

2020 Governments in Action Report



World
Cancer Day
4 February

worldcancerday.org



 **Día mundial
contra el cáncer**
4 de febrero

SIMPOSIO CONMEMORATIVO POR LA LUCHA CONTRA EL CÁNCER EN EL SALVADOR



El Salvador's Minister of Health, Ana Orellana hosts World Cancer Day symposium gathering together over 100 cancer experts and leaders. Source: Basic Health International



Leading the way

This World Cancer Day, government leaders delivered powerful messages, bold commitments and decisive actions to improve the health of their nations.

Support for World Cancer Day was stronger than ever this year. At the same time that World Cancer Day was taking place, leaders in every country were challenged by the emergence of COVID-19. Yet, at least 66 governments unhesitatingly lent their support to the global and national concern of cancer.

The day marked many milestones for governments around the world. Three governments – Malawi, Poland and Rwanda – launched new national cancer control plans. The European Commission kicked-off "a new era in cancer prevention and care" with the start of public consultations for the ambitious *Europe's Beating Cancer Plan*.

For many leaders, the day was dedicated to inclusive discussions and to raising awareness, education and understanding.

Significantly, the day saw leaders celebrating those most impacted by cancer, including healthcare professionals, researchers and cancer organisations working at the frontlines, as well as recognise families and caregivers, cancer survivors and those living with cancer.

This report offers a closer look at some of the actions taken by leaders around the world this past 4th of February.



Participating governments:

Argentina	Germany	Maldives	Saudi Arabia
Armenia	Georgia	Malta	Scotland
Australia	Greece	Mauritius	Senegal
Benin	Grenada	Nepal	South Africa
Brazil	Guatemala	New Zealand	Switzerland
Brunei Darussalam	Hong Kong	Nigeria	Taiwan
Cameroon	India	Panama	The Netherlands
Canada	Iran	Paraguay	Trinidad
Cayman Islands	Israel	Peru	Tobago
Chile	Italy	Poland	Turkey
Colombia	Jamaica	Qatar	Uganda
Cuba	Japan	Republic of Chad	United Kingdom
Cyprus	Kenya	Romania	United States
Ecuador	Lebanon	Russia	Uruguay
El Salvador	Luxembourg	Rwanda	Zambia
Ethiopia	Malawi	Samoa	Zimbabwe
France	Malaysia	Saint Lucia	



**Governments have
the power to save
millions of lives from
cancer.**



Americas

Canada

"On World Cancer Day, we remember those we have lost to cancer, those who are still battling, and those who have fought through and survived cancer. Investments in research, early detection, and treatment have resulted in more people surviving cancer than ever before, but we know there is always more to do."

The Honourable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Health, Canada

Brazil



Chile

Ministry of Health offers greater access to chemotherapy

On World Cancer Day, the Ministry of Health officially approved 18 new benefits related to chemotherapy treatments for inclusion under the Fondo Nacional de Salud (FONASA), a financial entity funded by the public that provides health benefits and care to more than 12 million individuals in Chile.

Colombia

Ministry takes to Facebook Live for World Cancer Day

Garnering over 3,000 views, the Ministry of Health of Colombia hosted a Facebook Live broadcast on World Cancer Day. The broadcast featured a panel of cancer experts, among them including the Director of the National Cancer Institute, who offered a robust discussion around cancer. The experts helped to answer questions about cancer, including its signs and symptoms and ways to reduce cancer risk factors.



Cuba

Month-long awareness raising kicked off by Ministry of Health

World Cancer Day began a month-long programme of activities across the nation, including a festival of education and recreation that took place on World Cancer Day in Havana. The day featured the Ministry of Health's Head of Cancer Control, Dr María Caridad Rubio who gave a public talk on risk factors, prevention and adopting healthy behaviours. The month culminated in a traditional "fight against cancer" race held in every province and broadcasted on radio to encourage the public to stay healthy.



