

Late 1960s

Introduction

This Manual describes the origin, present structure and activities of the International Union Against Cancer.

Since its foundation the UICC has developed into a world-wide organization with members in over 70 countries. This Manual is intended for all persons participating in the activities of the UICC and also for all those interested in obtaining factual information on the organization of the international campaign against cancer.

History

The value of international co-operation in the campaign against cancer was recognized in the early part of this century and by then there was a sufficient number of workers in the field to make it advisable for them to meet. Three international congresses were held prior to World War I—in Heidelberg in 1906, in Paris in 1910 and in Brussels in 1913.

After the war, international activity in the field of cancer slowly revived: a conference was held in Strasbourg in 1923 on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of Pasteur and in 1926 a meeting was convened at Lake Mohonk by the American Society for the Control of Cancer. It was attended by representatives of eight nations. In 1928, the British Empire Cancer Campaign organized another international conference in London at which 16 nations were represented. The first successful attempt to establish a permanent international organization was made at the First International Cancer Congress held in Madrid in October 1933. At the end of this Congress, Dr. Jacques Bandaline, who later became the first General-Secretary of the Union, proposed in the name of the French delegation and with the approval of the President of the Congress, Prof. L. Cardenal, Madrid, the creation of the Inter-

national Union Against Cancer. An organising committee met in Paris in March 1934 and prepared plans for the establishment of the new organization.

The first general assembly of the International Union Against Cancer was held in Paris in May 1935 and Mr. Justin Godard of France was elected President.

In all ten International Cancer Congresses have been held under the auspices of the International Union Against Cancer.

The Second and Third International Cancer Congresses were held respectively in Brussels in 1936 and in Atlantic City in September 1939. World War II broke out in Europe just as the Third International Cancer Congress opened. International co-operation in cancer ceased for the time being.

Once the war was over, it became possible to start afresh. The initiative came from the United States.

The Fourth International Cancer Congress was held in St. Louis in September 1947. Despite disturbed post-war conditions, twenty-five countries were represented at the meeting.

Among the notable accomplishments of the Fourth Congress was the creation of the International Cancer Research Commission, an outgrowth of the previous Scientific Committee of the Union but with greater autonomy; this reflected the expanding activity in cancer research throughout the world.

The Fifth International Cancer Congress was held in Paris in 1950.

The Sixth Congress took place in São Paulo in July 1954.

On that occasion the constitution of the Union was extensively revised. The previous International Cancer Research Commission was replaced by a Commission on Cancer Research with greatly enlarged functions. A Commission on Cancer Control was also set up.

The Seventh Cancer Congress was held in London in 1958 and 64 countries were represented.

The Eighth Cancer Congress took place in Moscow in 1962.

The Ninth Cancer Congress was held in Tokyo in 1966 and the Tenth in Houston, Texas, USA, in 1970.

Recent years have witnessed two important developments.

Firstly, the International Union Against Cancer has administered the American Cancer Society — Eleanor Roosevelt — International Cancer Fellowship Programme.

Secondly, the International Union Against Cancer has established a permanent office staffed with full-time qualified professional personnel.

The General Assembly held in Tokyo in 1966, marked the beginning of a new phase in the development of the UICC. The extended scope of the Union's activities made it necessary to set up five commissions instead of the two established in 1954.

At the same time, a new financial structure was adopted in order to increase the regular income of the UICC and also to spread the Union's commitments more equitably among its members.

Finally, the opportunity was taken to modernize the Constitution of the UICC and to adopt for the Union's principal organs, the terms commonly employed by the major international organizations, viz.: General Assembly, Council, Executive Committee, Secretariat.

At the General Assembly held in Houston in 1970 the number of Commissions was increased to six and the terms of office of the elected members of the Council shortened from twelve to eight years.

The continuous evolution of the UICC, marked by the International Congresses held every four years, clearly underlines the Union's constant endeavour to meet the requirements of world-wide cancer research and control.

1. Origins

The end of the 19th century and the start of the 20th were the beginning of a new era in biology and medicine. In the middle of the 19th century (1853), Virchow proclaimed his celebrated dictum "omnis cellula e cellula" which Tiersch completed with his "omnis cellula e cellula ejusdem generis". Remak, in addition, had formulated his theory concerning the germ layers. The path henceforth was set for intensive study into the histopathology of cancer.

The European pathologists had begun the work of identifying the main forms of human cancer while, with Remak's theory as its starting point, a nomenclature based on histogenesis was in course of being elaborated.

