

Geneva, Switzerland 17–19 Sept 2024



Summary Report





Three days of stimulating discussions, new and renewed connections and significant announcements marked the World Cancer Congress 2024, organised by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).

Some 2,000 participants from over 122 countries convened in Geneva from 17-19 September 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, inspirational and engaging talks on the Spotlight Stage, a dedicated space for Supportive Care in the Global Village, and social events.

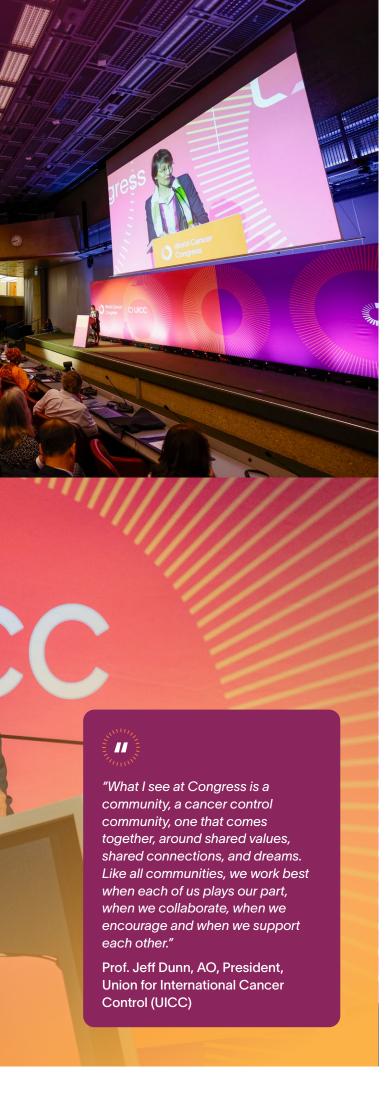
The participants represented cancer organisations, patient groups, governments, international organisations, United Nations agencies, academia and private-sector companies.

The World Cancer Congress reinforced the added value of face-to-face interactions to foster new partnerships and collaborations. With UICC members and partners leading the charge, the event underscored the critical role of international cooperation in advancing cancer control and improving patient outcomes globally.

The World Cancer Congress was hosted by several cancer organisations and institutions: the Swedish Cancer Society, the Dutch Cancer Society, the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG), Alliance Contre le Tabac, Expertise France, Cancer Research UK, All.Can, and the Norwegian Cancer Society and held in partnership with three UN agencies: the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In addition to the on-site programme, the Congress online platform allowed participants to network remotely and access a new comprehensive abstracts eLibrary. All sessions, plenaries, and debates delivered in Geneva were recorded and made available on the platform after the live event. They will remain accessible to registered participants until 31 December 2024.





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

With two dedicated themes: one on tobacco control reinforcing the commitment to the fight against cancer resulting from tobacco use, and one focusing on the meaningful engagement of people with lived experience to highlight the importance of including their expertise to inform and shape cancer policies and care. For the first time, the Congress also accommodated a dedicated pavilion in the Global Village for Supportive Care, a programme shaped with La Roche Posay's support. Attendees had the opportunity to learn, share, and connect with others who are passionate about enhancing patient care and well-being. The pavilion hosted a series of engaging talks where healthcare professionals, caregivers, and people with lived experience shared their experiences, insights, and the latest advancements in supportive care.

The Opening Ceremony set the tone of the Congress calling for collective actions to continue progress in cancer control. It included a series of Official addresses, including Pierre Maudet, State Counselor in charge of the Safety, Population and Health (DSPs), Geneva, Switzerland, Prof. Jeff Dunn AO, President of UICC, Stella Kyriakides, The European Union Health Commissioner, Elisabete Weiderpass, Director General, International Agency for Research on Cancer, and Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, World Health Organization.

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

Session topics ranged widely, covering 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:

"Shaping the future: preventing cancer and NCDs – advocating for commitments at the UNHLM on NCDs in 2025," in the Opening Plenary panellists, highlighted the need to integrate cancer and NCD prevention into global policies and to urge governments and civil society to act on identified cancer and NCD risk factors.

