



CCBIO

Newsletter

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Newsletter No. 1, Vol. 4 — 04.04.2017

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

The 5th CCBIO Annual Symposium is coming up and I look forward to see all of you at Solstrand. There are still a couple of days to register. We have a very exciting program with several top ranking international scientists. Please use the opportunity to “meet the experts” and establish contacts. The program will cover several important and timely topics. Also, Roger Strand will announce the upcoming book on Cancer Biomarkers: Ethics, Economics, and Society, soon to be published. An excellent output from the integrated CCBIO environment. We also have a brand new CCBIO Annual Report 2016 for you, with detailed information on our range of activities, and lots of nice pictures. Maybe you're in it!

Congratulations to Oddbjørn Straume and his team for landing a big national grant (NKR 17 mill from KLINBEFORSK) to study the effect of immunotherapy in combination with anti-Axl treatment (BGB324) in patients with metastatic melanoma. The trial is already started. Also, Olav Thon himself handed out a grant to CCBIO in support of student active research.

More information on media appearances and upcoming events can be found inside. And do not forget to register for the CCBIO-supported 3rd International p53 Isoforms Conference in June, organized by our co-director Bjørn Tore Gjertsen and CCBIO-affiliated professor Jean-Christophe Bourdon (UK).

Best regards, Lars A. Akslen, Director

CONTACT INFORMATION



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The eight Principal Investigators:

- Lars A. Akslen (Director)
- Bjørn Tore Gjertsen (Co-Director)
- Donald Gullberg
- Anne C. Johannessen
- Karl Henning Kalland
- James Lorens
- Rolf Reed
- Oddbjørn Straume

STILL POSSIBLE TO REGISTER FOR SOLSTRAND



Extended deadline for the CCBIO Annual Symposium 2017 is April 6th.

As we still get many emails from people who missed the deadline March 19th, and we have some hotel rooms left, we have extended the registration deadline to **April 6th**. There are now 190 registered participants, and we have room for 200, so if you hurry you can still make it! This year there are more international participants than ever before – so this should prove good for extending your network at the same time as you are updated on the latest in cancer research.

So; to participate, please [register here](#) within **April 6th**.
For program and other information, check [this webpage](#).



Established by the Research Council of Norway

17 MILLION NOK TO CCBIO PROJECT



The regional health authorities' joint program for clinical therapy research (KLINBEFORSK) has February 27th 2017 allocated in total 124 million NOK to seven large research projects. The projects are closely linked to patient care and the requirements of the specialist health services. One of the supported projects is led by CCBIO PI Oddbjørn Straume, receiving 17,57 million NOK over five years.

Straume's project is titled "A Phase 1b/2 clinical trial with Axl kinase inhibitor BGB324 in combination with Dabrafenib/Trametinib or Pembrolizumab in metastatic melanoma: Identification of predictive markers of response".

The treatment for metastatic malignant melanomas has improved significantly in recent years after the introduction of immunotherapy and targeted therapy. Nevertheless, many patients experience no effect of the therapy, or only short-term effect. The drug BGB324, developed by the Bergen-based company BerGenBio, has shown improved effect in animal models and cell lines when added to immunotherapy or targeted therapy. Straume's group will in the study investigate this by giving patients with metastatic melanoma BGB324 in addition to standard treatment.

They also have a large research program which studies biomarkers able to identify the patients who will benefit of this particular treatment. The study will take place at all university hospitals in the country.

[Read more here.](#)

SUPPORT TO CCBIO FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH



CCBIO's Professor Lars A. Akslen and Postdoc Elisabeth Wik received support from the Thon Foundation for the project "Harvard Cancer Research: Partnership for outstanding education and research."

The project of Akslen and Wik is one of two at UiB receiving support in the category "Support for student active research in medicine and/or natural sciences/mathematics in 2017". The project is supported by a total of 1.5 million NOK over three years. In the press release we could read that "This is a very convincing project in which student participation in research is part of a larger collaboration between the Centre for Cancer Biomarkers at UiB and Harvard Medical School." Read more [about the project here.](#)

You can also read about the award ceremony at the University Aula in Oslo [here.](#)

