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
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 and 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.

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

FORNY2020 FUNDING TO THE CRYOIT PROJECT

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.
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.
CCCCBIO 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.

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.

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