



CCBIO Newsletter

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[James Lorens](#)

[Rolf Reed](#)

[Helga B. Salvesen](#)

[Oddbjørn Straume](#)

Coming CCBIO events:

- 17. September, [CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium](#)
- 22-24 September, [CCBIO905 course Methods in Cancer Biomarker Research](#)
- 24. September, [CCBIO Seminar, Bruce Baguley](#)
- 15. October, R&D Network in Bergen: [Cancer Biomarkers and Targeted Therapy](#)
- 22. October, [CCBIO Seminar, Eric Sahai](#)
- 22.-23. October, international conference in Bergen: "The tumor stroma- friend or foe?"

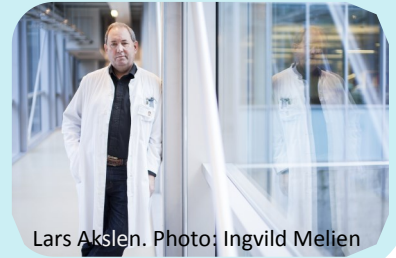
Director's comments

There will be several important activities this fall: two CCBIO courses will be arranged for the first time, and all of you should participate: CCBIO905 Methods in Cancer Biomarker Research, and CCBIO904 Biomarkers and Tumor Biology in Clinical Practice (see announcements and programs).

There will be several interesting monthly seminars, and the first CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium after the summer will be arranged on September 17, 2015, chaired by postdocs Elisabeth Wik and Agnete Engelsen.

The international meeting "The Tumor Stroma - Friend or Foe", chaired by Donald Gullberg (October 22-23, 2015), is getting closer. Please take a look at the program and register for the meeting.

Best regards, Lars A. Akslen, Director



Lars Akslen. Photo: Ingvild Melien

Smoking can activate a wide range of cancer types

CCBIO's Professor Helga Salvesen has been co-author of a study recently published in the renowned journal JAMA Oncology. The results of the study may indicate that cigarette smoke helps to activate an entire universal "cancer program" which are also present in cancer that are not usually associated with smoking, including breast and gynecological cancers.

The purpose of the research was to assess the suitability of buccal cells as an epithelial source of tissue to examine the effects of smoking on the epigenome, and to test whether these effects are also seen in smoke-related epithelial cancers.

The study points toward buccal cells as being a more appropriate source of tissue than blood to conduct epigenome-wide association studies (EWASs) for smoking-related epithelial cancers.

[Read more here.](#)



Mouth swabbing. Colourbox.com

Five new susceptibility loci for cutaneous malignant melanoma discovered

Researchers have found five new genetic regions that make people more susceptible to malignant melanomas. CCBIO's Lars Akslen is one of the Norwegian researchers who have been contributing to this international study.



Illustration: Colourbox.com

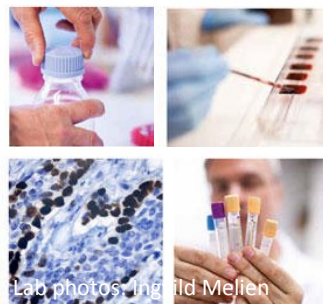
The study was recently published in the highly renowned journal *Nature Genetics*, and is so far the largest study of genes relating to malignant melanomas. Data

were collected from 11 studies and the genes of nearly 16,000 people with malignant melanomas in Europe, USA and Australia were analyzed. Patients were compared with more than 26,000 people without cancer.

[Read more here.](#)

The new PhD course CCBIO905 starts up in September: Methods in Cancer Biomarker Research

The course covers theoretical and practical aspects of molecular cancer biomarkers and how these can be studied in patient samples and material from various types of experimental models.



Lab photos: Ingrid Mellen

The course will focus on methods to study tissue samples, blood samples, urine samples and other biologic materials, immunohistochemistry, in situ hybridization, PCR-techniques and sequencing, Western blot and ELISA, microarray methods, proteomics, circulating tumor cells and ctDNA, flow cytometry, bioinformatics and biobanks. Changes in nucleic acids and proteins in different settings will be covered.