Tobacco control, a clearly identified risk factor, was also tackled in several sessions with increased participation from tobacco control experts. Malaysia's Minister of Health, HE Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, played an active role in discussions on lung cancer and lung health, reflecting growing attention to these concerns. A Lung Health Roundtable organised in the frame of the Lung Cancer Collaboration (LCC) gathered key stakeholders, including WHO, IARC, the NCD Alliance, the Clean Air Fund, UICC members like the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer and the National Cancer Society of

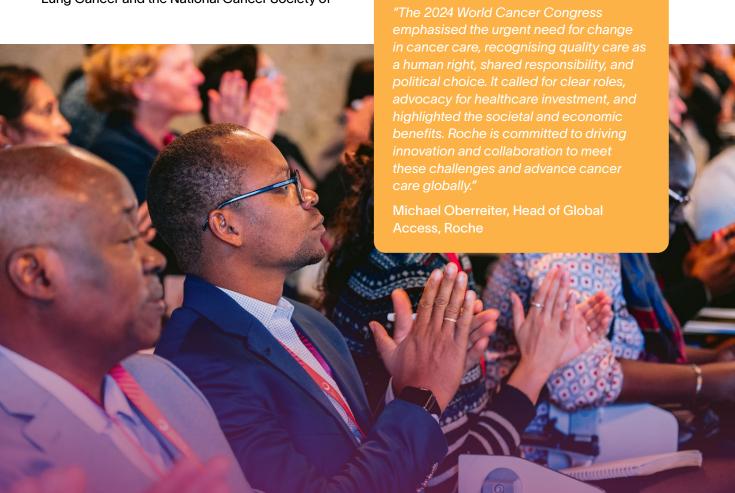
Malaysia, as well as private sector partners such as AstraZeneca, MSD, and Roche.

During this roundtable, IARC announced the launch of an IARC Handbook on lung cancer screening supported by the LCC. One of the main outcomes of the roundtable is the agreement between participants to continue the conversations on the development of a lung health resolution in the lead up to the next WHA in 2025.



"We hope that the passing of the WHA Lung Health resolution will accelerate a policy change across all member states to reduce the overall lung disease burden, including lung cancer, worldwide."

HE Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly bin Ahmad, Minister of Health, Malaysia



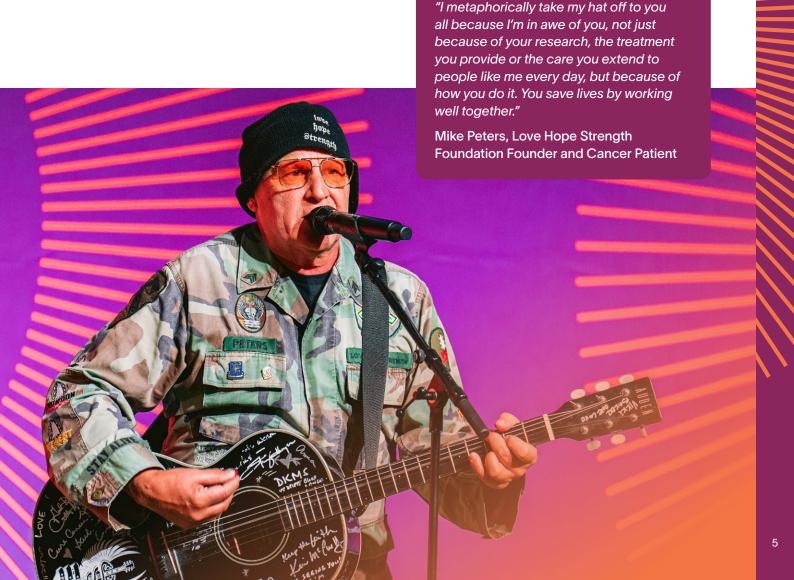
"Cancer care 2.0: AI, real stories, real solutions", the Plenary of the second Congress day, along with several other sessions, examined how artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming cancer care. Presenters demonstrated AI's role in improving diagnostics and treatment while addressing the challenges of data privacy, the need for robust regulations to safeguard patients, and exploring the benefits and risks of AI in cancer care. Speakers detailed AI's potential to revolutionise treatment while emphasising the importance of ethical standards and human oversight in its application.

"Multi-Stakeholder Action and Cancer Control" plenary session highlighted collaboration as a central theme, showcasing examples of successful partnerships driving cancer prevention and treatment and the great value of multi-sector cooperation to address global cancer challenges. This Plenary session engaged Congress sponsors La Roche Posay, Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Roche to share insights and visions. It has been closed by a powerful testimonial and moving musical performance from Mike Peters, cancer survivor and founder of Love Hope Strength.



