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**FACT SHEET**  
**IASLC 17<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Lung Cancer**

**WHAT:** The IASLC World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC) is the world’s largest meeting dedicated to lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies. Held annually in rotating regions, the IASLC WCLC attracts more than 6,000 delegates from more than 100 countries to discuss the latest developments in thoracic malignancy research.

The IASLC WCLC brings together leading clinicians and scientists from around the world to engage in international collaboration in the fight against lung cancer. This year marks the first time the conference becomes an annual event, a move the IASLC made in order to keep pace with rapid scientific advances in the lung cancer field. Unlike many conferences of this type, lung cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, and advocates may attend the IASLC WCLC to ensure deeper understanding and collaboration among all stakeholders.

**WHEN:** December 4-7, 2016

**WHERE:** Messe Wien Exhibition & Congress Center, Vienna, Austria

**WHO:** Surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pulmonologists, radiologists, pathologists, epidemiologists, basic research scientists, nurses, allied health professionals, advocates, caregivers, patients, and media partners attend for the opportunity to learn and discuss groundbreaking research and progress with world-renowned lung cancer experts.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Early Registration Deadline: September 23, 2016
- Regular Registration Deadline: October 21, 2016

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Visit <http://wclc2016.iaslc.org/> for more information, including a full [schedule](#) of conference events or to [register](#) for the meeting. Media-specific information can be found at <http://wclc2016.iaslc.org/press-media/press-media/>.

**WHAT IS THE IASLC?**

The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) is the only global organization dedicated solely to the study of lung cancer. Founded in 1974, the association’s membership includes more than 5,000 lung cancer specialists in over 100 countries. Visit [www.iaslc.org](http://www.iaslc.org) for more information.



## LUNG CANCER FACTS AND STATISTICS

### TOBACCO USE, SMOKING, AND LUNG CANCER

- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide. Every year, lung cancer causes more than 1.6 million deaths; more than breast, colon, and prostate cancers combined.
- Tobacco use is responsible for the death of approximately 6 million people every year globally; more than 5 million deaths result from direct tobacco use and more than 600,000 deaths result from exposure to second-hand smoke.<sup>1</sup> The total number of deaths related to tobacco in Europe is almost 700,000 per year, with tobacco being the single largest cause of preventable deaths in the region.<sup>2</sup>
- The rate of smoking among adults in the U.S. fell to 15 percent last year, the biggest one-year decline in more than 20 years.<sup>3</sup>

### LUNG CANCER IN AUSTRIA

- In **Austria**, doctors diagnose approximately 4,000 people with lung cancer each year, with a strong increase in the number of women diagnosed.<sup>4</sup>
- Approximately 40 percent of the **Austrian** population smokes.<sup>5</sup>
- In **Austria**, 22.1 percent of cancer deaths in males and 14.1 percent of cancer deaths in females are caused by cancer of the trachea, bronchus, and lung.<sup>6</sup>
- **Austria** does not currently have an operational policy, strategy, or action plan to reduce the burden of tobacco use. Austria does have a ban on national television, radio, and print media as well as on some, but not all, forms of direct and/or indirect advertising of tobacco.<sup>7</sup>

### GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT

- The World Health Organization (WHO) **European Region** has the highest current adult (age 15 years and over) tobacco use among all WHO Regions: Approximately 41 percent of men and 22 percent of women currently smoke tobacco products.<sup>8</sup>
- Thirty percent of **European** teenagers who are never-smokers said they would start in the next year if their best friend offered them a cigarette, compared to 19 percent worldwide.<sup>9</sup>
- **China** is the largest consumer of tobacco in the world with about 301 million current smokers.<sup>10</sup> Approximately half of Chinese men smoke.<sup>11</sup> Experts estimate annual smoking deaths in China will reach nearly 2 million by 2030, and climb to 3 million people by 2050 – more than the population of Chicago.<sup>12</sup>
- In **Latin and South America**, 13-to-15-year-olds smoke more than adults in many countries.
- The younger someone is when they stop smoking, the greater the benefit. Smokers lose a decade of life because of their habit. Someone who quits before the age of 40 reduces their chance of death from a tobacco-related illness by 90 percent.<sup>13</sup>
- Forty percent of smoking adults in **Poland** claim that introducing smoking bans in public places and worksites would encourage them to try to give up smoking.<sup>14</sup>

### RESEARCH AND PROMISING DEVELOPMENTS:

- Funding for lung cancer research is critical due to the disease's prominence and because doctors often find lung cancer in later stages, when it is less treatable. New advances hold great promise for screening, early detection, and personalized therapies.
- Lung cancer does not have to be fatal. Groundbreaking new treatments dramatically alter lung cancer survival rates every day.



