



# CCBIO Newsletter

CAPTURING CANCER COMPLEXITY AND CLINICAL CHALLENGES

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## DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Dear all

The latest months have demonstrated CCBIO as a living organism with multiple intrinsic activities and efforts towards communication and collaboration. We are very thankful to our Harvard colleagues for being part of our initiatives in excellent education and training of young researchers. This includes our focus on career development. Thanks to all involved in the CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposia and this time especially to Erling Høivik, who now completed his term as coordinator. The recent lunch-to-lunch meeting was an inspiration to all participants.

Congratulations to Dana Costea for significant research funding from Helse Vest. Please read her exciting and thoughtful report from the ongoing sabbatical in San Diego. An example of excellent networking! And read the other stories in this last newsletter of 2018, for example our coverage of Plan S.

There are several dates to be saved for important events during the first part of 2019: Hyperion Imaging System Opening Symposium on February 6; Satellite Symposium on Deep Tissue Profiling on May 12; The 7th CCBIO Annual Symposium on May 13-14; CCBIO Scientific Writing Seminar on May 15-16; and many more. Please tick off these dates in your calendar and always check for updates.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2019 to all of you!

Best regards, Lars A. Akslen, Director

## CONTACT INFORMATION



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[Link to all.](#)

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## NORWEGIAN RESEARCH COMMUNITIES JOIN FORCES TO CHANGE NEW OPEN ACCESS PLAN

The Norwegian Research Council and other European research councils are about to make a radical alteration of the scientific publishing model by forcing Open Access for all scientific work. The scheme is called Plan S. 27 Norwegian research leaders, including CCBIO Director Lars A. Akslen, suggest changes to improve the European Plan S Open Access scheme.



The 27 research leaders, scientific experts in their fields, claim the idea is good in general, but the implementation of «Open Access» is not, and can even be considered undermining and harmful. They are proposing a change that would eliminate the weaknesses of the plan.

They recommend that *publishing of the authors' version in an open archive should be approved as open access.*

[Read article here.](#)



Established by the Research Council of Norway

## HELSE VEST SUPPORT



Associate Investigator Daniela Elena Costea received support for 3 years (4.5 million kr) from the Western Norway Regional Health Authority (Helse Vest) for the project "Defining molecular subtypes of head and neck cancer by integrative mutational, stromal and inflammatory landscape analysis".

The project focuses on developing a novel diagnostic method for stratification of head and neck cancer patients, and is based on the hypothesis that a more refined classification of HNSCC in subgroups with differential clinical characteristics is achievable by combining a targeted mutational analysis with a comprehensive analysis of host response. This study might also provide valuable information for development of a diagnostic tool kit by biomedical companies that will be used by hospitals and clinics where it can benefit patients.

Helse Vest has also granted continued open project support to **Bjørn Tore Gjertsen**, **Emmet McCormack** and **Lars A. Akslen** for ongoing projects.

[Read more here.](#)

## REFLECTIONS FROM SABBATICAL AT MOORES CANCER CENTER, UCSD



CCBIO Associate Investigator Daniela Elena Costea is currently on a sabbatical at Moores Cancer Center at the University of California, San Diego, and has sent us a sabbatical report.



Professor Silvio Gutkind and the lab mice are all set for Halloween!

Dana reports of a great learning experience on cell signaling and molecular techniques, collaboration strategies and leadership styles, the center's exemplary way of collecting tissue samples from patients for research, amazing new colleagues, living in San Diego and the American school system, among other.

Read article [in this link.](#)

## COMING CCBIO EVENTS

### CCBIO Seminar dates spring 2019:

- 31.01.19 Speaker tba
- 21.02.19 Harvard speaker, tba
- 28.03.19 [Speaker Gaoxiang Ge](#), Shanghai institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- 25.04.19 Speaker tba
- 23.05.19 Speaker tba
- 06.06.19 [Speaker Joanna Phillips](#), UCSF

### Other set spring event dates:

- February 6, [Hyperion Imaging System opening symposium](#), 13.00-16.00
- February 14, [CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium](#)
- February 18-22, [course week 3 of CCBIO907 Cancer-Related Vascular Biology](#)
- April 4, [CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium](#)
- May 15-16 2019, [Scientific Writing course](#)
- June 3-7 2019, [BMED 904 Extracellular Matrix course](#)

### Save the date for the 2019 CCBIO Annual Meeting:

- [Satellite Symposium](#) on the issue **Deep Tissue Profiling** which will take place 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. May 12th 2019 at Solstrand Hotel, the day before and at the same place as the CCBIO Annual Symposium 2019.
- The [7th CCBIO Annual Symposium](#) will take place at Solstrand Hotel May 13-14 2019.



