Inauguration of IARC Regional Hub in Buenos Aires, Argentina

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Argentina, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the cancer agency of the World Health Organization (WHO), inaugurated the Instituto Nacional del Cáncer (INC Argentina) as an IARC Regional Hub Coordinating Centre on 19 August 2016. The plaque was unveiled by Dr Freddie Bray, Head of the IARC Section of Cancer Surveillance, together with Dr Roberto N. Pradier, Director of INC Argentina.

The Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development (GICR, http://gicr.iarc.fr), led by IARC/WHO, is an international partnership that combines technical support, training, and advocacy to ensure that population-based cancer registries (PBCRs) are developed across the world to inform national cancer control. With advocacy and support from global partners including the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United States National Cancer Institute (NCI), the IARC Latin American Hub serves Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries in Central and South America (580 million inhabitants). There are 23 high-quality PBCRs in the region, covering 7.7% of the population.

As well as the Coordinating Centre at INC Argentina, the operating model of the Regional Hub involves three collaborating centres, in Brazil (Instituto Nacional de Cáncer), Colombia (Instituto Nacional de Cancerología), and Uruguay (Registro Poblacional de Cáncer), with each of the centres contributing particular skills in developing the Hub. The Hub Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from the above-mentioned organizations as well as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Network of National Cancer Institutes of Latin America (RINC), the International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR), and the Iberoamerican Network of Epidemiology and Information Systems on Cancer (REDEPICAN), met the previous day (18 August 2016) at INC Argentina to review current activities in the Hub as well as operational approaches to ensure the continued development and expansion of cancer registration in Central and South America.