Americas

El Salvador

Over 150 leaders attend World Cancer Day symposium

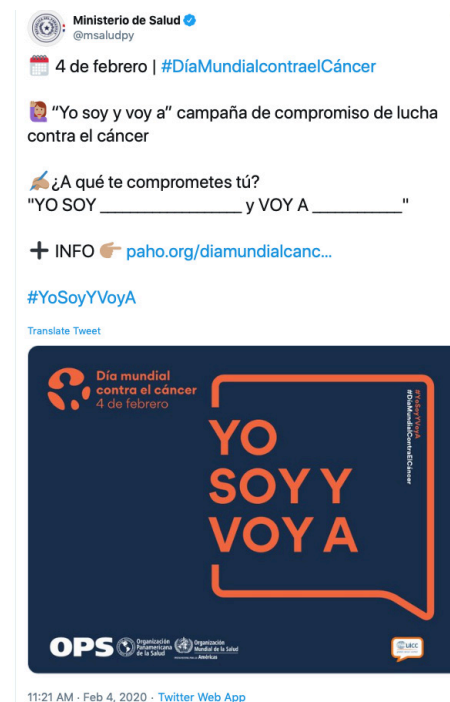
In El Salvador, the Ministry of Health co-hosted a World Cancer Day symposium gathering over 150 leaders and experts. Under the motto of “One day to prevent, a lifetime to enjoy”, the symposium was an opportunity for El Salvador’s Ministry of Health to reaffirm its commitment to reducing the national cancer burden and to underline the importance of cancer prevention and early detection. The day also highlighted the national importance of the issue with the presentation of the most recent country cancer data from 2019.

Guatemala

Ministry of Health raises awareness of the HPV vaccine

The Ministry of Health held an event at a school for girls between 10 and 14 years old in an effort to raise awareness and inform young girls of the importance of being vaccinated against cervical cancer. It was also an opportunity to encourage girls to share testimonials to aid in motivating more girls to get vaccinated.

Paraguay



United States

The US invests in global cancer control efforts

To mark World Cancer Day, the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna outlined the government’s actions in addressing the global cancer burden. In a press release, the U.N. Mission highlighted the U.S. government’s support to nations around the world, particularly through contributions to the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) work which has totalled over \$6.8 million since 2016. The government investment aims to improve cancer patient lives, supporting IAEA’s work in training, improving diagnostics and increasing access to radiotherapy in countries such as Algeria, Benin, Egypt, Mexico, Niger and Sierra Leone.

Europe

Cayman Islands

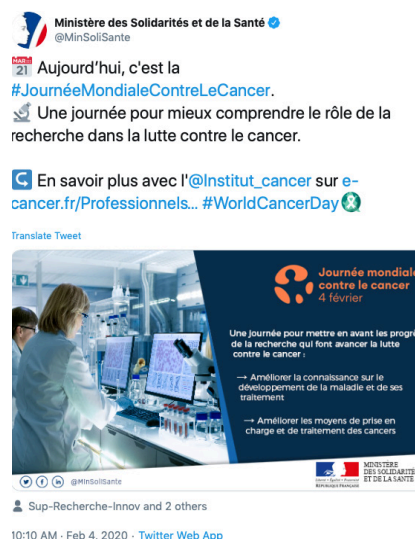
Ministry of Health, Environment, Culture & Housing, Cayman Islands 4 February ·

Today we think of those who are in the midst of treatment, those who are recovering, and those who are no longer with us. On today's #WorldCancerDay, join us in raising awareness about the disease and encourage communities to work together to reduce the risk of cancer. Let's beat cancer together. To learn more, please visit the Cayman Islands Cancer Society page and website www.cics.ky #IamAndWill

France

Minister of Health outlines focus on cancer in 2020

The Minister of Solidarity and Health, Agnès Buzyn took World Cancer Day as an opportunity to focus on the nation's cancer control plans for the next decade. In a press statement, the Minister outlined the key milestones in the coming year, including the evaluation of the 2014-2019 cancer plan for presentation in April, the development of the next ten-year strategy for approval by legislators in 2020, as well as contributing to the consultation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (see page 11). Ms Buzyn also spent time on World Cancer Day with healthcare workers, researchers, people impacted by cancer and their families in a visit to the Gustave Roussy Institute, a cancer-research institute and European Cancer Centre.



