



This Newsletter brings you all the news and announcements from ECSA. If you have any feedback, questions or ideas, feel free to contact us on: ecsa@iarc.fr. For more information on the featured topics, check out the [SharePoint](#).

ECSA Social Events

Ping Pong tournament



Tea Party



Did you know about R ladies?

R ladies is a worldwide organization whose mission is to promote Diversity in the R community.

As a diversity initiative, R-Ladies' mission is to achieve proportionate representation by inspiring and empowering minorities currently underrepresented in the R community. The overall aim is to build a collaborative global network of R users and developers to cultivate and expand technical skills, and build a supportive community where one can find mentorship, knowledge exchange, and networking opportunities.

We are excited to announce a new Lyon chapter opening up soon! We will keep you informed about the first event and look forward to seeing you there!

If you want to find out more please contact Shama Virani: viranis@fellows.iarc.fr or take a look at the official website <https://rladies.org>



Events you do NOT want to miss!

➤ **The festival of lights** is a popular event in Lyon, attracting several millions of visitors. From 6 to 9 December 2018, over 50 light installations will create a magical atmosphere through the city. Official website: www.fetedeslumieres.lyon.fr



➤ **LaSaintéLyon** is a nocturnal running raid between Saint-Etienne and Lyon on 1st december 2018. Several relays or solo races are proposed: 12, 22, 44, or 81 kms. Still time to register: <https://www.saintelyon.com>

➤ **La course des Lumières** is a race of 4 or 10 km in Lyon organised by Centre Léon Bérard on 24 Nov. 2018. Still time to register: <http://lyon.coursedeslumieres.com>



Wrap it up

In this section we feature a Wrap up of a recently published paper by ECSA members. In this issue, it is with great pleasure that we are featuring the latest papers of **Joannie Lortet-Tieulent (postdoc, INF/ICE)**, **Daniel Middleton (postdoc, ENV)**, **Sahar Yammine (doctoral student, NME/NEP)**, and **Sophie Pilleron (postdoc, CSU)** with a brief summary of their main findings.

Thyroid Cancer “Epidemic” also Occurs in Low- and Middle-income countries

Joannie Lortet-Tieulent



You may remember that a study on thyroid cancer incidence in high-income (HICs) and low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) was presented at the ECSA day in April 2018. The corresponding article was just released in the International Journal of Cancer. In this study, the authors show very high thyroid cancer incidence rates in some LMICs, comparable to those of some HICs where overdiagnosis plays an important role. The highest rates occurred in urban areas and countries where diagnostic equipment is abundant and not subject to regulatory control. The findings suggest that, similar to HICs, increased surveillance and advanced diagnostic practices in some LMICs has produced an epidemic of thyroid cancer diagnoses.

You can also check the full article: <https://doi.org/10.1002/ijc.31884>

Intra-household agreement of urinary elemental concentrations in Tanzania and Kenya: potential surrogates in case-control studies

Daniel Middleton



The rationale behind this work was to overcome the challenge of assessing the pre-disease nutritional status of oesophageal cancer cases, who present with severe malnourishment due to difficulty in swallowing food. This post-disease drop in nutritional status is reflected in short-term biomonitoring matrices such as urine, making them unfeasible for investigating pre-disease nutritional status in relation to cancer risk in case-control studies. This problem of reverse causality extends to other non-communicable diseases, and to harmful elements. The authors aimed to investigate whether, in healthy rural Kenyan and Tanzanian adults, urinary elements correlated between individuals at the household level. If strong agreements were found, surrogate participants could be used to estimate the pre-disease nutritional status of cases with urine sampling.

