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## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer 16<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Lung Cancer

**WCLC History:** The World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC) was first established to be a scientific forum for sharing current knowledge and research. The evolving program content of the WCLC continues to expand as scientific advances develop over time.

The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) held the first WCLC in 1978 on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina with goals that included presentation and evaluation of current knowledge relative to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer and synthesis of appropriate ideas into recommendations for the medical community. The success of the conference led to a second, which was held in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1980.

**IASLC History:** At its first informal meeting in October 1972 — the First International Workshop for Therapy of Lung Cancer — 115 individuals from 15 countries discussed the benefit of a multidisciplinary approach and the development of an organization to address lung cancer. In August 1973, the future founders circulated the first formal outline of the organization and by the middle of 1974, approximately 250 individuals comprised the founding membership. They held the first formal IASLC meeting in 1974, in Florence, Italy, where they selected the inaugural slate of officers and board of directors.

The IASLC continues to grow, starting with 200 members in its first year (1974) to more than 4,000 members in 2015. As it has since the start, the IASLC promotes research into all aspects of lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies, and encourages worldwide cancer prevention efforts. Led by the Board of Directors, IASLC experts continuously participate in historical reviews and documentation of seminal and influential research.

Since that inaugural meeting in the early 1970s, the WCLC and IASLC continue to make significant contributions to the screening, prevention, research, diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer.

The IASLC mission is:

- to embrace the study of the etiology, epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and all other aspects of lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies
- to provide education and information about lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies to IASLC members, to the medical community at large, and to the public
- to use all available means to eliminate lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies as a health threat for the individual patient and throughout the world

The story of the progress made in research and care of lung cancer demonstrates this mission in action and reflects the dedication and commitment of lung cancer specialists worldwide over the past 40 years.

[Read more about our history.](#)