# INSPIRING VISIT TO CHINA



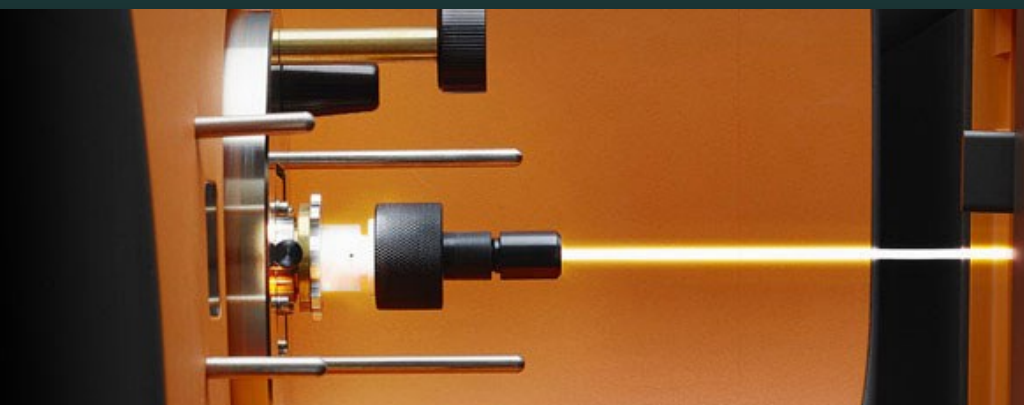
Three Scandinavian scientists were invited as speakers to the third National Conference of the Chinese Society of Matrix Biology, one of which was CCBIO PI Donald Gullberg.

The Chinese Society of Matrix Biology (CSMB) hosted its its third meeting in Hangzhou, China at Hangzhou international Expo Center, Nov 17-20 (also site of G20 meeting in 2016) for 250 participants. This was a joint event with the 11th Asian and Pan-Pacific Connective Tissue Societies Symposium, organized by the Chinese Society of Matrix Biology, Peking University, Zhejiang University and SchenZhen University.

Professor Gullbergs talk was titled "Integrin alpha11beta1, a potential anti-fibrosis target on fibroblasts", and dealt with recent developments in integrin alpha11 research with an emphasis on the latest addition to the available tools based on integrin alpha11: the ITGA11-Cre mouse strain.

[Read more here.](#)

## OPENING SYMPOSIUM FOR THE HYPERION IMAGING SYSTEM



Save the date February 6th 2019 for the opening symposium of our brand new Hyperion Imaging System, at Auditorium 2, BBB, 13.00-16.00.

The Hyperion Imaging System uses highly pure metal tags that are separated by mass instead of by wavelength. Setting a new standard in highly multiplexed protein detection, the system enables researchers to simultaneously detect up to 37 markers from a single tissue section by IMC. This allows for a comprehensive analysis of cellular phenotypes and their inter-relationships within the spatial context of the tissue microenvironment.

Leigh Ann from the Fluidigm Corporation will explain the features and possibilities of the Hyperion Imaging System. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Dario Bressan, Head of the IMAXT Laboratory, CRUK Cambridge Institute, University of Cambridge, UK.

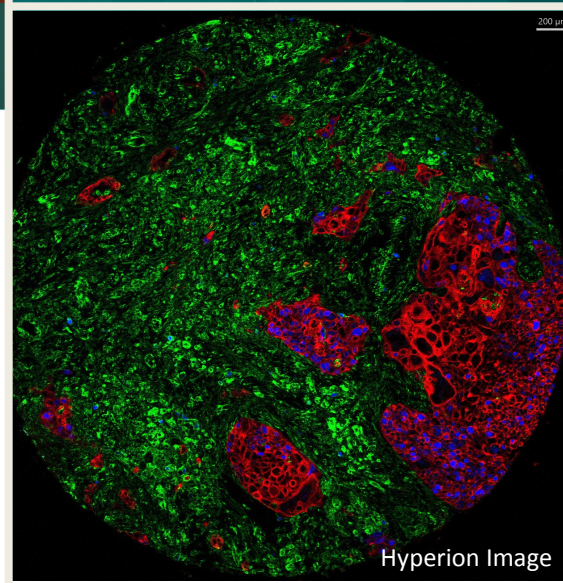
[See tentative program here.](#)