- New immunotherapies (using the body’s own immune cells to attack cancer cells) show great promise for patients with advanced, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).
- Personalized medicine is providing hope to lung cancer patients by utilizing drugs specific to their cancer’s tumor.
- Evidence suggests that quitting smoking measurably improves patient survival. [Read IASLC’s complete 2015 Statement on Tobacco Control and Smoking Cessation.](#)
- Screening with low-dose CT can reduce lung cancer deaths by 20 percent compared to a standard chest X-ray among adults with a 30 pack-a-year smoking history who were current smokers or had quit within 15 years.<sup>15</sup>
- Studies show that health-related warnings on cigarette packages, especially those that use pictures, decrease the number of young people who start smoking and increase the number of tobacco users who quit. A review of studies conducted in countries that implemented this policy show that pictorial warnings raise awareness of tobacco-related harm and decrease consumption.<sup>16</sup>
- Combined bans on advertising, promotion, and sponsorship can decrease tobacco consumption by an average of 7 percent.<sup>17</sup>
- Awareness of the risks to health associated with tobacco use is wide, and evidence shows that there is consistent public support for a complete ban on use or sale of tobacco: 34.9 percent of adults in 18 European countries support a tobacco endgame strategy.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. “Tobacco.” [www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs339/en/](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs339/en/), Date last updated: July 6, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> European Commission. “Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products.” [http://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/docs/com\\_2012\\_788\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/docs/com_2012_788_en.pdf). Date last updated: December 19, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Associated Press. “Only 15 Percent of U.S. Adults Now Smoke, CDC Finds.” [http://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/only-15-percent-u-s-adults-now-smoke-cdc-finds-n579646?cid=sm\\_twitter\\_feed\\_health](http://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/only-15-percent-u-s-adults-now-smoke-cdc-finds-n579646?cid=sm_twitter_feed_health). Access Date: June 24, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> The Local. “Lung cancer fatal for many Austrians.” <http://www.thelocal.at/20141128/lung-cancer-fatal-for-many-austrians>. Nov. 28, 2014. Access Date: July 6, 2016.

<sup>5</sup> The Local. “Lung cancer fatal for many Austrians.” <http://www.thelocal.at/20141128/lung-cancer-fatal-for-many-austrians>. Nov. 28, 2014. Access Date: July 6, 2016.

<sup>6</sup> World Health Organization – Cancer Country Profiles, 2014, Austria, [http://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/only-15-percent-u-s-adults-now-smoke-cdc-finds-n579646?cid=sm\\_twitter\\_feed\\_health](http://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/only-15-percent-u-s-adults-now-smoke-cdc-finds-n579646?cid=sm_twitter_feed_health). Access Date: June 24, 2016.

<sup>7</sup> World Health Organization – Cancer Country Profiles, 2014, Austria, [http://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/only-15-percent-u-s-adults-now-smoke-cdc-finds-n579646?cid=sm\\_twitter\\_feed\\_health](http://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/only-15-percent-u-s-adults-now-smoke-cdc-finds-n579646?cid=sm_twitter_feed_health). Access Date: June 24, 2016.

<sup>8</sup> WHO Europe. “Who is smoking?” [www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/tobacco/data-and-statistics/who-is-smoking](http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/tobacco/data-and-statistics/who-is-smoking). Date last updated: 2016.

<sup>9</sup> The Lancet. “Patterns of global tobacco use in young people and implications for future chronic disease burden in adults.” March 4, 2006. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16517275>. Access Date: June 24, 2016.

<sup>10</sup> New England Journal of Medicine. “Prevalence of Smoking in China in 2010.” <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc1102459>. Access Date: June 24, 2016.

<sup>11</sup> The World Bank. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.PRV.SMOK.MA>.

<sup>12</sup> The Lancet. “Smoking Cessation for Chinese Men and Prevention for Women.” [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)00416X/fulltext?rss=yes&utm\\_source=charybd.com&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_campaign=article](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)00416X/fulltext?rss=yes&utm_source=charybd.com&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=article). Access Date: June 24, 2016.

<sup>13</sup> The Tobacco Atlas. <http://www.tobaccoatlas.org/topic/smokings-death-toll/>. Access Date: June 24, 2016.

<sup>14</sup> Study on adult poles attitudes towards tobacco use conducted by the Chief Sanitary Inspectorate and TNS Poland in July 2015 (n=1004).

<sup>15</sup> New England Journal of Medicine. “Reduced Lung-Cancer Mortality with Low-Dose Computed Tomographic Screening.” <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoA1102873>. Access Date: June 24, 2016.

<sup>16</sup> Hammond D Health warning messages on tobacco products: a review. *Tob Control* 2011; 20: 327–337.

<sup>17</sup> The World Bank. “Curbing the epidemic – governments and the economics of tobacco control.” <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/1999/05/437174/curbing-epidemic-governments-economics-tobacco-control>. Date last updated: April 25, 2001.

<sup>18</sup> Gallus S, et al. Support for a tobacco endgame strategy in 18 European countries. *Prev Med (Baltim)* 2014; 67: 255–258.