"The World Cancer Congress 2024 reinforced the critical importance of global collaboration in our shared mission to eliminate cancer as a cause of death. It was particularly inspiring to see the clear recognition that we must take urgent action to improve outcomes for lung cancer – the leading cause of cancer death worldwide. I left feeling inspired by the actions being taken globally and in countries around the world, and committed to deepening our efforts with partners to bring forward compelling evidence and arguments that further support this cause."

David Fredrickson, EVP, Oncology Business Unit, AstraZeneca



"Women, power and cancer: towards equitable, gender-transformative cancer prevention, care and control", reviewed a year of progress since the launch of the report 'Women, power, and cancer: a Lancet Commission', highlighting the Commission's findings and recommended priority actions for a broad range of stakeholders. The speakers reflected on progress towards implementing the report's key recommendations in the past year, and discussed remaining priorities and challenges.

Cancer Care in times of uncertainty, conflict and war: The challenges of delivering care in zones of unrest and to refugees, with testimonies from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Latin America and Ukraine, was discussed in a few sessions and the policy approach tackled in one of the Policy Dialogue shaped with WHO.

Improving access to cancer medicines in low-income regions: This requires increased 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.

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.

Six UICC participatory Regional meetings engaged the audience in the work of a new set of global cancer commitments that will be released in November 2025.

Two workshops were hosted by UICC in collaboration with WHO, "Advancing breast cancer treatment and care in resource-limited settings" explored the implementation of the third pillar of the WHO Global Breast Cancer Initiative, and the workshop "Meaningful engagement of people with lived experience" focused on the implementation of the WHO framework and participatory approaches to enhance health practices, policies and services. Contributions will help shape global advocacy efforts, ensuring the voices of those affected by cancer are elevated in the lead up to the 2025 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs.

Other key topics included air pollution and antimicrobial resistance, with sessions focused on their impact on cancer care and the urgent need for policy responses.

For the first time, the Congress programme accommodated a UICC President Plenary session, offering a platform for past and current Presidents of UICC to exchange with the audience on progress and challenges from the past 10 years and reflect on the future of cancer control.

The Congress ended on a high note with a packed closing ceremony culminating in the awards ceremony for Best Abstracts and Best World Cancer Day Campaign.



"The World Cancer Congress (WCC) is an exceptional platform for building connections among key stakeholders in the fight against cancer. We had numerous valuable and positive interactions. At WCC 2022, we were approached by a Mongolian delegation interested in collaborating with their National Cancer Center. At WCC 2024, we reconnected with the delegation and the Head of the Mongolian Cancer Center. As a result, the University Hospitals of Geneva signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate knowledge exchange and internships, training doctors in advanced surgical techniques, all thanks to UICC's support."

Prof. Olivier Michielin, Chief of the Oncology department, University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG), Switzerland



"The MD Anderson team is thrilled to have contributed to the World Cancer Congress with around 20 members, including trainees presenting abstracts and participating in sessions. We're excited to be part of the UICC global community. Our booth was a great space to connect with colleagues and hold meetings. Overall, it's been a fantastic conference."

Kathleen M. Schmeler, Associate Vice President of Global Oncology, MD Anderson 52 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 multisectoral collaboration.



Sponsored sessions and workshops



Hematologic cancer opportunities for Patient Equality (HOPE): Achieving equitable and timely access to hematological cancer therapies by Abbvie / IQVIA Institute

Denormalizing tobacco and nicotine products through environmental leverage: The experience of ACT's awareness and advocacy campaigns by ACT- Alliance contre le tabac

"Key Insights from ASCO" Findings from recent ASCO meetings directly affect cancer control, prevention, and care in low-resource environments by American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)

Bridging the gap: understanding and addressing childhood cancer disparities between high-income and low-income countries by AMGEN and World Child Cancer

The future of cancer control planning is now: Exploring cases of early adoption of innovative cancer technologie by AstraZeneca

Lung cancer: Setting global priorities for prevention, early detection and care pathways by AstraZeneca

Initiating collective efforts for advancing lung health by AstraZeneca

Rewriting Cancer: The power of storytelling to advance cancer care by BBC Story Works and UICC

Powering equity in cancer care through digital health by Bristol Myers Squibb

Voices of cancer and antimicrobial resistance: accelerating action against treatment-resistant infections by the Cancer and AMR Consortium

"Seizing the moment" – A working session on advancing tobacco control in global health and sustainable development processes by Cancer Research UK

Implementing the Global Breast Cancer Initiative: An international collaboration model to decrease the global breast cancer burden by Daiichi Sankyo

