



Establishing priorities for the *IARC Monographs*

A frequent question we receive in the *IARC Monographs* programme is, “How do you select agents for evaluation?” Every 5 years, IARC convenes an Advisory Group of experts from across the globe whose expertise spans a wide range of disciplines related to carcinogenicity and whose task is to make recommendations for agents to be evaluated during subsequent years. From March 2023, the *Monographs* programme solicited IARC’s Participating States, the public health community, and the general public for nominations of candidate agents to be evaluated for cancer hazard during 2025–2029.

The response to this public call was resounding; by the closing date of 30 November, IARC had received 151 unique agent nominations. This list of agents was reviewed in detail by the Advisory Group, which gathered on 19–22 March 2024 to finalize its recommendations.

These efforts were facilitated and coordinated by the highly skilled and organized *IARC Monographs* team. The conclusions of the Advisory Group have been summarized in an article published in *The Lancet Oncology*. See [p. 2](#) for details.

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 136: Talc and Acrylonitrile

Meeting dates: 11–18 June 2024

[Call for Data](#) closing date: 10 May 2024

[Call for Experts](#) CLOSED: 31 July 2023

Meeting 137: Hydrochlorothiazide, Voriconazole, and Tacrolimus

Meeting dates: 5–12 November 2024

[Call for Data](#) closing date: 5 October 2024

[Call for Experts](#) CLOSED: 15 January 2024

Meeting 138: Automotive Gasoline and Some Oxygenated Additives

Meeting dates: 25 February to 4 March 2025

[Call for Data](#) closing date: 24 January 2025

[Call for Experts](#) closing date: 3 June 2024

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.

The Team

Introducing Noemi Joncour and Elisa Pasqual



Where are you originally from?

NJ: I am originally from Nantes, in the west of France, but I have lived in different French regions, as well as in Canada and the USA.

EP: I am from Italy, specifically from a little town between Milan and Como.

How long have you been at IARC?

NJ: I joined IARC a year ago.

EP: I have been at IARC for a year.

What is your role in the IMO team?

NJ: I work with Jennifer Nicholson (programme secretary), helping with meeting organization. I also work with Sandrine Ruiz, doing documentalist tasks such as updating the reference databases (EndNote, HAWC, FTP) and hunting for references requested by the Working Group members or the scientists on the IMO team.

EP: I am working as an epidemiologist in the IMO team. This means that I help the Working Group in reviewing studies of cancer in humans. I am currently also Co-Responsible Officer with Dr Tal-laa for the upcoming *IARC Monographs* Meeting 136: Talc and Acrylonitrile, in June 2024.

If you were to recommend one place in Lyon to visit, where would it be and why?

NJ: I would recommend taking the funicular train up to Saint Just, strolling through the Roman amphitheatres, and then visiting the Gallo-Roman museum. Coming down the hill, you can stop for a nice lunch at “Les Lyonnais”, a traditional bouchon restaurant, or for a typical Guignol puppet show in Vieux Lyon (the old town).

EP: I really like the garden of the Musée Gadagne in Vieux Lyon, the historic part of the town centre. It is a Renaissance-type garden. I love it because it is an oasis of peace in the middle of Vieux Lyon. The garden is accessible for free, and it is located on the 4th floor of the building. There is also a nice restaurant/bar!



Advisory Group recommendations on priorities for the *IARC Monographs*

Meeting held in Lyon on 19–22 March 2024

Priorities recommended for *IARC Monographs* evaluation in 2025–2029

Mary Schaubauer-Berigan, on behalf of the *IARC Monographs*, poster design by Solène Quennehen



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

A summary of the results of the Advisory Group to Recommend Priorities for the *IARC Monographs* during 2025–2029 has now been published in *The Lancet Oncology*.

The Advisory Group of experts considered more than 200 candidates, including infectious agents, biotoxins, complex exposures, particles and fibres, metals, pharmaceuticals, physical agents, and a wide variety of chemicals. The majority of the agents were submitted after a public call for nominations, and the remainder were on the priority list established after the previous [Advisory Group meeting in 2019](#). For each nominated agent, the Advisory Group considered the evidence regarding human exposure, cancer in humans, cancer in experimental animals, and carcinogen mechanisms, according to precepts described in the [IARC Monographs Preamble](#), assigning priority according to evidence for human exposure and whether the available carcinogenicity data could support a new or updated evaluation.

The Advisory Group recommended a broad range of agents for evaluation with high, medium, or no priority. Since evidence of causality was identified for additional cancer sites for all 10 nominated agents currently classified in Group 1, the Advisory Group considered that a systematic appraisal of all 128 Group 1 agents to identify new sites with *sufficient* or *limited* evidence is warranted. It further recommended that agents may merit priority consideration if new evidence indicating an emerging carcinogenic hazard materializes in the next 5 years.

Berrington de González A, Masten SA, Bhatti B, Fortner RT, Peters S, Santonen T, et al. (2024). Advisory Group recommendations on priorities for the *IARC Monographs*. *Lancet Oncol*. Published online 12 April 2024; [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045\(24\)00208-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(24)00208-0)



The making of the *IARC Monographs* volumes

The high-quality and efficient production of the *IARC Monographs*, one of IARC's most recognizable publications, is ensured by a small, specialized production team.

