



CCBIO Newsletter

Editor: Eli Vidhammer eli.vidhammer@uib.no

Newsletter No. 2, Vol. 3 — 18.05.2016

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Last week's 4th CCBIO Annual Symposium was a success, with great presentations from our international and national speakers. This year we also had two sessions with young investigators, both from CCBIO and outside. And equally important—we all had time to interact and develop new contacts and potential collaborations, in the beautiful surroundings at Solstrand! I would like to thank those of you who attended and particularly actively, and made this the “best CCBIO symposium ever”.

I would also like to remind you of the upcoming course CCBIO903. Registration deadline is tomorrow, so please register if you did not attend last year.

Best regards, Lars A. Akslen, Director

NATIONAL PHD COURSE



Illustration: Lightspring/Shutterstock.com

The PhD course CCBIO 903 Cancer Research: Ethical, economical and societal aspects runs May 23rd to 27th and June 13th to 17th 2016.

Have you ever struggled to cope with the complexity of cancer biology, while also trying to produce results that are relevant for the research community? Or maybe you've thought about the difficult gap between patients' expectations and what your science can actually provide? Have you thought wider about how your science can contribute to debates on what is good for society? And if everyone should have access to the newest cancer therapy? If these questions have crossed your mind, this course is made for you!

Registration for vacant places until **May 19h**. All PhD students in cancer research (in Norway and abroad) are welcome to apply.

[Read more here.](#)

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
Bjørn Tore Gjertsen
Donald Gullberg
Anne C. Johannessen
Karl Henning Kalland
James Lorens
Rolf Reed
Oddbjørn Straume



Established by the Research Council of Norway

STRATEGY MEETING IN THE WAR AGAINST CANCER



Photo: Thor Brødreskift, UiB

Outside the birds are twittering in the warm sun. Inside are cold facts on biomarkers and immuno therapy, including research which may lead to cancer testing through urine samples. CCBIO's Annual Symposium offers a widespread program.

"CCBIO are doing impressive research, they are at the level of the best in the USA", says cancer researcher Marsha Moses. She is from Harvard Medical School and world leading in her field - cancer detecting biomarkers in urine.

Moses is one of more than 200 cancer researchers gathered at Solstrand Hotel outside Bergen at the CCBIO Annual Symposium. The meeting serves as breeding ground for sharing knowledge on biomarkers, or the unique fingerprint of tumors.

"Meeting like this is very important for us as cancer researchers to keep updated", says CCBIO Director Lars A. Akslen.

[Read article here](#) about the CCBIO Annual Symposium May 10th and 11th.

Snapshots from the symposium:



PUBLICATIONS

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

The last 5 are:

[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, Hoivik EA, Gibson WJ, Taylor-Weiner A, Schumacher SE, Asmann YW, Grossmann P, Trovik J, Necela BM, Thompson EA, Meyerson M, Beroukhim R, **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 May.

[Safety and efficacy of the combination of pegylated interferon- \$\alpha\$ 2b and dasatinib in newly diagnosed chronic phase chronic myeloid leukemia patients.](#) Hjorth-Hansen H et al (Incl. **Gjertsen BT**). Leukemia. 2016 May.

[Nanodiamond modified copolymer scaffolds affects tumour progression of early neoplastic oral keratinocytes.](#)

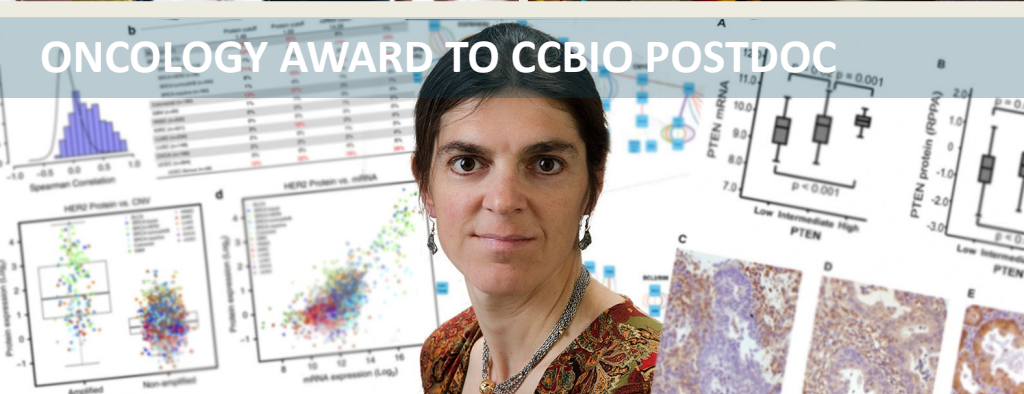
Suliman S, Mustafa K, Krueger A, Steinmüller-Nethl D, Finne-Wistrand A, Osdal T, Hamza AO, Sun Y, Parajuli H, Waag T, Nickel J, **Johannessen AC**, McCormack E, Costea DE. Biomaterials. 2016 April.