Georgia

Leaders mark milestone and look ahead to 2020

This World Cancer Day marked one-year since the city of Tbilisi officially joined as a City Cancer Challenge city. The milestone brought together multiple stakeholders from government, public health, academia and the community to review the past year's results and to plan for the year ahead. The gathering was opened by Georgia's Deputy Minister of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health, and Social Affairs, Dr Zaza Borkua.

“Today is an opportunity for the city to highlight progress so far in addressing one of the greatest challenges today.”

Dr Zaza Borkua, Deputy Minister of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health, and Social Affairs, Georgia



Europe

Greece

Prime Minister delivers powerful statement of support

In Greece, the Prime Minister posted a powerful video message in support of the day, outlining the future actions for cancer control for the country. In Athens, close to 200 delegates made up of representatives of patient organisations, healthcare professionals, researchers, students and individuals attended the 4th European Congress of the Hellenic Cancer Federation (ELLOK). Attended by Minister of Health Vasilis Kikilis and Secretary General Kathleen Kassilis, the conference focused discussions on immediate actions to develop a national cancer plan and a national cancer registry.

“Today our thinking goes out to all our fellow citizens and their families who have fought and are fighting this battle... The government and I consider prevention a top priority. Today, we are taking a new step in the same direction. The bill on the National Prevention Program is already in public consultation. Soon it will be state law...”

Kyriakos Mitsotakis
Prime Minister, Greece



Prime Minister GR ✓
@PrimeministerGR



Σήμερα, Παγκόσμια Ημέρα κατά του Καρκίνου, η σκέψη μας είναι στους συμπολίτες μας και στις οικογένειές τους που έδωσαν και δίνουν αυτή τη μάχη. Ο καρκίνος έχει έναν μεγάλο εχθρό: Την πρόληψη. Και αυτήν έχουμε βάλει σε πρώτη προτεραιότητα. [#WorldCancerDay youtube.com/watch?v=OfjNsp...](#)

The YouTube @YouTube



♥ 557 3:20 PM - Feb 4, 2020





Europe

Malta

Malta's President opens up talks on cancer

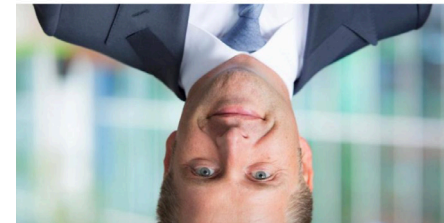
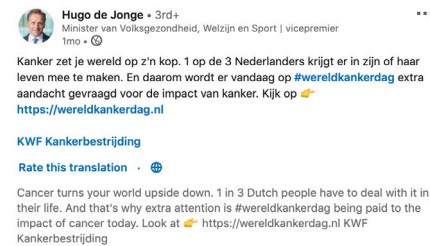
On the occasion of World Cancer Day, President of Malta, Dr George Vella gave the opening speech at the annual World Cancer Day 2020 conference hosted by the National Cancer Platform. The conference brought together experts for a full programme discussing different aspects of cancer, including the patient experience, the role of the family doctor, psychological and financial support, as well as palliative care. The President's agenda on World Cancer Day also included a visit to Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre at Mater Dei Hospital.

Poland

Poland's leaders adopt National Oncology Strategy

This World Cancer Day saw the adoption of Poland's new National Oncology Strategy 2020-2030, which was formally endorsed by the Polish Cabinet. The strategy which was spearheaded by the Health Ministry aims to improve the nation's five-year cancer survival rate, reduce cancer cases and increase early detection rates. With concrete points of action, including the introduction of the HPV vaccine, digital mammography testing and more oncological training in medical schools, the plan was praised by the Poland's President, Andrzej Duda as a significant commitment to safeguarding the health of future generations.

The Netherlands



Turkey



United Kingdom

UK Prime Minister meets with cancer survivors and volunteers

This past World Cancer Day, Prime Minister Boris Johnson invited individuals living with cancer, volunteers and cancer organisations for a “once-in-a-lifetime” meeting at the Prime Minister's Office. The occasion opened the opportunity to raise important issues directly with the Prime Minister, with the group asking for Mr Johnson's commitment to training and employing more health staff to detect cancer earlier.



