



JNCI Monographs special issue

As part of the [special issue of JNCI Monographs](#) celebrating IARC's 60th anniversary, IARC scientists contributed an article entitled "[Progress in identifying the preventable causes of human cancer: the experience of the IARC Monographs program](#)".

The article highlights the 24 agents newly classified in Group 1 (*carcinogenic to humans*) since the programme re-evaluated all Group 1 agents in 2008–2009. Studies of cancer or mechanistic end-points in people exposed occupationally or environmentally provided key evidence for most of these new Group 1 classifications. The article notes that, among the agents [prioritized](#) for evaluation during 2025–2029, several Group 2A (*probably carcinogenic to humans*) agents exhibit strengthened evidence, which could result in a future reclassification to Group 1.

Call for 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 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 143: Cannabis smoking

Meeting dates: 3–10 November 2026

[Call for Data](#) closing date: 10 October 2026

[Call for Experts](#) CLOSED: 16 December 2025

Meeting 144: Metallic lead and inorganic lead compounds; cadmium and cadmium compounds

Meeting dates: 19–26 October 2027

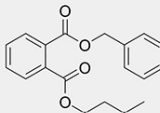
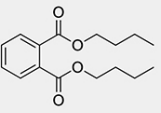
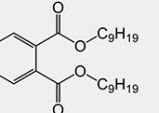
[Call for Data](#) closing date: 14 September 2027

[Call for Experts](#) closing date: 25 September 2026

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.who.int.

Results of *IARC Monographs Meeting 142: Butyl benzyl phthalate, dibutyl phthalate, and diisononyl phthalate*

Meeting held on 9–16 June 2026 in Lyon, France

International Agency for Research on Cancer World Health Organization		
IARC Monographs Vol. 142 9–16 June 2026		
Butyl benzyl phthalate	Dibutyl phthalate	Diisononyl phthalate
 Butyl benzyl phthalate (BBzP) has been used as a plasticizer in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and other plastics. Other uses include personal care products, adhesives, and paints.	 Dibutyl phthalate (DBP) has been used as a plasticizer in PVC and other plastics. Other uses include personal care products, adhesives and paints, and some pharmaceuticals.	 Diisononyl phthalate (DINP) is widely used as a plasticizer in PVC and other plastics, e.g. in vinyl flooring and cables. Other uses include sealants, adhesives, and paints.
Group 2B Possibly carcinogenic to humans	Group 2B Possibly carcinogenic to humans	Group 2B Possibly carcinogenic to humans
 Exposure Occupational: Production, use, and disposal of BBzP-containing products. General population: Diet, indoor air and dust, and consumer products.	 Exposure Occupational: Production, use, and disposal of DBP-containing products. General population: Diet, indoor air and dust, consumer products, and some drugs.	 Exposure Occupational: Production, use, and disposal of DINP-containing products. General population: Diet, indoor air and dust, and consumer products.

The IARC classification (Group 1, 2A, 2B, and 3) indicates the level of certainty that a substance causes cancer (*hazard* identification).

[Click to download full-size infographic](#)

A summary of the results of Meeting 142 has now been published in [The Lancet Oncology](#).

Butyl benzyl phthalate (BBzP), dibutyl phthalate (DBP), and diisononyl phthalate (DINP) were all accorded high priority by the [Advisory Group to Recommend Priorities for the IARC Monographs during 2025–2029](#). BBzP, DBP, and DINP are all high-production-volume chemicals that have been used primarily as plasticizers for flexible polyvinyl chloride (PVC) applications such as flooring and cables, but also in adhesives and sealants, paints and coatings, cosmetics, and industrial solvents, and (for DBP) pharmaceuticals.

BBzP, DBP, and DINP are widely present in air, water, soil, sediment, dust, and food. Biomonitoring studies worldwide clearly demonstrate ubiquitous exposure of the general population. Occupational exposure occurs among workers involved in automobile, PVC film, and plastic manufacturing and processing, and recycling activities, as well as service-based occupations

such as nail salon workers and health-care workers. For each agent, the mechanistic evidence was *strong*, and the evidence for cancer in animals was either *sufficient* (BBzP and DINP) or *limited* (DBP). The evidence for cancer in humans was *inadequate* in each case. The Working Group evaluated BBzP, DBP, and DINP each as *possibly carcinogenic to humans* (Group 2B).



The Working Group and Secretariat for Meeting 142, which met in Lyon, France, in June 2026.



