



Panoramic view from the IARC Nouveau Centre

Salutations de Lyon ! Greetings from Lyon!

As the Head of the *IARC Monographs* programme of the International Agency for Research on Cancer it is my distinct pleasure to introduce the inaugural edition of our programme's triannual newsletter.

The impetus for its initiation is to raise awareness within the scientific and public health communities about our Calls for Data and Experts associated with each newly announced *IARC Monographs* meeting (see sidebar on this page and on p. 4). We also aim to inform you about recent evaluations and newly published volumes.

The release of our inaugural issue is auspiciously timed for the 50th anniversary of the first *IARC Monographs* meeting in December 1971 (see story on p. 3). During the year ahead we will be delighted to share a glimpse of how the programme has evolved over its first 50 years.

We invite you to write to us at imonews@iarc.fr with any feedback about our newsletter.

–Mary Schubauer–Berigan



Call for Data

IARC is interested in identifying studies that are relevant to the carcinogenicity of the agents that will be reviewed in each volume. This includes all pertinent cancer epidemiology studies, cancer bioassays, and mechanistic evidence in both exposed humans and experimental systems. Eligible studies should be published or accepted for publication in the openly available scientific literature. Relevant exposure data (particularly from low- and middle-income countries) that are or can be made publicly available are also requested. Please see the [IARC Monographs Preamble](#) for details of the types of study that may be reviewed.

The **Call for Data** and **Call for Experts** are announced approximately 1 year before the meeting on the [IARC Monographs website](#).

Meeting 131: Cobalt Metal (without Tungsten Carbide or Other Metal Alloys) and Cobalt (II) Salts, Trivalent and Pentavalent Antimony, and Weapons-Grade Tungsten (with Nickel and Cobalt) Alloy

Meeting dates: 8–15 March 2022

[Call for Data](#) closing date: 8 February 2022

Meeting 132: Occupational Exposure as a Fire-fighter

Meeting dates: 7–14 June 2022

[Call for Data](#) closing date: 6 May 2022

IARC encourages the participation of Representatives of national and international health agencies. If you are interested in serving as a Representative, contact us at imonews@iarc.fr.

The Team

The IARC Monographs team has come a long way since its inception in 1971.

Headed by Dr Lorenzo Tomatis, the first IARC Monographs team of six men and one woman from Europe and the USA was assembled to create a “compendium of carcinogenic chemicals prepared by experts”.

Today, our team looks very different. The programme is led by its first female Head, Dr Mary Schubauer-Berigan, and the attention paid to diversity and inclusion in the convening of our Working Groups is also reflected in the make-up of the current team of eleven women and nine men. Between us we have representatives from five of the seven continents!

This is echoed in our multidisciplinary backgrounds. Epidemiologists, toxicologists, exposure scientists and bioassay experts, journalists, archivists, teachers, researchers, and polyglots; we have all arrived at the IARC Monographs via many varied and eclectic paths. We have been fortunate in that we could rely on our diverse strengths to adapt how we held meetings during the global pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

What has not changed in 50 years is our dedication to identifying the preventable causes of human cancer in order to reduce the global burden of cancer. We are ready for the challenges of the next 50 years!



Click to enlarge

Results of IARC Monographs Meeting 130: 1,1,1-Trichloroethane and Four Other Industrial Chemicals

Meeting held remotely between 7 and 22 October 2021

The poster is titled "IARC MONOGRAPHS VOL. 130 1,1,1-TRICHLOROETHANE AND FOUR OTHER INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS (7 - 22 OCTOBER 2021)". It features the IARC logo and the World Health Organization logo. The poster is organized into several sections:

- CHEMICALS:** Five chemical structures are shown: 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, 1,2-Diphenylhydrazine, Diphenylamine, N-Methylolacrylamide, and Isophorone.
- GROUP:** 1,1,1-Trichloroethane is in Group 2A (Probably carcinogenic to humans). The other four chemicals are in Group 2B (Possibly carcinogenic to humans).
- MAIN USES:** Describes the historical and current uses of each chemical, such as solvents, intermediates, lubricants, and sealants.
- EXPOSURES:** Illustrates various exposure scenarios like metal degreasing, drug manufacturing, and agricultural use.
- High Production Volume chemicals:** A banner indicating that all five chemicals are high production volume.

