



CCBIO Newsletter

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[James Lorens](#)

[Rolf Reed](#)

[Helga B. Salvesen](#)

[Oddbjørn Straume](#)

Coming CCBIO events:

- 27. August, first CCBIO seminar of the autumn term.
- 17. September, CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium
- 22-24 September, CCBIO905 course Methods in Cancer Biomarker Research
- 24. September, CCBIO Seminar, Bruce Baguley
- 22. October, CCBIO Seminar, Eric Sahai
- 22.-23. October, international conference in Bergen: "The tumor stroma- friend or foe?"

Director's comments

Thank you very much for making the 3rd CCBIO Annual Symposium a success! The presenters and poster sessions were excellent and very engaging. I hope that all of you had a good time and were inspired to develop your projects further and to increase collaboration and networking. Congratulations to Agnete Engelsen, Kristi Krüger and Huaiyang Zhu for winning the poster awards! Next years CCBIO Symposium will be held 10th-11th May 2016 at Solstrand.

It was also very stimulating to attend the BBB & CCBIO Research Seminar given by Professor Robert Kerbel recently. In addition to being a brilliant scientist in the field of cancer biology, he was extremely inspiring in the 45 minutes discussion that followed his lecture.

Please note that we have many important events after the summer break. The first CCBIO seminar will be on August 27, and we will have three new CCBIO Courses starting this fall: CCBIO905 Methods in Cancer Biomarker Research, September 22nd-24th and CCBIO904 Tumor Biology and Clinical Medicine, November 4th-6th. Also CCBIO902 Seminar and Symposium will open for registration.

Please also save the dates for the international conference in October chaired by Donald Gullberg – "The tumor stroma – friend or foe?"

Have a nice summer all of you!

Best regards, Lars A. Akslen, Director

Excellent networking and knowledge transfer at the Solstrand symposium

Many of the world's top cancer researchers presented the latest in cancer research when the Centre for Cancer Biomarkers invited to their annual two-day symposium at Solstrand. Around 200 participants spent 2 days together with cancer research as main focus.

- As a Centre of Excellence it is important for us to be excellent in education as well as in research. The symposium at Solstrand facilitates that students and researchers can make new contacts and catch up on the latest research in their field. At the same time the setting itself gives you room to think out of the box, Lars A. Akslen says. [Read more here.](#)



Snapshots from this year's symposium. Photo: Ingvild F. Melien.

More snapshots from the 3rd CCBio annual symposium at Solstrand May 19-20 2015

Do you find yourself? Photos by Ingvild F. Merlien ingvildfestervollmelien.com



Jim Lorens' group wins the faculty award Best Research Group of the Year 2014

Jim Lorens' research group in Tumor Cell Plasticity was June 18th 2015 awarded with the Best Research Group of the Year 2014 by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Bergen.



Jim Lorens receives the award by the Dean. Photo: Jørgen Barth.

Among the Faculty's explanations for the award is:

The research group is a part of the Centre of Excellence CCBio and

has as such a considerable international network. They are also active in research education, including two-way exchange of students and postdocs with Berkeley and the University of Zurich. ... The Research Group for Tumor Cell Plasticity and its leader Jim Lorens have during the recent years created a link between basic research, clinic and business which makes the group appear as the faculty's foremost example of successful innovation, and in sum the group therefore is a worthy winner of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry's Prize "Research Group of the Year" for 2014.

[Read more here.](#)

Excellent communication at CCBIO

Centre Director Lars A. Akslen and Communications Adviser at CCBIO Marion Solheim were invited to the NUAS conference at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm to share how CCBIO communicate their research activities.



Lars and Marion at the NUAS conference. Photo: Courtney Bowe/Twitter

The NUAS (The Nordic Association of University Administrators) conference took place June 14 - 16 2015. 62 Nordic universities are included in NUAS and around 300

people attended the conference. Akslen and Solheim were responsible for the lecture with the most participants, "Help Me Help You". In the programme, we read the following:

In this shared-session, former NRK journalist, Marion Solheim, will explain how she turned PR-pessimist Lars A. Akslen into a "go-to source" for media while maintaining his credibility as a well-respected academic and cancer researcher.

[Read more here.](#)

Meeting with Professor Kerbel in Bergen

Robert Kerbel, a leading expert on angiogenesis and Professor in the Department of Medical Biophysics University of Toronto, Senior Scientist at the Sunnybrook Research Institute (Toronto), and a Canada Research Chair in Tumor Biology and Angiogenesis, visited Bergen on June 11th.



Professor Kerbel
Photo: Oleg Tsinkalovsky

He gave a top lecture "Antiangiogenic Therapeutics in Oncology: Overview, Update, and Future Directions" at the joint BBB seminar and a special seminar of CCBIO.

As a part of his scientific program in Bergen Dr. Kerbel had a meeting with the CCBIO director Professor Lars Akslen, and the team of the Centre that focused on antiangiogenic treatment (Oddbjørn Straume group).

[Read more here.](#)

CCBio annual report

The CCBIO annual report 2014 is now published, as Bent Høie, the Norwegian Minister of Health and Care Services, here illustrates.



The Norwegian Minister of Health Bent Høie looks happy after receiving the CCBIO Annual Report 2014. Photo: Ying Chen.

You can find it at [this web page.](#)

Startup of 3 new CCBio research school courses this fall

No less than 3 CCBio research school courses will start up this fall.



These are: The CCBio seminar and symposium course CCBio902, Methods in Cancer Biomarker Research CCBio 905 and Tumor Biology and Clinical Medicine CCBio904.

[Read more here.](#)

The CCBio seminar programme next term

5 CCBio seminars are planned for the autumn term.



The dates are: 27.08, 24.09, 22.10, 26.11 and 17.12. Three speakers are so far confirmed.

