



World Cancer Congress

Geneva, Switzerland

18–20 Oct 2022



Summary Report

*Committed to global collaboration
and knowledge sharing to accelerate
progress in cancer control*





Three days of stimulating discussions, new and renewed connections, and significant announcements marked the World Cancer Congress 2022.

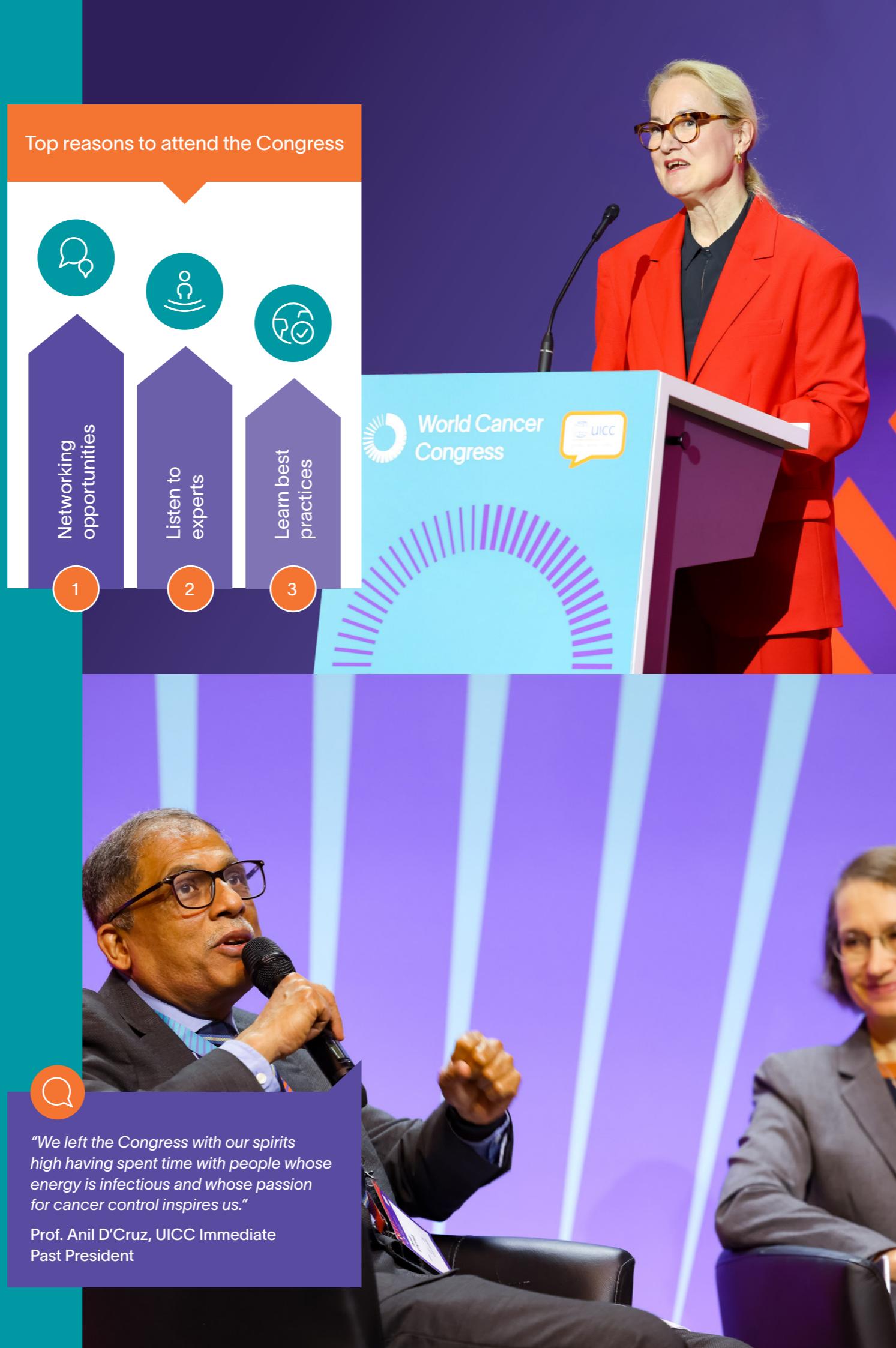
More than 2,000 participants from over 120 countries convened in Geneva from 18-20 October or connected remotely for a programme filled with topical sessions, rapid-fire presentations of scientific abstracts and research studies, and lively debates on key challenges affecting the full range of cancer control. The Congress also featured workshops and other learning opportunities, movie screenings, a Spotlight Stage, a Global Village with Theme Pavilions and social evenings.

