

International Cancer Screening Network (ICSN) Applied Research Program

Overview

The International Cancer Screening Network (ICSN) is a voluntary consortium of countries that have active population-based cancer screening programs. These programs can be national or subnational in scope, and established or pilot-based. Administered by the Applied Research Program of the National Cancer Institute, the consortium was established in December 1988 as the International Breast Cancer Screening Database Project during an international workshop involving representatives from 11 countries. The consortium has since grown to encompass 33 countries, and now addresses screening for colorectal, cervical, and lung cancers as well. Specific activities are moved forward through working groups and biennial meetings.

The initial purpose of the ICSN was to generate a database for the evaluation of screening mammography programs. In 1997, the group decided to shift its focus from creating a common database to collaborative efforts aimed at understanding how to:

1. Use and compare data from screening mammography programs internationally.
2. Develop methods for evaluating the impact of population-based breast cancer screening programs.

In keeping with this realignment of purpose, in 1997 the group changed its name to the International Breast Cancer Screening Network. As work of the group grew to encompass screening for

additional cancers, it was renamed the International Cancer Screening Network.

The ICSN is dedicated to collaborative research aimed at identifying and fostering efficient and effective approaches to cancer control worldwide through population-based screening. It does not address efficacy or use clinical trial data. Participation in the ICSN is open to any country that has initiated a population-based cancer screening program.

Countries Participating in the ICSN

- Australia
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland, Republic of
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Luxembourg
- Malaysia
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Saudi Arabia
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Uruguay

Collaborative Projects

ICSN members have worked together to evaluate cancer screening and improve outcomes through collaborative projects or working groups focused on targeted data research, collection, and assessment that result in best practices recommendations. The work of these groups is often coordinated with comparable activities within the European Cancer Network (ECN), now administered by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

- **Colorectal Cancer Screening Participation Rates Working Group**
Assessing international comparability of colorectal cancer screening participation rates; identifying similarly defined indicators on participation
- **Ductal Carcinoma *in situ* (DCIS) Working Group**
Evaluating variation in DCIS incidence and management across organized screening programs that are members of the ICSN
- **Colorectal Cancer Cost Working Group**
Assessing the factors associated with cancer screening and how the cost of screening might be reduced and thus promoted to more organizations
- **Biomarkers and Screening Working Group**
Examining the collection and validation of biomarkers at the population level and the possible applications of biomarkers in organized screening programs
- **Audit Feedback on Reading Performance of Screening Mammograms**
Administering a survey to learn more about systems for audit feedback on reading performance in member countries of the ICSN with mammography screening programs

- **International Test Sets Interest Group**
Developing a test set to compare radiologist performance internationally and to be used for evaluation and education purposes

Previous Collaborative Projects

- **Program Assessment**
- **Performance Parameters Evaluation**
- **Communications**
- **Mortality Evaluation**
- **Treatment Quality Indicators**
- **Standardized Measures of Breast Density and Hormone Therapy**

ICSN Collaborative Publications

For publications addressing the evaluation of population-based and organized breast cancer screening:

<http://appliedresearch.cancer.gov/icsn/publications/search.html>

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