You can also check the full article: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41370-018-0071-8>

Association between Serum Phospholipid Fatty Acid Levels and Adiposity among Lebanese Adults: A Cross-Sectional Study

Sahar Yammine



There have been increases in the incidence of obesity in Lebanon over the past few decades. Fatty acid intake and metabolism have been postulated to influence obesity. To investigate this influence, serum samples of 395 Lebanese adults were profiled for phospholipid fatty acid composition and Spearman correlation coefficients were calculated between fatty acids, desaturation indices, and indicators of obesity. Body Mass Index was significantly positively correlated with saturated fatty acids in men and women and significantly positively correlated with monounsaturated fatty acid palmitoleic acid in women. This study suggests that high blood levels of some saturated fatty acids and the monounsaturated fatty acid palmitoleic acid, likely derived from both dietary intakes of saturated fatty acids and endogenous lipogenesis, may have been associated with adiposity in the Lebanese population.

You can also check the full article: <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu10101371>

Do not hesitate to contact us to share with us your latest publication !



Cancer incidence in older adults in selected regions of sub-Saharan Africa, 2008-2012

Sophie Pilleron

The authors described recent patterns and trends in incidence rates for the major cancer sites in adults aged 60+ in four sub-Saharan African population-based cancer registries. Overall, one-third of all cancer cases were diagnosed among older adults. Between 1990 and 2012, incidence rates especially for breast and prostate cancers have increased in Uganda and Zimbabwe. The growing cancer burden among the older adults demands consideration to include older adults in cancer control programmes in the region.

You can also check the full article: <https://doi.org/10.1002/ijc.31880>

Goodbye Interview

Adèle Paul went to IARC as a medical resident doing a 6 months internship in the CSU section to investigate the prevalence of exposure to occupational carcinogens. She has been recently graduated from the university of Lyon.

How did you end up at IARC?

As a resident in medicine, I had to perform different internships each 6 months. My boss Pr Barbara CHARBOTEL heard about this internship on occupational exposures, usually available for residents in Public Health. Since I was a resident in occupational medicine and interested in research, we asked if it was possible for me to come and it was accepted.



How would you rate your IARC experience in general, what did this last year bring you?

This internship allowed me to discover the environment of research, what it implies and how it works. I had the chance to be involved in the development of the project on which I worked, which was a great opportunity for me. Besides, I wanted to take advantage of all the aspects of being at IARC, so I attended many trainings and seminars, English classes and the one-week monograph meeting. It is a very rich experience to work in an international and very dynamic structure like IARC.

What is your future project you will be working on?

My residency is now ending, so I am starting a part-time job as an occupational physician at the University of Lyon. Besides, during my Master degree in Health and Environment at the University of Grenoble, I worked on the endocrine disruptive effects of pesticides. I was really interested in this topic and really liked my experiences in research, so I decided to go on with a PhD about the implication of pesticides exposures on testicular cancer, with the University of Lyon, the Léon Bérard Center and the Environmental section of IARC.

After all of these experiences... would you see yourself more in the epidemiology field or in the medical sector?

As I was just saying, I would like to manage both of them. I really appreciate the contact with patients and I also think that research is very stimulating. Moreover, I believe that they are two complementary fields : on the one hand, doing some research leads you to keep the knowledge you use with patients up to date, and on the other hand, working with patients helps you to step back and look at the overall picture behind your research projects and their impact on the real life.

And now to know a little more about you... what are your hobbies?

I like doing sports (running, hiking, climbing...), playing violin, travelling, going to concerts, spending time with my friends... there are so many things to do when I am not at work!



ECSA survey



You will soon receive a questionnaire to collect your feedback about your overall experience as an ECSA member. Your answers are important and will allow us to further improve the quality of our activities.
We hope you will be numerous to participate.

Welcome to IARC

New ECS arrivals from August to October 2018



Rafaella Nunes
Trainee
INF/ICB



Aikaterini Katsikari
Trainee
NME/NEP



Phuong Tran
Trainee
EDP/PRI



Laura Pla Paga
Trainee
NME/BMA



Jelle Wagenaar
Trainee
NME/NEP



Hayley Wilson
Trainee
NME/NEP



Laura Moonen
Trainee
GEN/GCS



Sophie Jacquemont
Master's student
LSB



Eulalie Lombard
Master's student
MCA/EGE



Mengmeng Li
Postdoc
INF/ICE



Jean-Noël Hubert
Postdoc
GEN/GEP