The participants represented cancer organisations, patient groups, governments, international organisations, United Nations agencies, academia and private sector companies.

Their enthusiasm to meet again was palpable, and the significant exchanges on-site and via the app showed how connected and committed the cancer community has remained through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the first time in its history, the World Cancer Congress, organised by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), was hosted by a group of several cancer organisations and institutions (the Swedish Cancer Society, the Dutch Cancer Society, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Geneva University Hospitals (HUG), the French National Cancer Institute (INCa), the Nordic Cancer Union, the Norwegian Cancer Society, the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP), and Unitaid) and held in partnership with four UN agencies: the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and UNAIDS.

In addition to the on-site programme, the Congress online platform allowed participants to network remotely and access 66 pre-recorded digital sessions. All other sessions, plenaries and debates delivered in Geneva were recorded and made available on the platform each day after the live event, and remain accessible to registered participants until 31 December 2022.



Highlights of the programme

The World Cancer Congress programme was designed with six themes:

- Prevention, screening & early detection
- Cancer research & progress
- Healthcare systems & policies
- Cancer treatment & palliative care
- Tobacco control
- People living with cancer

Unlike previous Congresses, two new themes were covered in detail: one on tobacco control, reinforcing the commitment to the fight against cancer resulting from tobacco use, and one on people living with cancer to highlight the importance of including their voices in discussions and decisions that affect cancer patients' lives.

Dave Craig, CEO of GRYT Health and a cancer survivor delivered a powerful keynote speech at the Opening Ceremony. He shared his experience with cancer and inspired the delegates through his resilience and personality, setting the tone for the Congress.

"Twice, I have been a cancer patient and this last April, I lost my wife Alice to melanoma. Being Alice's caregiver is the most important role I have ever fulfilled in my life. Being a part of this global cancer community gives me strength when I don't have enough on my own."

His speech was followed by a series of welcome speeches, including from Mauro Poggia, President of the Council State, State Counselor in charge of Safety, Population and Health (DSPS) of Geneva, Switzerland; Prof. Anil D'Cruz, UICC Immediate Past President; Prof. Jeff Dunn, UICC President; and Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization.

All in all, 662 speakers delivered 160 plenaries and interactive sessions pre-recorded and on-site.

Session topics covered the full spectrum of cancer control – from awareness raising and prevention, to supportive care and survivorship – and important health issues that concern the cancer community. Among these:

The potential for governments to introduce a generational ban on tobacco: New Zealand has pioneered new legislation aimed at making the next generation “smoke-free” by prohibiting anyone born after 2008 from buying tobacco products in their lifetime.



“Our government will take bold action alongside communities to protect future generations from the trap of tobacco dependence and the harm caused by the deadliest and the most addictive product in the world.”

Ayesha Verrall, Associate Minister of Health, New Zealand

Discussion on promising breakthroughs: Vaccines, multicancer screening, precision interception and prevention, immunotherapy, artificial intelligence. What current innovations are helping to improve care in low income settings and close the equity gap?

Regional cancer control strategies to reduce mortality: What are regionally relevant approaches that can be taken to try to reduce the burden of cancer considering available resources?

Cancer care in times of uncertainty, conflict and war: The challenges of delivering care in zones of unrest and to refugees.

Improving access to cancer medicines in low-income regions: This requires increasing the capacity for diagnosing cancer and for the proper handling and supply monitoring of these medicines, strengthening health systems and training workforce, as well as improving the affordability of medicines.

The threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) for cancer patients: AMR or drug resistance, including antibiotic resistance, is a growing public health issue and needs urgent attention in countries around the world. One in five cancer patients undergoing treatment are hospitalised due to infection. In the future, AMR could undermine key advances being made in cancer care by adversely affecting cancer treatment outcomes and threaten the survival of people living with cancer.