COMING CCBIO EVENTS



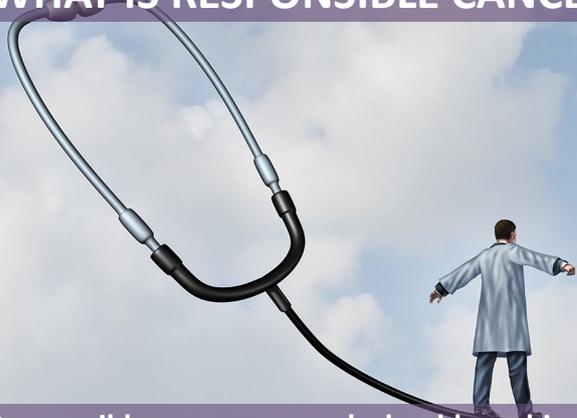
- 19-20.04.17, the [CCBIO Annual Symposium 2017](#).
- 27.04.17, [CCBIO Seminar](#), speaker: [Robert Lafayatis](#)
- 11.05.17, [CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium](#).
- 11.05.17, [CCBIO Seminar](#), speaker: [Ulf Landegren](#)
- 15.06.17, [CCBIO Seminar](#), speaker: [Ryan Driskell](#)
- 18-21.06.17, The [3rd International p53 Isoforms Conference](#) in Bergen. Registration is open.

OTHER RECOMMENDED COMING EVENTS

- 25.04.17, [The Day of Immunology Conference 2017: Immunotherapy for Cancer](#). Store Auditorium, Rikshospitalet, Oslo.
- 26.04.17, [Nordic Precision Medicine Forum](#), Copenhagen.
- 28.04.17, [Store verdier i helsenæringen](#). The Norw. Research Council, Innovation Norway, Oslo Cancer Cluster and several more. Oslo.
- 18.05.17, [Knowledge for growth](#), one of the leading life sciences conferences in Europe. Ghent, Belgium.
- 19.05.17, [Nordic Model for Personalized Medicine](#). Exploring issues such as data sharing, privacy, innovation, stakeholder engagement, and cross-border studies from an interdisciplinary perspective. Oslo.
- 23.05.17, [R&D Network in Oslo – Haematologic oncology](#). (Haematologic cancer, including Chronic Lymphatic Leukaemia (CLL) and Myelomatosis. Oslo.

WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE CANCER RESEARCH?

Illustration: Lightspring/Shutterstock.



Responsible cancer research should combine biomedical research activities with critical analysis of the same research, says CCBIO's Roger Strand and Lars A. Akslen in a recently published "perspectives" piece in the Norwegian medical journal "Tidsskriftet for Den norske legeforening".

The framework for Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) is a cross-cutting principle for the EU's Horizon 2020 research programme. The Research Council of Norway has published the first version of a Norwegian RRI framework. Strand and Akslen believe that the RRI framework provides useful concepts for understanding how good decision-making processes can be established in future cancer treatment.

In this piece, Strand and Akslen present key ethical and social dilemmas on the interface between cancer research and policy. They introduce the theory on socio-technical imaginaries and discussed how it may be implemented in RRI frameworks. The piece presents and exemplifies the ELSA/RRI profile of CCBIO for a Norwegian medical audience.

[Read more here.](#)

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE P53 MEETING

3rd International

p53 Isoforms Conference

You are invited to participate in the 3rd international p53 isoforms workshop in Bergen, Norway from the 18th -21st June 2017.

Over the last decade, the description of splice variants of the p53, p63 and p73 genes (p53 family isoforms) has dynamically reformed the p53 field and has broadened the roles of the p53 family beyond cancer. During the workshop, the latest findings in animal models (mouse, zebrafish and drosophila) and experimental/clinical studies on p53 family protein isoforms will be presented. We will discuss the physiological roles of p53 family isoforms in tissue regeneration and the effects of their mis-regulation resulting in the development of cancer, premature aging, embryo malformation, immunological defects and neurodegenerative diseases. In addition, clinicians will also present strategies to use the p53 family isoforms as therapeutic targets and predictive biomarkers in response to treatment.

[Read more here](#), incl. list of international speakers, and registration link.



CCBIO SNAPSHOTS



THE HUNT FOR THE SECRET NANO-TUNNELS OF LEUKEMIA CELLS



Maria Omsland defended Friday 03.02.2017 her dissertation «Investigation of the intercellular structure tunneling nanotube (TNT) in leukemia» at the University of Bergen.

Maria has studied the frequency and regulation of nano tunnels in three different types of leukemia: acute myelogenous leukemia (AML), adult T-cell leukemia (ATL) and chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML). Various microscopy techniques were used to study the frequency of nano tunnels and examine their potential for use in transporting between leukemia cells. [Read more here](#). Also read interview: "[Blir kreftforsker i USA](#)" (in Norw.).