RECENT CCBIO IN THE MEDIA

- 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.
- 17.04.16, Khrono, "570 nominerte til å verta beste formidlar". Roger Strand among the nominees for Morgenbladet's best teacher election among the students.
- 05.04.16, Tidsskrift for den norske legeforening, "Nye prognosemarkører ved brystkreft". (About a study published in Journal of Clinical Pathology: Kraby MR, Krüger K, Opdahl S et al. *Microvascular proliferation in luminal A and basal-like breast cancer subtypes*. Collaboration with CCBIO/Lars A. Akslen.
- 04.04.16, TV2, "Denne musa får menneskekreft for at du skal få bedre behandling". Interview with Bjørn Tore Gjertsen about the development of Avatar mice, mice with a range of cancer cells from humans.
- 21.03.16, ABC Nyheter, "Bør forske mer i Norge på gamle medisiner som ny kreftbehandling". Interview with Bjørn Tore gjertsen on the concept of repurposing, research on using approved and abandoned drugs in new ways and combinations for the treatment and prevention of cancer.

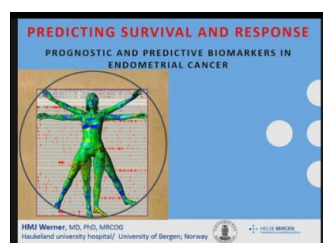
ONCOLOGY AWARD TO CCBIO POSTDOC



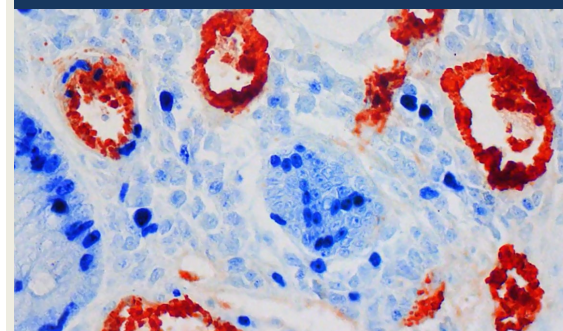
Henrica Werner received the 2015 Young Researcher Award from Onkologisk Forum. "The hope to give patients the for them correct treatment from the start, avoiding unnecessary side effects and 'right-treatment delay' in future through development of both prognostic and predictive biomarkers is what drives me", says the CCBIO postdoc and gynaecologist in an interview.

[Onkologisk Forum](#) awards annually a research prize to a young researcher. The candidate must be a cancer researcher working with basal, clinical, epidemiological or translational research and provide research of high quality. The winner must be under 40 years of age and generally have finished his/her PhD. The prize money should be used for research, equipment or an educational journey.

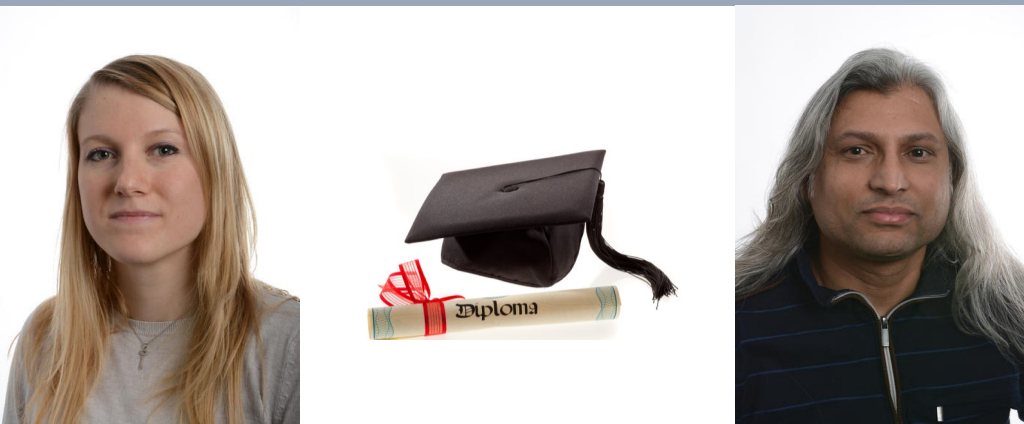
[Read the interview here.](#)



You can also see a video of Henrica's award lecture *Predicting survival and response. Prognostic and predictive biomarkers in endometrial cancer*.



