



CCBIO Newsletter

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[Karl Henning Kalland](#)
[James Lorens](#)
[Rolf Reed](#)
[Helga B. Salvesen](#)
[Oddbjørn Straume](#)

Coming CCBIO events:

- 28.01.2016, [CCBIO Seminar, Jean-Christophe Bourdon.](#)
- 25.02.2016, [CCBIO Seminar, Olivier De Wever.](#)
- 17.03.2016, [CCBIO Seminar, Lutz P. Müller.](#)
- 28.04.2016, [CCBIO Seminar, Krister Wennerberg.](#)
- 10.05-11.05 2016, [4th CCBIO Annual Symposium](#)



Established by the Research Council of Norway

Director's comments



At the end of 2015, we can look back at many achievements and a lot of intense and excellent work by all members of CCBIO: high impact publications, exciting research seminars, courses organized by the CCBIO Research School, the Junior Scientist Symposium, activities at Forskningsdagene, and our annual symposium. Many thanks to all of you, we look forward to 2016 and the challenges and possibilities ahead!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Best regards, Lars A. Akslen, Director

Helse Vest's Research Prize and Innovation Award go to CCBIO researchers

Helse Vest's Research Prize was this year awarded to the Gynaecologic Research Group led by CCBIO PI Helga B. Salvesen. The research group has done groundbreaking research on cervical cancer. The Innovation Award went to James Lorens at BerGenBio and UiB, also CCBIO PI, for developing and improving treatment against breast cancer.

The prizes were awarded at Helse Vest's research conference which took place in Stavanger at Sola Strand Hotel on Thursday 29 and Friday 30 October 2015.

[Read more here](#) about the awards, the reasoning and the winners.

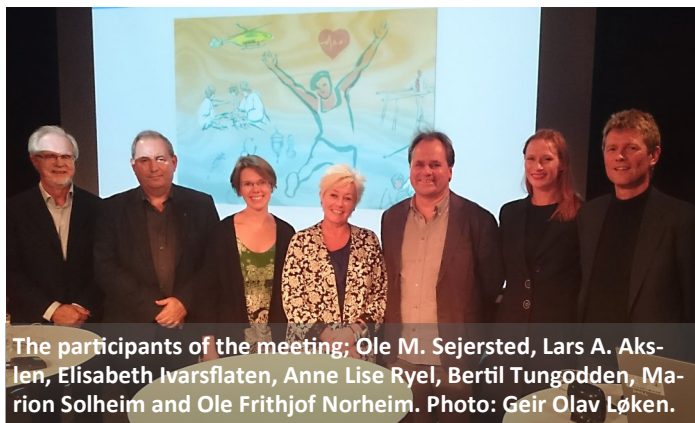
From the left:
Herlof Nilssen, Managing Director at Helse Vest, James Lorens, Helga Salvesen and Baard-Christian Schem, Senior Advisor at Helse Vest.

Photo: Kjetil Alsvik, Helse Vest



Health priorities of the future

Perhaps we should issue a time frame on the public health bureaucracy, says CCBIO Director Lars A. Akslen in a health priorities debate, when considering the time it takes new drugs to be accepted to Norway.



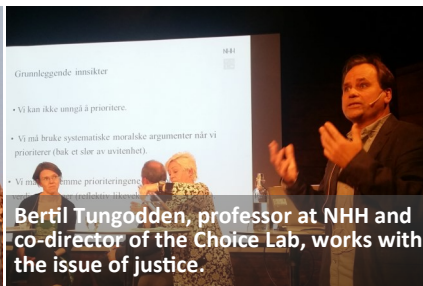
The participants of the meeting; Ole M. Sejersted, Lars A. Akslen, Elisabeth Ivarsflaten, Anne Lise Ryel, Bertil Tungodden, Marion Solheim and Ole Frithjof Norheim. Photo: Geir Olav Løken.

