



## "CAPTURING CANCER COMPLEXITY AND CLINICAL CHALLENGES"

# CCBIO1 Newsletter

EDITOR: eli.vidhammer@uib.no

### DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Dear all

The coming weeks will be very busy, and be sure that you have all signed up for the upcoming events: the Satellite Symposium on Deep Tissue Profiling, the 7th CCBIO Annual Symposium, the CCBIO Seminar on Scientific Writing and our other activities. All these events have international speakers and represent unique opportunities for interaction and networking.

We would like to congratulate Ole Fr. Norheim, a CCBIO Associate Investigator, who was recently appointed as the new chair of Biotechnologinemnda (The Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board). An important position!

Please also read several other stories, for example on the completion of the CCBIO907 course on cancer-related vascular biology, and on the access to Centre for Digital Life Norway's many courses and events.

CCBIO is a partner of DLN, and as such, all members in our research groups have access to courses hosted by the centre and to their research school.

See you all at Solstrand in May!

Best regards, Lars A. Akslen, Director

### Programs and Research Teams

#### Mechanisms of Tumor-Microenvironment Interactions:

- Donald Gullberg
- Karl-Henning Kalland
- Emmet McCormack

#### Exploration and Validation of Cancer Biomarkers:

- Lars A. Akslen
- Jim Lorens
- Camilla Krakstad
- Daniela Costea
- Elisabeth Wik

#### Clinical Applications and Trial Studies:

- Bjørn Tore Gjertsen
- Oddbjørn Straume
- Line Bjørge

#### Health Ethics, Prioritization and Economics:

- Roger Strand
- John Cairns
- Ole Frithjof Norheim

Support resource:  
**Bioinformatics and Big Data**

- Inge Jonassen

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[www.ccbio.no](http://www.ccbio.no)



# THE 7<sup>th</sup> CCBIO ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



We are soon at the maximum number of participants, but can still make room for some, and have extended the registration deadline to **April 17th**. Take a look at [the program](#), and join us for new knowledge, inspiration and excellent networking at Solstrand Hotel!

With around 200 participants in a very international mix, this is a great opportunity for international networking within the field of cancer research.

We have a great speaker list:

- [Bob Löwenberg](#)
- [Jonathan Irish](#)
- [William D. Foulkes](#)
- [Vicky Seewaldt](#)
- [Duanqing Pei](#)
- [Marta Bertolaso](#)
- [Alea Mills](#)
- [Xisong Ke](#)
- [Randy Watnick](#)
- [Nick Tobin](#)
- [Caroline Heckman](#)
- [Eric B. Haura](#)
- [Marco Davila](#)
- [Omid Farokhzad](#)
- [Roger Strand](#)
- [Eirik Tranvåg](#)
- [Agnete Engelsen](#)
- [Yves Aubert](#)

We'll end the Symposium on a high note; a lecture by [Omid Farokhzad](#). This keynote address is part of the distinguished Volterra lectures series organized by Digital Life Norway (DLN)

**When:** May 13 and 14, 2019

**Read more** [at this website](#).

**Final program** is available [here](#).

**Registration:** within April 17th [here](#).



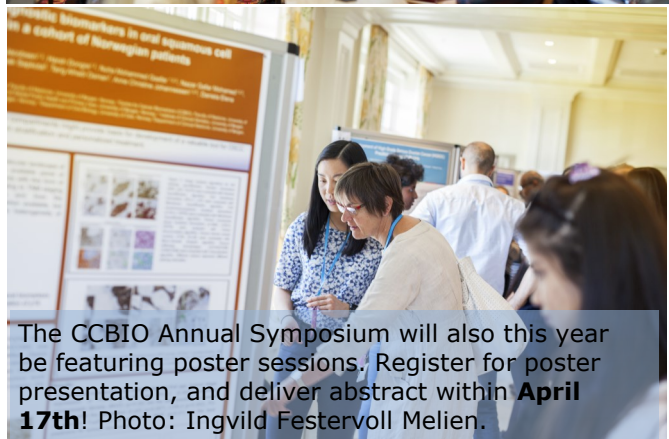
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We are, of course, expecting just as lovely weather as last year. Photo: Eli Vidhammer



Photo: Ingvild Festervoll Melien.



The CCBIO Annual Symposium will also this year be featuring poster sessions. Register for poster presentation, and deliver abstract within **April 17th!** Photo: Ingvild Festervoll Melien.

## SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM ON DEEP TISSUE PROFILING

CCBIO will also this year be hosting a Satellite Symposium the day before the CCBIO Annual Symposium, at the same venue. This year's topic is Deep Tissue Profiling.

The satellite symposium will consist of talks focusing on the opportunities inherent to new technology, in particular the Hyperion Imaging System, both in terms of technology and in use of this technology for research purposes.

### Speakers:

- [Teijo Pellinen](#)
- [Jonathan Irish](#)
- [Kurt Schalper](#)
- [Artur Mezheyeuski](#)
- [Carina Strell](#)
- [Harris Fienberg](#)
- [Hamid Raza Ali](#)
- Sonia Gavasso

**When:** May 12, 2019

**Final program** is available [here](#).

**Registration:** within April 17th [at this link](#).

**Where:** The same venue as the CCBIO Annual Symposium, at the historical [Solstrand Hotel](#) close to Bergen, which provide an ideal frame with serene fjord views, fresh air, great food and spacious areas, with a little touch of Norwegian history.

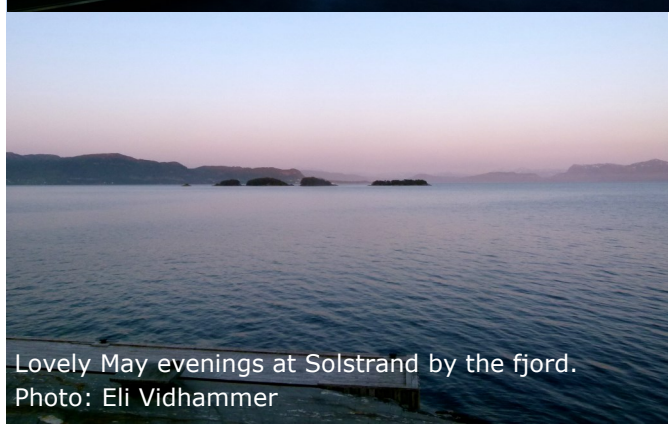
**Read more** [at this website](#).



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Break discussions with a view. Photo: Eli Vidhammer



Lovely May evenings at Solstrand by the fjord. Photo: Eli Vidhammer



# NEW LEADER OF THE NORWEGIAN BIOTECHNOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD

CCBIO's Associated Investigator [Ole Frithjof Norheim](#) was March 29th appointed leader of the Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board.



Professor Ole Frithjof Norheim. Photo: Kim E. Andreassen

The Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board is an independent body consisting of 15 members appointed by the Norwegian government, with special expertise in modern biotechnology. The main tasks of the Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board is to evaluate the social and ethical consequences of modern biotechnology and to discuss usage which promotes sustainable development.

"I have been concerned with biotechnology for many years, and I highly appreciate this opportunity. Biotechnology can contribute to better welfare. We must take advantage of the possibilities brought forth by new technology, while also considering social and ethical challenges," Norheim says.

[Read more here](#) (in Norwegian).

## COMPLETION OF THE PHD COURSE CCBIO907 CANCER-RELATED VASCULAR BIOLOGY

In February, the first CCBIO INTPART long course was completed with the final of three course weeks. Assistant Professors Diane Bielenberg, Vascular Biology Program, Boston Children's Hospital, and Magali Saint-Geniez, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye and Ear, Department of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School, lectured, tutored and inspired during this third course week.



"If your idea succeeds everybody says you're persistent. If it doesn't succeed, you're stubborn."

"Gradually you learn and you begin to give hope. You don't promise things, but the worst damage is destroying hope." Dr. Judah Folkman