Grafting of malignant tumours had also been successfully carried out by Bang, Ehrlich, Firket and others. Less successful were the attempts by Cazin, Hanau and Morau (Zurich, 1884) to induce cancer in animals. Their failure must be attributed not only to the fact that the animal species (dogs and rats) chosen by them were unsuitable but that they lacked the patience and tenacity to devote the necessary time to their experiments. Substances experimented with at the time included tar whose action in causing skin cancer had been demonstrated at the end of the 18th century by Percival Pott in his description of cancer in chimney-sweeps.

2. The first pre-1914 gatherings

The time had come for organized meetings to take place among doctors and research workers concerned with cancer. After discussions and consultations, it was decided to hold the first international conference at Heidelberg in 1906, under the chairmanship of Czerny, the surgeon. A second conference was held in Paris, presided over by Dr. Bouchard.

The third conference took place in Brussels in 1913 under the chairmanship of Th. Debaisieux, professor of clinical surgery at the faculty of Medicine of Louvain University. It was at this meeting that Dr. J. Fibiger, of Copenhagen, created a sensation with his account of his experiments in inducing stomach cancer in rats infested with an adult living parasite in the stomach wall: the *congyglonema* or *spiroptera neoplastica*.

This, the first method demonstrated of inducing cancer experimentally, by itself alone, justified the convening of a fourth international conference which was to raise experimental pathology to its proper rank among other branches of research of major importance in carcinology. Originally scheduled to take place in Copenhagen in 1916, under the chairmanship of Dr. Fibiger himself, then professor of pathology at the University of Copenhagen, the meeting was prevented by the outbreak of war.

During the four years of war, scientific research slackened in the western world as medical resources were centred on clinical work relating to war surgery.

Thus were held the first pre-war meetings. If it is difficult to think of them as "international" meetings in view of the small number of countries which attended, international they may be called in the spirit which imbued them in that they were open unreservedly to all scientific workers.

3. The first post-war attempts

In the East, on the other hand, medical research forged ahead during the war. In 1916, K. Yamagiwa and K. Itshikawa published the preliminary findings concerning their experiments in inducing cancer in a rabbit's ear by repeated applications of coal tar. That mice were even more susceptible to this same form of treatment was shown in 1918 by H. Tsutsui and subsequently confirmed in 1920 by J. Fibiger and F. Bang, of Copenhagen. Then, in 1921, Bruno Bloch and W. Dreifuss, of Zurich, and later J. Maisin in 1922, showed conclusively that the cancer-inducive properties of tar were due to its content of high-temperature-resistant hydrocarbons. The interest aroused by the discovery of Yamagiwa and Itshikawa was sufficient to set most laboratories throughout the world working at the problem, and again it was felt timely that re-

search workers should meet together internationally. The "Leeuwenhoek Vereniging", as this next meeting was called, was held in Amsterdam in 1922 under the chairmanship of Dr. Rotgans, and was followed by another conference, this time in Paris in 1930 with Dr. Gustave Roussy in the chair. Thirty-two participants were present at this second conference.

International though they were in character, these meetings were still little other than what today would be called symposia or seminars in that they dealt with isolated aspects of the general subject. The international gatherings of the kind held before the war in Heidelberg, Paris and Brussels, with the aim of exploring the subject as a whole, had not yet been wholly revived. Not that attempts to revive them had been lacking. Three meetings had taken place: in Strasbourg, at Lake Mohawk and in London. But while they demonstrated a generally felt desire for such meetings, they were still a long way from being true international congresses, open to all engaged in the vast field of cancer research. They were nonetheless useful for showing those who took part in them the need for meetings to be held which would be more broadly representative and offer greater freedom.

The Strasbourg Conference, which took place on 23-24 July 1923, was not followed up. It was held under the auspices of the Association française pour l'Etude du Cancer, and presided over by Dr. Pierre Delbet, at that time professor of surgery at the Paris Faculty of Medicine.

One hundred and fifty seven delegates from 15 countries were present.

The symposium at Lake Mohawk (New York) was held on 20-24 September, 1926, under the auspices of the American Society for the Control of Cancer. There were 91 participants from North America, together with 16 European research workers and members of the medical profession. It is worth recalling that from this symposium came the first recommendation calling for the setting up of an international federation of societies engaged in the control of cancer.

It was followed on 17 July, 1928, by the International Cancer Conference in London, convened by the British Empire Cancer Campaign and attended by 201 delegates from Britain itself and 95 other delegates from 16 countries. Under the patronage of H.R.H. the Duke of York, later King George VI, the conference was presided over by Sir John Bland-Sutton.

