



On behalf of the TNM Core Committee and the Coordinator of TNM Global Activities, we are writing in regard to the development of a national TNM Committee in Denmark.

The TNM classification, currently in its 7<sup>th</sup> edition, is the internationally recognized and globally accepted standard for describing the anatomic extent of disease in cancer. As you know the UICC TNM classification is essential in informing medical practice and cancer control and strategies at the national and global levels. The TNM Core Committee is responsible for continuously updating and maintaining a clinically relevant classification in keeping with advances in science and clinical practice, and is currently preparing the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Classification to be published in 2016. The TNM UICC Committees and Panels are listed at: <http://www.uicc.org/resources/tnm/groups-panels>

The mandate of a National or Regional Committee would be to promote the use of TNM, disseminate information about the current TNM and any updates and to facilitate the recording of population-based recording of cancer stage. The TNM Classification, as a global standard, benefits from the inputs and collaboration of National and Regional TNM Committees, an important aspect of the TNM project being to ensure that the Classification is internationally accepted and appropriate to various global settings. Chairs of National TNM Committees are part of the Global Advisory Group, coordinated by Dr. Anne Lee, which provides essential inputs in informing the evolution of the TNM Classification and other key activities of the TNM Project, including its promotion at the global and national levels. As of today, 19 National and Regional TNM Committees worldwide are actively participating in the Global Advisory Group. The Committee in the Denmark, as a member of the Global Advisory Group, would be an essential addition to provide feedback and inputs regarding the national applications of TNM, promote the translations of TNM publications as required in Denmark and be an ambassador of the TNM Classification in your country.

We would be grateful if you could confirm interest in developing a National TNM Committee in Denmark. You will find in enclosed the guidelines of the National TNM Committees indicating their mandates and responsibilities as members of the Global Advisory Group. If you agree to the formation of a Committee once formed we would be grateful if you could forward to us its membership, with full names and affiliations of the members, its terms of reference and planned activities.

We would be happy to discuss this further with you and to answer any further questions or provide additional guidance.

Yours sincerely,

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TNM Global Advisory Group Coordinator

Dr Mary Gospodarowicz & Dr Jim Brierley  
Co-Chairs, TNM Core Committee

## **APPENDIX I. GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL OR REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON CANCER STAGING**

The anatomic extent of disease, or stage, is the most important factor in predicting cancer outcome and in guiding cancer treatment. The UICC TNM classification is the internationally accepted standard for cancer staging. Knowledge of the cancer stage enables physicians and patients to make informed decisions about treatment. It is essential for cancer research, cancer control and surveillance activities, and for evaluating the outcomes of clinical practice guidelines and cancer control programs.

In addition to the anatomic extent of disease, various other prognostic factors have been identified and merit evaluation. The national or regional Cancer Staging Committees are important to promote the adoption and use of the internationally accepted TNM staging classification.

### **The mandate of a national or regional Committee on Cancer Staging should address the following:**

- Proactively promote the use of the internationally accepted staging system (UICC TNM) in the country/region;
- Disseminate information about the current TNM classification including translation, if required;
- Stimulate awareness, build knowledge, and facilitate the implementation of population- based recording of cancer stage;
- Stimulate the analysis of cancer stage data to drive cancer control activities;
- Provide evidence-based expert opinion on the development and enhancement of staging and prognostic factors classification through its own efforts or with the assistance of additional qualified experts.

### **The national or regional Committee on Cancer Staging should:**

- Encourage multidisciplinary representation including medical, radiation, and surgical oncology, pathology, cancer registry, epidemiology, and statistics;
- Develop a process for regular interaction and discussion to meet the needs of its constituency;
- Represent the national/regional organisations in appropriate national and international cancer staging committees (UICC TNM Prognostic Factors Project);
- Be a member of the UICC TNM Project Global Advisory Group and provide an annual report on their activities;
- Act as a conduit for proposals for changes to the TNM classification using accepted premises supported by the international scientific community and the UICC.