Elisabete Weiderpass

Director, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

Elisabete Weiderpass, MD, MSc, PhD, is a Brazilian cancer researcher who is a naturalized Swedish and Finnish citizen. She is an expert in cancer epidemiology and cancer prevention. Elected as Director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the specialized cancer agency of the World Health Organization (WHO) in May 2018, Dr Weiderpass took office on 1 January 2019.

Dr Weiderpass is Visiting Professor of Cancer Epidemiology at Yale University in the USA, and a current member of the scientific advisory board of the European Cancer Mission, the new flagship program of the European Commission Horizon Europe.

In the past, Dr Weiderpass has been a Professor of Medical Epidemiology at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden, and a Professor of Cancer Epidemiology at the Arctic University of Norway. She held Adjunct Professorship positions in Cancer Epidemiology in Brazil, China, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

IARC is the cancer agency of the World Health Organization, based in Lyon, France, home to some 350 staff. The Agency’s membership and governance is made up of 26 countries (or ‘participating States’).