Last week PM [@BorisJohnson](https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson) met campaigners from [@CR_UK](https://twitter.com/CR_UK) to discuss the fight against cancer, and the world-leading research that is making it possible.



10:04 AM · Feb 4, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

272 Retweets 1.2K Likes

Spotlight: Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

World Cancer Day 2020 became the start point of public-wide consultations for the European Commission's Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. A new and ambitious roadmap for the region, the plan promotes a collective and coordinated approach in supporting cancer control efforts by EU Member States.

At an event which took place on World Cancer Day in the European Parliament, stakeholders came together to help shape a cross-cutting plan for future action. The event was opened by the European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyden and was led by a keynote speech by European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella Kyriakides. The programme also included opportunities for individuals directly affected by cancer to share their stories before a rousing and inspiring performance by Ireland's Sea of Change choir - a choir of women who have survived cancer.

The event was livestreamed and amplified across social media with cancer survivors, people living with cancer, health professionals, political and civil society leaders as well as EU citizens voicing their support for the milestone initiative.

“Today, on World Cancer Day, we begin a common path that will lead to Europe's Beating Cancer Action Plan. Together we can make a difference: with prevention and research, with a new data strategy and equality in treatment across Europe.”

Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission



**EUROPE'S BEATING
CANCER PLAN**
LET'S STRIVE FOR MORE

#EUCan

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission opens the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: Let's Strive for More event on World Cancer Day 2020. Copyright: European Union, 2020. Source: EC - Audiovisual Service:



Africa

Malawi

Malawi officially launches National Cancer Strategic Plan

In a major milestone for the country, Malawi's Minister of Health and Population, Jappie Mhango officially launched the Malawi National Cancer Strategic Plan in the week of World Cancer Day. For the first time, the plan offers a 10-year roadmap for the nation, commencing in 2020 and was launched at Kalambo primary school in a ceremony attended by representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Cancer Association of Malawi and the World Health Organization.

"I am very happy to launch this plan today as it is an important document in our efforts to fight cancer in the country. This plan will help us organize ourselves and ensure that there is cohesion and that all of us are pulling in the same direction."

Jappie Mhango
Minister of Health and Population,
Malawi

Mauritius

Minister of Health addresses public at World Cancer Day launch event

In Mauritius, a number of activities were planned across the country by the Ministry of Health to commemorate World Cancer Day. At a launch event, the Minister for Health and Wellness, Dr Kailesh Kumar Singh Jagutpal encouraged the public to go for free cancer screenings and to get vaccinated. In his remarks, the Minister also highlighted actions taken by the government in expanding cancer services, including the current construction of a specialised cancer hospital. Later, the Minister was joined by the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, Mrs Kalpana Devi Koonjoo-Shah in a visit to Cancer Unit of Victoria Hospital as part of the World Cancer Day programme of activities.



Africa

Nigeria

Minister of Health briefs journalists on country progress in cancer

A national press briefing was held to mark World Cancer Day in Nigeria. The Minister of Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire briefed journalists on the current cancer challenge faced by the nation and the government's approach to addressing the growing challenge. In his briefing, Minister Ehanire highlighted recent advances made, including the government's partnership with the American Cancer Society and Clinton Health Access to make 16 chemotherapy medications available at 65% less than market price. The Minister also confirmed that the Human Papillomavirus vaccine will be introduced into the National Immunisation Scheme commencing in 2021, a major step forward towards the elimination of

cervical cancer, which is one of the top five cancers affecting women in Nigeria. Minister Ehanire also took the opportunity of the briefing to publicly express gratitude to those working at the frontlines of cancer, including the country's oncologists and medical and health professionals.



Dr. Faisal Shuaib @drfaisalsuaib · Feb 4
I joined the Ministerial press briefing convened by the Hon. Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire to mark World Cancer Day 2020. Today gives us another opportunity to reflect on our role in fighting this scourge. Remember, prevention & early detection saves.
[#WorldCancerDay2020](#)



1 12 42

Rwanda

Rwanda's President inaugurates new cancer centre

Rwanda had much to celebrate this World Cancer Day with the inauguration of the Rwanda Cancer Centre as well as the launch of the country's first National Cancer Control Plan, the National Cancer Registry, and the National Cancer Management guidelines. The Rwanda Cancer Centre, a state-of-the-art centre completely equipped with Radiotherapy, was inaugurated by His Excellency President Paul Kagame. Conceived in 2016, the government-funded centre became operational in March 2019 and officially launched this World Cancer Day. The launch ceremony included President Kagame as guest of honour and was attended by government ministers including Minister of Health Dr. Diane Gashumba.