Photos: Elisabeth Wik

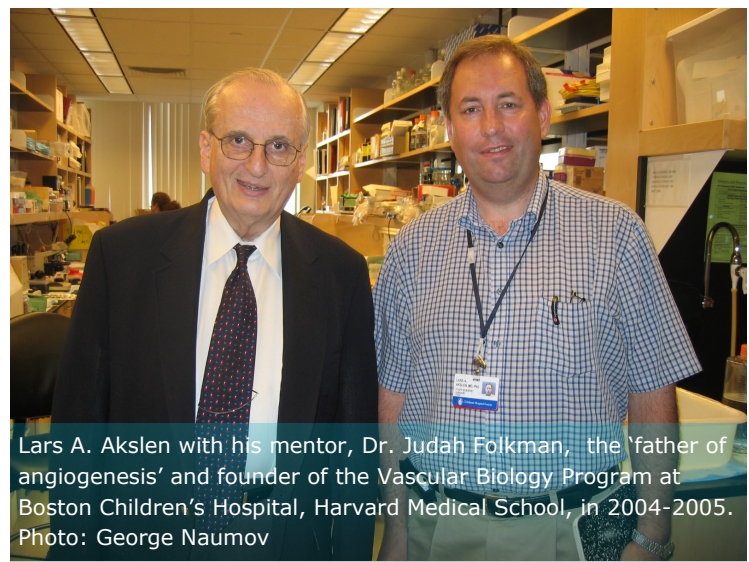
Drs. Bielenberg and Saint-Geniez provided truly inspirational lectures, being highly complementary in terms of professional skills and methods of lecturing. They are both experienced lecturers at Harvard Medical School, and caught the students' attention and curiosity from the very moment they set out welcoming to the course. The students were clearly inspired, motivated, amused, and scientifically enlightened during this week.

The lecturers took the students back to the basics of vascular biology, now with new perspectives; focusing on tissue-based assessment of vascular biology, bringing up histology slides for mini quizzes and small-group discussions, and reminding the students to keep in mind the important histobiologic principle: form follows function. Further, views on experimental vascular biology models, metabolic control and alterations in angiogenesis, and VEGF receptors and neuropilin endothelial signaling, were thoroughly presented, along with tips on pitfalls, suggested best practices and important know-hows.

Elisabeth Wik, who had the shared academic responsibility for the course, and who organized the course, says: "It has been an extremely pleasant experience to interact with our colleagues from the Vascular Biology Program when setting up this course. The course modules have been as complementary as CCBIO could possibly wish for," she concludes.

Professor Akslen initiated the collaboration between the Medical Faculty, UiB and the Vascular Biology Program when he did a sabbatical year in Boston in 2004-2005, mentored by Dr. Folkman. As Akslen says: "Judah Folkman was a true scientist, a great mentor and a unique inspirator, and came to mean a lot to me, both scientifically and personally. I am truly happy to see how the link between CCBIO and the Vascular Biology Program at Harvard has been strengthened through the CCBIO-INTPART collaboration."

[Read the full article here.](#)



Lars A. Akslen with his mentor, Dr. Judah Folkman, the 'father of angiogenesis' and founder of the Vascular Biology Program at Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, in 2004-2005. Photo: George Naumov

# REPEATING THE SUCCESS: SCIENTIFIC WRITING SEMINAR MAY 15-16

CCBIO is happy to be inviting you to a two-day seminar in scientific writing, May 15th and 16th 2019. The seminar is open for all (requires registration). This two-day seminar in scientific writing was first run in December 2017 and was a great success.

Lectures include 'how to improve your writing' and practical exercises, clear writing, punctuation and comma exercises, improving your abstract, the art of storytelling, the problem statement, making a manuscript memorable, and tips for the cover letter. There is valuable input in the scientific writing program for both students, postdocs and professors.

Lecturers are [Christine Møller](#), an experienced lecturer in medical and scientific writing and assistant editor of APMIS, and [Randy Watnick](#), associate professor at the Vascular Biology Program, Harvard Medical School.

[Registration](#) deadline is May 1st, but don't wait till the last minute; last time the registration closed earlier because of fully booked, and as registration looks per now, this seems to be case this time as well.

**When:** May 15-16, 2019.

**Where:** Auditorium B301, Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen

**Program:** available at [this link](#)



Illustration: Colourbox.com

## THE BERGEN FIBROSIS CONFERENCE May 23-24

We are happy to invite to the Bergen Fibrosis Conference May 23-24, 2019, at Grand Hotel Terminus, Bergen.

The conference will be presenting novel tools for studying the fibrotic stroma, and includes sessions such as Cell-ECM interactions, Mechanisms of fibrosis, Tumor stroma associated fibrosis and Emerging anti-fibrotic therapies. There will also be opportunities to bring poster for a poster session. Organizer is CCBIO PI Donald Gullberg, supported by the University of Bergen and DIKU (Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education). We have secured a wide range of international and national experts.

Limited number of participants, so early [registration](#) is advised. Registration closes when fully booked.

