



# The Impact of COVID-19 on Cervical Cancer Screening in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Webinar

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 15:00h-16:30h GMT

# International Cancer Screening Network

- ***Mission:*** To reduce the burden of cancer by promoting collaborative cancer screening research, evaluation and dialogue regarding the effectiveness of context-specific evidence-based cancer screening programs.
- Create a **community of practice**, to exchange data, evidence, ideas and experiences that advance the field of cancer screening and cancer screening research
  - Conferences, collaborative research projects, networking, mentorship, education and dialogue, etc.

# ICSN Organization

2020 – 2024

## Cancer Screening in the COVID Era

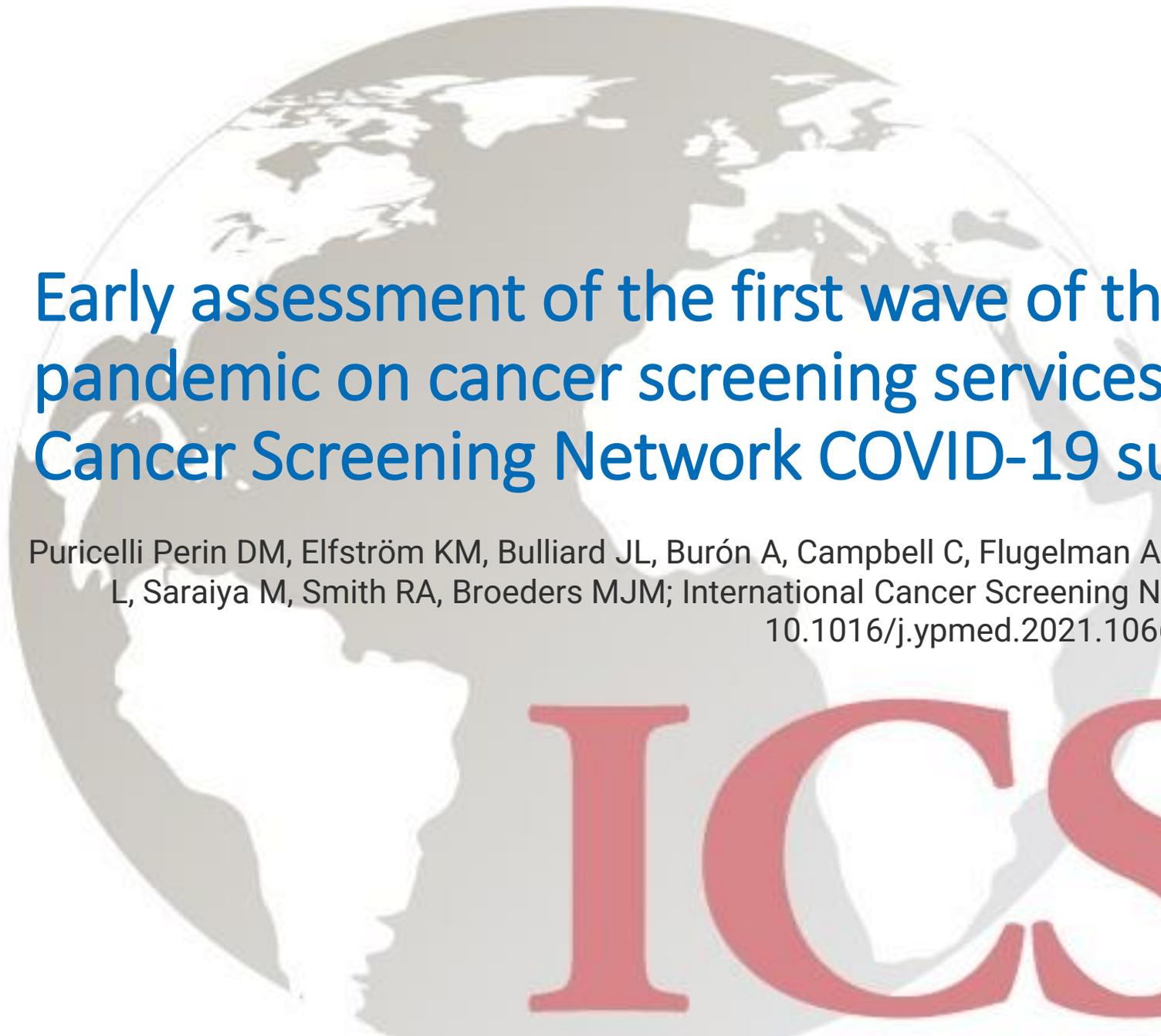
- Assessing impact of COVID-19 on cancer screening around the world
- Webinars while planning to restart in-person meetings
- Advisory to IARC Cancer Screening in Five Continents, and COVID-19 and Cancer Global Modelling Consortium



Chair: Mireille Broeders, PhD, Radboud umc



Chair-Elect: Miriam Elfström, PhD, Karolinska Institutet



# Early assessment of the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer screening services: The International Cancer Screening Network COVID-19 survey

Puricelli Perin DM, Elfström KM, Bulliard JL, Burón A, Campbell C, Flugelman AA, Giordano L, Kamineni A, Ponti A, Rabeneck L, Saraiya M, Smith RA, Broeders MJM; International Cancer Screening Network. *Prev Med.* 2021 Oct;151:106642. doi: 10.1016/j.yjmed.2021.106642. PMID: 34217420; PMCID: PMC8241661.