Presidency | Rwanda @UrugwiroVillage

Today on [#WorldCancerDay](#), President Kagame inaugurates the Rwanda Cancer Centre at Rwanda Military Hospital.



12:53 PM · Feb 4, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

Senegal



Ministère de la Santé et de l'Action sociale
4 February ·

Album conférence de presse de la journée mondiale de lutte contre le cancer, un occasion pour le Ministère de faire le point sur la maladie et pour la LISCA, le bilan du téléthon 2018 et de parler des perspectives pour celui de 2020 prévu le vendredi 21 Février 2020.

World Cancer Day Press Conference Album, an opportunity for the Ministry to take stock of the disease and for the, the 2018 telethon review and talk about the outlook for 2020 planned Friday, February 21 2020.

Hide original · Rate this translation



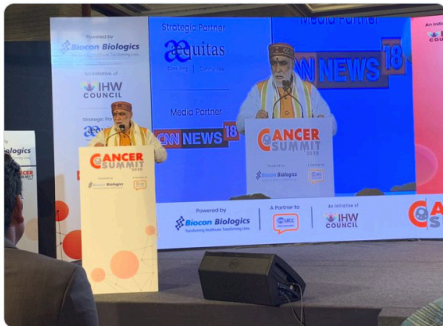


South-East Asia

India



Minister [@AshwiniKChoubey](#) speaking at [#WorldCancerDay2020](#) program in New Delhi. "The government of India is committed to addressing cancer, and encourages every stakeholder to join together in the fight against Cancer." [@uicc](#)



Blocon and 3 others

9:42 AM · Feb 4, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

Malaysia

Malaysia's Health Minister urges people to seek evidence-based treatment

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dzulkefly Ahmad had a strong message this World Cancer Day. At an event in the country's capital, the Minister urged the public to seek evidence-based treatment for cancer and warned against an over-reliance on alternative treatments or faith healers. He also encouraged the public to seek medical attention earlier when they suspect cancer, and in particular to participate in screenings offered by health providers. The Minister equally acknowledged the role of governments, agencies and civil society, emphasising the importance of collaboration when it comes to raising awareness and improving cancer education among the public.

Maldives

Maldives government delivers oncology workshop for nurses

Marking World Cancer Day, the government of the Maldives in collaboration with the State Trade Organization, Cancer Society of Maldives, Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Hulhumale' Hospital and Dr Reddy's Laboratories, hosted the second annual OncoSpectra workshop. This year's training session brought together nurses for a half-day focused on the "Role of Nurses in Improving Cancer Care", and in particular, on training nurses in the handling and dispensing of medicines related to cancer.



Health Minister Datuk Seri Dzulkefly Ahmad (fourth left) at the launch of the World Cancer Day 2020 campaign at KL Sentral, Kuala Lumpur February 4, 2020. Source: CAPRI COMMUNICATIONS SDN BHD
Credit: Yusof Mat Isa

Eastern Mediterranean

Iran

Deputy Minister of Health emphasises the importance of National Cancer Control Plans

This World Cancer Day, Iran's Deputy Minister of Health helped to draw attention to the importance of National Cancer Control Plans in improving patient lives, balancing costs and delivering world-class cancer treatment. In an in-depth briefing, the Deputy Minister offered insight into the plan's objectives, expected deliverables and how the plan was developed. He also provided details on how resources and infrastructure needs for the next six years were determined and highlighted areas where achievements have already been made, such as the establishment of early diagnostic centres and the delivery of face-to-face training on early prevention and early diagnosis.

Lebanon



Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL)

29 January · 🌐

Last year, many of you sent us videos and stories and shared your pledges with us. This year as well, we will be waiting for your [#IAmAndIWill](#) pledges; make sure you post them on [#WorldCancerDay](#) February 4th!

