

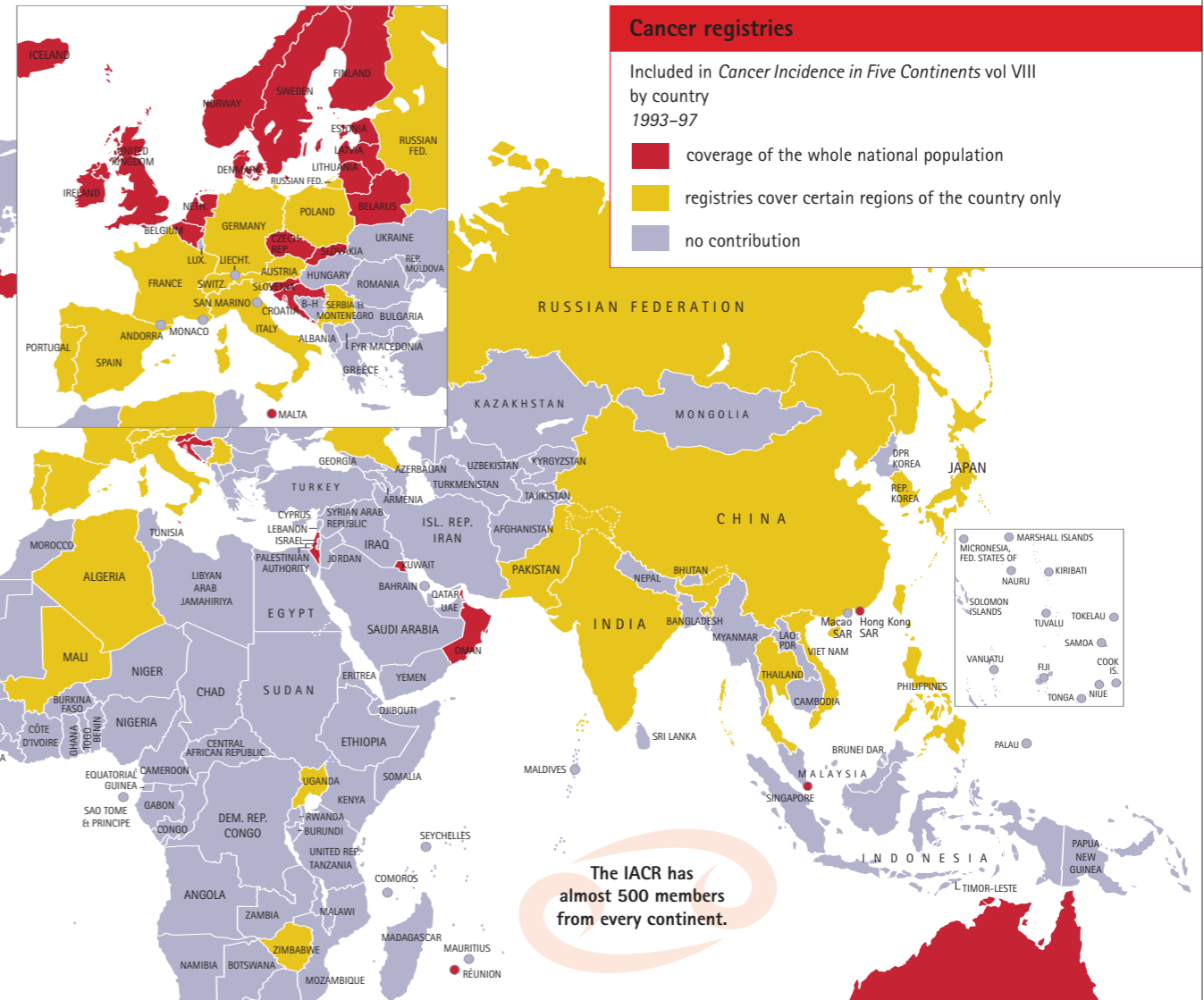
