



CCBIO Newsletter

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

Coming CCBIO events:

- 26. October, Det Norske Vitenskap-Akademi Meeting, Helseprioriteringer i fremtiden.
- 4.-6. November, CCBIO904: [Biomarkers and Tumor Biology in Clinical Practice](#)
- 26. November, [next Junior Scientist Symposium](#)
- 26. November, [CCBIO Seminar, Patrick Schöffski](#)
- 14. December, [CCBIO Seminar, Jarle Breivik](#)

Director's comments

Congratulations to CCBIO's Donald Gullberg for chairing the successful CAFFEIN EU Network Meeting in Bergen (October 22-23). Keynote speaker professor Raghu Kalluri held an impressive frontline presentation focusing on the different and opposite roles of cancer associated fibroblasts, followed by CCBIO's professor Arne Østman. This week's CCBIO Seminar was an integrated part of the meeting, and Dr. Eric Sahai from «The Crick» presented his recent findings in a very stimulating way. The program was excellent, with poster presentations included.

Good news: CCBIO has received funding from the INTPART program (The Research Council of Norway). This will increase the contact between CCBIO and strong research groups at Harvard.

Reminders: On Monday October 26, The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters is hosting a meeting in Bergen (Litteraturhuset) on future health priorities. The meeting will be chaired by Marion Solheim. CCBIO904 on November 4-6 is highly recommended. The next CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium will be held November 26th.

To those participating at Forskningsdagene 2015. You all did a great job! Please also take a look at «The House of CCBIO» at the end of this CCBIO Newsletter. Thanks to all of you.

Best regards, Lars A. Akslen, Director



INTPART-support for CCBIO-Harvard project

CCBIO applied for 4,5 million NOK over 3 years and has now been granted INTPART-funding from the Norwegian Research Council (RCN) and the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU).



SIU and RCN received 47 eligible applications. The CCBIO-Harvard project is one of 19 which will be supported.

The project "*Bergen-Harvard Cancer Studies: A Partnership for Excellent Education and Research*", aims through a cooperation between CCBIO and two world class departments from the Harvard Medical

School and Harvard Kennedy School, to establish a long term partnership where excellent education is to be fully embedded in excellent research.

Existing and new courses from CCBIO Research School will be developed to include lecturers from Harvard. All courses will be launched also on the Master level, ensuring full integration of students from the Medical Student Research Program and other Master level students.

[Read more here.](#)

The cancer cell Greedy Frieda thrilled young researchers to-be

Excited children and adults crowded the Research Fair when researchers at the Center for Cancer Biomarkers (CCBIO) performed a play about the cancer cell Greedy Frieda.



CCBIO junior researchers ready to receive the crowd at the Research Fair! From left; Sebastian Bougnaud, Deuseddit Tusubira, Kristi Krüger, Even Birkeland, Gro Røslund (sitting), Agnete Engelsen, Ina N. Pettersen, Henriette C. Ertsås (sitting), Sissel Dyrstad, Maria Lie, Gry Haaland, Line Pedersen and Moses Musime (sitting).

How can a cancer cell manipulate other cells and the immune system in the body, and how can it be stopped? Excited children got to take part in the fight against cancer in an interactive play about the cancer cell Greedy Frieda. They got to be workers at the cancer cell's construction site, the body's own police cells, and young researchers in the laboratory.

"We wanted to create something that would both be exciting and educational for the children", says Post Doc [Agnete Engelsen](#) at CCBIO.

[Read more here.](#)

Ina Nitschke Pettersen is instructing young police cells in how to fight the cancer cell.



Henriette C. Ertsås kept her audience busy as the cancer cell Greedy Frieda.



Kristi Krüger is showing and explaining pathological tissue samples.



Well attended conference on tumor stroma

CAFFEIN (Cancer Associated Fibroblast function in tumor cell Expansion and Invasion), a Marie Curie network funded by the EU FP7 program, held an international conference at UiB with the theme "The tumor stroma—friend or foe?" October 22-23.

Several CCBIO PIs contributed with talks, see the program [here](#). CCBIO PI Professor Donald Gullberg was coordinator of the conference in Bergen, and is pleased with the turnout. He highlights the keynote address which was given by Prof. Raghu Kalluri, (MD Anderson Cancer Centre, Houston) who discussed the importance of the tumor stroma of pancreatic cancer. [Trials by his laboratory](#) shows that tumor stroma in pancreatic cancer has a protective effect on the spread of cancer, and great care must be taken when developing drugs against the tumor stroma.

