Regional Codes against Cancer and scientific methodology

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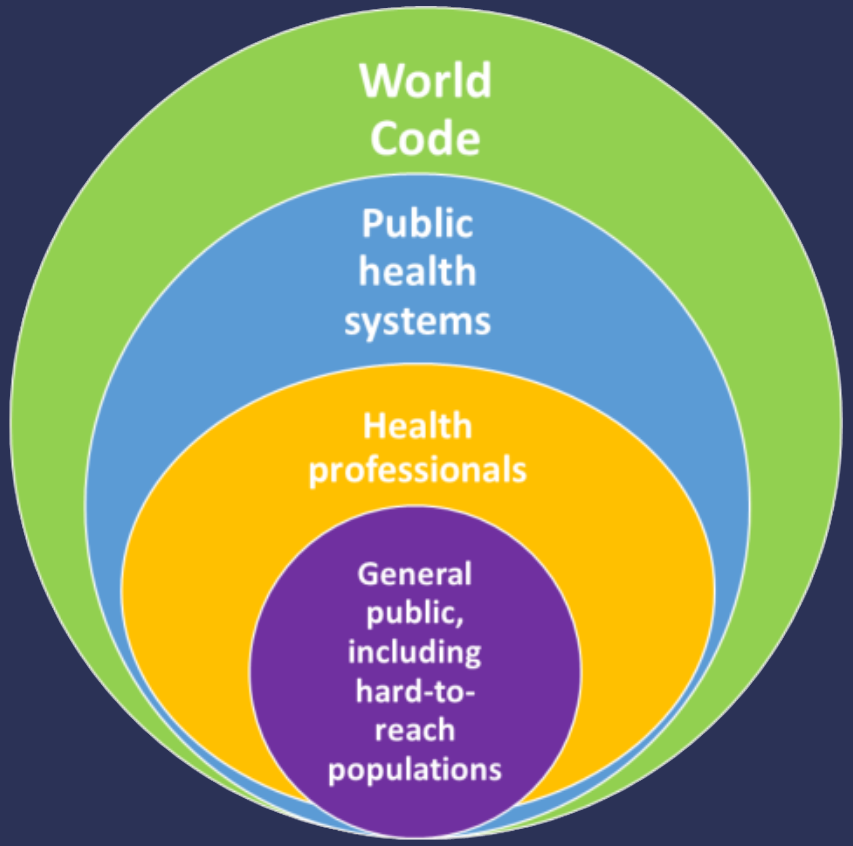
Scientist

ANCCA and Codes against Cancer - Satellite Event
Nov 2nd , 2021

International Agency for Research on Cancer
World Health Organization

World Code against Cancer: Framework



Enhanced knowledge

Strengthened and targeted cancer control and prevention strategies

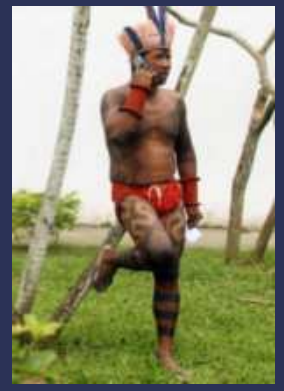
Enhanced capacity of frontline health professionals

Better understanding of the main preventive measures, improved health-seeking behaviours and participation in prevention programmes

Influencing public policy

Capacity building

Improving communication & channels dissemination to general public



Regional Codes against Cancer: Outcomes

(1) Set of region-specific recommendations (***Regional Code against Cancer***) for the population *& policy-makers*

NEW

NEW

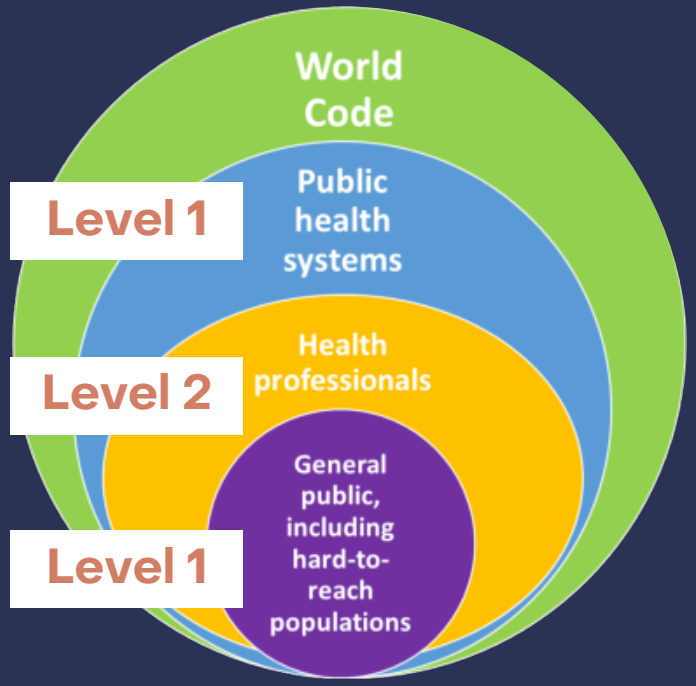
(2) ***Capacity of health professionals*** on cancer prevention through an online training module