Let's be [#UnitedAgainstCancer](#) and change the world.

[#CCCL](#) [#iLoveCCCL](#) [#SavingLives_CelebratingHope](#)



165

13 shares

Qatar

Press conference held by Ministry of Public Health

In Qatar, the Director of the Public Health Department of the Ministry of Public Health, Sheikh Dr Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Thani, held a press conference on the occasion of World Cancer Day. It was a chance for the Ministry of Public Health to lift the media's awareness of cancer as a national and global issue, including its impact on individuals as well as the State of Qatar. Sheikh Dr Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Thani offered insight into the cancer control efforts being implemented by the Ministry, including expansive public awareness campaigns, health promotion and community-based education, as well as early detection services and free treatment, which are included as part of the national cancer strategy.



Western Pacific

Australia

“Today is World Cancer Day. And, it’s an important day to remember all of those who have lost their battle, to acknowledge all of those and their families who are going through a current battle with cancer and to commit to better and further preventive action, research and treatments going forward...And on World Cancer Day, I want to acknowledge all of those Australians who are in the fight against cancer and the fight to give people the best quality of life, the best care on the planet and the best outcomes.”

**Greg Hunt, Minister for Health
Australia**



Brunei Darussalam

Minister of Health helps strengthen national awareness of cancer

In Brunei Darussalam, the Ministry of Health had a significant presence at many of the major World Cancer Day initiatives. The World Cancer Day Walk, Run and Bicycle recreation event organised by the Ministry of Health’s Promotion Centre and the Pantai Jerudong Specialist Centre witnessed over 1,500 participants, including cancer survivors and individuals affected by cancer who walked side by side with government leaders. The week of World Cancer Day also saw the Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Mohammad Isham Bin Haji Jaafar presiding over the official lighting up of one of the city’s iconic landmarks, the Jerudong Park Country Club’s Crystal Arch which illuminated in orange and blue every evening that week.

The Minister also delivered a powerful response to World Cancer Day’s 20 *Leaders: 1 Question* initiative, where he called for greater early detection and screening of cancer, echoing his official statement made in commemoration of World Cancer Day.



Western Pacific

Japan

Japan's Minister of Health shares 'I Am and I Will' message

Japan's government provided full support to World Cancer Day. The Minister of Health, Minister Kato Katsunobu, was invited to share his commitment through his own 'I Am and I Will' message.



Source: UICC Japan World Cancer Day
www.worldcancerday.jp

"I am the Chairman of the Japan National Committee for UICC. And I will work with UICC members in Japan and around the world to make every effort to support cancer control measures in Asia."

Dr. Noda Tetsuo, Chairman Japan National Committee for UICC

"I am the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare. I will deliver the latest cutting-edge cancer treatment to patients, aiming to overcome cancer!"

Minister Kato Katsunobu, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare (Featured right)



Creating change together

Government leaders have voices which carry tremendous weight, as well as access to platforms which have incredible reach. This World Cancer Day, we saw leaders combine both to raise awareness, improve understanding and overcome stigma in a powerful show of commitment to the health of this generation and the generations to come.

We recognise that governments cannot address the cancer burden alone. World Cancer Day offers an important opportunity to mobilise national will, resources and

support from every stakeholder, including governments, civil society, the private sector, health organisations, the media and the general public. This 4th of February, we saw that together, we can create change.



Thank you

Thank you to every leader who showed their support this World Cancer Day and whose actions and words make a meaningful difference.

We also recognise the efforts of every UICC member who work hand-in-hand with their governments on World Cancer Day and every day to represent the voices of the millions of people affected by cancer.

And, to the thousands of individuals who engaged their own leaders and made their voices count this World Cancer Day, thank you for believing in a better, healthier future.

Thank you to our World Cancer Day official partners who support and believe in the power of this campaign.

Visionary partners



Champion partners



For more information and the latest news, sign up to our newsletter at worldcancerday.org

Have questions? Email us at hello@worldcancerday.org

World Cancer Day is an initiative of the Union for International Cancer Control.



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