Another highlighted talk was held by Erik Sahai, Francis Crick Institute, London who showed the results of [trials with melanoma cells](#) where the tumor stroma contributes to chemo-resistance.

We look forward to the next CAFFEIN event.



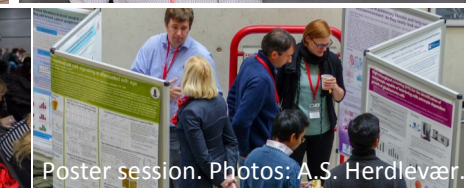
Keynote speaker Raghu Kalluri.



Erik Sahai, whose talk was also part of the CCBIO Seminar series. Photos: Jørgen Barth.



From the audience.



Poster session. Photos: A.S. Herdlevær.

NCMM re-appoints CCBIO PIs Lars A. Akslen and Helga Salvesen as Associate Investigators

Following an open call announced in the spring and with deadline in September, applications for the status as NCMM Associate Investigators affiliated with NCMM and the Nordic EMBL Partnership in Molecular Medicine have now been evaluated by a Selection Committee.

See NCMM [press release here](#).

Packed auditorium at the OCC event in Bergen October 15th

Oslo Cancer Cluster's R&D Network meeting in Bergen in cooperation with CCBIO was a great success. This was a valuable opportunity for the scientific communities for networking and information exchange.

You can see the program [here](#).

Note the next OCC-event in Bergen: Immuno-Oncology Educational Series 2015: "Novel treatment strategies and their clinical implication", November 11th. Find more information [here](#). Moderator of the day is CCBIO PI Oddbjørn Straume.

CCBIO Junior Symposium with inspirational talk from PI

At this semester's first CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium September 17th, there was again large interest in participating at the seminar. More than 40 registered for the whole seminar and even more participated at selected presentations.

New to this seminar was the "inspirational lecture", given this first time by Professor Bjørn Tore Gjertsen. To the audience's amusement, Professor Gjertsen shared glimpses from his journey spanning in time from being a pre-student and an eager trumpet player, through the time of his considerations of choosing studies and research focus, to his views on what it takes to go all-in for research and running a research group successfully, as he has accomplished.

[Read more here.](#)

Date for the next CCBIO Junior Symposium:
November 26th 2015

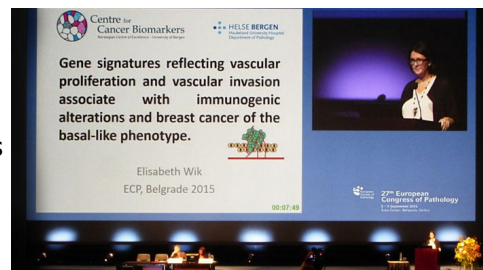


PI Bjørn Tore Gjertsen amused the audience by reminiscing back to "the glory days" as a student.

CCBIO-researcher excelled in oral presentation at the ESP-Congress in Belgrade

CCBIO Post Doc Elisabeth Wik was awarded with 2nd best oral presentation at the European Congress of Pathology which took place in Belgrade, Serbia, September 5-9.

More than 2,300 pathologists participated in the congress, and 81 countries were represented. Theme for the congress was *Pathology, breaking barriers in medicine*, presenting novel techniques, tools and knowledge, and updates in diagnostic pathology.



[Elisabeth Wik](#) participated with an oral presentation after being singled out from more than 500 submitted abstracts. She presented her breast cancer project «Gene signatures reflecting vascular proliferation and vascular invasion associate with immunogenic alterations and breast cancer of the basal-like phenotype».

[Read more here.](#)

Research School course 4-6 November: CCBIO904 - Biomarkers and Tumor Biology in Clinical Practice

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

The course will especially focus on biological alterations that are of importance for personalized therapies as well as clinical cancer research. Our goal is to illustrate how basic cancer research and knowledge about tumor biology have substantial impact on patients outcomes and lives.



Date: 4-6 November.

Register by e-mail to solveig.witso@uib.no.

[Read more here.](#)

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?



Experts meet October 26th at 18:15-20:00 in Bergen to debate what the future holds for the Norwegian patient when meeting the national health care system.

