Dear colleagues,

Today February 4th is the World Cancer Day celebrated this year under the theme “World Cancer Day: closing the care gap”.

Almost 20 million people around the world are annually diagnosed with cancer and about 10 million die from this disease. This day is very significant for all those who work in the area of radiation safety in medicine, as radiation technologies play a key role across the entire cancer care pathway.

WHO will be active today in social media addressing different aspects of cancer prevention and management. The set of social media messages includes some messages to highlight that radiotherapy is among the most cost effective, efficient and widely-used cancer treatments, considered as a treatment option for more than half of cancer patients. It will also be highlighted that, despite being a critical component of cancer care, worldwide access to radiotherapy is still inadequate, particularly in LMICs.

A WHO News piece prepared for World Cancer Day has been published. You can find it here [https://www.who.int/news/item/03-02-2022-world-cancer-day-closing-the-care-gap](https://www.who.int/news/item/03-02-2022-world-cancer-day-closing-the-care-gap) and It is also linked from [https://www.who.int/health-topics/noncommunicable-diseases#tab=tab_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/noncommunicable-diseases#tab=tab_1) and [https://www.who.int/health-topics/cancer#tab=tab_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/cancer#tab=tab_1). The fact sheet on cancer [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cancer](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cancer) has been updated.

A new publication entitled “Setting Up a Cancer Centre: A WHO–IAEA Framework” has been released. It is already available on the IAEA site [https://www.iaea.org/publications/15052/setting-up-a-cancer-centre-a-who-iaea-framework](https://www.iaea.org/publications/15052/setting-up-a-cancer-centre-a-who-iaea-framework) and the link will be added to WHO News page today. As you will see, it comprises cancer diagnosis, staging and treatment and refers to the need for radiation technologies across the care pathway.

**A statement on the initiative “Rays of Hope- cancer care for all” joining efforts of IAEA, WHO and other partners, will be released today and also a feature story on a country’s efforts in support of cancer control will also be shared on the web.**

Some hyperlinks to documents/ webpages which may be useful sources of information

- [Global Initiative on Radiation Safety in Health Care Settings](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/radiation-safety-for-health-care-workers)
- [Bonn Call for Action](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/bonn-call-for-action)
- [Communicating radiation risks in pediatric imaging](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/communicating-radiation-risks-in-pediatric-imaging)
- [International Radiation Basic safety Standards (BSS)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/international-radiation-basic-safety-standards)
- [Expanding global access to radiotherapy](https://www.who.int/radiation/en/)
- [Medical imaging and nuclear medicine](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/medical-imaging-and-nuclear-medicine)
- [WHO List of priority medical devices for cancer treatment](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/who-list-of-priority-medical-devices-for-cancer-treatment)
- [WHO report on cancer: setting priorities, investing wisely and providing care for all](https://www.who.int/reports/cancer-health-care)
- [WHO/IAEA guidance on radiotherapy equipment to fight cancer](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/who-iaea-guidance-on-radiotherapy-equipment-to-fight-cancer)
- [Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/global-initiative-for-childhood-cancer)
- [Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cervical-cancer-elimination-initiative)
- [Global Breast Cancer Initiative](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/global-breast-cancer-initiative)
Kindest regards

Dr Maria del Rosario Perez
Scientist, Radiation and Health Unit (RAD)
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health (ECH)
Division of Healthier Population (HEP)
20, ave Appia, 1211 Geneva-27, Switzerland