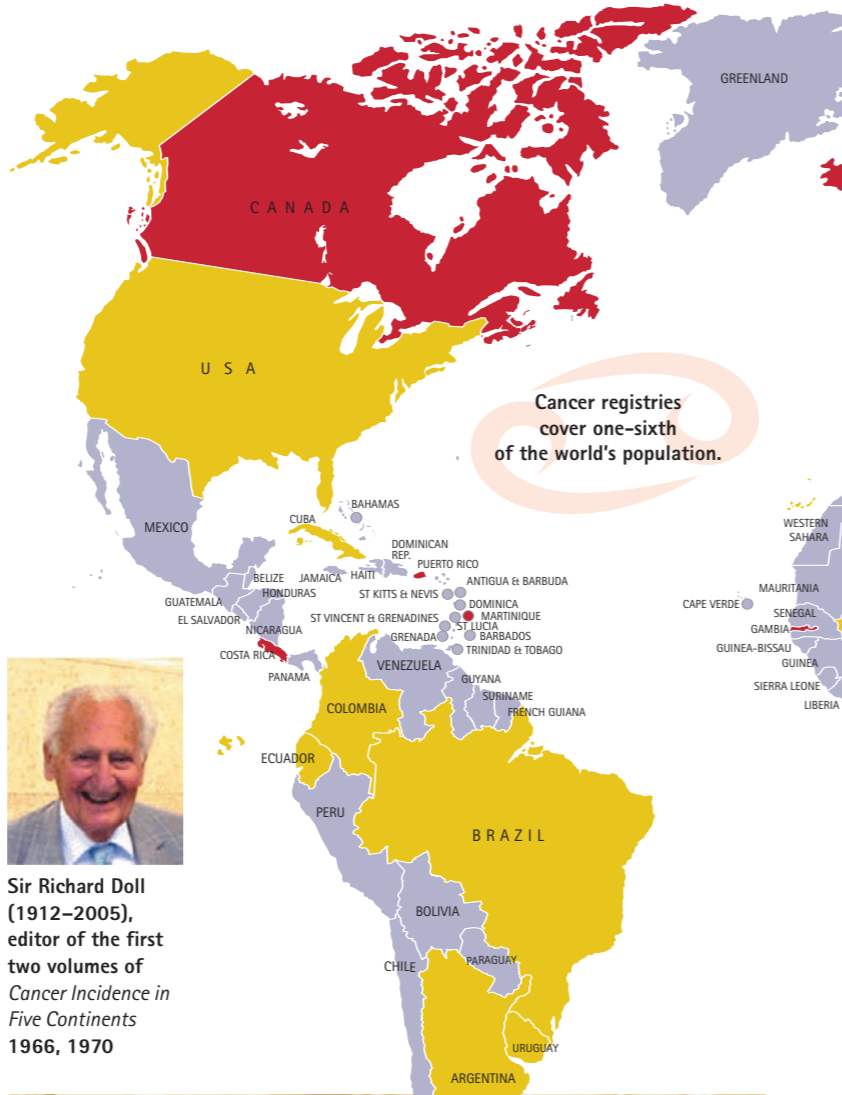
# Cancer registries