# ICSN

## Key findings

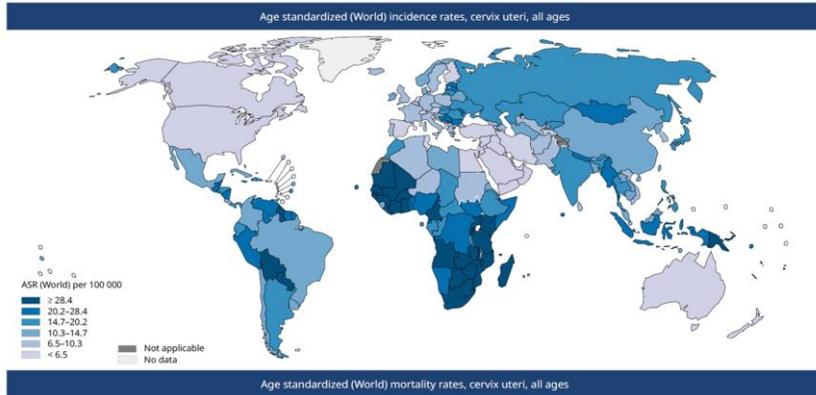
- Almost all of the 66 included settings suspended cancer screening services in March 2020, for variable lengths of time.
- Suspension was often guided by government decision and implemented at the national, regional, and organizational levels through health authorities and organizational leadership.
- Few settings made decision based on expert opinion, and even fewer followed a preparedness plan, or based on a review of the scientific literature.
- Cancer screening infrastructure was repurposed and cancer screening professionals reassigned to COVID-19 response.
- Follow-up visits after a positive cancer screening examination were delayed in 1/3 of settings

# ICSN COVID-19 – Ongoing work

- Publication and dissemination of the initial studies.
  - Interruption of cancer screening services due to COVID-19 pandemic: lessons from previous disasters (*Puricelli Perin DM et al. Interruption of cancer screening services due to COVID-19 pandemic: lessons from previous disasters. Prev Med Rep. 2021 May 17:101399. doi: 10.1016/j.pmedr.2021.101399. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34026465; PMCID: PMC8126519*)
  - Early assessment of the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer screening services: The International Cancer Screening Network COVID-19 survey (*Puricelli Perin DM, Elfström KM, Bulliard JL, Burón A, Campbell C, Flugelman AA, Giordano L, Kaminen A, Ponti A, Rabeneck L, Saraiya M, Smith RA, Broeders MJM; International Cancer Screening Network. Early assessment of the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer screening services: The International Cancer Screening Network COVID-19 survey. Preventive Medicine. Prev Med. 2021 Oct;151:106642. doi: 10.1016/j.ypmed.2021.106642. PMID: 34217420; PMCID: PMC8241661.*)
- Implementing follow up survey to assess screening in the COVID era.
- ICSN Colorectal Cancer Screening Working Group collecting data to assess the impact of COVID-19 and developing consortium proposal.

Today's webinar – how has covid-19 impacted cervical cancer services in LMICs?

# Cervical cancer in LMICs



- Fourth most common cause of female cancer globally
- Estimated 340,000 deaths from cervical cancer in 2020
- **Approx. 90% of cervical cancer deaths occur in LMICs**
- Yet, cervical cancer is preventable, and curable if detected early and effective treatment given