4. The birth of the Union

The delay in establishing an international organization for action against cancer was due to many different reasons, regional or local as well as personal, and the same difficulties were met both in Europe and in the United States.

5. The First International Cancer Congress (Madrid, 1933)

Efforts in France and Spain eventually led to the first international cancer congress being convened in Madrid on 30 October, 1933, with Dr. L. Cardenal in the chair. The first international congress in the true sense of the word, it was the opportunity that cancerologists had long been awaiting to begin preparations for setting up an international union. To lead their discussions someone was wanted who, it was agreed, should be neutral and not directly engaged in cancer work. Justin Godart, the former French Minister of Public Health, who was in Madrid at the time, was accepted by general acclaim as the person most eminently qualified for the post. An expert in medical matters without being a doctor himself, warm-hearted and possessing a keen mind, Justin Godart enjoyed incontestable authority both in his own country and abroad. Dr. Jacques Bandaline, his closest associate, immediately embarked on the task of canvassing support for the setting up of an International Cancer Union. His efforts were rewarded when his proposal to establish an International Union Against Cancer was adopted unanimously at the closing ceremony of the Congress.

This first congress was an outstanding success. Its published records were in a sense the first *Acta*—the official organ to be—of the new Union.

6. Preparatory meetings in Paris

In accordance with the decisions taken in Madrid, the first preparatory conference of the International Union Against Cancer was held in Paris on 22-24 March, 1934, when a provisional organizing committee was appointed with the task of preparing the constitution of the future Union. The constitution was adopted on 22 March and registered in Paris.

Further meetings of the committee took place in Paris on 16 December, 1934, and on 3 February and 31 March 1935, to enable it to complete its work. One of the tasks entrusted to it by the constitution was that of preparing the first ordinary and extraordinary general meetings of the Union in Paris on 4 May, 1935.

Contacts were established in the different countries aimed at creating a permanent liaison between organizations engaged in the scientific study of cancer and its social control. This subsequently was to enable the Union to study the basis of an anatomico-clinical classification of tumours, to set up a permanent international documentation centre on all matters relating to cancer, to publish an international bulletin as a welcome addition to existing national publications and to prepare future international congresses.

On 2 May, 1934, the committee addressed an invitation to the governments of 70 countries, requesting their support in encouraging national cancer societies to join the Union and inviting them to designate two official dele-

gates to represent each country in the Union, one for scientific questions and the other responsible in social matters (later it was decided to add a third delegate). At the same time, direct contacts were set up between the committee and cancer societies throughout the world.

The next task was to set up two commissions, one to study the basis on which an international anatomico-clinical classification of tumours could be made, the other to determine the criteria for elaborating valid cancer statistics.

It is to be noted that the committee at this time devoted several of its working meetings to preparing the necessary documentation for the first publication of the *Acta Unio Internationalis contra Cancrum*, a permanent international review subsequently appearing four times a year and which did not encroach upon the work of other national publications already in existence—one of its essential differences from the first loose-leaf papers published in 1910 after the Paris Congress.

Finally, the committee embarked upon the difficult task of preparing for the Second International Congress on Scientific and Social Cancer Control, scheduled to be held in Brussels on 20-24 September, 1936.

7. The first meetings of the Union's General Assembly and of the Executive Committee and the Commissions

The first Extraordinary General Assembly was held in Paris on 4 May, 1935, and was attended by representa-

tives from 43 countries and 67 national cancer control bodies. A number of important decisions were taken at this meeting, one being to amend Article 5 of the Constitution to read: "The UICC shall be directed and administered by a General Council composed of representatives drawn from the organizations which have joined the Union, to the extent of three delegates from each nation, one representing the scientific side, the second the social side, the third the government as such".

At the same Assembly, an Executive Committee was appointed to replace the provisional organizing committee. Unanimously, Mr. Justin Godart was elected President. Drs. Borst (Germany), Carter Wood (United States), Rowntree (Great Britain) and Deelman (Netherlands and Scandinavia) were elected Vice-Presidents, and Dr. Bandaline the first Secretary-General and Director of the Permanent Office. Mr. Flursheim was appointed Treasurer.

Other decisions taken by the meeting were to authorize the publication of the *Acta* and to set membership fees at 1,000 French francs of the time.

In the same month, a second Extraordinary General Assembly was held to approve the amendments which had been made to the Constitution.