Date: **22.-24. September.** Register before **14. September.** [Read more here.](#)

International Conference, "The tumor stroma - friend or foe?"

The Marie Curie ITN Network **CAFFEIN** arranges its first international conference in Bergen October 22nd-23rd 2015. Chair is Donald Gullberg.



Cancer cell. Colourbox.com

The speaker list includes:

Keynote speaker **Raghu Kalluri**, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston "The tumor stroma-friend or foe?"

Erik Sahai, London Research Institute, UK "The role of CAFs in therapy failure"

Arne Östman, Karolinska Institute and CCBIO, Stockholm and Bergen "Probing clinical tumor microenvironment for discovery of biomarkers and drug targets"

Among the other international and national speakers you can find James Harper, Emanuel Rognoni, Cedric Gaggioli, Jennifer Morton, Lars Akslen, Helga Salvesen, Emmet McCormack, Daniela Costea, Rolf Reed and Bjørn Tore Gjertsen.

Updated program will be posted [at this web page.](#) Register [here](#) within **7 Sept.**

CCBIO look forward to seeing you there!

News from the CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium organizers

Elisabeth Wik informs that her co-organizer of the Junior Scientist Symposia from this term on will be Agnete Engelsen from Jim Lorens' group.



Agnete Engelsen will organize CCBIO901 along with Elisabeth Wik.

The organizers of the Junior Scientist Symposium are furthermore enthusiastic to announce that although the main part of the Symposium program will still consist of PhD students and postdoc presentations, new to this autumn's seminar series is that a Senior Scientist will be invited to give an inspirational lecture to the younger scientists, with a particular emphasis on sharing experience from the many different and undercommunicated aspects that make up a research career.



PI Bjørn Tore Gjertsen will give an inspirational talk at the next CCBIO901.

First up is PI Bjørn Tore Gjertsen who will share a glimpse of his journey from being a hardworking PhD student to a successful group leader. [Read more here.](#)

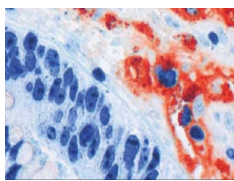
The coming Junior Scientist Symposium is **September 17th.** [Registration](#) before the **15th.**

Also note registration deadline for the Research School courses CCBIO902 and CCBIO904

This is a busy term for the CCBIO Research School. Besides CCBIO901 CCBIO905, we also have the new courses CCBIO902 (the Seminars and Annual Symposium) and CCBIO904 (Biomarkers and Tumor Biology in Clinical Practice).



CCBIO902 is based on the CCBIO seminars and the annual CCBIO symposium at Solstrand Hotel. Register before **September 14th** to solveig.witso@uib.no. [See program here.](#)



CCBIO904 covers tumorbiological aspects important for the understanding of why cancer develops and which mechanisms are important for tumor growth, metastases and morbidity in patients.

Date: Nov. 4-6. Register before **September 14th** to solveig.witso@uib.no. See [preliminary program](#).

The 7th National PhD Conference in Medical Imaging

All PhD Candidates and other researchers from all Norwegian institutions are invited to Scandic Fornebu in Oslo on 16-17 November 2015, for the 7th National PhD Conference in Medical Imaging.



This event is an important meeting place for medical imaging research in Norway.

Note: registration deadline is **11 September**. [Read more here.](#)

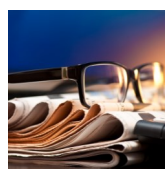
CCBIO dissertations

All dissertations connected to CCBIO during the last three years have now been published at the CCBIO website.



You can find the list [here](#). Please let web editor Eli Vidhammer know if any is missing.

Recent publications



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

Recent CCBIO in the media

Date, media, title, person interviewed.

13.08.15, ScienceNordic, "[New skin cancer genes located](#)", Lars Akslen.

11.08.15, Aftenposten, "[Kronikk: Bør hver kreftpasient bli et eget forskningsprosjekt?](#)", Bjørn Tore Gjertsen.