Gaza's cancer patients: navigating the dual struggle of illness and war by Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Transparency along the pharmaceutical value chain – Informed price negotiations for access and affordability of medicines by Dutch Cancer Society (KWF) / European Fair Pricing Network / Norwegian Cancer Society

What "Lavender Zones" can teach us about improving early cancer care for all by the Mission Early Initiative

Supporting national cervical cancer secondary prevention decision-making with the SUCCESS-WHO Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control Costing Tool (C4P) by Expertise France

Action across all pillars: Experiences in HPV vaccine and cervical cancer screening and treatment by Jhpiego

Sponsored sessions and workshops



Fight with care: The power of cancer supportive skin care – covering the patient's dermatologic needs by La Roche-Posay

Save Your Skin: From skin cancer detection to improving patient's quality of life by La Roche-Posay

Collaborations to improve cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) by MD Anderson Cancer Center

Lived Experiences in Cancer Care: Transformative force or passing fad? by MSD

Health literacy in women's cancers pathways new report - Understanding to empower by MSD

Boys, men and HPV: The case for worldwide gender-neutral vaccination by MSD / NOMAN is and Island: Race to end HPV / Global Action on Men's Health

Global Policy in Action: Policy solutions to address healthcare system barriers in breast cancer care and treatment by Novartis

Value-based oncology: A mission to reduce cancer inequalities and improve outcomes by Pfizer

Unleashing the power of cross-sector collaboration to improve cancer care in LMICs: Real-world case studies, best practices, and effective tools by Roche

Earlier, faster, better: Doing more of what we know works! by Roche

OncoCollective: Driving policy change to ensure equal access to transformative cancer innovations by Sanofi

Redefining skin cancer: The urgent need for innovation in nonmelanoma diagnosis and treatment by SkinCure

Co-designing and implementing the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Uniting for equity in cancer control: Success stories across diverse communities by Swedish Cancer Society

2023 Global review of national cancer control plans: Implications for research, policy, and practice by U.S. National Cancer Institute Center for Global Health

Navigating early detection disparities: A hope for women everywhere by UE LifeSciences

Multi-sponsored session: Integrated approaches for women's cancers by Union for International Cancer Control with the support of AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Daiichi Sankyo, MD Anderson Cancer Center, MSD, Novartis and Roche

Alcohol and cancer: Inspiring collaborations for the future by World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe





New Programme features

The lively Global Village, spread over two floors, included 26 exhibition stands and the Supportive Care Pavilion, a space dedicates to highlighting the essential role of supportive care in the patient journey through discussions between experts, caregivers, and patients.

Also located in the Global Village, the Spotlight Stage complemented the official Congress programme. It included short, informative, and powerful talks from over 25 inspiring speakers, articulated around four different themes: Inspiring stories, Vision from a leader, Cancer and innovation, and Youthful perspectives on cancer.

The Congress also saw the launch of "Rewriting Cancer", a film series produced by the BBC StoryWorks Commercial Products for UICC. The series highlights personal stories and innovations shaping cancer worldwide. Screenings were available for participants in a new Chill Zone to relax and recharge their batteries.

In a newly designed Abstract Hub, supported by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), all participants had access to a new eLibrary, including 502 quality abstracts. Of these, 269 were presented in Geneva in dynamic rapid-fire presentations offering precise perspectives on emerging research, insights, and trends.

Selected abstracts from the Congress are featured in a special edition of the International Journal of Cancer, highlighting key developments that have the potential to reshape global cancer control efforts.

A significant focus of the abstracts was on innovative approaches to cancer detection and treatment. Advances in technologies, such as machine learning and biomarker identification, promise to improve early detection and offer new pathways for personalised cancer care. These innovations are particularly crucial in developing non-invasive screening methods, which could make early diagnosis more accessible and reduce cancer mortality.

A first edition of the Innovation Forum took place the day before the Congress focusing on Funding, Technology and Business Models

For the first time, the World Cancer Congress featured an Innovation Forum aiming to unite senior executive representatives from the private sector, philanthropic organisations, foundations, sustainable business entities, selected cancer organisations, renowned experts, and academics from universities and research institutes to discuss common synergies and best practices for sustainable innovation financing.

