



CCBIO Newsletter

Editor: Eli Vidhammer eli.vidhammer@uib.no

Newsletter No. 3, Vol. 3 — 01.07.2016

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

CCBIO has now been active for exactly three years, many activities have been established, and many achievements have been made. The primary goal is of course to produce excellent science, but reflecting on the many pathways to excellence is an integral part of this. The CCBIO Research School for Cancer Studies is an important platform for continuous education and science culture formation, and we need to educate each other and motivate each other all the time. Communication and outreach is equally important; how can we best communicate our activities and research to the public – why is it important and why should we do it? Collaboration networks also play an extremely important part. CCBIO has established a network of affiliated international researchers to stimulate international interaction.

Please note some upcoming meetings:

- ♦ The Helga Salvesen Memorial Symposium on “Biomarkers in female cancer” will be held on September 14, 2016. Please save the date for the meeting.
- ♦ CCBIO affiliated professor Hani Gabra will host a meeting in London on July 14-15, 2016 ("Engineering Solutions for Cancer"). A meeting on p53 will be held at Solstrand on June 18-21, 2017.
- ♦ Please also note the dates for the CCBIO seminars; Kari Stefansson from deCODE Genetics on Iceland will be here on October 27.

Congratulations to CCBIO PIs Karl-Henning Kalland and Bjørn Tore Gjertsen for receiving 10 mill NOK from the Research Council of Norway (FORNY2020).

Have a great summer all of you!

Best regards, Lars A. Akslen, Director

CONTACT INFORMATION



www.ccbio.no

Centre Director:

Prof. Dr. Med Lars A. Akslen
+ 47 55 97 31 82 lars.akslen@uib.no

Administrative Leader:

Geir Olav Løken
+ 47 55 58 54 36 geir.loken@uib.no

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

Photos from the CCBIO opening in 2013. Photo: Jørgen Barth/UiB



Arvid Hallén, DG of the Research Council of Norway, presents the status as a Centre of Excellence to Lars A. Akslen.



Eivind Hansen (HUU), Jannike Ludt (Norw. Cancer Society), Nils E. Gilhus (UiB), Nina Langeland (UiB), Lars A. Akslen (CCBIO), Berit Rokne (UiB) and Arvid Hallén (NRC).



**Norwegian
Centre of
Excellence**

Established by the Research Council of Norway

FORNY2020 FUNDING TO THE CRYOIT PROJECT



The BTO project CryoIT has received 10 million NOK from the Research Council of Norway's FORNY2020 program.

The project develops a new form of immunotherapy against prostate cancer, called cryoimmunotherapy, which can also be adapted to treat different types of cancer.

The Prostate Cancer Therapy Research Group at the Department of Clinical Science, University of Bergen (UoB) and Haukeland University Hospital has initiated and organized the cryoimmunotherapy trial (CryoIT). [Professor Karl-Henning Kalland](#), [Senior Researcher Anne Margrete Øyan](#) and [Professor Bjørn Tore Gjertsen](#) are the researchers behind the study. Both Karl-Henning Kalland og Bjørn Tore Gjertsen are CCBIO Principal Investigators.

The team is well underway with the Phase I Clinical Trial of CryoIT against metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer with [Dr. Christian Beisland](#), Chief at the Department of Urology, as its Principal Investigator.

[Read more here.](#)

'MARKER' PAPER FROM THE ELSA TEAM



Anne Blanchard's review paper 'mapping ethical and social aspects of cancer biomarkers', drawing on interviews of the CCBIO team, has just been accepted for publication in *New Biotechnology*.

The reviews have put forward the uniqueness of the paper as it starts from perspectives within the lab, which are underrepresented in the ELSA literature, before linking these perspectives from CCBIO researchers to broader social issues surrounding biomarkers in cancer research. Some of the social issues discussed in the paper include questions of social and global justice (are we spending too much on cancer? Will new personalised cancer drugs exacerbate social injustice and problems of global access?) and considerations on the cultural meaning of cancer (is modern medicine creating hyper-somatic individuals? How can we deal with the mismatch between the very high expectations of patients for cancer cures and what oncology science can actually provide?).

In this way, rather than presenting a tightly argued perspective on a specific issue, the paper gives an overview of the complex terrain of social and ethical issues around cancer biomarkers.

The article [is available here](#), and is in open access.

COMING CCBIO EVENTS

14-15.07.16: [Precision Medicines Cancer Conference "Engineering Solutions for Cancer"](#), in London.

25.08.16: [CCBIO Seminar](#)

25.08.16: [CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium](#)

14.09.16: [Helga Salvesen Memorial Symposium](#).

29.09.16: [CCBIO Seminar](#)

12-14.10.16: [S.Net Conference](#), Bergen. Incl. Topic "Cancer: Emerging technologies, bodies and politics". One of the conference topics is "Cancer: Emerging technologies, bodies and politics". Find [more information here](#).

11.10.16 there will be a pre-conference before the S.Net at the BB building, with the tentative title "Cancer & Ethics". A detailed programme will be announced.

CCBIO researchers who would like to present at this event, are welcome to contact [Roger Strand](#).

