DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS

Dear all

Thank you very much to those of you attending the very successful 6th CCBIO Annual Symposium at Solstrand. We appreciate all the engagement, the presentations (oral and posters) and all the practical help. We also had a very successful satellite symposium on Liquid Biopsy, and thanks especially to Professor Klaus Pantel for organizing the meeting together with Karl-Henning Kalland and Bjørn Tore Gjertsen.

In this issue of the CCBIO Newsletter, you will find updates on a range of our activities. In particular, congratulations to those of you winning awards – well deserved! And take a look at the CCBIO Calendar for upcoming courses and events during the fall.

I wish you all a nice summer break!

Best regards, Lars A. Akslen, Director

EXEMPLARY CCBIO SYMPOSIUM AT SOLSTRAND

The weather could not have been better when CCBIO hosted the 6th Annual Symposium May 23-24, and the same goes for the inspiring speakers and engaged audience.

"Much of the intention of the two-day symposium at Solstrand is that the participants should be able to meet and discuss contemporary cancer research issues in a more informal setting than what might be usual at major cancer conferences," says CCBIO Director Lars A. Akslen. And we believe that the intention was fully met. Have a look at this photo album, perhaps you can find yourself? (Available for a restricted period.)

Also see article on Professor Thomas F. Meyer’s lecture “Do bacterial pathogens provoke distinct mutations in their host?” and the discovery that bacteria such as chlamydia can alter cells and cause cancer. One of very many interesting topics that were discussed at the symposium. And congratulations to the three poster awards winners!
May and Solstrand showed off with blue skies and warm sunshine when CCBIO hosted the Liquid Biopsy Symposium May 22nd, a satellite symposium to the 6th CCBIO Annual Symposium 2018.

The term "Liquid Biopsy" was introduced in 2010 by Catherine Alix-Panabieres and Klaus Pantel, and today, circulating tumor cells (CTCs) and circulating DNA are still the mostly investigated liquid biopsy biomarkers (PubMed harbors today more than 20,000 reports on CTCs). Liquid biopsy and immunotherapy were the two hottest topics at the 2018 Annual AACR Meeting in Chicago in April. Naturally, it was fitting that Liquid Biopsy was highlighted at also CCBIO’s Solstrand event.

Read more here about what Liquid Biopsy actually is, and an interview with Professor Pantel.

ON SABBATICAL IN UPPSALA AND CALIFORNIA

CCBIO PI Rolf Reed is currently on a sabbatical stay in the US, and we have asked him to share his experience with us.

A sabbatical stay abroad is a privilege and above anything a change of pace and focus from the everyday work routine. Norway represents in many ways an exception by still allowing for one year of sabbatical for every six year of full employment. The central question when you apply for a sabbatical leave is where to go and what to focus on. My choice was to return to two universities and research laboratories where I have long collaborations rather than starting something completely new.

Read more here.

EXPERIENCE LIFE IN PARIS – LA BELLE VIE À PARIS

Former CCBIO post-doc Agnete Engelsen was awarded a FRIPRO mobility grant from NFR/ MCA COFUND and is currently resident in France with her family to embark on exciting research projects with distinguished collaborators at Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus Grand Paris. We asked her to report of her life in beautiful Paris.

Read more here about Agnete’s research project, lab work and life in Paris, and whether she can recommend a research stay abroad.
**CRITERIA FOR PUBLIC HEALTHCARE PRIORITIZATION**

Tranvåg will be working with a group at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health who will assess and propose how criteria for prioritization should be applied to different decision-making levels in the municipalities. The NOU-report is to be delivered within the end of the year 2018.

**GUEST STUDENTS FROM ARMENIA IN ORAL PATHOLOGY PROJECT**

The two PhD students, Gayane Manrykian and Andrey Papyan, also hold academic positions at their home institution, Yerevan Medical State University, and are expected to teach and promote oral pathology when returning back to their home institutions. They are here for a period of 3 months to get training in oral pathology and research in oral cancer. Both Gayane and Andrey have integrated smoothly into the Bergen Oral Cancer Research Group and Experimental Pathology Research Group. Read more here, incl. interview with Gayane and Andrey.