The Forum was held at the Campus Biotech, a life science hub for the Lake Geneva region, on Monday 16 September. It included a session moderated by Maximilian Martin, Global Head of Philanthropy at Lombard Odier, Switzerland, to discuss promising groundbreaking technologies, treatments, collaborative models in cancer control, innovative funding, and sustainable approaches. A reception followed, giving speakers and participants the opportunity to exchange views on the Forum's content.

This exclusive event was organised by UICC, in collaboration with the Geneva Health Forum, Building Bridges, and the University of Geneva, and proudly supported by Beigene, Fondation Philanthropia, Genolier Innovation Hub, and Pfizer.



"Bringing together diverse expertise, high ambition and energy for collective action against cancer globally, WCC 2024 was a great opportunity to celebrate and learn from successes, to discuss and debate current issues, and to advance new ideas. MSD is proud to support this outstanding

Michael Hartevelt, Global Oncology Policy HQ Lead, MSD



"The challenge against cancer and other diseases isn't just a medical one—it's a financial one. We need to rethink how we fund healthcare and how we mobilise investments from public and private sources so that everyone, regardless of geography or income, can benefit from life-saving solutions."

Karen Hitschke, CEO, Building Bridges Foundation



2,000 registered participants

from over 122 countries with 1,750 on-site



36% of the delegates were from UICC members



52 partners and sponsors



On social media, there were 90 million impressions, 31,000 engagements, 9,000 posts, with the top hashtag being #WorldCancerCongress and the top platform being Twitter (X).

Over 700 press mentions, with coverage in major outlets such as The Guardian, Times of India, All Africa, O Fohla (Brasil), El País, the National (UAE), Radio Television Suisse Romande (RTS), The Nation (Kenya), La Marea, NPR (UK), The Telegraph, Devex, Health Policy Watch, Tribune de Genève, ASCO Post, ChaiFM (South Africa)







Satisfaction survey

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

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

93% of the Congress delegates learnt something new at the Congress

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

155 sessionspresented by687 speakers

296 abstractspresented in Geneva,502 composing aneLibrary

56 organisations engaged in the Global Village activities (stands, Supportive Care Pavilion, Spotlight Stage) On the Congress online platform

6,406 total messages exchanged

5,873 total contacts made

2,006 total discussions created

Through UICC's Scholarships programme, and with support from IAEA, over 90 delegates were able to attend the Congress and benefit from tailored networking opportunities. The programme enhances equity by increasing access to events and enriching the diversity of content and knowledge shared.



"Receiving a scholarship to attend the World Cancer Congress has been an invaluable experience that has significantly enhanced my knowledge and skills in cancer care. The support offered ensured I could fully immerse myself in the event without any distractions, making it a truly enriching professional experience. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity, and I look forward to leveraging the knowledge and connections gained to improve cancer care and outcomes in my community."

Lilian Genga, Program Officer, Ministry of Health National Cancer Control Program of Kenya



ortunities to advance th for women



A few exciting initiatives and announcements, among others

- Pollowing on from the launch of the Reimagining Cancer Research in Europe initiative in 2022, at the Congress, Ulrika Kågström, UICC President elect, announced the awarding of 1.2 million Euros to three collaborative grants across six European countries to support implementation research into cancer prevention in Europe. The initiative was developed in collaboration with UICC's European members, and is a collaboration between the Dutch, Swedish and Danish cancer societies, as well as UICC and the IARC, with the Dutch Cancer Society being the single largest funder.

"With these grants, we demonstrate the power of international collaboration in strengthening cancer prevention. By joining forces across borders, we can accelerate the implementation of effective strategies and interventions. Together, we can ensure that life-saving knowledge and insights will reach communities across Europe."

Ulrika Årehed Kågström, Secretary-General, Swedish Cancer Society



"As Director of IARC, I am proud to represent an organisation that has been at the forefront of cancer research for cancer prevention for the past six decades. Each day of these six decades, we have worked hand-in-hand with UICC. Our contacts are daily; our collaborations are what enable us to go to each country and enable prevention on the ground."