**When:** May 23-24, 2019.

**Where:** Grand Hotel Terminus, Bergen

**Program:** available at [this link](#)

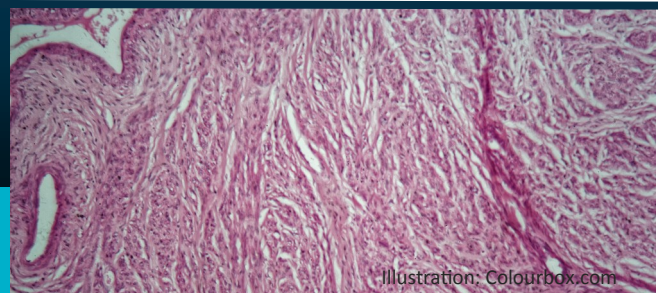


Illustration: Colourbox.com

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## BMED904 MATRIX BIOLOGY – CELL BIOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY OF THE EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX

BMED904 is a five day course, running every 2 years, that includes lectures from local researchers and a number of internationally well-known researchers within the field of matrix biology as well as practical laboratory training.

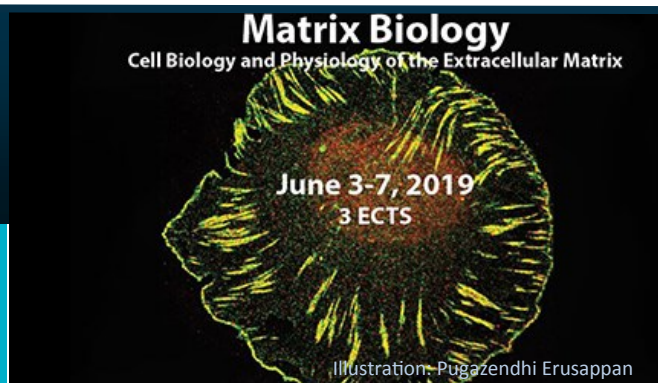


Illustration: Pugazendhi Erusappan

The course will cover various aspects of extracellular matrix (ECM) biology. A recurring theme will be the roles of the various ECM molecules and their functions in health and disease. All lectures are open to everyone interested.

**When:** June 3-7, 2019.

**Where:** Campus Haukeland University Hospital (tba), Bergen

**Program and registration:** available at [this link](#)



# EVENT LIST, CCBIO SPRING EVENTS

Make sure to save the dates in your calendar, and register when applicable. You can see all planned CCBIO events in the CCBIO web calendar.



- April 25, [CCBIO Seminar](#), speaker Øystein Rekdal, Lytix Biopharma AS .
- May 12, [Satellite Symposium](#) on the topic **Deep Tissue Profiling**, Solstrand Hotel
- May 13-14, the [7th CCBIO Annual Symposium](#), Solstrand Hotel
- May 15-16, [Scientific Writing course](#)
- May 23-24, [Bergen Fibrosis Conference](#)
- June 3-7, [BMED 904 Matrix Biology course](#)
- June 6, CCBIO Seminar, speaker [Joanna Phillips](#), University of California San Francisco (UCSF)

Also note a new event for the fall term which CCBIO will be hosting; the [4th Scandinavian Symposium in Translational Pathology](#), to be held in Bergen (Solstrand) 23-24 October 2019.

## ACCESS TO CENTRE FOR DIGITAL LIFE COURSES AND EVENTS

CCBIO is a partner of the Centre for Digital Life Norway, and as such, all members in our research groups have access to the courses and events hosted by the centre, and to their research school.



CENTRE FOR  
DIGITAL LIFE  
NORWAY

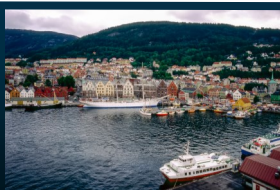
Coming events include the [3rd Annual Conference of Digital Life Norway Research School](#) at Bekkjarvik outside of Bergen June 4-6 2019. Note registration deadline **April 11th**. The program includes topics like Personal development: Branding yourself, work on your own CV, Stress management and interpersonal communication, Essentials of innovation and intellectual property, and of course – a chance to expand your network!

There is also the [Sandwich Course - Experimental Techniques in Drug Discovery](#), June 17-21 in Bergen.

See all coming courses and workshops [here](#).

Participation requires [membership](#), which CCBIO PhD students and postdocs will be granted, and which also entitles you to apply for grants to cover travel and accommodation expenses.

