



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](#).



Goodbye to Dr Chris Wild

A major event of the end of 2018 was the departure of Dr Chris Wild as IARC Director. We thank him for the constant support to ECSA from the beginning stages when it was being formed to the evolving community it has become. Chris has been really inspiring for all ECVS over the last 10 years during his Directorship. We wish him all the best for the future.

ECVS to the Christmas Cocktail



Thanks to the SAC for organizing this GREAT event

Events you do NOT want to miss!

- ❖ **Le Printemps du Cinéma 2019** will be held on March, 17-19. Over these 3 days, cinema ticket costs only 4 euros. Official website: <http://www.fncf.org/online/pid170/le-printemps-du-cinema-2019.html>
- ❖ **Le festival Quais du Polar 2019** will be held on March, 29-31. It is a free festival that welcomes crime novel's authors. It adresses to all audiences.

Did you know?

- ❖ **IARC has a YouTube channel** including around a hundred videos in which scientists describe how IARC and partners strive to fight cancer around the world. Have a look at the IARC channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw1sEvFsKqLLRmKQdaOSs9A/videos>
- ❖ **Job Application Clinic** is a 30 minutes meeting to review your CV and cover letter before submission for a job application and improve your chances for interview consideration! JACs will be held every first Monday of the month between 10:00-10:30 and 10:45-11:15. More details on the [Career Prospects Portal of IARC](#).

Wrap it up

In this section we feature a wrap-up of published papers by ECSA members. In this issue, it is with great pleasure that we are featuring the latest papers of **Flavie Perrier (postdoc, NME/NMB)**, **Mahdi Sheikh (postdoc, GEN/GEP)** and **Daniel Middleton (postdoc, ENV)** with a brief summary of their main findings.



Flavie Perrier

Identifying and correcting epigenetics measurements for systematic sources of variation.

DNA methylation measurements may be affected by systematic and random variation due to the processing of samples, either introduced by the technical treatment of samples after collection from study participants, or during the acquisition phase by allocation of samples into chips within laboratory batches. The PC-PR2 method was adapted in order to identify and quantify the sources of variability in epigenetics data. The method lent itself as a very handy way to handle very cumbersome data in terms of size of features to process simultaneously. Then three different normalization techniques, i.e. ComBat, SVA and a method based on the computation of residuals, were compared in terms of their ability to remove unwanted variation. For this purpose, the association between smoking status and DNA methylation within the CHARGE Consortium was used as an application.

You can also check the full article: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13148-018-0471-6>



Mahdi Sheikh

Individual and Combined effects of environmental risk factors for esophageal cancer based on results from the Golestan cohort study

Golestan province in Northeastern Iran has long been known to have one of the highest reported rates of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC) worldwide. Decades of international investigations in this region indicate key roles for some local habits and environmental exposures. The Golestan Cohort Study (GCS), with more than fifty thousand individuals, detailed exposure assessments, and biological samples, was launched during a four-year period starting from 2004 to explore the underlying etiologic factors of the unusual ESCC rates in the Golestan. In this analysis, based on 505,865 person-years of follow-up, we identified seven environmental exposures that could explain almost 75% of the ESCC cases in this region. These are drinking hot tea, smoking opium, low intake of fruits and vegetables, drinking un-piped water, exposure to indoor air pollution and excessive tooth loss. These results indicate that ESCC in high incidence areas is a multifactorial disease, requiring a combination of exposures for its development. All these risk factors are potentially preventable through education and improving basic social infrastructure.

You can also check the full article: <https://doi.org/10.1053/j.gastro.2018.12.024>



Daniel Middleton

Hot beverages and oesophageal cancer risk in western Kenya: findings from the ESCCAPE case-control study

Very hot beverages – IARC Group 2A – are associated with increased esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC) risk. We conducted a case-control study (430 cases; 440 controls) in western Kenya. Odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were estimated for self-reported drinking temperatures and other consumption habits. Drinkers of “very hot” and “hot” beverages had a 3.7 (95% CI: 2.1-6.5) and 1.4-fold (1.0-2.0) ESCC risk, respectively compared to “warm” drinkers. The tumour sub-location distribution (upper/middle/lower oesophagus) did not differ by reported drinking temperature. This study is the first comprehensive investigation in this setting to observe a link between hot beverage consumption and ESCC in East Africa. These findings provide further evidence for the role of this potentially modifiable risk factor in ESCC aetiology.

You can also check the full article: <https://doi.org/10.1002/ijc.32032>

IARC Early Career Scientist Association

Who are we?

ECSA is an association open to early career scientists currently affiliated with IARC. All new students and postdocs are automatically part of ECSA and are eligible to benefit from any activities organized by the Association.