(3) Knowledge on main preventive measures disseminated and ***impact*** evaluated

NEW

Regional Codes against Cancer: Outputs

3 levels of information



Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3

EUROPE

LATIN AMERICA

Regional Codes against Cancer: Methodology

Criteria

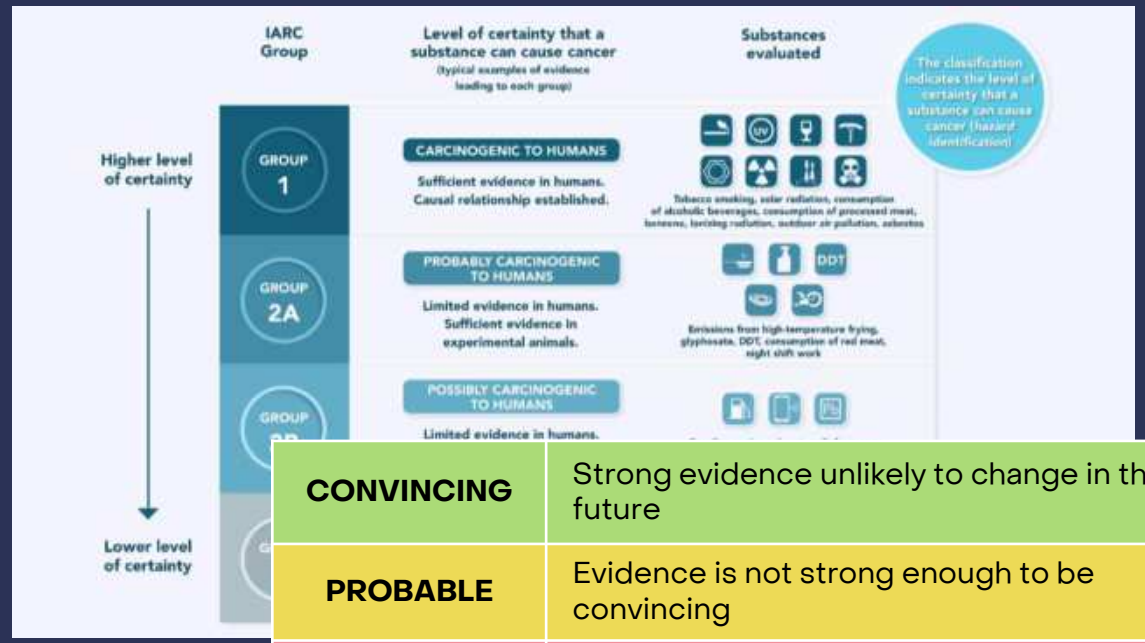
Sources of information & Systematic reviews

The IARC Monographs on the Identification of Carcinogenic Hazards to Humans

The **WCRF Expert Reports** and Continuous Update Project

The IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention

Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Cancer Screening



CONVINCING	Strong evidence unlikely to change in the near future
PROBABLE	Evidence is not strong enough to be convincing
LIMITED	Not enough to judge whether there is any effect

1 Recommendations based in **robust scientific evidence**

Studies on efficacy and effectiveness of the screening method

Studies with intermediate outcomes

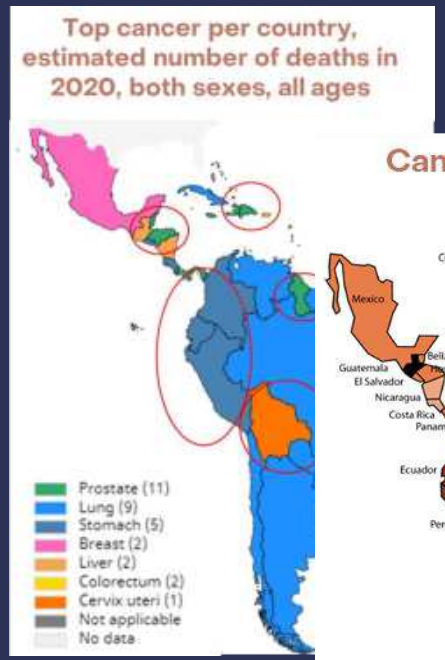
OVERALL EVALUATION OF A SCREENING METHOD