27.10.16: [CCBIO Seminar](#)

10.11.16: [CCBIO Seminar](#) (CCBIO/OCC Network Meeting)

10.11.16: [CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium](#)



ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS FOR CANCER



CCBIO adjunct professor invites to cancer conference at the Royal Geographic Society in London July 14th and 15th 2016.

CCBIO's Adjunct Professor Hani Gabra of the London Imperial College invites the CCBIO community to the Precision Medicines Cancer Conference "Engineering Solutions for Cancer" July 14th and 15th, in London.

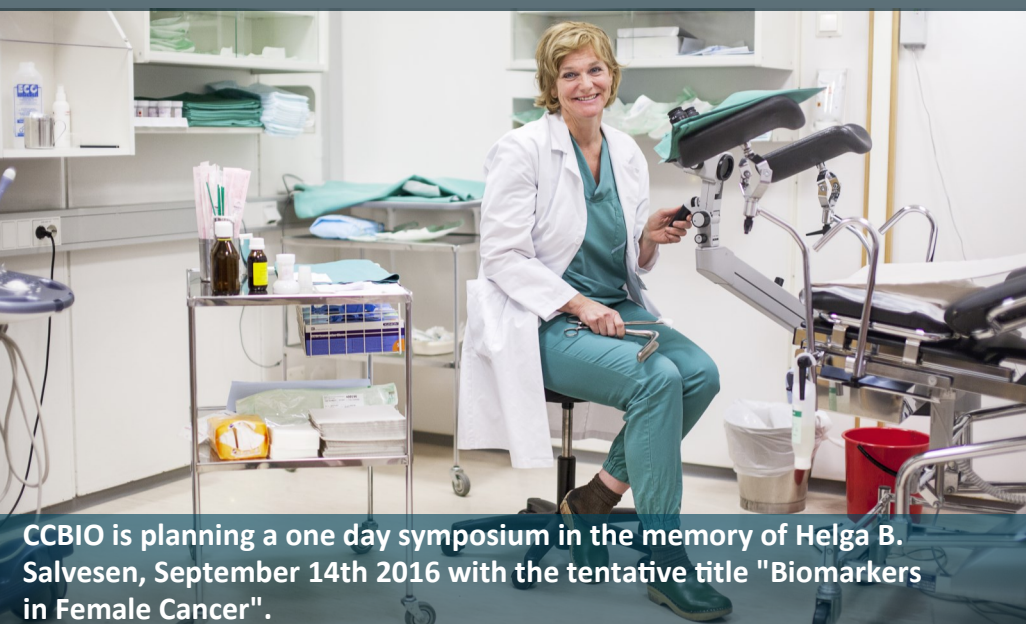
This event, hosted by Imperial College London will bring together world leaders in biomedical engineering and clinical oncology into four themes:

- Early Diagnosis & Early Detection of Relapse
- Local Therapy: Surgery & Radiotherapy
- Systems Oncology Pharmacodynamics
- Model Systems & BioMechanics

Read [more about the event here](#).



HELGA SALVESEN MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM



CCBIO is planning a one day symposium in the memory of Helga B. Salvesen, September 14th 2016 with the tentative title "Biomarkers in Female Cancer".

Time: 14th September 2016 at 10.00-17.00

Place: Store Auditorium (the large auditorium), Sentralblokken (hospital main building), Haukeland University Hospital.

We encourage you all to save the date. More information on the program and registration will follow [on this web page](#).

Please feel free to circulate this invitation.

OTHER RECOMMENDED COMING EVENTS

17.08.16: Arendalsuka, [Fremtidens kreftbehandling](#)—hvordan sikre norske kreftpasienter den beste behandlingen i fremtiden. Oslo Cancer Cluster.

30-31.08.16: First Scandinavian Seminar on Translational Pathology. Hotel Panorama outside of Bergen.

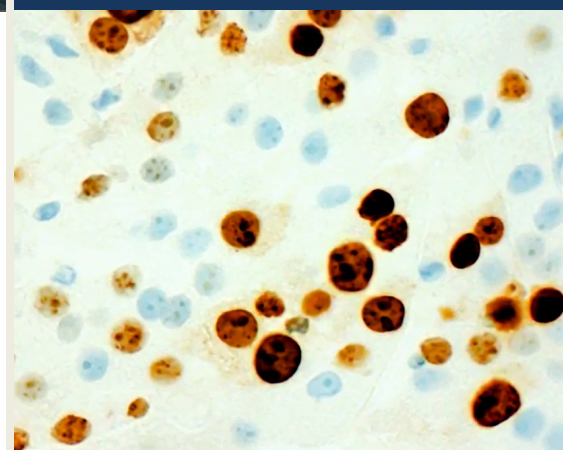
14.-15.09.16: [Nordic Life Science Days](#), Stockholm.