Thus the UICC formally came into being, from the very beginning an organization genuinely international in character and with its programme already broadly set as it has remained today.

There have been ambitious projects, like the publication of an illustrated tumour nomenclature. This, it is true, has been 30 years in the making, but it is no less true that the Union was already fully aware of the importance of such a project when it began in the 1930's. The same may be said of other projects, such as the anatomo-clinical classification which is still in preparation as well as the survey which is being made of cancer control societies and institutes throughout the world.

Since its inception, the International Union Against Cancer has taken root and flourished.

The first meeting of the new Executive Committee took place in Paris on 15 December, 1935. The meeting was held at the headquarters of the Ligue nationale française contre le Cancer at 6, Avenue Marceau in an office which the French society had generously placed at the Union's disposal. It is fitting to note that it is due in particular to the Ligue française and to its Secretary-General, Mr. Le Bret, that the Union secured the necessary financial and material help in its early days. Until 1952, when at the initiative of Dr. A. Lacassagne the Union was transferred to the Rue d'Ulm in Paris, its permanent offices were established in the Avenue Marceau.

The Commission on Anatomo-Clinical Classification began work on 29 February, 1936, under the direction of Dr. Gustave Roussy. On 25 May of the same year the Statistical Commission also held its first meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. Deelman. Again it is interesting



One of the first meetings of the Executive Committee of the UICC



Second International Cancer Congress, Brussels, September 1936

to record that both commissions began their work on soundly established bases, the criteria framed then for establishing and formulating statistics being as valid today as they were at the time. Scientific and financial support, moreover, was soon forthcoming from America to assist the Commission on Clinical Classification in preparing its nomenclature of tumours. Unfortunately delayed by the outbreak of the Second World War, the nomenclature was finally published in 1965, the result of long years of assiduous work by Dr. Hamperl and his committee.

The first major task of the Union was to organize the Second International Cancer Congress. This was held in Brussels on 20-26 September, 1936. Presided over by Dr. Lerat, it met with considerable success and was the occasion for inaugurating the *Acta* with the publication of the first volume of records of proceedings, to be followed by nineteen others before the *Acta* were finally replaced in 1966 by the *International Journal of Cancer*.

The second organizational event of importance was in 1938 when the first International Cancer Week was held from 23 to 30 November. This marked up another success, due especially to the efforts of Boris Pregel, chairman of the Finance Committee, and L.W. Tomarkin, acting Secretary-General since the death of Jacques Bandaline in 1937.

The Third International Congress was held, in accordance with the decision taken in Brussels, in Atlantic City on 11-16 September, 1939. It was interrupted, however,

by the outbreak of the Second World War which obliged European delegates to hurry back to their own countries.

8. The Union during and after the Second World War

The activities of the Union ceased during the war years and only revived once the holocaust had ended. With the return of peace, Mr. Justin Godart started afresh by contacting the survivors of his Executive Committee and proceeding to the appointment of new Officers. Dr. Maisin became the new Secretary-General. At once it was decided that a new international congress should be held as a sign that the Union was resuming its task. The task before the Union, however, was by no means an easy one.

The Secretary-General contacted American scientific circles with a view to convening the Fourth International Congress in the United States. The Third Conference had indeed been held there in 1939 but, exhausted by six years of war, Europe had few real facilities to offer as yet. The Fourth Congress accordingly was held at St. Louis on 2-7 September, 1947, chaired by Dr. E.V. Cowdry, and with generous assistance from the American Association for Cancer Research.

Cancer research in the United States by this time was moving ahead on an immense scale. Feeling that the international community should be associated in this work, the United States delegation proposed the establishment



Vth International Cancer Congress, Paris, July 1950, Opening Ceremony



One of the many Symposia organized by the UICC
(Symposium on Cancer Chemotherapy, Louvain, 1960)

of an International Cancer Research Commission as a separate body to the UICC. After long debate, the sponsors of the project agreed that the UICC should be associated with the commission. As an autonomous body, however, it led a somewhat precarious existence and subsequently survived only by becoming the UICC Research Commission with its administration entrusted to the Executive Committee.

All scientific material presented at the St. Louis Congress was subsequently published in the *Acta*.

The Fifth International Cancer Congress took place in Paris from 16 to 22 July, 1950. Four hundred reports were presented to the Congress, which was presided over by Dr. A. Lacassagne, and these also were published in the *Acta*. At the same time, but independently of the Congress, the first symposium on Geographical Pathology and Demography of Cancer was held at Oxford, inaugurating the tradition of scientific symposia to be held by the Union.