Elisabete Weiderpass, Director, IARC

- On the occasion of the Congress, UICC, in partnership with MD Anderson, Jhpiego, and Roche, released a collective publication on 'Integrated approaches for women's cancers: Opportunities to advance health for women', bringing together the knowledge of best practices on the topic and offering a picture of the state of integrated approaches for women's cancers as of today.
- → All.Can that organised their Summit alongside of the Congress, launched an innovative playbook for the workforce based on a new policy research done with the University of Amsterdam Medical Centre on the "Implementation of Efficiency Metrics for Better Cancer Care"
- The National Cancer Centre of Korea committed to support UICC Technical Fellowships in the coming years.
- The 2023-24 cohort of Young Leaders and Cancer Advocates completed their year-long programme at the Congress. A pre-Congress 'Advocacy in Action' workshop allowed advocates to meet in person, network, and enhance their learning. Both cohorts contributed actively to sessions throughout the event.
- → "Rewriting Cancer," a series of 5-minute branded films by UICC and BBC StoryWorks, was launched at the World Cancer Congress during a session on storytelling. The films showcase powerful patient narratives and caregiver efforts to drive change in cancer control, dispel myths, and promote equitable, replicable initiatives globally.
- Participants also saw the announced the new three-year "United by Unique" campaign. A space in the UICC Café was dedicated to World Cancer Day to conduct activities and interviews, while the official campaign video was screened for the first time at the closing ceremony.

Networking opportunities

The Congress provided numerous opportunities for delegates to interact in a welcoming environment. The venue featured walk-in offices and lounge areas, ideal for one-on-one or small group meetings. Participants engaged in discussions at the Global Village, UICC Café, and lounges, fostering new connections.

Many partners hosted events alongside the Congress, including three organised by the WHO, one focusing on co-creating cancer priorities for 2030 with affected individuals and emerging leaders. The Congress also served as a platform for partners to exchange progress, challenges, and next actions on WHO cancer control initiatives. Sponsors like the American Cancer Society and the Genolier Foundation held receptions and dinners.

On the second evening, delegates enjoyed a boat ride on Lake Geneva to a social evening with live music and a cocktail dinner, adding fun and relaxation to their time together in the beautiful city. Special thanks to Novartis for supporting the social evening.



"As a leading skincare brand dedicated to improving the lives of those with skin conditions, La Roche-Posay was proud to support the UICC World Cancer Congress in Geneva this September. We are committed to advocating for the vital role of supportive care in enhancing the quality of life for cancer patients. Through our Supportive Care Pavilion and symposiums, we were thrilled to raise awareness about managing side effects such as skin issues, fatigue, nutrition, pain, and mental health. Delivering this important message as part of the World Cancer Congress was especially rewarding, fostering collaboration among healthcare professionals, researchers, and patients to advance cancer care."

Maxime Dupont, Global Sustainability & Brand cause Director, La Roche Posay







Best scientific abstract

Presented by David Collingridge, Editor-in-Chief, The Lancet Oncology

Winner: Fabio Dennstädt, Inselspital Bern

Title: Creation of a CDE-based data structure for radiotherapeutic decision-making in breast cancer

Shortlisted / or finalists: Zhiyuan Fan, Peking Union Medical College, China; Suping Ling, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

Best fundraising campaign report

Presented by Elina Viitaniemi, Director, Cancer Support Switzerland

Winner: Maryna Kartashova, Medisense, Ukraine

Title: Assistance in restoring the work of an oncology clinic in Ukraine

Shortlisted: Shazia Fatima, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Pakistan; Matt Lewis, American Cancer Society, United States of America

Best advocacy, policy, and practice report

Presented by Bente Mikkelsen, Director Non-communicable diseases, WHO

Winner: Rob Cunningham, Canadian Cancer Society

Title: Canada's world precedent setting health warnings directly on every individual cigarette

Shortlisted: Daniel Dorado, Corporate Accountability, Ecudor; Justine Swindell, American Cancer Society, United States of America

Best World Cancer Day Campaign Award

Presented by Jeff Dunn, President, Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

Winner: Baheya Foundation for Early Detection and Treatment of Breast Cancer, Egypt

Shortlisted: Mahatma Gandhi Cancer Hospital & Research Institute, India; Kenyan Network of Cancer Organizations, KENCO, Kenya We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Programme and Abstract Committees—without the dedication of these individuals, the Congress would not have been possible. To view the committees and their members, please click here.

Photography by Roger Harris and Adrien Buttier.





























"This year was particularly exciting for my colleagues and I on The Lancet Commission on women, power, and cancer. Not only did we have the opportunity to help develop a plenary session but we found that the dynamics of power asymmetries, as they relate to cancer information, decision-making, and economics, were infused in many sessions throughout the Congress. It is also notable that looking at cancer equity through an intersectional lens seems to be emerging as a crosscutting theme throughout these and related UICC events. Well done!"

Ophira Ginsburg, Senior Advisor for Clinical Research, US National Cancer Institute

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