19.09.16: [Munn og halskreftdagen](#). Oslo. Tannlegene spiller en viktig rolle, både med tanke på tidlig diagnostisering, tett oppfølging og for å ivareta pasientenes rettigheter. Dette gjenspeiles også i programmet, hvor to av syv foredragsholdere er tannleger:

"Tidlig diagnostisering av munnhulekreft" ved **Professor Daniela Elena Costea**, DDS. PhD, Haukeland Universitetssykehus

"Tannlegens rolle" ved Tannlege og stipendiat Cecilie Gjerde, Institutt for klinisk odontologi, Universitetet i Bergen

Fagdagen arrangeres i forbindelse med «[The European Head & Neck Cancer Awareness Week](#)».



CCBIO ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM 2017



Save the date for the CCBIO Annual Symposium 2017: April 19 and 20!

CCBIO will host its 5th annual symposium April 19-20 2017, as before in the beautiful surrounding of Solstrand Hotel outside of Bergen. The symposium facilitates that students and researchers can make new contacts and catch up on the latest cancer research in their field. Don't miss out! Make a note of April 19th and 20th 2017 in your calendar.

There are normally about 200 participants so this is a great opportunity for international networking within the field of cancer research.

[Read about earlier symposia.](#)

P53 ISOFORMS MEETING TO BE HELD IN BERGEN

3rd International

p53 Isoforms Conference

The 3rd International p53 Isoforms Conference will be hosted in Bergen June 18-21 2017.

CCBIO PI and Co-Director Bjørn Tore Gjertsen is part of the organising committee, and Samantha Scarlett of Gjertsen's group is meeting coordinator.

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. [Read more here.](#)

You are invited to participate in this workshop and to submit an abstract for oral or poster presentation. We have also made room for young scientists/clinicians to present at international level.



CCBIO SNAPSHOTS



Photos: Ingvild Melien

CCBIO SEMINARS AUTUMN 2016



Make a note in your calendar of the dates of the CCBIO Seminars in the autumn term.

The dates are:

August 25th, September 29th, October 27th (Kari Stefansson from deCODE genetics), November 10th (CCBIO/OCC Network Meeting) and December 15th.

Other speakers are yet to be announced.

PUBLICATIONS

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

The recurrence pattern following delayed breast reconstruction after mastectomy for breast cancer suggests a systemic effect of surgery on occult dormant micrometastases. Dillekås H, Demicheli R, Ardoino I, Jensen SA, Biganzoli E, **Straume O**. Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2016 Jun.

A Common Variant at the 14q32 Endometrial Cancer Risk Locus Activates AKT1 through YY1 Binding. Painter JN et.al, incl. **Salvesen HB**. Am J Hum Genet. 2016 Jun.

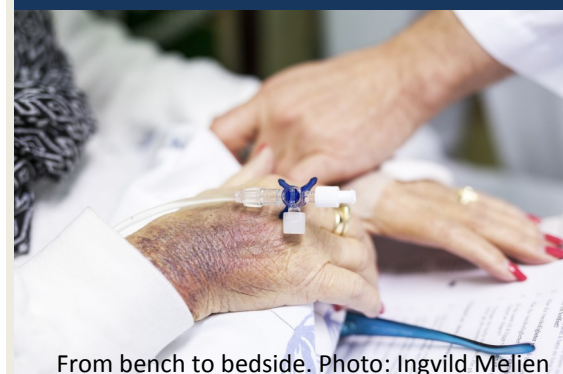
Expression of Heat Shock Protein 27 in Melanoma Metastases Is Associated with Overall Response to Bevacizumab Monotherapy: Analyses of Predictive Markers in a Clinical Phase II Study. Schuster C, **Akslen LA**, **Straume O**. PLoS One. 2016 May.

Recurrent hormone-binding domain truncated ESR1 amplifications in primary endometrial cancers suggest their implication in hormone independent growth. Holst F. et. Al, incl. Trovik J, **Salvesen HB**, Cherniack AD. Sci Rep. 2016 May.

Five endometrial cancer risk loci identified through genome-wide association analysis. Cheng TH et.al., incl. **Salvesen HB**, Trovik J, Werner HM. Nat Genet. 2016 Jun.

RECENT CCBIO IN THE MEDIA

- 30.06.16, Bergens Tidende, "[Større kreftrisiko for overvektige](#)". CCBIO associated researcher Camilla Krakstad and CCBIO PhD candidate Karen Mauland are involved in a research project that investigates how being overweight or obese may increase cancer risk and growth.
- 27.06.16, Broad Institute, "[Thwarting cancer's spread](#)". About the article Gibson WJ, Hoivik, EA, et al., *The genomic evolution of endometrial carcinoma progression and abdominopelvic metastasis and the identification of novel recurrent mutations in Nature Genetics*. Particular mention of Professor Helga Salvesen contribution, including biopsies from women with endometrial cancer.
- 08.06.16, BT, "[Lovende nytt for bergensk kreftmedisin](#)". Bjørn Tore Gjertsen and James Lorens, about the Axl-inhibiting drug BGB324.
- 25.04.16, TV2, "[Sier ja til ny behandling for pasienter med føflekkreft](#)". Oddbjørn Straume interviewed for comments as new treatment is made available for patients with skin cancer.



From bench to bedside. Photo: Ingvild Melien