The right to assisted dying: Should medical aid in dying be available to cancer patients as part of palliative or supportive care? Under what circumstances? Ethical considerations and a look at countries where it is currently legal.

Breast and cervical cancer: The programme included many sessions focused on breast and cervical cancer which sought to draw attention to these key topics, the opportunities to drive progress and reduce the burden of these cancers, and to share learning across the community.

The Congress ended on a powerful note with a very well attended closing ceremony culminating in the Awards Ceremony for Best Abstracts, Best CEO and Best World Cancer Day Campaign.



“We feel that the World Cancer Congress is absolutely unique and essential in the fight against cancer and has a huge added value as it brings together the various and complementary stakeholders of the ecosystem. We are thrilled by our collaboration with UICC to make supportive care move forward.”

Benjamin Brunschwig, International Sustainability Director & Foundation Director, La Roche Posay

“What I really love is the energy. When I come to the Congress I get energised, I hear so much about what everyone is doing in their own countries, I meet old friends and make new friends, so I really appreciate the Congress and I am so happy that we are back.”

Pat Garcia Gonzales, Max Foundation

Fifty-five different organisations and companies sponsored the Congress, representing a diverse group of organisations and companies bringing their knowledge and expertise to a disease which demands multi-sectoral collaboration.

Sponsored sessions and workshops



Removing barriers in the care pathway and recognising new sources of value
by Abbvie

Catalysing global action on lung cancer: A focus on secondary prevention
by AstraZeneca

Meeting WHO 90-70-90 goals: Expanding access to novel HPV screening technologies through private-public partnerships
by Becton Dickinson

Global impact of cancer and mental health
by BeiGene

Insights for success session
by Bristol Myers Squibb

Indigenous cancer prevention and care – Outcomes from the 2019 World Indigenous Cancer Conference and actions towards WICC 2023
by Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

How are we doing? Measuring impact of national/regional cancer plans
by Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

Developing global advocacy priorities for cooperation to accelerate equitable access to HPV vaccination in the context of single-dose vaccines
by Cancer Research UK

Tobacco Control Partnership Launch
by Cancer Research UK and UICC

Precision oncology and biomarkers: Opening new therapeutic avenues for cancer patients
by Daiichi Sankyo

Reimagining cancer research in Europe
by Dutch Cancer Society

Affordable access to cancer treatments – The European Fair Pricing Initiative (EFPN)
by Dutch CS and Norwegian Cancer Society

Towards greater mobilisation for cancers with a poor prognosis
by French National Cancer Institute

Increasing access to quality assured and affordable essential medicines for cancer care – how can we make this happen?
by Medicines Patent Pool

Challenges that impact women in the Middle East and in Africa reaching treatments early
by MSD

Unleashing the potential of HPV vaccines
by MSD

Understanding and improving oncology financing policy
by MSD and ThinkWell

The power of patient knowledge: Patients' voice in national cancer control planning
by Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)

Health equity: Not one size fits all
by Pfizer

The road to global cervical cancer elimination: The role of multi-stakeholder collaboration in scaling equitable access to prevention, screening & diagnosis
by Roche and Cervivor

Improving financing for cancer care: Innovative approaches for low- and middle-income countries
by Roche

Driving insights to action in Universal Health Coverage
by Roche and UICC

Inequity in cancer, a European perspective - How do we measure inequities in cancer?
by Swedish Cancer Society

Two years of global commitment to eliminate cervical cancer: experiences and lessons learnt for secondary prevention
by Unitaid



New programme features

Twenty-four inspirational talks were delivered on the Spotlight Stage within a lively Global Village of more than 25 exhibition stands. Renowned experts participated in 25 "Meet the Expert" features and shared their insights in three Theme Pavilions.

Four Policy Dialogues, crafted in collaboration with the World Health Organization looked at policy approaches on sustainable financing for cancer control, cancer care in Universal Health Coverage and in times of conflict and environmental emergencies, and how to build more robust cancer systems for a post COVID-19 world.

Interactive roundtable sessions gathered experts on childhood cancer awareness, and fake news and cancer misinformation.

