

# Strategic Priorities for Science and Policy 2025-2030

This document sets out the strategic priorities for WCRF International's science and policy work. It will be followed by a full strategy later this year.

### **About the WCRF Network**

World Cancer Research Fund International is a leading authority on the links between diet, nutrition, body weight and physical activity and cancer. We are an international not-for-profit association that leads and unifies a network of cancer prevention charities, including the American Institute for Cancer Research, World Cancer Research Fund in the UK and Wereld Kanker Onderzoek Fonds in the Netherlands.

World Cancer Research Fund International is in official relations with the World Health Organization and is a member of the Union of International Cancer Control.

See here for our latest Global Advocacy Report from the Union of International Cancer Control









## Science & Research Strategic Priorities 2025-30

#### Introduction

Our science programmes are fundamental to what we do across the WCRF network, informing and underpinning all aspects of our work. Through these programmes we are recognised as world leaders and influencers in the field. We partner with like-minded organisations at the highest levels, and take part in key national and international initiatives and collaborations to further our work, extend our reach and increase our impact. All our programmes are directed towards enabling us to achieve our network vision of living in a world where no one dies of a preventable cancer.

### Our science priorities are organised around 3 strategic pillars:

- 1. Discover evidence generation and innovation
- 2. Translate impactful application of scientific evidence
- Influence and engage expanding reach and impact to drive change

We will achieve these strategic objectives through a range of science programmes, with all our work is guided by strong underpinning approaches to ensure that we are funding and undertaking the highest quality, innovative science for maximum impact.

Our science and policy priorities are aligned around similar strategic pillars, supporting us to work towards a shared vision.

#### For further information:

Grant programmes guidelines for <u>Regular Grant Programme</u> and <u>INSPIRE Research Challenge</u>, and the <u>CUP Global strategy</u>.

### **Science & Research Strategic Priorities 2025-2030**

Vision: A world where no one dies of a preventable cancer

Mission: Preventing cancer worldwide by working across all levels of prevention

Goal: To reduce the burden of preventable cancers worldwide through impact-led, outcome-focused,

cutting-edge science and policy

### Discover

- Focus grant funding on research addressing key gaps to increase understanding of the role of diet, nutrition, physical activity and body composition as risk factors for cancer and survival and well being after a diagnosis of cancer
- Consider other emerging risk factors within the cancer prevention landscape
- Synthesise and interpret the most up to date evidence on the role of diet, nutrition, physical activity and body composition as risk factors for cancer, focusing on topics likely to generate new knowledge
- •Fund the best researchers globally to drive new knowledge about risk factors for cancer and after diagnosis, and understand how these affect different populations
- Collaborate with key organisations to increase and promote prevention research, and maximise the impact of our research funding

### **Translate**

- •Work with CUP Global expert Panel to develop new recommendations and guidance on the role of diet, nutrition, physical activity and body composition as risk factors for cancer
- Enhance cancer recommendations with understanding of the role of broader social and environmental factors to strengthen translation into practice
- Use evidence from CUP Global to update the Third Expert Report
  - •Use the findings from CUP Global to develop focused recommendations for future research
  - Further strengthen links with policy work to maximise impact of research we fund through grant programmes, CUP Global and other science activities

# Influence and engage

- Translate scientific outputs into real-world action for patients and populations
- Take advantage of expertise and strong reputation to contribute to major public health initiatives (eg World Code Against Cancer)
- Further develop capacity building activities for supporting researchers at different stages of their careers to work in the prevention space (eg ECRs, international researchers incl from LMICs, students, established researchers) to effectively fill research gaps and improve methodologies
- Advocate for globally representative research on the role of diet, nutrition, physical activity and body composition as risk factors for cancer and survival and well being after a diagnosis of cancer
- Communicate evidencebased cancer prevention and care, proactively tackle science misinformation, and increase public trust in science

#### Key science programmes:

- Grant programmes
- Research collaborations
- Global Cancer Update Programme
- Academy programme
- · Conference programme
- · Hong Kong presence
- Framework for communicating evidencebased cancer prevention and care

### Underpinning principles:

- Strong user engagement and involvement (with public and patient representatives)
- Taking advantage of technological advances
- Strong integration of impact assessment
- Robust processes for how we fund, synthesise, interpret research
- Strong collaborations with scientists, and other charities and organisations with aligned values
- Strong integration of science and policy work



### Policy and Public Affairs Strategic Priorities 2025-2030

At World Cancer Research Fund International, we drive global action to prevent cancer before it starts. Our policy work is grounded in robust scientific evidence showing how diet, nutrition, physical activity, body weight, alcohol consumption, and breastfeeding affect cancer risk. We work with the World Health Organization, governments, and civil society to influence international frameworks and national policies that make it easier for people to live healthier lives. We support and amplify the policy priorities of our network of charities ensuring a united voice for change. We advocate for strong, science-informed policies and for cancer prevention to be a political priority for governments globally. By linking cancer prevention to other agendas—like sustainable development, climate action, and economic resilience—we help build the political will needed to create long-term, system-wide change.

**Vision:** Living in a world where no one dies of a preventable cancer.

Mission: Working to prevent cancer worldwide.

**Goal:** To reduce the burden of preventable cancers worldwide through impact-led, outcome-focused, cutting-edge science and policy.

### 1. Discover Innovate & Generate Evidence

- Strengthen our policy science collaboration to provide a holistic approach to individual and population level recommendations
- Develop and leverage WCRF evidence and NOURISHING and MOVING policy tools
- Identify further policy cobenefits of NCD prevention strategies
- Explore new policy research collaboration and funding opportunities

### 2. Advance Turn Science into Action

- •Advance the policy implementation of WCRF International's / AICR's 10 cancer prevention recommendations with a specific focus on establishing and advancing our work in alcohol and breastfeeding, alongside diet and physical activity
- Leverage cross-sector cobenefits of NCD prevention strategies - health inequalities, climate change
- Establish and strengthen partnerships for policy impact and be the partner of choice for cancer prevention policy
- Leverage WCRF expert groups (Policy Advisory Group, Cancer Update Programme, Advisory Group on Real-world Implementation and Dissemination to advance policy impact

### 3. Influence and engage Drive Policy Change

- Engage governments & civil society to ensure cancer prevention is a priority
- Engage with cross-sectoral actors to leverage cancer prevention policy asks
- Influence global policy through working with key intergovernmental organisations including WHO through our official relations status and the EU
- Strengthen the influence of our network charities to meet their policy and public affairs objectives
- Elevate and advance prevention on global health agenda
- Ensure primary prevention is featured and costed in all national cancer control plans
- Influence policy and financing to support sustainable and impactful prevention research

### **Key principles**

- •Partnership Working To be the partner of choice in global cancer prevention efforts.
- •Multi-Disciplinary Approach To maximise impact by integrating diverse disciplines and perspectives.
- •Responsible Technology and AI To harness technology and artificial intelligence to enhance our impact and improve efficiency.
- •Credibility and Authority -To remain evidence-based and innovative, delivering trusted, cutting-edge insights.