## OTHER RECOMMENDED COMING EVENTS



Cancer Crosslinks January 17, 2019

- January 17, [Cancer Crosslinks 2019](#), "Next Wave Precision Oncology – Connecting the Dots for Improved Patient Care", OCC, Oslo. Leading international and Norwegian experts presenting the latest developments in I-O and precision oncology. Keynote speakers include Naiyer Rizvi, Aaron Goodman, Randy F. Sweis, Marco Gerlinger, Lars Bullinger, James Peach, Kristin Vinje, Christian Kersten, Hege G. Russnes, and our own Bjørn Tore Gjertsen and Ola Myklebost.
- February 11-15, [Creating Scientific Illustrations](#), Digital Life Norway, Bergen.
- March 25-27, [BIO-Europe Spring Vienna](#). Europe's largest springtime biotech partnering event. Note that [OCC-members](#) (as is CCBIO) get a discount.
- April 9, [Blockchain & Distributed Ledger Innovations for eHealth 2019](#), OCC-event, Oslo. Transformational technologies for the Health sector and opportunities for eHealth cross-silo data exchanges, connected care, and GDPR among other topics.



# BEST PRESENTATION AT THE NSGO ANNUAL MEETING

PhD Candidate Hilde Engerud in the Gynecological Cancer Research Group was awarded with Best Presentation at the annual meeting of the Norwegian Society for Gynecology and Obstetrics this fall.



Hilde presented her project "Growth differentiation factor-15 as an independent marker for aggressive disease in endometrial cancer".

GDF-15 is physiologically highly expressed in the placenta and over-expression is reported in several cancer types. The group wanted to explore the role of GDF-15 in predicting recurrence. Plasma levels GDF-15 were measured by ELISA. Increased plasma levels of GDF-15 were associated with reduced disease-specific survival and shorter time to recurrence. Preoperative levels of plasma GDF-15 were significantly higher for patients who later experienced recurrence than for patients who did not develop recurrent disease. Plasma samples were collected at time of recurrence from 36 patients, and compared to corresponding plasma samples collected at time of primary treatment.

[Read more here.](#)



## CCBIO SNAPSHOTS

From the CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium at Sotra, November 2018.



# NEW CCBIO JUSS COORDINATOR JOINS THE TEAM



Kenneth presenting his own research at the recent Junior Scientist Symposium.

Erling Høivik has now stepped down as coordinator, and Liv Cecilie V. Thomsen will continue with new team partner Kenneth Finne. Thank you Erling for a great job, and welcome to Kenneth!



The last CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium in 2018 was held as a lunch-to-lunch symposium at Sotra outside of Bergen November 19-20, to celebrate 5 years of Junior Symposia. Those 24 hours provided lots of learning, inspiration, fun and networking! **Liv Cecilie** and **Kenneth** will be coordinating the JUSS events next year, and you can already save the dates in your calendar: **Thursday February 14th** and **Thursday April 4th**, 10.00-14.00 both days. Contact [Liv Cecilie](#) or [Kenneth](#) if you would like to present your research.



## RECENT DOCTORAL DEFENSES

**Tina Fonnes** defended 30 Nov. 2018 her dissertation "Preclinical models and molecular biomarkers – tools to improve treatment in endometrial carcinoma". Main supervisor: Professor Camilla Krakstad. Co-supervisors: Professors Emmet McCormack and Bjørn Tore Gjertsen. See [press release](#).



The candidate with supervisors and committee. From the left: Miguel Abal Posada, Emmet McCormack, Tina Fonnes, Camilla Krakstad, Tone Bathen and Karianne Fjell.

## PUBLICATIONS

You can find the CCBIO publications [on this pubmed link](#).  
See the last 6 below.