A series of films on cancer were screened at three Cinema sessions, encompassing issues of equity in access to care, the journeys of families going through childhood cancer in different settings, the resilience of cancer survivors, and cervical cancer elimination efforts.

Over 200 abstracts were presented in the format of dynamic rapid-fire presentations offering precise perspectives on emerging research, insights and trends.


"UICC is uniting and bringing the cancer control community together to seek answers and to reduce the burden of the disease. All of us are part of the solution."

Jeff Dunn, UICC President


"The World Cancer Congress is an excellent opportunity to network, to come together, to build partnerships and to learn from each other and to join the fight for people in need of our support."

Bente Mikkelson, Director of Noncommunicable Diseases, World Health Organization

An exclusive offer for leaders

For the first time, the World Cancer Congress featured an exclusive offer for decision makers in cancer control.

Over 520 delegates with leadership responsibilities took up the offer and joined the Congress in Geneva, including CEOs, presidents and other senior representatives of the world's major cancer societies and leagues, foundations, research institutes, hospitals, UN agencies, the corporate sector as well as members of royal families that play a major role in the fight against cancer, and governmental representatives including Ministers of Health.

They benefitted from three bespoke sessions developed by leaders for leaders and a dedicated Leaders' Lounge open during the three days of the event.



"We wanted to take a moment to congratulate the entire UICC team for holding such a vibrant and thought-provoking World Cancer Congress, which was also a great return to in-person for many of us, and led to a terrific exchange of ideas which will be pursued over weeks and months to come."

Satish Gopal, Director, Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute USA


"The whole conference was full of inspiration and it gave us the opportunity of sharing our experience and knowledge"

Hong Gwan SEO, President, National Cancer Center Korea (NCCK)



2,000 registered participants from over 120 countries with 1,600 on-site



47% of the delegates were from UICC members

25% of the delegates had leadership responsibilities



55 partners and sponsors



34,400 social media posts, **71.4 million** impressions and **52,400** engagements. The primary platform was Twitter and the top hashtag was **#WCC2022**

600 press mentions, with coverage in major outlets such as AFP, El País, Il Repubblica, EFE, Times South Africa and RTS



Satisfaction survey*

Over **88%** of Congress delegates rated their experience as very good to outstanding

93% of Congress delegates reported having made new connections at the Congress and intend to stay in touch

93% of Congress delegates learnt something new at the Congress

98% of Congress delegates would recommend the Congress to a colleague



160 sessions presented by **662** speakers

209 abstracts presented in Geneva, **624** available on the eLibrary

60 organisations engaged in the Global Village activities (stand, Meet the Experts, Spotlight Stage)



On the Congress online platform

6,684 total messages exchanged

4,250 total contacts made

3,140 total discussions created



"It is a pleasure to receive so much positive feedback about the programme. It was created by committed individuals from diverse institutions, partners, and cancer organisations from around the world, including the University of Hospitals of Geneva."

Pierre-Yves Dietrich, 2022 Congress Programme Executive Chair, former Chairman of the Department of Oncology at the Geneva University Hospitals, and Co-Director of the Swiss Cancer Center Léman

Examples of exciting initiatives and announcements

The Dutch Cancer Society pledged €2 million to kickstart a new European initiative to boost research into cancer prevention and implementation science, with additional funding pledged by the Swedish Cancer Society (Cancerfonden). The International Agency for Research on Cancer will contribute its scientific expertise and resources, and other European cancer organisations have also expressed interest in contributing to this research initiative.

Cancer Research UK and UICC agreed to launch a new partnership to pursue efforts in tobacco control.

The National Cancer Center of Korea committed to support UICC Technical Fellowships in the coming years.

A special supplement of the AMR Control journal emphasising the impact of AMR on cancer care outcomes was launched by UICC. This supplement focuses attention on the threat of antimicrobial resistance to cancer patients.

In recognition of their support to the Solidarity Fund for Ukraine, launched earlier this year UICC facilitated the first meeting of the Solidarity Fund partners with the Advisory Board members and the ECO/ASCO Special Network, as well as representatives from awarded organisations, in particular Inspiration Family and Global Medical Knowledge Alliance.

