

Guidelines for the International Lung Cancer Consortium (ILCCO)

Approved on January 20, 2006

1. Definition

ILCCO is an international consortium of scientists involved in lung cancer research. Although originally organized among principal investigators of epidemiological studies of lung cancer, ILCCO is open to researchers from other disciplines relevant to lung cancer research including pathologists, geneticists, molecular biologists and statisticians.

2. Membership

ILCCO members are epidemiologists involved in lung cancer studies and scientists with expertise in domains relevant to lung cancer. Members are expected to bring to the consortium their expertise, ideas and resources, including results, raw data and biological samples. Membership is effective upon notification to and confirmation of acceptance by the executive committee. Active participation in at least one working group is a requirement for maintaining membership.

3. Organization

ILCCO is organized in working groups that promote collaborative projects in specific areas of lung cancer research. Each working group selects one or more coordinators. Participation in all working groups is open to all ILCCO members. Coordinators should inform all consortium members of the activities of the respective working group. The status of the working group is decided in the plenary meeting when necessary.

4. Executive committee

A small executive committee is elected each year, either during a general meeting of ILCCO or by e-mail. Members of the executive committee serve for a maximum of 3 years. The executive is responsible for the maintenance of an updated list of members, the overall coordination of the collaboration, the communication among working groups, the organization of general meetings and the coordination of grant applications. It also provides assistance to the participants when needed (e.g., by supporting a grant application at the national or international level). It will make decisions on matters relating to ILCCO when appropriate with or without first consulting with members. All its decisions will be transmitted immediately to the members.

5. Resources

ILCCO has no specific resources. Institutions participating in the collaboration are encouraged to provide a minimal amount of resources, e.g., by contributing to the coordination of working groups. Working groups are expected to obtain grants to fund specific projects. The executive committee can raise ad-hoc funds to support coordination and meetings either independently or in collaboration with working groups or individual members.

6. Sharing of results, data and samples

Participation in working groups implies the willingness to share results, raw data and biological samples in collaborative projects. However, for each project a specific written agreement has to be obtained from participating members. Refusal to participate in a project does not compromise the possibility of participating in other projects. In general, ownership of data and biological material shared within ILCCO projects remains with the original investigator: however, working groups can decide a different policy for specific projects provided that this decision is made before data or biological material are committed and that members are free at the time of decision to withdraw their data and material.

7. Respect for the intellectual property and fairness in collaboration

ILCCO members should not seek to take unfair advantage of other members by improper use of original ideas, data, information or results shared within the consortium. Should such a case occur, adversely affected member(s) should inform the executive committee, which will decide on the action to be taken, including the possibility of expulsion of the offending member(s).