



Welcome to  
**WHO Collaborating Center  
for Urologic Tumors**  
Karolinska University Hospital  
Stockholm, Sweden

## **WHO Collaborating Centre in Sweden Plans Bladder Cancer Consultation**

A WHO Collaborating Center in Sweden has submitted an international consultation on bladder cancer it is hosting for inclusion in the 28th of April events for the International Commemoration Day for Deaf and Injured Workers (ICD).

The consultation entitled “Bladder Cancer – from Pathogenesis to Prevention” is scheduled to take place 24-25 April 2008 at the Hasselbacken conference center in Stockholm and will be organized by the WHO Collaborating Center for Urologic Tumors in Stockholm, in collaboration with European Association of Urology.

According to Dr. Lennart Andersson, Director of the Center, world-leading authorities will be present to update and expand knowledge of the risk factors and pathogenesis of urinary bladder cancer in the light of modern biomedical research, and to survey the feasibility of preventive measures and screening.

During last year's ICD the International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF) published its *“Occupational Cancer/Zero Cancer: a union guide to prevention”*, which identified bladder cancer as a particular concern for workers' health, which is often induced by workplace exposures to arsenic; solvents; aromatic amines; petrochemicals, combustion products, metalworking fluids, mineral oils or ionizing radiation. The Document provides information about workplace cancer risks and advice on practical steps workers and unions can take to make workplaces safer, with action guidelines to unions worldwide.

The IMF pointed to a worldwide epidemic of occupational cancer that is claiming at least one life every 52 seconds and issued a warning from a global union coalition, which identified cancer as the No.1 workplace killer worldwide. See [www.imfmetal.org/cancer](http://www.imfmetal.org/cancer).

The WHO Collaborating Centre that is organizing the event in Stockholm is part of an inter-institutional collaborative network of centers set up by WHO to support its programmes at the country, intercountry, regional, interregional and global levels. A department or laboratory within an institution or a group of facilities doing research or training may be designated as a WHO collaborating center. In line with the WHO policy and strategy of technical cooperation, each center is expected to participate in the strengthening of country resources through information, services, research and training, in support of national health development. See <http://www.who.int/kms/initiatives/whocoinformation/en/index.html>.

2008 is the first year of a 10-year Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health which was developed with input from the Collaborating Centres in Occupational Health, Member States, trade unions, employers organizations, and the ILO and endorsed by Member States at the World Health Assembly in May 2007. The Global Plan addresses the fact that over 2 million work-related deaths and thousands of incidents of injury and disease occur every year. WHO estimates that only 10-15% of workers have access to a basic standard of occupational health services. The consequences of the recent WHO report on the Tobacco Epidemic will also be considered at the Stockholm meeting.

An international consultation between the WHO and global trade union organisations about the implementation of the plan is scheduled next 28 March in Geneva, Switzerland.