"If you can't measure it, you can't manage it."  
Management maxim

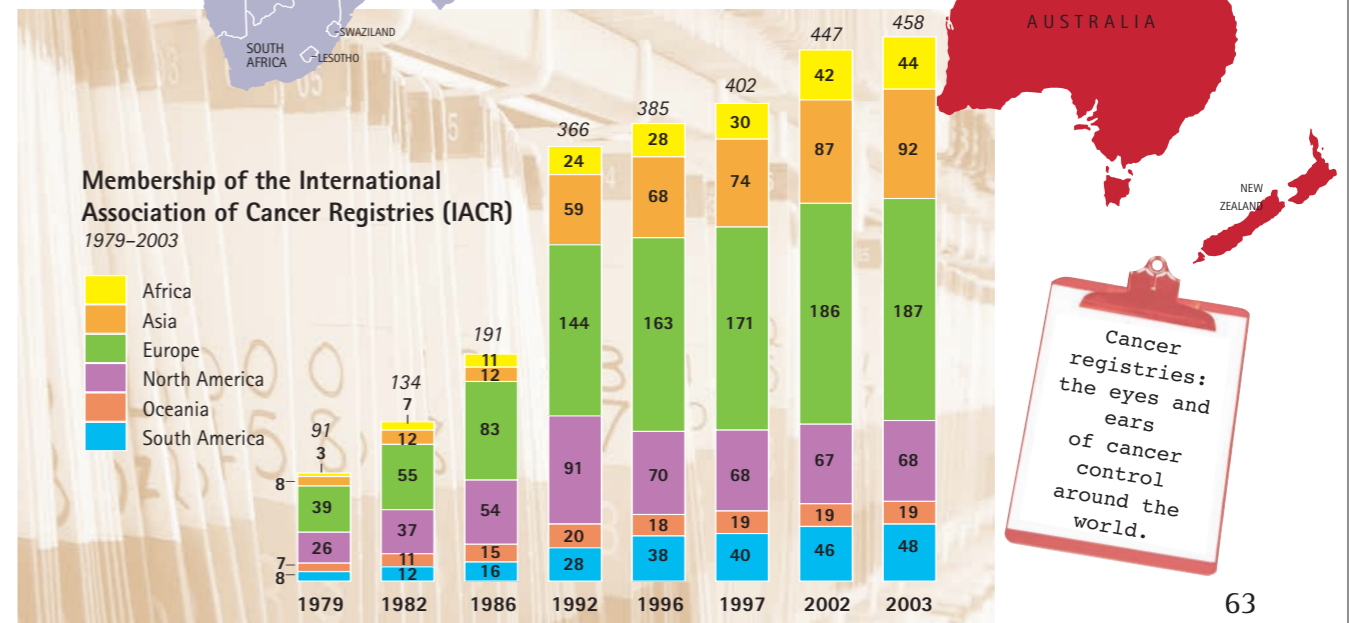
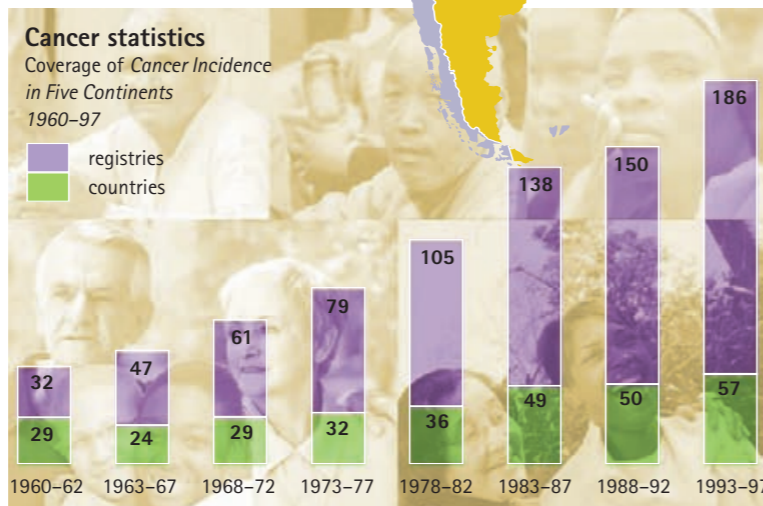
Cancer registries collect details of new cancer cases, and their follow up, either for a defined population (usually a geographical area) or for a hospital. They provide detailed information about cancer patients, the nature of their tumour (including the precise histological type, and stage of disease), treatment received, and the outcome of the disease.

Population-based cancer registries produce statistics on cancer incidence, mortality and survival, and have public health and research functions. Statistics on cancer risk and outcome in the population, and their changes over time, are essential in planning and evaluating cancer control programmes. Cancer registries are also widely used in cancer research studies for tracing cancer cases and following them up.

The first such registries (Hamburg in Germany, Connecticut in the USA, and in Denmark) were established more than 60 years ago. Cancer registries may cover entire national populations, or, for larger countries, more usually the component regions, states or provinces. Several regional associations exist for sharing experience and methodology. The International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR), founded in 1966, has a global membership, and sponsors a variety of publications, including, every five years, in collaboration with IARC, *Cancer Incidence in Five Continents*, which contains statistical data from all the best-quality registries worldwide.



Sir Richard Doll (1912–2005), editor of the first two volumes of *Cancer Incidence in Five Continents* 1966, 1970



Cancer registries: the eyes and ears of cancer control around the world.