11.08.15, VG, "[Ny studie: Oppdaget nye gener for føflekkreft](#)", Lars Akslen.

05.08.15, Forskning.no, "[Oppdaget nye gener for føflekkreft](#)", Lars Akslen.

05.08.15, ABC Nyheter, "[Forskere har funnet flere gener som øker risikoen for føflekkreft](#)", Lars Akslen.

05.08.15, VG, "[Urinprøver kan avsløre bukspyttkjertelkreft](#)", Lars Akslen.

04.08.15, Dagens Medisin, "[Røyking kan bidra til å aktivere universelt 'kreftprogram'](#)", Helga Salvesen.

CCBIO Mini-biographies

Part 5 (and last) of the presentation of CCBIO's junior researchers (PhDs and PDs). The aim is to increase knowledge about CCBIOs junior staff and their research focus, the latter also reflecting the research of CCBIOs various groups.

Pelissier, Fanny: Born 1988 in France, has a



M.S in biotechnology from EPFL, Lausanne. She is currently a PhD candidate in the Lorens group. Her research is focused on the regulation of HMEC progenitors by the microenvironment and its alteration by age, the main research question being why women get more breast cancer with age.

Qu, Yi: Born 1981 in China, has a M.S. in medi-



cine from Peking Union Medical College. In 2013 she gained a PhD from UoB, focused on the generation of a stepwise prostate carcinogenesis model, a study of epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition and malignant transformation of prostate primary epithelial cells. Currently she is a post-doc in the Kalland group. Her research focus is on Wnt-related cancer drug screening and development.

Reigstad, Inga: Born 1984, M.D. from



UoB and is currently a PhD candidate in the Reed group. Her PhD project is on the extracellular matrix (ECM) in experimental tumors where she is investigating the effects of α V β 3 and α 11 β 1 integrins on the development of ECM.

Sapkota, Dipak: Born in 1979, has a back-



ground within dental surgery and a PhD from the UiB. He is currently a post-doc in the Johannessen group. His research project focuses to investigate the expression profile, functional roles and prognostic relevance of the S100 protein members, in particular S100A14 and S100A16 in oral cancer, as well as role of miRNA in oral cancer progression.

Schuster, Cornelia: Born 1979 in Germany,



holds an M.D. and a German Medical Doctor degree, both from Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany. Since 2011, she has been a PhD candidate in the Straume and Akslen groups. Her research is focused on finding predictive biomarkers for treatment of metastatic melanoma.

Shafiee, Sahba: Born 1988 in Iran, holds a



M.S. in Biomedical Cell Biology from UoB, currently a PhD student in Gjertsen's group, in collaboration with prof. Emmet McCormack. She is working on translational development of preclinical models and therapies in Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS).

Skogstrand, Trude: Born 1977, holds a M.S.



in Environmental Physiology and in 2013 gained a PhD in physiology with a focus on renal hypertensive fibrosis in rats. As a post-doc in the Reed group, she is now focusing on the properties of extracellular matrix in experimental tumors where she is investigating the effect of α V β 3-integrin.

Sulen, André: Born 1982, M.S. in biology



from UoB with a focus on virus-host interactions using flow cytometric and proteomic techniques. He is currently a PhD candidate in Gjertsen Translational Hemato-Oncology Group, aiming to evaluate signaling related patterns in leukocytes as biomarkers for environmental stress exerted on the healthy population.

Tangen, Ingvild Løberg: Born 1980, has a



M.S. in Pharmacy from the University of Oslo. She is now a PhD candidate in the Salvesen group. Her research focus is the investigation of expression levels of hormone receptors and hormone related co-factors in primary and metastatic endometrial carcinoma, and to investigate transcriptional alterations related to expression status.

Trovik, Jone: Born 1961, is a M.D. and a PhD



in 2012 from UoB on biomarkers in endometrial cancer. She is now a post-doc in the Salvesen group studying individualized therapy based on molecular alterations by incorporating preoperative biomarkers to tailor the treatment of endometrial cancer.