, Colorectal Cancer Screening \(print and PDF\)](#)

- ***IARC SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS***

[Tumour Site Concordance and Mechanisms of Carcinogenesis, IARC Scientific Publication No.165 \(print and PDF\)](#)

[Cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa, IARC Scientific Publication No. 167 \(print and PDF\)](#)

[Reducing Social Inequalities in Cancer: Evidence and Priorities for Research, IARC Scientific Publication No. 168 \(PDF\)](#)

- ***IARC TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS***

[Thyroid Health Monitoring after Nuclear Accidents, IARC Technical Publication No. 46 \(PDF\)](#)

- ***BIENNIAL REPORT***

[Rapport biennal 2016-2017 \(PDF\)](#)

[Biennial Report 2018-2019 \(print and PDF\)](#)

- ***NON-SERIES PUBLICATIONS***

[Programme de dépistage des cancers du sein et du col de l'utérus du Maroc: Etat de la mise en oeuvre, organisation et résultats](#)

[The Cancer Atlas, 3rd edition](#) (print and website; joint publication with the American Cancer Society and the Union for International Cancer Control)

[Cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa, Volume III](#) (print and PDF; joint publication with the Union for International Cancer Control)

- ***ELECTRONIC RESOURCES***

[WHO Classification of Tumours Online](#)