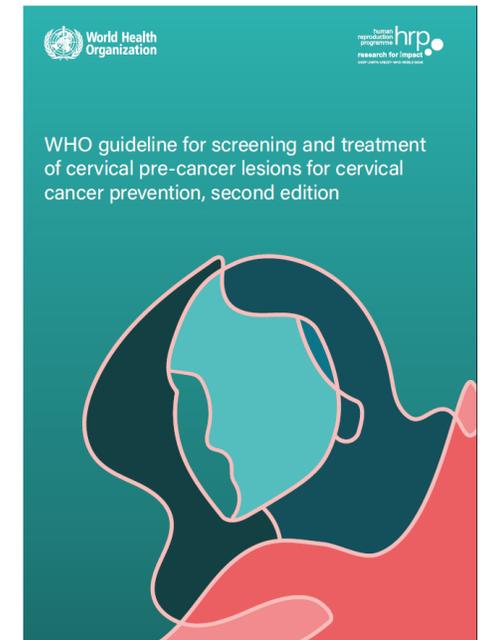
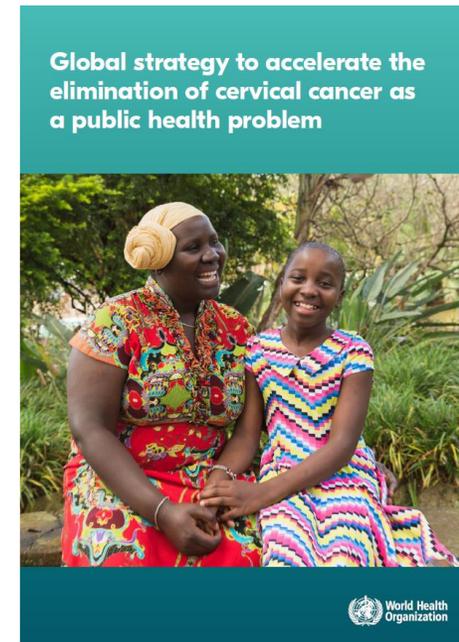
2018 – WHO developed a global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem

2020 - World Health Assembly adopted the **90-70-90** initiative

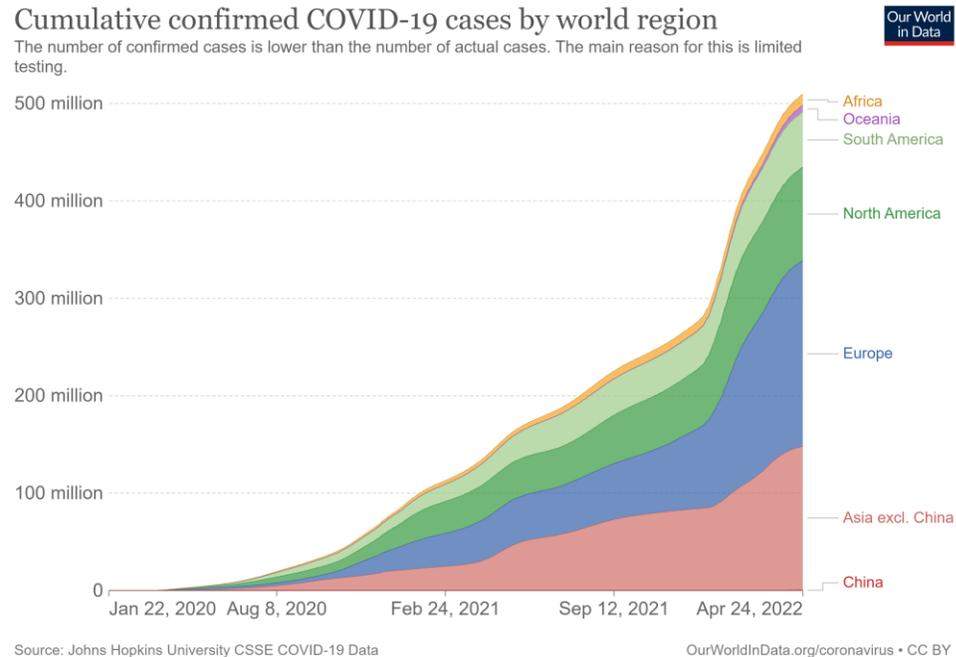
- 90% of girls fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by the age of 15; 70% of women screened using a high-performance test by the age of 35, and again by the age of 45; 90% of women with pre-cancer treated and 90% of women with invasive cancer managed.
- <https://www.who.int/initiatives/cervical-cancer-elimination-initiative>

2021- updated WHO guidance

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240030824>



# Context of the Covid-19 pandemic



- Global pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).
- The WHO declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020, and a pandemic on 11 March 2020.
- More than 509 million cases and 6.21 million deaths
- Profound effects on global economy, health and education
- Inequality of covid-19 vaccine distribution

# Objectives of today's webinar

- Understand the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on cervical screening delivery, at the international level and within specific local programmes
- Learn from other participants about ongoing challenges to screening provision, and how these are being addressed
- Consider what steps need to be taken to build resilience into screening delivery to prepare for any future pandemics or global emergencies

# Programme

- Presentations
  - Partha Basu, IARC
  - Jane Matambo, Zambia
  - Muluken Gizaw, Ethiopia
  - Karla Alfaro, El Salvador
- Facilitated Discussion
  - Q&A (please submit and upvote questions using the Q&A function)
  - Mentimeter [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) (code will be given)



**Thank you for joining us today!**

For more information:

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**ICSN**