Group A	The screening method is established to reduce cancer incidence or mortality
Group B	The screening method may reduce cancer incidence or mortality
Group C	The screening method is not classifiable as to its capacity to reduce cancer incidence or mortality
Group D	The screening method may lack the capacity to reduce cancer incidence or mortality

Adapted from Minozzi *et al.*

Regional Codes against Cancer: Methodology

Criteria



- **Highest gallbladder cancer incidence and mortality** rates in the world (Chile; Andean Area)
- **Environmental & occupational exposures**

2 **Relevant** for the region (epidemiology, **inequalities, interventions**, etc.)

1 Recommendations based in **robust scientific evidence**

Adapted from Minozzi *et al.*

Regional Codes against Cancer: Methodology

Criteria

3 **Suitable** for a broad target of the **general population** of the region (*no high-risk groups*)

2 **Relevant** for the region (epidemiology, **inequalities, interventions**, etc.)

1 Recommendations based in **robust scientific evidence**

Adapted from Minozzi *et al.*

Regional Codes against Cancer: Methodology

Criteria

1. Recommendations based in **robust scientific evidence**
2. **Relevant** for the region (epidemiology, **inequalities, interventions**, etc.)
3. **Suitable** for a broad target of the **general population** of the region (*no high-risk groups*)
4. **Several levels** of recommendations according to **various target groups (policy-makers, health prof.)**

'Best buys': Effective interventions with cost effectiveness analysis (CEA) ≤ I$100 per DALY averted in LMICs	• Increase excise taxes on alcoholic beverages[1] • Enact and enforce bans or comprehensive restrictions on exposure to alcohol advertising (across multiple types of media)[2] • Enact and enforce restrictions on the physical availability of retailed alcohol (via reduced hours of sale)[2,3]
Effective interventions with CEA >I$100 per DALY averted in LMICs	• Enact and enforce drink-driving laws and blood alcohol concentration limits via sobriety checkpoints[4] • Provide brief psychosocial intervention for persons with hazardous and harmful alcohol use[5]
Other recommended interventions from WHO guidance (CEA not available)	• Carry out regular reviews of prices in relation to level of inflation and income • Establish minimum prices for alcohol where applicable • Enact and enforce an appropriate minimum age for purchase or consumption of alcoholic beverages and reduce density of retail outlets • Restrict or ban promotions of alcoholic beverages in connection with sponsorships and activities targeting young people • Provide prevention, treatment and care for alcohol use disorders and comorbid conditions in health and social services • Provide consumer information about, and label, alcoholic beverages to indicate, the harm related to alcohol

Adapted from Minozzi *et al.*

Regional Codes against Cancer: Methodology

Criteria

1. Recommendations based in **robust scientific evidence**
2. **Relevant** for the region (epidemiology, **inequalities, interventions**, etc.)
3. **Suitable** for a broad target of the **general population** of the region (*no high-risk groups*)
4. **Several levels** of recommendations according to **various target groups (policy-makers, health prof.)**
5. Clear communication and **innovative dissemination strategies**