Experts met October 26th in Bergen (Litteraturhuset) to debate what the future holds for Norwegian patients when meeting the national health care system. The public meeting, held by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (Det norske videnskapsakademi) and organized by Centre for Cancer Biomarkers (CCBIO), included short presentations and discussion by five expert panelists, among them CCBIO Director Lars A. Akslen. In addition Ole Frithjof Norheim, Elisabeth Ivarsflaten, Anne Lise Ryel and Bertil Tungodden joined the panel. CCBIO's Communications Adviser Marion Solheim chaired the meeting.

The topic for discussion was "Health Priorities of the Future". The national healthcare budget is limited and we are facing decisions that concern life and death. Who should be prioritized and who must settle for the next best medicine?



A very dedicated Secretary General of the Norwegian Cancer Society, Anne Lise Ryel.



Bertil Tungodden, professor at NHH and co-director of the Choice Lab, works with the issue of justice.

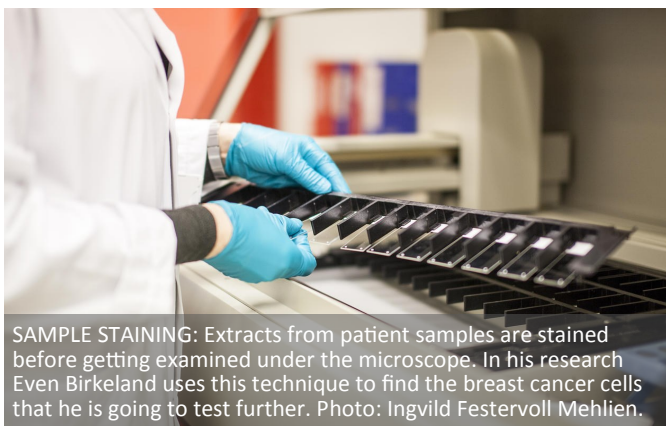


Ole Frithjof Norheim as leader of the Prioritization Report Committee got to be recipient of many of the questions from the audience.

[Read much more here](#) about the entries in the debate.

Proteins could hold key to a cure for cancer

How does cancer spread? Cancer researcher and CCBIO Postdoc Even Birkeland examines thousands of proteins to figure this out, in order to develop a better method for treatment.



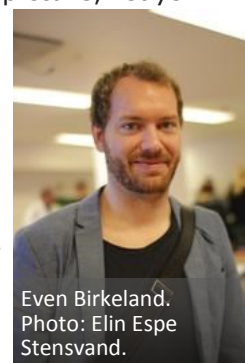
SAMPLE STAINING: Extracts from patient samples are stained before getting examined under the microscope. In his research Even Birkeland uses this technique to find the breast cancer cells that he is going to test further. Photo: Ingvild Festervoll Mehlien.

In the last twenty years genetic cancer research has received wide attention, but the big breakthrough is yet to come.

"Genetic research is extremely important, because it is obvious that cancer basically is a disease in our genes. In our research, we nevertheless see more and more that we have to rely on the product of our genes, which are proteins, to understand the whole picture," says postdoctoral fellow Even Birkeland at the CCBIO. His research field is called proteomics; studies of all the proteins in an organism or system, such as organs and tissue.

Birkeland grows breast cancer cells in culture flasks, to see which proteins the cells secrete. The hope is to find proteins that may help explain why there is an increased formation of blood vessels in this cancer type, and finding new treatments based on this.

[Read more here](#) in an interesting interview of Even Birkeland.



Even Birkeland.
Photo: Elin Espe Stensvand.

The CCBIO Seminar list for spring term 2016

The speaker list for the spring term CCBIO Seminars is now almost complete:

28.01.2016, [Jean-Christophe Bourdon](#), Division of Cancer Research, Jacqui Wood Cancer Centre, University of Dundee, United Kingdom.

Host: Bjørn Tore Gjertsen

25.02.2016, [Olivier De Wever](#), Laboratory of Experimental Cancer Research, Ghent University, Belgium.

Host: Donald Gullberg

17.03.2016, [Lutz P. Müller](#), Clinic for Internal Medicine IV, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle (Saale), Germany.