At a meeting of the General Council during the Congress, a new constitution was proposed and adopted. A new Executive Committee and new Officers were also elected. The decision was taken to hold the Sixth Congress in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the Executive Committee to meet in the meantime in Bombay.

During the meetings in Bombay (30 December, 1952 to 2 January, 1953) there was again a renewal of Officers, with Mr. Justin Godart retiring after 20 years as Presi-

dent. Dr. J. Maisin, the then Secretary - General, was elected President of the Union, and Dr. H. Dorn, of the United States, took over Dr. Maisin's post.

In accordance with a resolution adopted at this meeting, the Co-ordination Committee of the UICC and the International Congress of Radiology for the listing and classification of cancers by stages also met in Copenhagen on 18 July, 1953.

9. The Sixth International Cancer Congress - development of the Union

The Sixth Congress was convened in Sao Paulo from 20 to 28 July, 1954, and was chaired by Dr. A. Prudente. It was accompanied by a number of administrative meetings which were among the most important in the Union's history in the decisive influence they were to exert on its future development.

The structural changes enacted during the Congress enabled the Union to adapt itself to the scientific, clinical and social changes taking place in the post-war world and to continue its action against cancer at the international level without encroaching on the activities of national organizations. The immense advantage of the changes was that they enabled all countries to share effectively in the work of the UICC whilst providing for regular renewal of office-holders.

Under the terms of the new constitution adopted in Sao Paulo, the direction and administration of the Union were entrusted to:

- 1) the Council formed of delegates from each country;
- 2) the Executive Committee composed of:
 - a. the five Vice-Presidents,
 - b. the Chairmen of the Commissions *ex officio*,
 - c. the Chairmen of the Technical Committees,
 - d. fifteen members elected by the Council from among its members.
- 3) the Board, elected by the Executive Committee, composed of:
the President in office, the President-elect, the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Treasurer.

Two major commissions were also established by the Sao Paulo Congress: the Commission on Scientific Research and the Commission on Cancer Control, each of which was empowered to set up its own committees. In addition, two technical committees were established, one for the *Acta* and the other to deal with international congresses.

In conclusion, it was decided that the International Cancer Congress would henceforth meet every four years, with a meeting of the Executive Committee to be held at least once in the interval between each Congress.

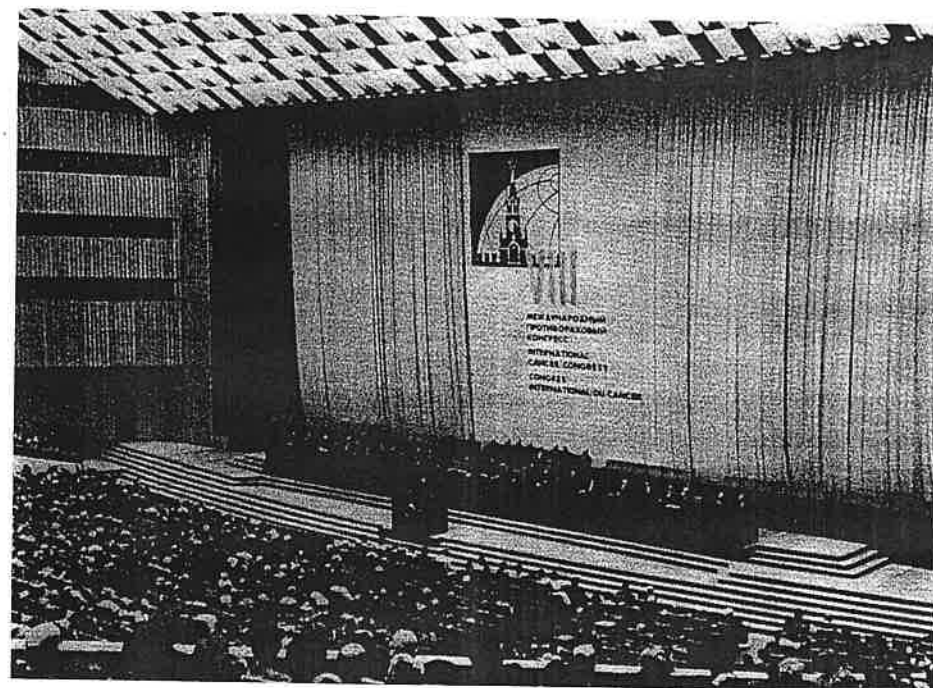
As was later shown by the report presented to the Seventh Congress in London in 1958 by the new Secretary-General, Dr. Dorn, the four years which followed the Sao Paulo congress were among the most active in the Union's history.