ECSA Organizing Committee (ECSA-OC)

Co-CHAIRS



Vibha Patil



Shama Virani

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING



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BUDDY PROGRAMME



Shefali Thakur



Mathilde His

ECSA-OC contact: ecsa@iarc.fr
More information on the [ECSA sharepoint](#)
ECSA Twitter account: [@ECSA_IARC](#)



Special announcement

We invite you to attend the **6th ECSA Scientific and Career Day** on **23rd May 2019**, a day of exciting presentations and interactive seminars focusing on important issues for early career scientists. The day will include:

- ❖ **Oral and poster presentations:** Share your research (published or unpublished), study ideas or topics that will generate discussion and interest from others. The best oral and poster presentations will be awarded.
- ❖ **Career advices:** You will have the chance to hear from senior scientists representing public health, science communication and academia in a career panel session. As part of this there will be a panel discussion with around 4 speakers from various backgrounds, to hear about different career paths in cancer related fields.
- ❖ **Networking opportunity:** A cocktail reception with other ECSA members and our invited visitors will take place at the end of the day. You will get the chance to talk to your peers from other sections and the senior scientists involved in the ECSA Day.

WANTED

We are looking for motivated volunteers to help with the organization of the event.

For more information contact
ecsa@iarc.fr

ECSA members are encouraged to participate and/or present their research work. Registration and abstract submissions links will be provided very soon via e-mail.

A special interview

As new director, what is your vision for IARC? What will be the first actions that you take?

“I will ensure that IARC promote international collaboration in cancer research and support countries to implement measures to prevent cancer. We have the skills in-house and the knowledge to support public health decisions globally. My first actions will be to talk to the staff, scientists, stakeholders and understand better their perspectives, aspiration, and how continue the great science that IARC is doing and hopefully expand it”.



You were special trainee awardee at IARC in 1994-1995; could you talk about your experiences at this time? What does this experience bring you?

“I stayed during a 10-month period in the unit of Dr Rodolfo Saracci. This period opened the door to all professional contacts in my future career. I consider networks that IARC offers to each early career scientists (ECS) as one of the main advantages of spending time here.”

Is there a moment or event or person you can identify as being the thing that really helped shape your career direction? Or have you been moving from one place to next based on what interests you?

“Yes, Professor Cesar Victora from Brazil opened me the door of science. He mentored me during my master in epidemiology. He taught me that field epidemiology is a great way to keep contact with the true public health needs of the population you are working with.”

Any thoughts on the gender equality debate and what young female scientists can do early in their career to help bridge the remaining gaps?

“Gender equality is an urgent necessity for the good of any organisation. Diversity is crucial and it is high in my priority list. I would advise each young woman to network, network, and network and not give up.”

What are some considerations ECVS should take into account when planning their next career steps?

“While at IARC, I would advise each ECS to meet as many ECS as possible as well as visitors to IARC and present your research as much as possible for instance to scientific and governing councils. I will work to increase the visibility of the work of ECS inside but also outside IARC.”

How do you foresee your interactions with ECSA and ECVS as director?

“It is important to understand the needs and the possibilities of the young ECVS to expand the impact of the work of IARC elsewhere. It is also a possibility to dialog regarding expectations and what it is realistic during their time at IARC. “

You are Brazilian; you worked in France, in Sweden in the Karolinska Institute, in the Cancer Registry of Norway. We know that you speak very well English and French. We are curious to know how many languages you speak.

“I speak French, English, obviously Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish and Norwegian. I understand Italian and German.”

Thank you Dr Weiderpass for your time. On behalf of ECSA, we would like to wish you a warm welcome to our IARC community. We look forward to working with you to promote the development of early career scientists.

Welcome to IARC

New ECVS arrivals from November 2018 to February 2019

NEW ARRIVALS



Ioannis Papadimitriou
Master's student
NME/NEP



David Escobar Marcillo
Trainee
Inf/ICB



Harriet Rumgay
Trainee
CSU



Cleandra Gregorio-Silva
Trainee
MCA/EGE



Nicolas Voisin
Trainee
INF/ICE



François Deny
Master's student
NME/NMB



Silvia Pisanu
Trainee
NME/NEP



Catharina Alberts
Postdoc
INF/ICE



Nisrine Soltani
Master's student
DIR/LSB



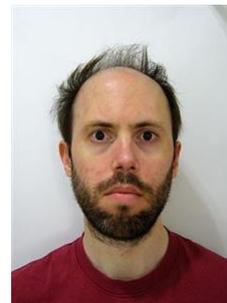
Romain Ouldamar
Master's student
NME/BMA



Leila Debornes
Master's student
MCA/MMB



Alexandra Sexton-Oates
Postdoc
MCA/EGE



Arnaud Poret
Postdoc
GEN/GCS



Niki Dimou
Postdoc
NME/NEP



Nikolaos Papadimitriou
Postdoc
NME/NEP



Martina Recalde
Trainee
NME/NMB



Manon Knuchel
Master's student
NME/NMB



Marie-Chantal Umulisa
Master's student
INF/ICE