



CCBIO Newsletter

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DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

At the beginning of 2016, the CCBIO family suffered a tragic loss. Professor Helga B. Salvesen, Co-Director of CCBIO, died suddenly and unexpectedly on January 20. Helga was a much loved colleague and mentor to many in the research community, locally and at the national and international levels, and her passing is an incredible loss. She will be greatly missed, by her family and many colleagues and friends. Before the regular CCBIO seminar on 28.1.16, the director presented a eulogy in memory of Helga, see below.

Please read the newsletter and website for other matters and information about ongoing activities. If you have information or topics you want to share, let us know about this (send an email to the editor or to us). The CCBIO Annual Symposium is getting closer, do not forget to register.

Best regards, Lars A. Akslen, Director

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4th CCBIO ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM, MAY 10-11 2016



The symposium will also this year be in beautiful surroundings at Solstrand. Welcome to an exciting combination of talks by invited international speakers and other senior and junior researchers, extended poster sessions where younger researchers can present their work, and ample time for social and professional interaction between participants.

Confirmed international speakers:

[Marsha A. Moses](#), Harvard Medical School/Boston Children's Hospital, USA.

[Ritva Heljasvaara](#), the University of Oulu, Finland.

[Thorsten Schlomm](#), the University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE), DE.

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

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

[Hani Gabra](#), the Imperial College London and the NIHR Clinical Research Network for North West London, UK.

[Rolf Brekken](#), UT Southwestern Medical Center, USA.

Make sure to **register before April 10th**. The symposium is open for all.

Read more at www.ccbiosymposium.no



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IN MEMORY OF HELGA SALVESEN

Helga Birgitte Salvesen was born in 1963. She finished her medical studies at the University of Bergen (UiB) in 1989, and she defended her PhD thesis at the UiB in 2000 on the following subject: *Tumor Biomarkers and Prognostic Factors in Endometrial Carcinoma*.

Helga became a certified specialist in gynecology and obstetrics in 2001, she became a senior consultant at Haukeland University Hospital the same year, and she was appointed a full professor at the UiB in 2003. She has been a visiting professor at the University of Chicago, Harvard University, and the Broad Institute. Since 2013, she has been a co-director of CCBIO. Helga received several awards, and she was an elected member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters since 2015.

During the last years, Helga established a strong and prolific research group at the Department of Clinical Science and Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, with a focus on genetic and protein bio-markers in gynecologic cancers. She has made important contributions in this field and received international recognition. Helga has published more than 150 reports in international journals, and she supervised several PhD candidates and post-docs. She and her team received major grants and were able to continuously expand their activities, including strong international collaboration.

Helga was a very dedicated and excellent scientist with high standards and a remarkable working capacity. At the same time, she was also a warm and caring person. This strong combination was a major hallmark of Helga. We, the CCBIO family and all her colleagues and friends, will miss her. Peace with Helga's memory.

Lars A. Akslen, CCBIO Director.



RECENT CCBIO IN THE MEDIA

04.02.16, Magazine enclosed to Dagbladet at the World Cancer Day, "[Sammen mot kreft](#)", page 8, "Fremtidens kreftbehandling kan bli langt mer målrettet enn i dag", brief interview with Lars A. Akslen.

04.03.16, TV2, "[Britiske forskere mener de har funnet kreftens akilleshæl](#)", Bjørn Tore Gjertsen interviewed for comments.

09.03.16, TV2 Nyhetskanalen, national news broadcast, "Revolusjon i kreftbehandlingen", Lars A. Akslen interviewed for comments on the latest in cancer research.

10.03.16, EurekAlert and MedicalXpress.com, "[Small peptides attack ovarian cancer on two fronts, research shows](#)", Lars A. Akslen is one of the contributors to the study.