The production process involves six core stages: communication with the Working Group; pre-meeting manuscript management; management of drafts during the meeting; post-meeting quality control; layout; and publication. Throughout these stages, the production team's objective is to ensure that draft versioning is strictly maintained, to implement detailed workflow processes, and to clearly communicate expectations and deadlines.

The production team initiates and monitors communication with the Working Group to ensure that they understand their writing assignments (supported by the [Instructions for Authors](#)) and have access to the different project tools, such as IOPS (IARC Online Publications System, a secure content management system), HAWC (Health Assessment Workspace Collaborative, a literature review tool) and our online table builder. The team also provides constant technical support.

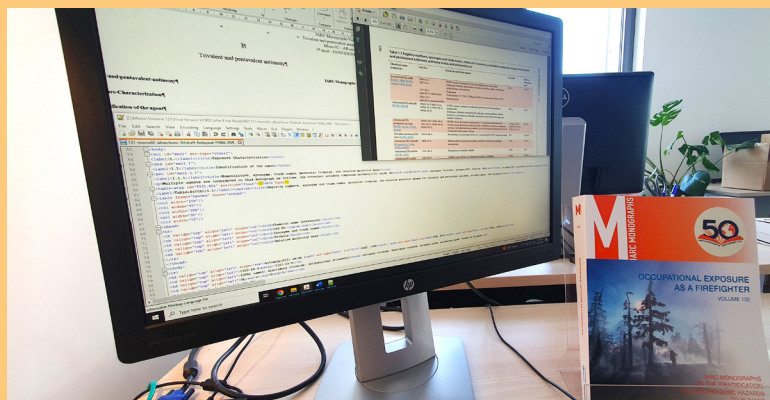
Once the initial manuscript drafts are received from the Working Group members, they are processed and formatted by the production team, and all cited references are indexed in extensive databases by our documentalists. The drafts then move into peer review, revision, and finally, pre-meeting fact-checking by the *Monographs* scientists, with the production team overseeing the progression of each draft and enforcing deadlines.

During the *Monographs* meeting itself, draft management is crucial; the production team works to update and distribute revised drafts as needed, compiling peer review comments, and communicating with all meeting participants on all updates throughout the meeting.

After the meeting, the drafts move into the quality-control stage, when they are rigorously fact-checked by the *Monographs* scientists before being compiled and

undergoing a "coherence read" to standardize terminology and text flow. After technical editing by the *Monographs* editor, the entire volume is sent for a "final read" by the scientists. These steps guarantee that a scientifically correct, coherent, and cohesive draft that reflects the deliberations of the Working Group is taken forward for publication.

Once the volume has been finalized, it moves into layout, which is carried out in-house by the production team. The electronic book proofs are then thoroughly reviewed by the team and the *Monographs* editor and scientists before the files are prepared for publication.



The final stage of production is publication, which occurs initially online on the [IARC Publications website](#), accompanied by a [news item](#) and updates to the [list of classifications](#) on the [IARC Monographs website](#). The volume is subsequently published on National Library of Medicine (NLM) [Bookshelf](#) and in print (also available via the IARC Publications website).

The production team engages in continued review, refining processes and considering new tools for streamlining and enhancing the production of the *IARC Monographs*.

The production team: Noëmi Joncour, Niree Kraushaar, and Solène Quennehen

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.

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.

While the formal call for nominations has closed for consideration by the 2024 Advisory Group, urgent public health priorities can be considered at any time.

If you would like to nominate an agent, please complete the [online form](#) (one agent per form) and the accompanying WHO Declaration of Interests. Please contact IARC at priorities@iarc.who.int for further information.

Published in 2024

IARC Monographs



March 2024: Four volumes of the *IARC Monographs*, representing the 50th anniversary collection, are newly available in print at: <https://www.who.int/publications/book-orders>

Vol. 129 Gentian Violet, Leucogentian Violet, Malachite Green, Leucomalachite Green, and CI Direct Blue 218

Vol. 130 1,1,1-Trichloroethane and Four Other Industrial Chemicals

Vol. 131 Cobalt, Antimony Compounds, and Weapons-grade Tungsten Alloy

Vol. 132 Occupational Exposure as a Firefighter

The Lancet Oncology

Riboli E, Beland F, Lachenmeier D, et al. (2023). Carcinogenicity of aspartame, methyleugenol, and isoeugenol. *The Lancet Oncology*. 24(8):848–850. [Published online 14 July 2023](#)

Zahm S, Bonde JP, Chiu WA, et al. (2023). Carcinogenicity of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). *The Lancet Oncology*. 25(1):16–17. [Published online 30 November 2023](#)

Berrington de González A, Masten SA, Bhatti B, Fortner RT, Peters S, Santonen T, et al. (2024). Advisory Group recommendations on priorities for the *IARC Monographs*. *The Lancet Oncology*. [Published online 12 April 2024](#)



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