The 2021-22 cohort of Young Leaders completed their one-year programme at the Congress. They were able to meet in person for the first time and contributed to many sessions over the course of the event, showcasing the range of their expertise.

The Access to Oncology Medicines (ATOM) Coalition partners, Medicines Patent Pool and Novartis announced a ground-breaking agreement for the first ever public health-oriented voluntary licensing of a cancer medicine; a timely example of innovative partnerships in action working to close the equity gap to access to essential cancer medicines.

*These figures were extrapolated from the responses to the World Cancer Congress satisfaction survey sent out on 20 October 2022.

Networking opportunities

The Congress offered many opportunities for networking and connection. Delegates enjoyed each other's company in a welcoming congress centre following two years of COVID-19 and social restrictions. The venue was arranged with walk-in offices for everyone's use and many lounge areas including one designed for leaders which provided an ideal setting for one-to-one or small group meetings.

Many Congress sponsors and UICC partners hosted receptions and dinners including the National Cancer Institute USA, Pfizer, Prevent Cancer Foundation, Unitaid and the World Health Organization.

On the second day of the Congress, delegates enjoyed a social evening dinner with live music, magicians and live cooking adding a touch of fun and relaxation to celebrate being together again after four years. This special evening was supported by Fondation Philanthropia.

Throughout the Congress days, guided networking activities and discussions took place in the Global Village and in the lounges helping delegates make new connections.



"We interacted with more members of the cancer care community in three days than we had in three years prior! And the focus and urgency now given to early detection was especially heartwarming to us!"

Mihir Shah, Founder & President,
UE LifeSciences

"You are inspiring a global discussion, you are connecting experts and leaders in this field and you are enabling a sense of discussion that can really lead to meaningful progress on the ground and it does not end here. It is a match that has been lighted, which we can continue to carry and for me that makes everything worthwhile. The time here has been precious, it has been invaluable in terms of how much we could do in just three days."

Tamara Schudel, VP & Head of Global Policy & Advocacy, Roche



Awards

The UICC Awards were presented during the Closing Ceremony by UICC's Past President, HRH Princess Dina Mired of Jordan. They celebrated the remarkable leadership, best abstracts and inspiring campaigns by UICC members and the cancer community. External judging panels selected the winners among outstanding finalists.

The winners of Best CEO and Best World Cancer Day Campaign received their awards live on stage at the Congress after having been previously announced at UICC's General Assembly.



Best Scientific Abstract

Winner: Zihao Zou, The First Affiliated Hospital of China Medical University

Title: The Prognostic Value of PIK3CA Mutations in Neoadjuvant Anti-HER2 Therapy of Breast Cancer: A Meta-Analysis (ID:1332)

Registration sponsored by China Anti-Cancer Association (CACA)

Shortlisted / or finalists: Georgios Lyratzopoulos / Shane Johnson, Cancer Research UK; Ru Chen Cancer Hospital Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences

Best Fundraising Campaign Report

Winner: Elina Viitaniemi, ESCA CancerSupport

Title: Steps for CancerSupport: Fundraising and awareness building in a hybrid environment (ID:1123)

Shortlisted: Anish Mathew, Friends of Cancer Patients (FOCP); Todd Harper, Cancer Council Victoria

Best Advocacy, Policy, and Practice Report

Winner: Kate Broun, Cancer Council Victoria

Title: Lessons learnt from 5 years of prioritising bowel screening, 2017-2021 (ID: 1169)

Shortlisted: Ditte Marie Bruune, Danish Cancer Society; Nehal Khanna, Tata Memorial Hospital

Best CEO Award:

To highlight the diversity of leadership approaches during the last two very challenging COVID years, the judges had decided that the 2022 CEO Award should be presented to all three finalists: Hana Chaar Choueib, General Manager, Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL); Diana Sarfati, CEO, Te Aho o Te Kahu, Cancer Control Agency, New Zealand; Murallitharan Munisamy, Managing Director, National Cancer Society Malaysia (NCSM).

Best World Cancer Day Campaign

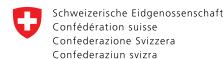
Award: Spanish Association Against Cancer

Shortlisted: Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon, China Anti Cancer Association, Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Centre

UICC thanks all the World Cancer Congress partners and sponsors



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