COMING CCBIO EVENTS

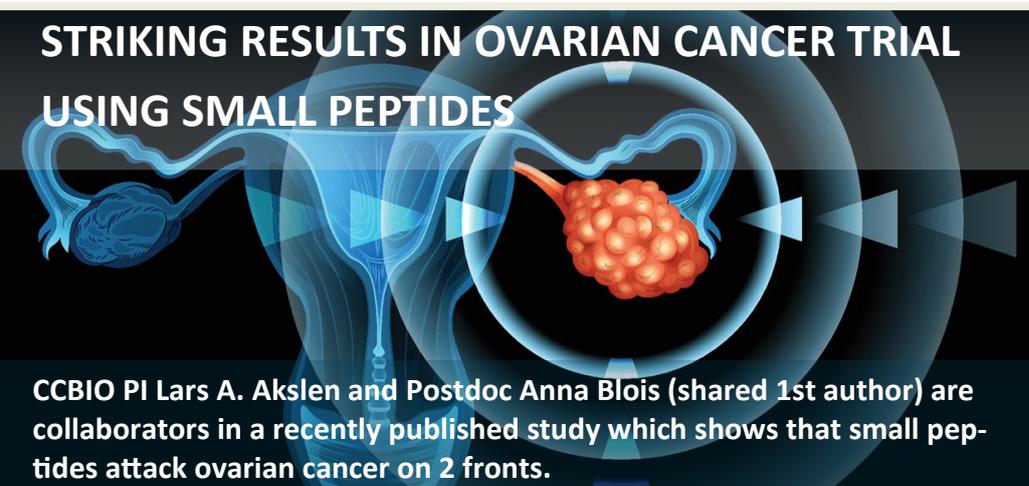
•28.04.2016, [Junior Scientist Symposium](#)

•28.04.2016, [CCBIO Seminar, Krister Wennerberg](#).

•10.05-11.05 2016, [4th CCBIO Annual Symposium](#)

•23.05-27.05.2016, [CCBIO903; Cancer research: Ethical, economical and societal aspects](#)

•26.05.2016, CCBIO Special Seminar, "[Pharma and public cancer biomarker research in the transition from a blockbuster model to personalised medicine](#)"



STRIKING RESULTS IN OVARIAN CANCER TRIAL USING SMALL PEPTIDES

CCBIO PI Lars A. Akslen and Postdoc Anna Blois (shared 1st author) are collaborators in a recently published study which shows that small peptides attack ovarian cancer on 2 fronts.

The study appears in [Science Translational Medicine](#) and is a collaboration between researchers from the [Boston Children's Hospital's Vascular Biology Program](#), [Centre of Cancer Biomarkers CCBIO](#) at the University of Bergen, and [Weill Cornell Medical College](#). The study shows that two forms of a peptide derived from a naturally-occurring human protein can force tumors to shrink significantly in an animal model of metastatic ovarian cancer.

[Read more here.](#)

AMERICAN INTEREST IN RRI

Responsible innovation

14-15 January 2016, Roger Strand (SVT and CCBio) took part in two events organized by the Initiative for the Humanistic Study of Innovation at Indiana University in Bloomington, US.

On the 14th of January, Strand presented his guest lecture "Responsible Research and Innovation as an Emerging Principle in European Research and Innovation Policy". The following day, a selected group of scholars and decision-makers at Indiana University were gathered for a workshop on "Responsibility and Innovation: a Conversation with Roger Strand".

The issues of responsibility and of "grand challenges" in particular are currently of great interest at Indiana University.

[Read more here](#) about American interest in the RRI concept, and the take-home lesson for Europe, Norway and CCBio.

GOOD MEMORIES FROM THE 2015 CCBIO ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



OTHER RECOMMENDED COMING EVENTS

April 6, [Immuno-Oncology Educational Series](#), Oslo Cancer Cluster Innovation Park, Oslo. Organized by OCC.

April 14, [DM Arena Kreftkonferansen](#), Kaare Norum Auditorium, Oslo. Organized by Dagens Medisin.

April 29, [Day of Immunology Conference 2016: Immunotherapy for Cancer](#), Store Auditorium, Rikshospitalet, Oslo. Organized by the Norwegian Society for Immunology.



PUBLICATIONS

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

PATHOLOGY AWARD TO CCBIO POSTDOC

Professor Kreyberg's Prize for Best Doctoral Dissertation in Experimental Pathology

Professor Kreyberg's Prize is awarded every leap year day to the best dissertation in the field of pathology during the last 4 years. An award of NOK 100.000 goes this year to Dr.Med. Elisabeth Wik, Fellow at the Department of Clinical Medicine and CCBio Postdoc.

Elisabeth received the 2nd prize of NOK 100 000 for her research on biomarkers in uterine cancer. The 1st prize of NOK 200 000 goes to Dr. Med. Eirik Sundlisæter at the University of Oslo.

Elisabeth Wik has in her doctoral work investigated gene mutations and protein biomarkers in uterine cancer. Her findings may prove to be important to personalize treatment for the individual patient.

Dr. Wik has studied a large number of patients with uterine cancer. She has established a new classification of this disease and she has identified many genetic mutations that may be important for prognosis and treatment.

[Read more here.](#)



From the award ceremony at the Domus Academica at the University of Oslo: Rector at UiO, Ole Petter Ottersen, and the awardees Eirik Sundlisæter and Elisabeth Wik. Photo: Martine Scheen.