Adapted from Minozzi *et al.*

Regional Codes against Cancer: Methodology

Criteria

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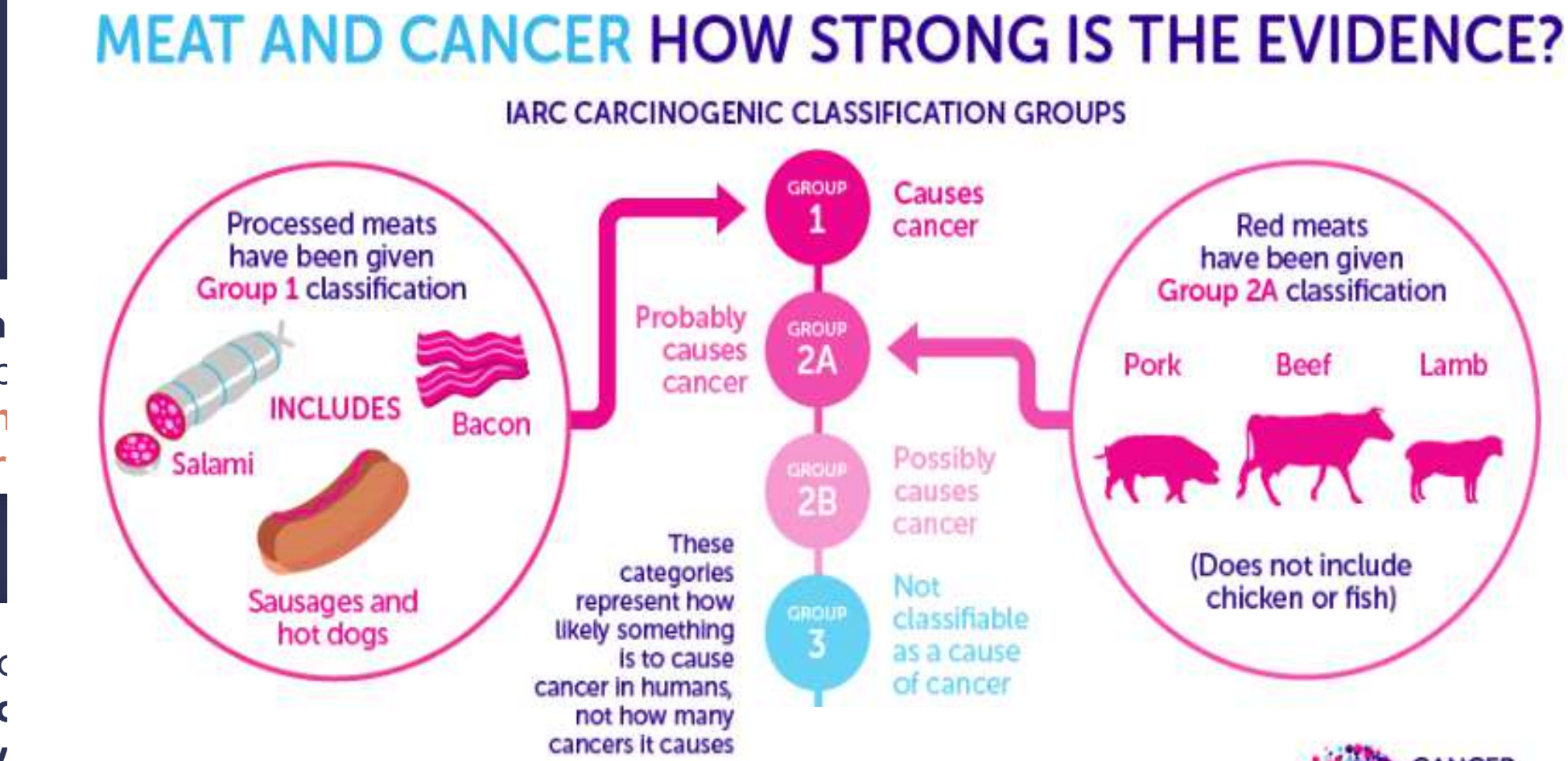


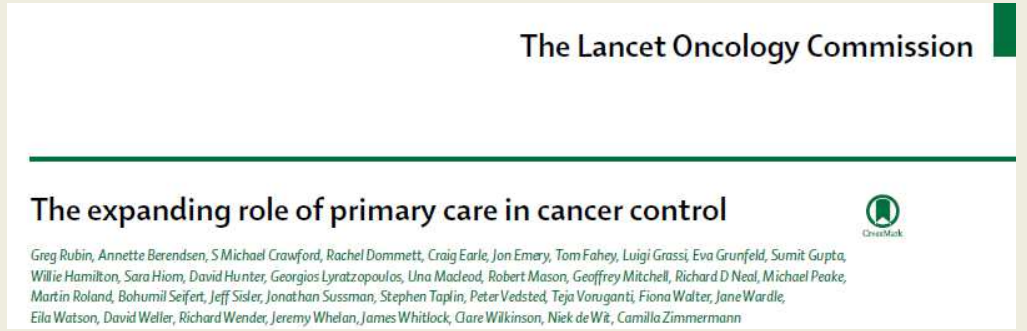
• Avoid processed meat; limit red meat and foods high in salt.