TWO NEW CCBIO DOCTORATES

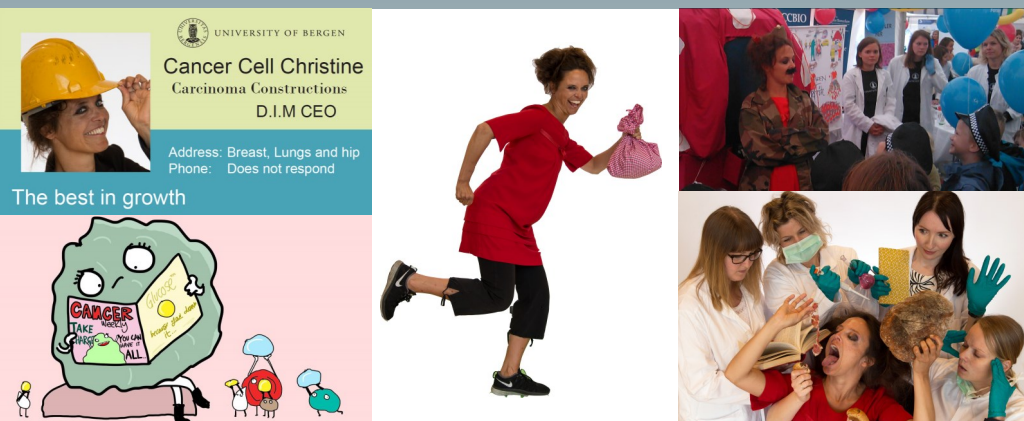


We congratulate Fanny Pélissier and Himalaya Parajuli with their disputations for the PhD degree at the University of Bergen!

Fanny Pélissier defended May 9th her dissertation: "The Role of Age in Cellular Responses to Microenvironmental Cues as a Breast Cancer Susceptibility Factor". Supervisors: Professor **James B. Lorens** and Dr. Mark LaBarge. See [press release](#).

Himalaya Parajuli defended April 29th his dissertation: "Integrin Role of integrin $\alpha 11$ in oral carcinogenesis. In vitro and in vivo studies ". Supervisors: Professors **Daniela Elena Costea**, **Anne Christine Johannessen** and **Donald Gullberg**. See [press release](#).

POPULAR SCIENCE ENACTED



CCBIO now offers schools a unique way of learning about cancer cells in the form of a play, or a highly entertaining presentation for other audiences. Communication of cancer research can take all forms!

The play "Stop the cancer cell Gloria Glutton!" is perfect for schools, as it is appropriate for children in the age of 4 to 13. The lecture/stand-up routine "Christine the Cancer Cell – A sociopath in the body" is suitable for youth and adults. Something for your next meeting?

Both are free of charge. Performer is Henriette Christie Ertsås, PhD fellow at the Department of Biomedicine and CCBIO.

Henriette stages stories that takes place inside the body, more specifically within the individual cell, and introduce that teeny tiny biology not visible even in the microscope. She is a molecular biologist who works with age-dependent cancer at CCBIO. She is absolutely horrified by the total lack of common decency she has discovered among cancer cells. Having also studied acting she is well suited to tell the story of the wondrous biology of cells. [Read more here.](#)

COMING CCBIO EVENTS

- 23.05-27.05.2016, [CCBIO903; Cancer research: Ethical, economical and societal aspects](#) (and also 13.06-17.06.2016)
- 26.05.2016, CCBIO Special Seminar, "[Pharma and public cancer biomarker research in the transition from a blockbuster model to personalised medicine](#)"
- 16.06.2016, CCBIO Seminar, speaker [Gwendalyn J. Randolph](#), Division of Immunology, School of Medicine, Washington University in St. Lois, USA.

OTHER RECOMMENDED COMING EVENTS

- 01.06.2016, [Fremtidens kreftbehandling: Persontilpasset medisin—fra ord til handling](#), breakfast meeting on personalized cancer medicine, Oslo Cancer Cluster.
- 06.06.2016, [International Cancer Cluster Showcase—BIO 2016](#). San Fransisco, CA.
- 14.06.2016, [Oslo Cancer Cluster Summer Meeting 2016](#).
- 15.-16.06.2016, [Clinical Trials in the Nordic Countries](#), Stockholm, by the Pharma Industry Finland, the Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Norway, the Danish Health and Medicines Authority, the Swedish Medical Products Agency and the Swedish Society for Clinical Trials.



University of Bergen, Centre for Cancer Biomarkers CCBIO, Department of Clinical Medicine, Jonas Lies vei 87, 5021 Bergen. Tel. + 47 55 58 54 36 www.ccbio.no

