Hrafn Tulinius (20 April 1931–31 July 2015)

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is saddened by the passing of Dr Hrafn Tulinius, an early staff scientist of the Agency, who died on Friday 31 July at the age of 84.

He was born in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 20 April 1931. He studied medicine at the University of Iceland and specialized in pathology in Germany and the USA. Dr Tulinius was a lecturer in pathology at Albany Medical College in New York for several years, and then worked for a time in the laboratory of the University of Baronsstigur in Iceland. In 1969, he joined IARC as a pathologist in the Unit of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. He worked in the field of cancer epidemiology until he returned to Iceland in 1975 to take up the positions of Chief Medical Officer of the Icelandic Cancer Society and Professor of Medicine at the University of Iceland. He held both these positions until his retirement.

Dr Tulinius was a leader in research in the field of cancer epidemiology in his country for years, and in the course of his work as director of the Icelandic Cancer Registry, he led extensive international collaborations with Nordic countries. His studies on the epidemiology and genetics of breast cancer in Iceland are known internationally. He is also the author of numerous scientific articles and book chapters.

Dr Tulinius is survived by his wife, Helga Brynjófsdóttir Tulinius, and four of their five children.