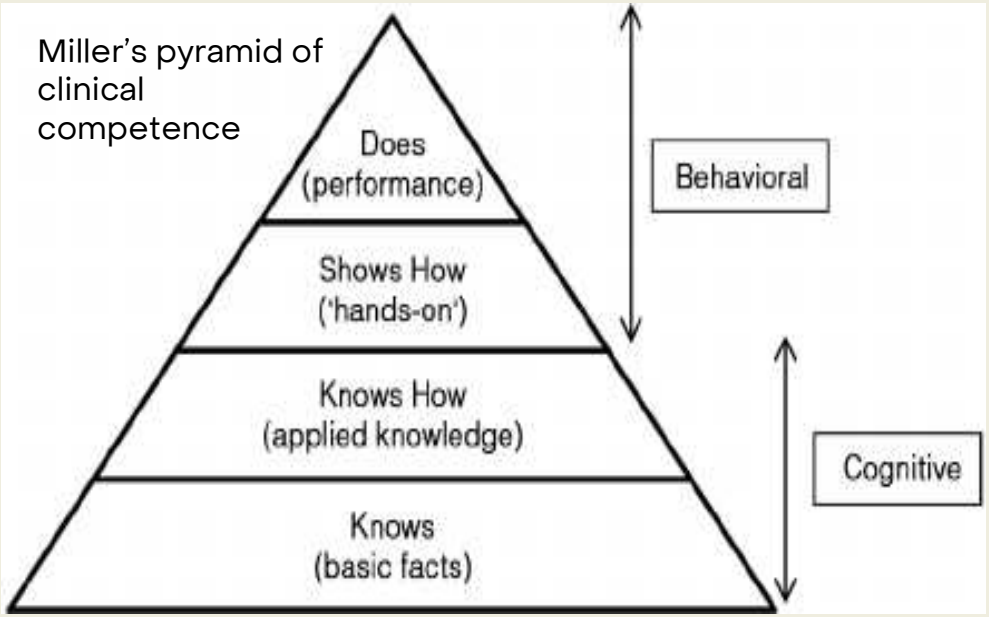
CANCER RESEARCH UK

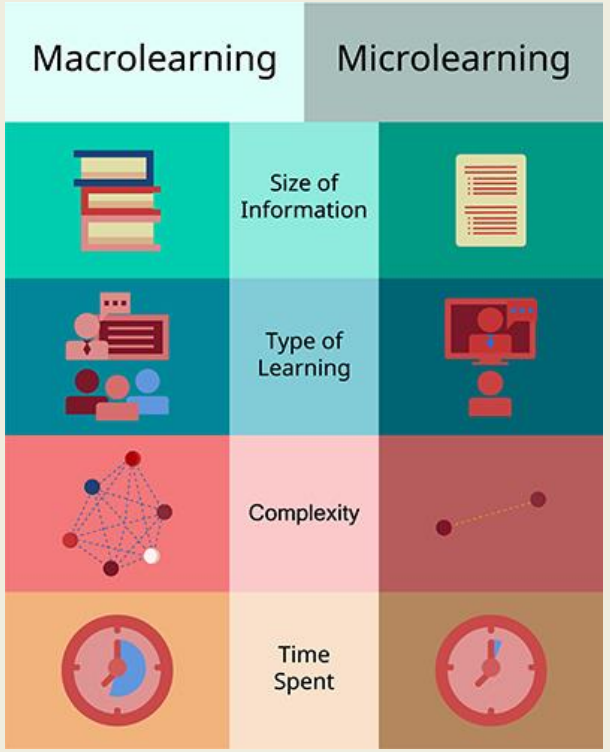
Adapted from Minozzi *et al.*

Regional Codes against Cancer: Capacity building

Level 2 of the Reginal Code:
On-line competency-based microlearning programme for health professionals







Benefits:

1. Better retention of concepts
2. Better engagement for learners (instant gratification: learn instantly anytime, anywhere)
3. Improving learners' motivation
4. Engaging in collaborative learning
5. Improving learning ability and performance

Regional Codes against Cancer: Methodology

Materials & tools

Methodological guideline

Checklists

Padlet repository

Pedagogical guideline

Experts' surveys

Multi-country pilot study

Classification of competences

LAC Code against Cancer: Governance

Regional Scientific Committee

Assess, recommends & approves

Regional Advocacy Group

Implementation, dissemination and exploitation

RINC SLACOM ALICC Healthy Caribbean Coalition

Coordination

Secretariat

IARC

Organización Panamericana de la Salud
Oficina Regional de la Organización Mundial de la Salud

+ Chairs of Regional WGs

> 60 Latin American & Caribbean experts

Development

4 Regional experts' working groups (WGs)

- Tobacco
- Diet, Alcohol, weight, physical activity
- Radiations
- Environment & occupations
- Infections & vaccination
- Screening