Host: Donald Gullberg

28.04.2016, [Kristen Wennerberg](#), Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland, University of Helsinki, Finland.

Host: Bjørn Tore Gjertsen

26.05.2016, speaker: Yet to be announced.

Host: Roger Strand

16.06.2016, [Gwendalyn J. Randolph](#), Division of Immunology, School of Medicine, Washington University in St. Louis, USA.

Host: Rolf K. Reed



Titles and abstracts will be published at the CCBIO web calendar closer to the seminar dates.

2016's main event

The program of the CCBIO Annual Symposium is currently being stitched together, and we promise a content that is as interesting as this year, if not more!

The first international speakers are now confirmed:

[Marsha A. Moses](#), from Harvard Medical School and the Vascular Biology Program at Boston Children's Hospital, USA.

[Ritva Heljasvaara](#), Medical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Collagen Research Unit at the University of Oulu, Finland.

[Thorsten Schlomm](#) of the prostate cancer clinic Martini-Klinik, the University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE), Germany.

[Brunangelo Falini](#), Institute of Hematology, University of Perugia, Italy.

[Meenhard Herlyn](#), The Wistar Institute Melanoma Research Center, Philadelphia, USA.

Make sure to save the days in your calendar: **May 10-11 2016**



Snapshots from the 2015 Symposium. Photo: Ingvild F. Melien.

Other recommended events

Cancer Crosslinks meeting in Oslo

The transversal impact of new treatments in Oncology and Hematology: tumor micro-environment, novel concepts, combinations and study design.

January 14, 2016 at Oslo Cancer Cluster Innovation Park.

Some program highlights:

Professor Gordon Freeman, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School

Professor Renier Brentjens, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Stefani Spranger from Professor Tom Gajewski's lab, University of Chicago

[Read more here.](#)



Recent publications

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

The last 3 are:

[Intra-Genome DNA Methylation Variability Is a Clinically Independent Prognostic Marker in Women's Cancers.](#)

Bartlett TE, Jones A, Goode EL, Fridley BL, Cunningham JM, Berns EM, Wik E, **Salvesen HB**, Davidson B, Trope CG, Lambrechts S, Vergote I, Widschwendter M.
PLoS One. 2015 Dec.

[Meta-analysis of genome-wide association studies identifies common susceptibility polymorphisms for colorectal and endometrial cancer near SH2B3 and TSHZ1.](#)

Cheng TH et al, incl. **Salvesen HB**.
Sci Rep. 2015 Dec.

[A new live-cell reporter strategy to simultaneously monitor mitochondrial biogenesis and morphology.](#)

Hodneland Nilsson LI, Nitschke Pettersen IK, Nikolaisen J, Micklem D, Avsnes Dale H, Vatne Røslund G, **Lorens J**, Tronstad KJ.
Sci Rep. 2015 Nov.



Recent CCBIO in the media

Date, media, title, person interviewed.

- 01.12.15, Tidsskrift for Den norske legeforening, "[Jeg kunne blitt astronom](#)", portrait of Ying Chen, CCBIO PhD candidate and also leader of the Norwegian Pathology Association and Head of Department at the Department of Pathology, Akershus University Hospital.
- 26.11.15, ScienceNordic, "[Your walk and odour betray you](#)", on a research project about ethical, social and legal issues related to new technologies, co-author Roger Strand.
- 28.10.15, Helse Bergen web, "[Prisar til kreftforskning og innovasjon](#)", about Helse Vest's Research Prize to Helga Salvesen and the Innovation Award to James Lorens, both CCBIO PIs.
- 27.10.15, UiB News, "[35 nye millioner til kreftforskning](#)", about UiB researchers who were allocated funding from the Norwegian Cancer Society. Among them, on [the list](#), CCBIO PIs Lars A. Akslen, Helga Salvesen and Bjørn Tore Gjertsen.
- 26.10.15, BT, "[Vil ha kjøpemedisin på sykehusene](#)", BT's article from the Health Priorities Debate organized by CCBIO and The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (Det norske videnskaps-akademi).