A number of successful symposia were held, the Committee on Geographical Pathology was busily active, and Dr. Hamperl's Tumor Nomenclature was published in the *Acta*. Other work published included two TNM booklets by Dr. Denoix dealing respectively with malignant tumours of the breast and of the larynx.

The Seventh Congress, held in London on 5-12 July, 1958, was presided over by Sir Stanford Cade. The number of delegates attending—more than 2,500 from 64 countries—as well as the 500 scientific reports presented to the Congress and ultimately published *in extenso* in the *Acta*, eloquently testify to the interest aroused by this Congress.

At the same time a Finance Committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. M.J. Shear, to consider ways and means of financing the Union's increasing activities. It was also decided to hold the next statutory meeting of the Executive Committee in Kyoto (Japan) in October, 1960.

An important development of the Kyoto meeting was the decision to establish a permanent office with full-time staff, later ratified by the Board at the meeting



VIIIth International Cancer Congress, Moscow, July 1962

The Presidents of the UICC, past and present



Mr. Justin Godart



Dr. J. H. Maisin



Dr. V. R. Khanolkar



Dr. A. Haddow



Dr. N. N. Blokhin

in London in 1961 when it was agreed that the permanent office should be situated in Geneva and that Dr. J.F. Delafresnaye, Executive Secretary of the CIOMS, should be appointed as its Director.

It was at the Kyoto meeting also that the Executive Committee agreed to the request of the Eleanor Roosevelt Cancer Foundation that the UICC be made responsible for administering an international cancer research fellowship programme. This programme is now known under the name of the American Cancer Society — Eleanor Roosevelt — International Cancer Fellowship Programme.

The Eighth Congress was held in Moscow from 22 to 28 July, 1962, under the chairmanship of Dr. N.N. Blokhin, President of the Academy of Medicine of the USSR. It was attended by 5,000 delegates from some 70 countries, with 1,000 reports presented and subsequently published in the *Acta*.

During this Congress, by decision of the Board, Sir William Kilpatrick (Australia) was appointed Chairman of the Finance Committee. Three other committees were set up or their establishment confirmed: a committee on fellowships, under the chairmanship of Dr. W.U. Gardner; a committee on international congresses, under Sir Alexander Haddow; and a committee on publications, under Dr. J.H. Maisin. Dr. Mühlbock continued as chairman of the Scientific Commission and Dr. Taylor (Canada) in the Commission on Cancer Control. It was also agreed that the next Congress would take place in Tokyo in 1966

and that the Executive Committee would meet on 10-12 February, 1964, in Mexico City.

In 1963 the UICC mourned the loss of its greatly esteemed Secretary-General Dr. H. Dorn. But it was also the year in which General de Gaulle addressed his call to the United States, the USSR and Great Britain to join with France in devoting 0.5% of their defence budgets to cancer research. It was from this appeal that the decision stemmed to set up an International Cancer Research Centre, since established in Lyons.

At the Executive Committee meeting in Mexico City (10-12 February, 1964), Dr. M.J. Shear, of Bethesda (United States), was elected Secretary-General for the period up to the time of the Tokyo Congress. At the same time, the decision was taken to discontinue the publication of the *Acta*, the Union's official organ since 1935, replacing it by the *International Journal of Cancer*. Dr. E.A. Saxén, of Helsinki (Finland) was appointed Editor-in-Chief.

Latest in the series of scientific and social activities of the UICC, the Tokyo Congress was held from 23 to 29 October, 1966, under the chairmanship of Dr. T. Yoshida. Another highly successful meeting, it was attended by 4,000 delegates from 63 countries. Nearly 1,500 reports were presented to the Congress. The proceedings of this Ninth Congress were published in the UICC Monograph Series in 1967.

Again the opportunity was taken to revise and bring completely up to date the constitution and structure of the UICC. The new constitution provides among other things for an increase in the size of the UICC's executive bodies and broader geographical representation. The Executive Committee which, on behalf of the Council and the General Assembly, is responsible for the conduct of UICC programmes, has also been strengthened. The work of the UICC, moreover, will be carried on through the five major Commissions dealing respectively with clinical oncology, cancer control, epidemiology and prevention, experimental oncology and fellowships and personnel exchange.

Whatever the future may hold, the new guidance which is being given to the activities of the Union holds out the strongest possible hope for their continuing success.