**CCBIO ETHICS, ECONOMICS AND SOCIETY COURSE PRESENTED AT RRI CONFERENCE IN VIENNA**

In April 2018, our work with the CCBIO903 course was presented at the 2nd HEIRRI conference in Vienna.

The UiB (and specifically the Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities) is a partner of HEIRRI, "Higher Education Institutions and Responsible Research and Innovation", a 3-year Horizon 2020 project that develops didactic principles and materials for teaching RRI. Read more here.

**RECENT AWARDS**

Congratulations to Ole F. Norheim for Research Group of the Year at the UiB Medical Faculty Day 2018! See more here about the Faculty awards (in Norw.).

Congratulations to Emmet McCormack for the Study Quality Award at the UiB Medical Faculty Day 2018!

Halle received the award for her PhD work "Molecular alterations suggesting new treatment strategies in uterine carcinomas". Supervisors were Camilla Krakstad, Jone Trovik and Helga Salvesen.

Congratulations to Mari Kyllesø Halle for PhD Work of the Year at the UiB Medical Faculty Day 2018!
GREAT INTEREST IN AXL-PROJECT AT THE ASCO CONFERENCE

Oddbjørn Straume met great interest in his poster presentation of a study with Bemcentinib combined with Keytruda at the world’s largest cancer convention, ASCO, in Chicago June 1-5, 2018. The research is performed at CCBIO, in a clinical trial investigating the protein AXL as a biomarker for targeted therapy.

“The AXL-protein is shown to make cancer cells resistant to treatment. The aim is to find drugs that can attack AXL,” Straume explains. The national media also took a great interest in the project. See articles in the “Recent CCBIO in the Media” column to the right.

COMING DOCTORAL DEFENSES

Israa Ahmed defends Tuesday June 26th 2018 at 12:15 her dissertation “Identification of prognostic biomarkers for oral squamous cell carcinoma. Study on human samples and experimental models”. Main supervisor: Professor Daniela Elena Costea, co-supervisors: Professor Anne Christine Johannessen and Associate Professor Dipak Sapkota. Place: Large Auditorium, Main building, Haukeland University Hospital. Trial lecture same place at 10:15. Read more here.

PUBLICATIONS

You can find the CCBIO publications on this pubmed link. See the last 5 below.


RECENT CCBIO IN THE MEDIA

07.06.18, VG, "Persontilpasset medisin: Slik skal ny teknologi endre fremtidens kreftbehandling", Bjørn Tore Gjertsen.
06.06.18, Vårt Land, "Ny pille mot aggressiv kreft", Oddbjørn Straume.
05.06.18, Firda Tidende, "Norsk firma har utviklet pille mot aggressiv kreft", Oddbjørn Straume.
05.06.18, ABC Nyheter, "Norsk firma har utviklet pille mot aggressiv kreft", Oddbjørn Straume.
05.06.18, Bergens Tidende, "Bergensfirma har utviklet pille mot aggressiv kreft", Oddbjørn Straume.
05.06.18, VG, "Utvikler pille mot aggressiv kreft: Kan bremse sykdommen for spesielt syke pasienter", Oddbjørn Straume.
04.06.18, Dagens Medisin, "Her ble det ko", Oddbjørn Straume.
29.05.18, Den Norske Legeforening, "Prisdryss til leger", Ying Chen.
26.05.18, Bergensavisen, "Fysioterapeuten reddet Roars (72) liv", Ingeborg Bachmann, Rita Ladstein.
23.05.18, Dagens Medisin, "Positive erfaringer med frysing av prostatakreft", Karl-Henning Kalland.

BOOK "FRÅTSE-FRIDA" OR "KRISTINE KREFTCELLE"

Note that CCBIO still offers schools and others a unique way of learning about cancer cells through actor and CCBIO PhD graduate Henriette Christie Ertsgås, now funded through the Research Council of Norway (PROFORSK program). Read more here.