## OTHER COMING EVENTS



- April 25, [Presentation of the white paper on the health industry and the report Value of the health industry 2019](#), Oslo. (Næringsminister Torbjørn Røe Isaksen presenterer Regjeringens stortingsmelding om helsenæringen.)
- May 21, [BioNanoMedicine in Combating Cancer](#), Trondheim. OCC event.
- June 3-6, [2019 BIO International Convention](#), Philadelphia, USA. Access to global biotech and pharma leaders via BIO One-on-One Partnering.
- June 3, [International Cancer Cluster Showcase \(ICCS\)](#), Philadelphia, USA. Satellite event to the BIO International Convention in the US. A joint initiative with partners from Europe and North America.
- June 17, [37 °C Health Tech Business Conference in Stavanger](#), an international business platform for industrial development and innovation within health tech and life science.
- June 26-29, [51st Meeting of the European Pancreatic Club](#), Bergen. The major European scientific forum in the field of pancreatology, presenting hot topics in basic and clinical pancreatology with a focus on translational aspects, including pancreas cancer.

# PUBLICATIONS

You can find the CCBIO publications [on this pubmed link](#).  
See the last 5 below.



Illustration: Colourbox.com

- Bischof K, Knappskog S, Hjelle SM, Stefansson I, Woie K, **Salvesen HB, Gjertsen BT, Bjorge L**. [Influence of p53 Isoform Expression on Survival in High-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancers](#). Sci Rep. 2019 Mar 27;9(1):5244. doi: 10.1038/s41598-019-41706-z.
- Pilskog M, Nilsen GH, Beisland C, **Straume O**. [Elevated plasma interleukin 6 predicts poor response in patients treated with sunitinib for metastatic clear cell renal cell carcinoma](#). Cancer Treat Res Commun. 2019 Mar 14;19:100127. doi: 10.1016/j.ctarc.2019.100127. [Epub ahead of print]
- Andresen V, **Gjertsen BT**. [Clinical Trials of Repurposing Medicines in Acute Myeloid Leukemia: Limitations and Possibilities in the Age of Precision Therapy](#). Cancer J. 2019 Mar/Apr;25(2):153-163.
- Dillekås H, **Straume O**. [The link between wound healing and escape from tumor dormancy](#). Surg Oncol. 2019 Mar;28:50-56.
- Opsahl EM, **Akslen LA**, Schlichting E, Aas T, Brauckhoff K, Hagen AI, Rosenlund AF, Sigstad E, Grøholt KK, Mæhle L, Engebretsen LF, Jørgensen LH, Varhaug JE, Bjørø T. [Trends in Diagnostics, Surgical Treatment, and Prognostic Factors for Outcomes in Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma in Norway: A Nationwide Population-Based Study](#). Eur Thyroid J. 2019 Jan;8(1):31-40.

## RECENT CCBIO IN THE MEDIA

Recent media appearances by CCBIO PIs and group members. For all media hits, see [CCBIO's web pages](#).



Apr. 2019, Gynekologen, "[PARP-hemming i behandling av eggstokkreft](#)", Liv Cecilie Vestrheim Thomsen and Line Bjørge.

29.03.19, Bioteknologirådet, "[Ole Frithjof Norheim ny leder for Bioteknologirådet](#)", Ole Frithjof Norheim.

29.03.19, UroToday, "[Elevated plasma interleukin 6 predicts poor response in patients treated with sunitinib for metastatic clear cell renal cell carcinoma](#)", Martin Pilskog, Oddbjørn Straume.

03.03.19, Bergens Tidende, "[Denne fisken vil trolig få Parkinson](#)", Bjørn Tore Gjertsen.

14.02.19, Bergens Tidende, "[Forskere kurerte mus for diabetes](#)", incl. mention of Karl-Henning Kalland and his freeze treatment of cancer project.

30.01.19, MedFak, "[Millioner til nytt senter for globale helseprioriteringer](#)", Ole Frithjof Norheim.

12.12.18, NRK, [Norge nå](#), the UiB Medical Faculty incl. Lars A. Akslen.

10.12.18, Dagbladet, "[Mammografi er et klokt valg for mange](#)", Lars A. Akslen.

25.11.18, Fagpressenyt, "[FAIR data management in molecular life sciences](#)", Inge Jonassen.



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