



## International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting

### Communiqué 2, October 2012,

*The ICCR, recognising that internationally standardised information on tumour classification, staging, prognostic and predictive information is a prerequisite for epidemiological research and benchmarking in cancer management both nationally and internationally, seeks to produce common, internationally validated pathology datasets for cancer reporting using the best approaches of all countries involved.*

#### Background

In our first communiqué in September 2011, the ICCR reported the completion of a pilot program in which the quadripartite alliance successfully developed evidence-based pathology datasets for melanoma and cancers of the prostate, lung and endometrium, including required, recommended elements and value lists. By using stringent criteria for assessment of evidence, the committees, comprising many world-leading experts, were able to simplify or improve pre-existing datasets and exclude outdated data elements.

#### Project Update

2012 has seen progress on a number of fronts:

- The four completed datasets have been expanded to provide improved commentary:
  - Definitions where required
  - Evidence supporting their inclusion
  - Methods for measurement and, where appropriate, the required units
- Value lists or responses common to the cancers have been harmonized to ensure consistency across all ICCR datasets.
- International review of the four completed datasets is to commence shortly
- A dataset for renal cancer has commenced in conjunction with the International Society for Urological Pathology (ISUP) and chaired by Dr John Srigley. This extends the process beyond the original four Anglophone organizations and includes experts from Spain, Italy, France, Switzerland and Brazil in addition to the original quadripartite group.

## Communications

- Discussions commenced with Dr Chris Wild (Director, IARC) and Dr David Forman (Head, Section on Cancer Information, IARC), including a visit to Lyon by Profs David Ellis (RCPA) and Mike Wells (RCPATH) in July, to explore areas of common interest and opportunities for collaboration.
- Academic papers reviewing the relevant literature for endometrial, prostate and lung cancers have been submitted to major international journals and abstracts have been presented at the 2012 UICC meeting in Montreal and the 2012 Pathological Society meeting in Sheffield.
- At the suggestion of Prof Mike Wells, Past President of the European Society of Pathologists (ESP), Prof Ellis gave a presentation on behalf of the ICCR to the Working Group Chairs and Advisory Council of the ESP in Prague in September 2012, opening the way for direct European involvement in the ICCR.
- Discussion has commenced with Dr Christel Daniel (Paris), Chair of the IHE International Anatomical Pathology Structured Reporting project. This has centred around the role of ICCR in providing international governance around cancer pathology datasets and the possibility of IHE adopting ICCR protocols for IT modeling and terminology binding.
- Discussions with members of the Netherlands and Norwegian Structured Reporting programs have commenced.
- Discussions are underway with UICC and AJCC regarding ICCR collaboration in their Lexicon Project.

## Foundational elements

- **Governance and Operational Model**

In order for the ICCR to be sustainable and to expand to other countries, the ICCR is currently working on a constitution as well as an operational model. The latter will define how the ICCR can fund the production of large numbers of high quality protocols in the most timely way.

- **Framework documents**

In addition to the governance and operational models, Framework documents are being prepared which define the process required to produce ICCR datasets. These detail the sequence and components involved in producing a dataset, including collation of existing datasets, guidance in forming and managing expert committees, standards of reviewing evidence, the process of stakeholder review, requirements for an open international consultation period and subsequent final review. In conjunction with style guides and templates, the Framework documents will be designed to assure a consistent style as well as consistent content and quality across all datasets.

- **Certified project managers**

The 2011 pilot demonstrated the value of a trained project manager in efficient protocol production. The third foundational element will therefore be a program for the training of ICCR certified project managers who will expedite the process and ensure consistency of the output.

## Program for 2013

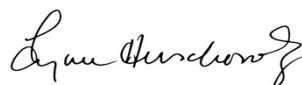
ICCR meetings are scheduled for March (USCAP meeting in Baltimore) and September (ESP meeting in Lisbon). At these meetings we will review our progress in:

- Extending collaboration with European and other international jurisdictions and societies
- Public consultation on the first five protocols (including kidney)
- Progress on three new cancer protocols (cancer sites to be determined in conjunction with ESP)
- The three foundational elements:
  - Constitution and Operational Model
  - Framework documents
  - Training of extra ICCR certified project managers
- Collaboration with IARC
- Collaboration with AJCC and UICC in their Lexicon project

Subject to satisfactory progress in developing the Foundational elements, we anticipate an accelerated program of protocol production beginning in late 2013.



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