IARC Early Career Scientists at Meeting 142

Where are you originally from and how long have you been at IARC?

Oliver Langselius: I am Swedish American and grew up around the Stockholm area, Sweden. I have been at IARC for 4.5 years now.

Mario Postiglione: I am originally from Naples, Italy, where I am completing my final year of residency in Public Health and my PhD in Public Health. I joined IARC as an Early Career Scientist and have spent nine months at the Agency.

Fan  lie Vasson: I am originally from Lyon, France (a true Lyonnaise since birth!). I have been at IARC since February 2023.

Sara Veneziano: I am from Italy and have been at IARC since February 2026.

What is your role in your group at IARC? What research projects are you working on?

OL: I currently work in the Gastric Cancer Prevention Team. I am involved in the [EU-GAINS project](#), developing *Helicobacter pylori* screen-and-treat primary prevention guidelines for European countries. I also work on estimating avoidable deaths through improvements in primary and secondary prevention, as well as curative treatment, at the global level for gastrointestinal cancers.

MP: At IARC, my main research project focused on a target trial emulation that had the aim of investigating the association between smoking cessation and all-cause mortality using observational data, applying advanced causal inference methods to address important public health questions. In parallel, I contributed to the Liquid Biopsy Protocol for Oncology (LUPO) project within the International Collaboration for Cancer Classification and Research (IC³R) Group

FV: I am a PhD student in the Hormones and Cancer (HorM) and Biostatistics and Data Integration (BDI) teams within NME*. My research focuses on lifestyle changes, including smoking, alcohol consumption, BMI and physical activity, and breast cancer in the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition ([EPIC](#)) cohort.

SV: I am a visiting PhD student in the NME Branch, working on a research project that aims to identify excipients present in drugs that should be prioritized for assessment of their potential cancer risk.

What were your main insights from your time at the *Monographs* meeting?

OL: Just how differently a study design, assessment of the exposure or risk, or the result from a study look when discussing it in a *Monographs* format compared with when looking at a singular study, review or meta-analysis. It gives a lot of ideas for future study design or analyses.

MP: One of my main takeaways from the meeting was the crucial role that independent scientific assessment plays in global cancer prevention. The discussions demonstrated how robust evaluation of epidemiological, experimental, and mechanistic evidence can inform public health policies worldwide. Being part of this environment was highly motivating and underscored the impact that collaborative international research can have on reducing the burden of cancer.

FV: One of the most striking aspects was how quickly I was entrusted with meaningful scientific tasks, such as reviewing drafts, extracting data, and assisting with figure creation. Despite being an early-career researcher, I felt fully integrated into the team and received excellent support. I was also impressed by the high level of organization, rigour, and attention to detail that underpin the international reputation of the *IARC Monographs* programme. Finally, I valued the diversity and dedication of the external experts involved in the evaluation process. I also appreciated the transparency of the meetings, where observers could attend parts of the discussions and provide comments through designated procedures.

SV: It was a privilege to participate in a *Monographs* meeting and to observe the collaborative exchange of scientific expertise and viewpoints among leading experts from around the world. I found it extremely interesting and rewarding to witness first-hand the rigorous and meticulous work undertaken by the scientists. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to engage in such an important scientific process.



From left to right: Mario Postiglione (NME), Fan  lie Vasson (NME), Sara Veneziano (NME), Ayushi Trivedi (IMO), Oliver Langselius (EPR)*

* EPR, Early Detection, Prevention, and Infections Branch; IMO, *IARC Monographs* Programme; NME, Nutrition and Metabolism Branch.



The *Monographs* team at the IARC@60 conference

During the IARC@60 conference held in Lyon from 19 to 21 May, the *IARC Monographs* team engaged extensively with the scientific and public health community. As shown in the accompanying photos on these two pages, the team's contributions included the organization of a plenary session, as well as delivering three platform presentations, four posters, and a booth dedicated to the latest publications and database developed by the team.

The conference was organized around three major themes that exemplify the work of IARC: (I) Discovery and innovation for cancer prevention; (II) Translating research into public health action; and (III) Science-policy interface for global change.