[Find more information here.](#)

Recent publications



You can find the last publications [on this link.](#)

Recent CCBio in the media

Date, media, title, person interviewed.

15.06.15, Dagens Medisin, "[Fryser ned prostatakreften](#)", Karl-Henning Kalland.

09.06.15, TV2, "[Seks kreftsyke nordmenn har fått den nye «superbehandlingen»](#)", Oddbjørn Straume (intervju om kostnaden på immunbehandling).

04.06.15, TV2 nyhetene, tema immunbehandling av kreft, "[Revolusjonerende kreftmedisin - for dyr for Norge?](#)", Oddbjørn Straume.

05.05.15, Aftenposten Viten, "[Kreft: Det evige såret](#)", Ida W. Sørensen, Donald Gullberg.

23.04.15, Helse Vest, "[Vekas innovasjon: Biomarkør finn kreft](#)", Helga Salvesen, Lars Akslen.

CCBio Mini-biographies

Part 4 of presentation of CCBio's junior researchers (PhDs and PDs). The aim is to increase knowledge about CCBio's junior staff and their research focus, the latter also reflecting the research of CCBio's various groups.

Krüger, Kristi: Born 1987, M.D. from UoB and



since 2014 a PhD candidate in the Akslen group. Her PhD project is focused on biomarkers in different breast cancer subtypes with emphasis on angiogenesis and tumor-vascular interactions.

Leitch, Calum: Born 1989 in Scotland, holds an



M.S. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Glasgow. Since 2012 he has been a PhD candidate in the Gjertsen group. The primary aim is to identify novel pharmaceutical alternatives for the treatment of Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) with a special focus on identification of novel drug combinations and biomarkers for drug sensitivity.

Lie, Maria Kolnes: Born 1989, holds an M.S. in



Nanoscience from UoB and is now a PhD candidate in the Lorens and Akslen groups. Her research is focused on how the tumor microenvironment regulates epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) by focusing on the Axl tyrosine kinase receptor, and how this relates to cancer therapy responses.

Liu, Hengshuo: Born 1984 in China, holds an



M.S. in Biology from Uppsala University and is currently a PhD candidate in the Gullberg group. He is focusing on three projects: 1. the study of integrin $\alpha 11$ promoter in mechanically strained matrices; 2. to use 3D tumor spheroids to study integrin $\alpha 11$ function; and 3. to evaluate the role of integrin $\alpha 11$ on cancer associated fibroblasts.

Mauland, Karen Klepsland: Born 1988,



gained her M.D. at UoB in 2014 and then started as a PhD candidate in the Salvesen group. The main focus of her PhD project is on context dependent determinants of treatment targets and

outcome in obese compared to nonobese endometrial cancer patients.

Jokela, Tiina: Born 1981 in Finland, holds an M.S. degree in biochemistry and a PhD from the University of Eastern Finland (2011), focusing on regulation of hyaluronan synthesis by UDP-sugars. As a postdoc, she is now conducting studies on Micro-Environmental Arrays (MEArrays) and breast cancer in the Lorens group. Her research focus is on how the microenvironment regulates mammary stem cell fate by using the Axl-receptor tyrosine kinase as a marker of a plastic cell phenotype.



Katta, Kirankumar: Born 1984 in India, holds an M.S. degree in Molecular Biology from the University of Skövde, and a PhD dealing with proteoglycans and their role in renal chronic transplant dysfunction (University Medical Center Groningen). Presently, he is a post-doc in the Gullberg group, focusing on the role of proteoglycans in tumor-stroma interactions using genetic tools and in vitro generated mini tumors.



Klingen, Tor-Audun: Born 1960, holds an M.D. from the Aarhus University and is currently a PhD candidate in the Akslen group. He is working on tissue based biomarkers in breast cancer subtypes, with special focus on vascular invasion patterns and interactions with the tumor microenvironment.



Nalwoga, Hawa: Born in 1966 in Uganda, holds both an M.D. and a Master of Medicine, the latter within Pathology and both from Makerere University College of Health Sciences. Her PhD from UoB was on biomarkers in breast cancer. She is now a post-doc in the Akslen group. Her current research is focused on breast cancer subtypes and biomarker comparisons between African and Caucasian populations, related to angiogenesis and tumormicro-environment interactions.



Osman, Tarig: Born 1979 in Sudan, has a background as a dental surgeon from the University of Khartoum and in 2014 completed his PhD focusing on cancer stem cell related markers in normal and neoplastic oral mucosa at UoB. He is now a post-doc in the Akslen group working on experimental studies of angiogenesis, tumor microenvironment, and metastatic spread in breast cancer subtypes.



Omsland, Maria: Born 1988, has an M.S. in Medical Cell Biology and is currently a PhD candidate in the Gjertsen group. The aim of her project is to map the potential role of a newly discovered cell-to-cell communicator called tunnelling nanotube (TNT) in leukemia, particularly in acute myeloid leukemia.



Onyango, Therese Bredholt: Born 1975, has an M.S. in Molecular Biology and a PhD from UoB, the latter with a focus on mechanisms of importance for development and progression of uterine cancer. She is now a post-doc in the Salvesen group working on cell line studies of endometrial cancer to prove mechanisms and correlations that can be of importance for tumor development and progression.



Olsen, Jan Roger: Born 1987, M.D. from UoB, currently a PhD candidate in the Kalland group. He works on prostate cancer models with a focus on cellular plasticity, differentiation and reprogramming.



Parajuli, Himalaya: Born 1977, holds a Bachelor in Dental Surgery from the Tribhuvan University Kathmandu and an M.S. in international Health from UoB. He is currently a PhD candidate in the Johannessen group. His research project is focused on the expression of integrin alpha11 in oral cancer.