Click to enlarge

Evaluations

The Working Group evaluated 1,2-diphenylhydrazine, diphenylamine, N-methylolacrylamide, and isophorone as *possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group 2B)* mainly on the basis of *sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity* in experimental animals. 1,1,1-Trichloroethane was evaluated as *probably carcinogenic to humans (Group 2A)* on the basis of *sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity* in experimental animals and *limited evidence of carcinogenicity* in humans (positive associations were seen for multiple myeloma). For all agents, there was *limited mechanistic evidence*.

A summary of the results has been published in [The Lancet Oncology](#).

IARC Monographs at 50

The 13th of December 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the very first *IARC Monographs* meeting. The *IARC Monographs on the Identification of Carcinogenic Hazards to Humans* programme is celebrating this milestone with several events over the coming year.

The *IARC Monographs* programme was launched in 1971 soon after the establishment of IARC and under the leadership of Lorenzo Tomatis, the second IARC Director. The original objective was to create a “[compendium of carcinogenic chemicals](#)” prepared by independent scientific experts and serving as a reference for international public health agencies.

This first meeting, convened in Geneva, included 13 experts (all men) from 4 countries. The meeting results were published with the distinctive orange cover as [Volume 1](#) of the *IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Man* in 1972, and summarized the carcinogenic hazard of some metals, ores, chlorinated hydrocarbons, aromatic amines, *N*-nitroso compounds, and natural products. The title of the series has developed to reflect the expanding scope of the programme, which now covers not only chemicals but also complex mixtures, occupational exposures, physical and biological agents, and behaviours; and to clarify that the role of the programme is to evaluate cancer hazards, not risks associated with specific exposure levels or scenarios.

The most recent meeting, for [Volume 130](#), held remotely in October 2021, included 20 experts (45% women) from 12 countries.

The evaluation criteria established in 1971 were compiled in the [first Preamble to the IARC Monographs](#), which has since been refined and updated many times. The most recent [Preamble of 2019](#) introduces formally systematic review principles, including of mechanistic evidence, which is now organized by the key characteristics of carcinogens. The programme strives constantly to evolve and advance in its scientific mission to identify and evaluate the preventable causes of cancer in humans.

We would be delighted to hear from past Working Group Members who would like to share their memories of the first 50 years of the *IARC Monographs*.



Celebrating 50 years

To celebrate our 50th anniversary, the following events will be organized in 2022:

- unveiling of the 50th anniversary logo;
- photo exhibition: the *IARC Monographs* through the years;
- scientific workshop on evaluating impacts of bias in human cancer evidence.

Nomination of Agents

For each new volume of the *IARC Monographs*, IARC selects the agents for review from those recommended by the most recent [Advisory Group Report](#), considering the availability of pertinent research studies and current public health priorities. IARC encourages the general public, the scientific community, national health agencies, and other organizations to nominate agents for review in future *IARC Monographs* volumes.

If you would like to nominate an agent, please complete the [online form](#) (one agent per form) and the accompanying WHO Declaration of Interests.

Call for Experts

Working Group Members are responsible for all scientific reviews and evaluations developed during the *IARC Monographs* meeting. The Working Group is interdisciplinary and comprises subgroups of experts in the fields of: (1) exposure characterization; (2) cancer in humans; (3) cancer in experimental animals; and (4) mechanistic evidence.

IARC selects Working Group Members on the basis of expertise related to the subject matter and relevant methodologies, and absence of conflicts of interest. Consideration is also given to diversity in scientific approaches and views, as well as demographic composition. Self-nominations and nomination of women and of candidates from low- and middle-income countries are particularly encouraged.

Published in 2021



**September 2021: Volume 126
Opium Consumption**
Available from:
<https://publications.iarc.fr/600>



**June 2021: Volume 127
Some Aromatic Amines and
Related Compounds**
Available from:
<https://publications.iarc.fr/599>



**November 2021: Volume 128
Acrolein, Crotonaldehyde,
and Arecoline**
Available from:
<https://publications.iarc.fr/602>

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