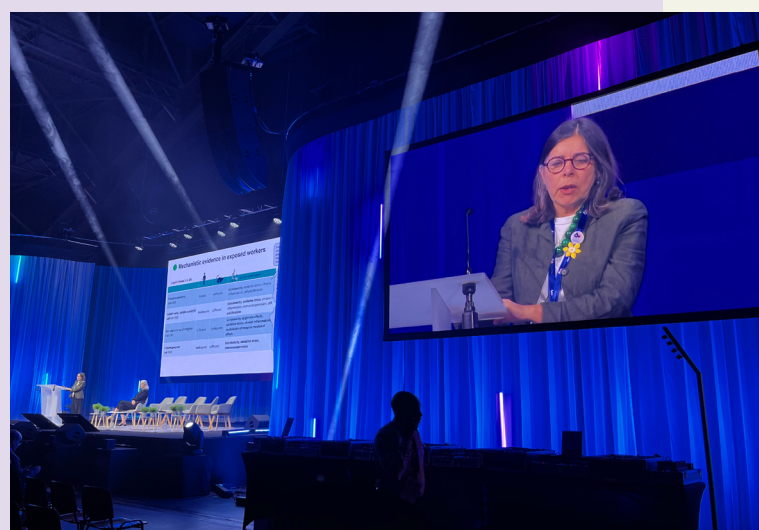


During the plenary session “Scientific evidence into action”, *IARC Monographs* programme head **Dr Mary Schubauer-Berigan** described how the programme can inform actions to prevent cancer. She introduced Dr Therese Hanvold of the National Institute of Occupational Health (STAMI), Norway, whose keynote presentation addressed the importance of cancer hazard identification for occupational cancer prevention; and moderated a round-table including Ms Ulrika Årehed Kågström of the Union for International Cancer Control and Dr Sunny O. Abarikwu of University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, who spoke on the relevance of *IARC Monographs* evaluations of secondhand smoke and atrazine for the public and research communities.



Dr Schubauer-Berigan and **Dr Federica Madia** presented at a parallel session entitled “Progress in identifying the preventable causes of human cancer”, which featured the newly identified Group 1 agents (see article on [p. 1](#)), as well as methodologies and future priorities for the programme.

Dr Andrew Kunzmann presented on the recent evaluation of three viruses at Meeting 139 during a parallel session on “What does global cancer science really deliver?”, and **Dr Elisa Pasqual** presented on what we know about the causes of childhood cancer in a parallel session on “Childhood cancer research in action”.



Dr Lamia Benbrahim-Tallaa presented a poster on the latest scientific developments in evaluation of animal cancer bioassays. The posters presented by **Dr Caterina Facchin**, **Dr Aline de Conti**, and **Dr Roland Wedekind** highlighted the recent evaluations of three pharmaceuticals (Meeting 137), automotive gasoline and some oxygenated additives (Meeting 138), and three pesticides (Meeting 140).



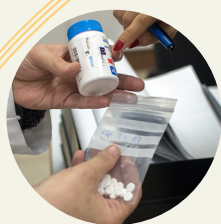
The booth staffed by the *IARC Monographs* technical team (including **Ms Solène Quennehen**, **Ms Niree Kraushaar**, **Ms Sandrine Ruiz**, **Dr Heidi Mattock**, and **Mr Mathieu Rose**) and scientists proved a popular stop-over on the final day of the conference. There, attendees could peruse the latest publications and even had a sneak preview of the forthcoming *IARC Monographs* Database Online (IARC MonDO), which will be publicly released later in 2026.

In all, the IARC@60 conference provided an incredible opportunity for the team to engage with the broader community on our important work.

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Published in 2026

IARC Monographs



Hydrochlorothiazide, Voriconazole, and Tacrolimus
February 2026: Volume 137
Available from:
<https://publications.iarc.who.int/659>



Automotive Gasoline and Some Oxygenated Additives
July 2026: Volume 138
Available from:
<https://publications.iarc.who.int/652>

The Lancet Oncology

Sun M, Glass DG, Josephy PD, Mancini FR, Ogawa K, Blanc EB, et al. (2026). Carcinogenicity of butyl benzyl phthalate, dibutyl phthalate, and diisononyl phthalate. *The Lancet Oncology*. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045\(26\)00334-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(26)00334-7)

Lachenmeier D, Arrandale VH, DeMarini DM, Ruksha T, Abdallah MA-E, Bettini G, et al. (2026). Carcinogenicity of tris(chloropropyl)phosphate, butyraldehyde, and cumyl hydroperoxide. *The Lancet Oncology*. 27(5):539–540. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045\(26\)00168-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(26)00168-3)



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