The meeting is organized by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (Det norske videnskaps-akademi). CCBIO contributes with talk by Professor Lars Akslen and Communications Adviser Marion Solheim as Chair.

Recommendations of the report [NOU 2014: 12 Åpent og rettferdig – prioriteringer i norsk helse-tjeneste](#) will be discussed.

The meeting will be in Norwegian.

Venue is [Litteraturhuset Bergen](#).

The meeting is open to all and entrance is free.

See the [program here](#).

CCBIO Seminar 26 November – Patrick Schöffski

Speaker is [Patrick Schöffski](#), the Laboratory of Experimental Oncology, the Department of Oncology, KU Leuven, Belgium.



Time: 14:30

Place: Auditorium 4, BBB.

Host: Bjørn Tore Gjertsen

Also, save the date:

The last CCBIO seminar of the autumn semester is December 17th at 14.30.



Speaker: [Jarle Breivik](#), Dept. of Behavioural Sciences in Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo.

Host: Lars Akslen

Other recommended events

Pre-approval access to drugs

The NYU School of Medicine sends a live stream of their two-day colloquium 28 and 29 October: "Pre-Approval Access: Can Compassion, Business, and Medicine Coexist?"

If you are interested in questions around private-public partnerships, you might want to follow parts of the event online.



International stakeholders will come together to explore the ethical, legal, and social challenges surrounding compassionate use.

You can register for both days, or one of the days. [Read more here.](#)

The next Oslo Cancer Cluster event in Bergen

Immuno-Oncology Educational Seminar November 11th: Novel treatment strategies and their clinical implication.

Time: November 11th, 2015, at 15.00 – 18.00. Venue: Bergen, Haukeland University Hospital, Auditorium B301.



Find program and registration link [here](#).

Cancer Crosslinks meeting in Oslo

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

January 14, 2016 at Oslo Cancer Cluster Innovation Park.

[Read more here.](#)



CCBIO dissertations

New dissertation: Lene Elisabeth Myhren defended 16 October 2015 her thesis "Cell death induction by free and encapsulated cancer drug candidates".

Supervisors: Stein Ove Døskeland, Lars Herfindal and Bjørn Tore Gjertsen from CCBIO. See [press release](#).

You can find a list of all dissertations connected to CCBIO during the last three years [here](#).



Recent publications



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

The last 3 are:

[Tumor necrosis is an important hallmark of aggressive endometrial cancer and associates with hypoxia, angiogenesis and inflammation responses](#). Bredholt G, Mannelqvist M, Stefansson IM, Birkeland E, Hellem Bø T, Øyan AM, Trovik J, **Kal-land KH**, Jonassen I, **Salvesen HB**, Wik E, **Akslen LA**. Oncotarget. 2015 Oct.

[Mammographic density and histopathologic characteristics of screen-detected tumors in the Norwegian Breast Cancer Screening Program](#). Moshina N, Ursin G, Hoff SR, **Akslen LA**, Roman M, Sebuødegård S, Hofvind S. Acta Radiol Open. 2015 Sep.

[A rapid in vivo screen for pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma therapeutics](#). Ocal O, Pashkov V, Kolipara RK, Zolghadri Y, Cruz VH, Hale MA, Heath BR, Artyukhin AB, Christie AL, Tsoulfas P, **Lorens JB**, Swift GH, Brekken RA, Wilkie TM. Dis Model Mech. 2015 Oct.

Recent CCBIO in the media

Date, media, title, person interviewed.

22.10.15, Dagens Medisin, Cancer issue:

- "Planlegger økt samarbeid innen akutt leukemi", Bjørn Tore Gjertsen.
- "Skaper grunnlag for å søke EU-midler", Lars A. Akslen.
- "Knytter elastose til bedre prognose", Lars A. Akslen.

19.10.15, VG, "[Verdens nye krefthåp](#)", Oddbjørn Straume.

19.10.15, På Høyden, "[Vil senda 28 SFF-søknader](#)", fronting CCBIO as example of the kind of Centre of Excellence the UiB wants more of.

01.10.15, UiB News, "[Internasjonale kreftspesialister underviser ferske forskere](#)" and in English: "[Educating a new generation of cancer researchers](#)", Lars A. Akslen.

23.09.15, The Norwegian Cancer Society, "[Forsker på celleprøver for å forebygge gynekologisk kreft](#)", Helga Salvesen.