Supports

Supports

Regional communication experts (WG 5)

Literature review (WG 6)

Cochrane Iberoamérica

LAC Code against Cancer: Timeline

Planning phase

2017

Scoping meeting in WDC

Engagement of partners

Organización Panamericana de la Salud
Oficina Regional de la Organización Mundial de la Salud

RINC
SLACOM
ALICC
ASOCIACIÓN LATINA E IBÉRICA CONTRA EL CÁNCER
HEALTHY CARIBBEAN COALITION

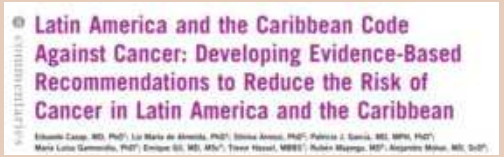
2018

World Code against Cancer **framework**

Toward the World Code Against Cancer
Espina et al., 2018

2019

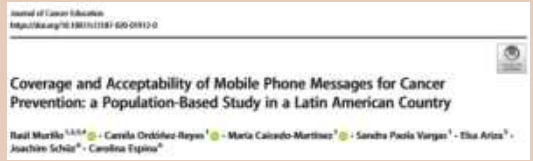
1st Scientific Committee meeting in Peru: **Governance**


Latin America and the Caribbean Code Against Cancer: Developing Evidence-Based Recommendations to Reduce the Risk of Cancer in Latin America and the Caribbean

NEW

Formative research in Argentina & Colombia *(submitted)*

American Cancer Society


Coverage and Acceptability of Mobile Phone Messages for Cancer Prevention: a Population-Based Study in a Latin American Country

Development phase

2021

Latin American & the Caribbean Code against Cancer

Kick-off meeting

AMIGOH
ALBERT EINSTEIN
SOCIEDADE BENEFICENTE ISRAELITA BRASILEIRA

LAC Code against Cancer: Timeline

Development phase

Dissemination, implementation & evaluation phase

2022

3rd Scientific Committee meeting: **Assessment & approval**

2023

Launch

Latin American & the Caribbean Code against Cancer

2024

Dissemination & implementation

Organización Panamericana de la Salud
Oficina Regional de la Organización Mundial de la Salud

RINC

SLACOM

ALICC
ASOCIACIÓN LATINA E IBÉRICA CONTRA EL CÁNCER

HEALTHY CARIBBEAN COALITION

2025

Monitoring & evaluation (Implementation & dissemination research in collaboration with regional stakeholders)

- Individual level
- Health prof. level
- Policy level

NEW

Regional Codes against Cancer: Take-home message

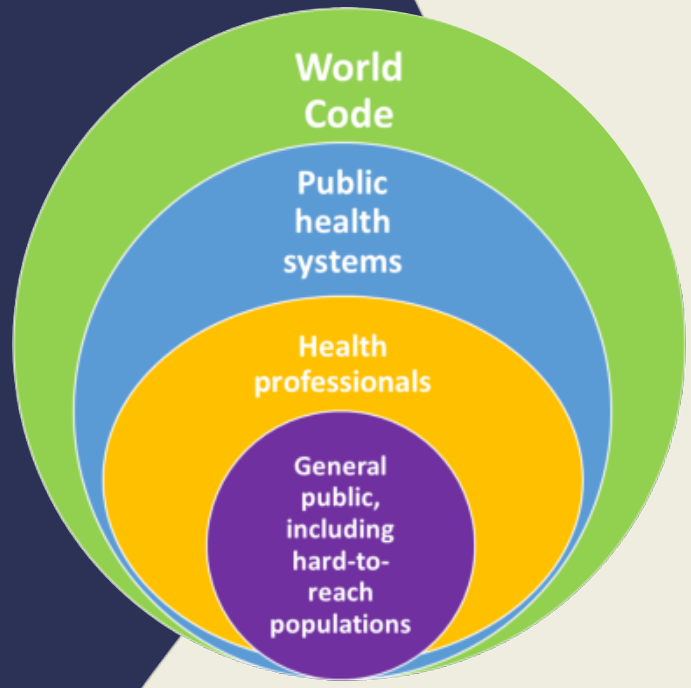
Effective ***communication*** of latest evidence

Empowering communities while offering good ***framework*** for prevention programs

Strong ***evidence*** base and regional data

Ownership and political impact

United voice to call for cancer prevention



Thank you

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International Agency for Research on Cancer

World Health Organization