

LUNG CANCER — CAN'T WAIT

PREVENT IT, DETECT IT EARLY,
SAVE LIVES



Tuesday, May 27th 2025 | BBK Kuna

17:00

Welcome

Dr. Enrique Peiró Callizo, Vice Minister of Health, Basque Government

17:15

LUCIA project Overview and Scientific Update

LUCIA is a project funded by the European Union Horizon Europe Programme. The key aim of LUCIA is to constitute a toolbox for discovering and understanding new risk factors that contribute to lung cancer development. The project is dedicated to advancing knowledge and improving strategies for lung cancer screening and early detection.

Dr. Eunete Arana Arri, Leader of Validation and Clinical Evaluation of LUCIA project

17:35

Panel Session: From Prevention to Early Detection: Shaping the Future of Cancer Control and Screening

This panel session will explore innovative strategies in cancer prevention and early detection, bringing together leading experts to discuss the latest advancements in policy, public health, and screening programs. The session will highlight the latest research and real-world impact, emphasizing the importance of early detection in saving lives.

Prof. Tit Albrecht, Co-lead of WP4 of Joint Action EUNetCCC; President of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA)

Dr. Carlijn van der Aalst, Expert in Lung Cancer Early Detection and Screening Programmes, NELSON Trial, Associate Professor Erasmus MC, Rotterdam

Dr. David Ritchie, Project Officer at the Environment and Lifestyle Epidemiology International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC/WHO)

18:45

Panel Discussion: Cancer Prevention and Early Detection: A Conversation with the Community

This panel unites scientists, policymakers, public health experts, and citizens, with a special focus on the vital role of patient associations. Their participation ensures that research and health policies are truly aligned with real patient needs and experiences, emphasizing patient-centered approaches. The aim is to bring together panel experts and patient associations, listening to their real needs.

Verónica Malda Salinas, Manager of the Spanish Association Against Cancer - Bizkaia

Stephanie Oyonarte Da Rocha, Vocal of the Spanish Association of People Affected by Lung Cancer

Moderator:

Inaki Gutiérrez Ibarluzea, Director of Health Research, Innovation and Evaluation

19:45

Closing

Dr. Gontzal Grandes Meldel, Director of Transformation, Planning and Digitalization in Health

20:00

Networking Cocktail

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES



Tit Albrecht

President

European Public Health
Association

Prof. Tit Albrecht, M.D., Ph.D., is head of the Centre for Health Care at Slovenia's National Institute of Public Health and president of the **European Public Health Association**. A senior researcher in health services, policy, and systems research, he has focused on **health workforce, patient mobility, and cancer control** since 2006. He led work on the **European Guide on National Cancer Control Programmes** and coordinated the Joint Action Cancon. Currently, he co-leads WP4 of **Joint Action EUNetCCC** and is an assistant professor at multiple Slovenian medical faculties.



Carlijn van der Aalst

Associate Professor

Department of Public Health
Erasmus MC

Dr. Carlijn van der Aalst, MSc., Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in Public Health at **Erasmus MC – University Medical Center Rotterdam**. She specializes in **lung cancer screening and early detection**, playing a key role in the **NELSON trial**, which advanced global understanding of **low-dose CT screening** in high-risk populations. She coordinates the **4-IN-THE-LUNG-RUN** project under Horizon Europe, a clinical trial with ~26,000 participants. Her work focuses on evaluating the impact, benefits, and risks of **population screening**. She has supervised multiple PhD students and contributed extensively to scientific literature.



David Ritchie

Project Officer

International Agency for
Research on Cancer - WHO

David Ritchie, Ph.D., is a **Project Officer** at the **Environment and Lifestyle Epidemiology (ENV) branch** at the **International Agency for Research Cancer (IARC/WHO)**. His work focused on research to enable cancer prevention and control through translation of research evidence, specifically the update of the **European Code Against Cancer – 5th edition (ECAC5)** and support for the development of the **EU Mobile App for Cancer Prevention**. He plays a key role in coordinating research projects, and supporting international collaborations aimed at **cancer prevention and public health policies**.



Verónica Malda

Manager

Spanish Association Against
Cancer - Bizkaia

Verónica Malda is the **Manager of Spanish Association Against Cancer in Bizkaia**. The Association purpose is to lead society's effort to **reduce the impact of cancer and improve people's lives**. Based in Bilbao, she oversees health promotion and prevention programs, cancer information and raising awareness initiatives, patients holistic support and research initiatives to generate impact through an equitable, **humanizing and holistic perspective**. Under her leadership, the Association in Bizkaia has **expanded its services and programs to improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their families** and to **promote cancer prevention habits** and strengthening support for **cancer research**.



Stephanie Oyonarte

Member of the board

Spanish Association of Lung
Cancer Patients

Stephanie Oyonarte brings awareness to lung cancer as a **member of the board of the AEACaP**. Of French origin, though with a Sevillian accent, she was **diagnosed with lung cancer in 2016**. She contributes to initiatives focused on **supporting lung cancer patients and promoting awareness, early detection, and research**. Her work reflects a strong commitment to improving patient advocacy and public health outreach in the field of lung cancer. She **calls for more research**, because **advances are what allow her to live**: "Fifteen years ago, I wouldn't be here to tell the tale."