Presenting – the House of CCBIO

We have in the last newsletters had a presentation of CCBIO's junior researchers (PhDs and PDs). This was very well received, and we move on to presenting more of the CCBIO family, this time; the Administration.

Løken, Geir Olav: Born 1978, holds a Cand.



Polit. degree from the University of Bergen (UiB), also [published](#) as a [book](#) in Germany, as well as subjects from the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH). He is currently CCBIO's administrative leader and as part of the CCBIO management

team, he has the overall responsibility for the administrative aspects of CCBIO's activities across its seven UiB departments and CCBIOs interaction with collaborators nationally and abroad. Geir Olav also works part time as a sailing instructor and has previously been research coordinator at IBMs core facilities, project leader at MOF and advisor at the Faculty of Medicine at NTNU.

Høgås, Mildrid Bønes: Born 1962, holds a



degree in Business Administration from UiO, and education in teaching. She is currently employed as a financial officer at the Department of Clinical Medicine (K1) and is CCBIO's financial coordinator.

Mildrid coordinates and follows up on CCBIO's overall economy across all involved departments and, together with Håvard Hoel Aass, she is also responsible for CCBIO's further project portfolio at K1. Mildrid has been a UiB employee since 1997 as financial officer at department and faculty level. She previously worked as a financial officer at UiO as well as office manager, financial manager and teacher in economics at Upper Secondary Schools.

Aass, Håvard Hoel: Born 1983, holds a



Master degree in Finance, Business Analysis and Performance Management from the NHH. He is currently financial coordinator at the Department of Clinical Medicine (K1) and as part of CCBIO financial team he handles CCBIO's project portfolio at K1 together with Mildrid Bønes

Høgås. Håvard started at UiB in 2012 as financial officer at Gades Institute.

Gotaas, Janne: Born 1967, holds a Cand. Mag.



in Economy and Law from UiB and NHH. She is currently controller at the Department of Biomedicine and within a CCBIO context she is part of the financial team as well as responsible for following up the economy of some of CCBIO's

project portfolio at the Department. Janne has been a UoB employee at the Department of Biomedicine since 2008. She has previously long experience from NAV as a controller and within calculations of pensions, and from Bergen municipality where she was leader of a unit within the field of health and social services.

Hove, Elisabeth: Born 1956, holds a degree in



business administration from NHH. She is currently a higher executive officer at the Department of Biomedicine and within a CCBIO context she is part of the financial team and responsible for following up the economy of CCBIO's project portfolio at Department of Biomedicine.

She has been employed at UiB since 2002 and has previously worked as a financial coordinator in a small entrepreneur company in Bergen and as a financial officer for Kongsberg Våpenfabrikk.

Dyrkolbotn, Kjetil: Born 1978, has a Master



of Commerce/Business Studies from UiA from 2003. He has been financial officer at the Department of Clinical Science (K2) since 2011 and within a CCBIO context he is part of financial team and handles the financial coordination of CCBIO's project portfolio at K2.

Kjetil has previously experience as bank corporate adviser and in auditing.

Witsø, Solveig Lund: Born 1980, did her



PhD at UiB in 2014 on cell- and molecular biology. She is currently a PhD coordinator at the Department of Clinical Medicine (K1) and is the administrative coordinator for the CCBIO Research School for Cancer Studies. Previously she has been working with PhD admission at the faculty level.

Solheim, Marion: Born 1978, holds a double



Bachelor in Journalism and Communication and International studies from Iowa State University, USA. She is currently a media advisor at MOF and is CCBIO's communications advisor, being responsible for targeted outreach and dissemination, which includes media coaching, finding and

elaborating news stories, dealing with journalists and other outwardly directed communication- and media related issues. Previously, Marion was a news and investigative tv- and radio journalist in NRK for more than a decade, working mostly with health care systems and crime journalism.

Vidhammer, Eli Synnøve: Born 1971, holds



a Bachelor in languages and literature science from UiB. She is currently CCBIO's web page- and newsletter editor, and also assists in other information related tasks (posters, news stories). Her expertise is particularly in design, photo and text editing. She also works

part time as an artist (painting). Eli has been a UiB employee since 2006, first in the Lab Animal Facility's administration, then at the Department of Clinical Medicine (K1), establishing the web pages and the K1-nytt newsletter. She has previously long experience from Fjord Line's marketing department as Product Manager.