- Mazloumi Gavani F, Smith Arnesen V, Jacobsen RG, Krakstad C, Hoivik EA, Lewis AE. [Class I Phosphoinositide 3-Kinase PIK3CA/p110 \$\alpha\$  and PIK3CB/p110 \$\beta\$  Isoforms in Endometrial Cancer](#). Int J Mol Sci. 2018 Dec 7;19(12). pii: E3931. doi: 10.3390/ijms19123931. Review.
- Poirier M, Awale M, Roelli MA, Giuffredi GT, Ruddigkeit L, Evensen L, Stooss A, Calarco S, Lorens JB, Charles RP, Reymond JL. [Identifying Lysophosphatidic Acid Acyltransferase  \$\beta\$  \(LPAAT- \$\beta\$ \) as the Target of a Nanomolar Angiogenesis Inhibitor from a Phenotypic Screen Using the Polypharmacology Browser PPB2](#). ChemMedChem. 2018 Dec 6. doi: 10.1002/cmdc.201800554. [Epub ahead of print]
- Brattås MK, Lilleeng K, Hovland R, Lægreid IJ, Vorland M, Leh F, Bruserud Ø, Gjertsen BT, Reikvam H. [Philadelphia chromosome positive AML arising from JAK2-positive myelofibrosis](#). Biomark Res. 2018 Nov 21;6:33. doi: 10.1186/s40364-018-0147-6. eCollection 2018.
- Kvalheim SF, Xenaki V, Kvalheim A, Lie SA, Marthinussen MC, Strand GV, Costea DE. [Effect of glycerol on reconstructed human oral mucosa](#). Eur J Oral Sci. 2018 Nov 19. doi: 10.1111/eos.12590. [Epub ahead of print]
- Holst F, Werner HMJ, Mjøs S, Hoivik EA, Kusunmano K, Wik E, Berg A, Birkeland E, Gibson WJ, Halle MK, Trovik J, Cherniack AD, Kalland KH, Mills GB, Singer CF, Krakstad C, Beroukhi R, Salvesen HB. [PIK3CA Amplification Associates with Aggressive Phenotype but Not Markers of AKT-MTOR Signaling in Endometrial Carcinoma](#). Clin Cancer Res. 2018 Nov 15. doi: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-18-0452. [Epub ahead of print]
- Hua Y, Azeem W, Shen Y, Zhang S, Olsen JR, Øyan AM, Ke X, Zhang W, Kalland KH. [Dual androgen receptor \(AR\) and STAT3 inhibition by a compound targeting the AR amino-terminal domain](#). Pharmacol Res Perspect. 2018 Nov 5;6(6):e00437. doi: 10.1002/prp2.437. eCollection 2018 Dec.



## RECENT CCBIO IN THE MEDIA

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.

15.11.18, Aftenposten, ["Ja til moderat plan for åpen tilgang til forskningsresultater – 27 forskingsledere"](#), Lars A. Akslen.

21.10.18, Dagens Medisin, ["– Bør endre behandlingspraksis for rundt 100 norske kvinner"](#), Line Bjørge.

Digi.no, ["Er i gang med å la maskinene ta over for legene: - Nå jobber vi med de digitale modellene, sier norsk forsker"](#), Bjørn Tore Gjertsen.

20.10.18, Dagens Medisin, ["Skyhøye forventninger til behandling av eggstokkreft"](#), Line Bjørge.

24.08.18, På Høyden, ["Astrid \(31\) blir ikke frisk av kreften, men lever godt med det"](#), Lars A. Akslen

23.08.18, UiB Aktuelt, ["Kreftens sporhunder"](#), Lars A. Akslen

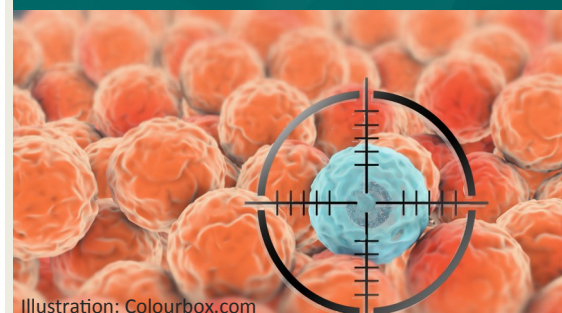


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