PUBLICATIONS



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

- Phelan CM, Kuchenbaecker KB, Tyrer JP...Bjorge L,... Gayther SA, Antoniou AC, Pharoah PD. [Identification of 12 new susceptibility loci for different histotypes of epithelial ovarian cancer](#). Nat Genet. 2017 Mar 27. doi: 10.1038/ng.3826. [Epub ahead of print].
- Riihilä P, Nissinen L, Farshchian M, Kallajoki M, Kivisaari A, Meri S, Grénman R, Peltonen S, Peltonen J, Pihlajaniemi T, Heljasvaara R, Kähäri VM. [Complement Component C3 and Complement Factor B Promote Growth of Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma](#). Am J Pathol. 2017 Mar 16. pii: S0002-9440(17)30214-6. doi: 10.1016/j.ajpath.2017.01.006. [Epub ahead of print]
- Terry S, Buart S, Tan TZ, Gros G, Noman MZ, Lorens JB, Mami-Chouaib F, Thierry JP, Chouaib S. [Acquisition of tumor cell phenotypic diversity along the EMT spectrum under hypoxic pressure: Consequences on susceptibility to cell-mediated cytotoxicity](#). Oncoimmunology. 2017 Jan 17;6(2):e1271858.
- Rajala HL, Missiry ME, Ruusila A, Koskenvesa P, Brümmendorf TH, Gjertsen BT, Janssen J, Lotfi K, Markevärn B, Olsson-Strömberg U, Stenke L, Stentoft J, Richter J, Hjorth-Hansen H, Kreutzman A, Mustjoki S. [Tyrosine kinase inhibitor therapy-induced changes in humoral immunity in patients with chronic myeloid leukemia](#). J Cancer Res Clin Oncol. 2017 Mar 23. doi: 10.1007/s00432-017-2378-6. [Epub ahead of print].
- Kraby MR, Opdahl S, Akslen LA, Bofin AM. [Quantifying tumour vascularity in non-luminal breast cancers](#). J Clin Pathol. 2017 Mar 1. pii: jclinpath-2016-204208. doi: 10.1136/jclinpath-2016-204208. [Epub ahead of print].



RECENT CCBIO IN THE MEDIA

- 20.03.17, Tidsskriftet, Den Norske Legeforening, "[Raskere på laben](#)", Ying Chen.
- 12.03.17, Bergensavisen, "[Danseren ble forsker](#)", Amalie Svanøe.
- 08.03.17, BT, "[Nå vil Bergenbio på børs](#)", James Lorens, Oddbjørn Straume.
- 05.03.17, Firdaposten, "[Dansaren Amalie er blitt til forskeren Amalie](#)", A. Svanøe.
- 01.03.17, På Høyden, "[Den ubehagelige forskningen har vært det svake punktet i SFF-porteføljen](#)", Roger Strand.
- 27.02.17, Dagens Medisin "[Sikret finansiering](#)", Oddbjørn Straume.
- 25.02.17, Østlandsposten, "[Blir kreftforsker i USA](#)", Maria Omsland.
- 20.02.17, Tidsskriftet, Den Norske Legeforening, "[Hva er ansvarlig kreftforskning](#)", Roger Strand, Lars A. Akslen.
- 20.02.17, UiB News, "[Alt skal klaffe](#)", James Lorens (interview regarding the mention in the Norwegian Prime Minister's New Year's Address)
- 09.02.17, Dagens Medisin, "[Helsefolk](#)", Agnete Engelsen (mention of her FRIPRO mobility grant).
- 03.02.17, KK, "[Norge er i verdenstoppen når det gjelder dødelighet av føflekkreft](#)", Lars A. Akslen.
- 03.02.17, Kvinneringen, "[Revolusjonerende utvikling](#)", Oddbjørn Straume.
- 13.01.17, På Høyden, "[Tre Olav Thon-tildelinger til UiB](#)". Lars A. Akslen, Elisabeth Wik.
- 12.01.17, Uniforum, "[Får 10 millioner kroner til Parkinson-forskning frå Olav Thon Stiftelsen](#)". Lars A. Akslen, Elisabeth Wik.
- 12.01.17, NTB info, "[Olav Thon Stiftelsen: – Her er prisvinnerne for 2017](#)". Lars A. Akslen, Elisabeth Wik.

