



CCBIO Newsletter

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DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

As CCBIO moves towards the summer of 2017, we would like to thank all those being involved and "making a difference" by engaging in recent meetings and seminars: the 3rd International p53 Isoforms Conference 18.-21.6. here in Bergen, with a fantastic program and key presenters from different countries; the Biomarkers and Bioinformatics in Clinical Trials symposium at Solstrand 18.-19.6.; the CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium on 15.6. Thank you very much to the organizers at different levels for all your efforts!

At the same time, take a look at the calendar and reserve dates for future events. The Second Scandinavian Seminar on Translational Pathology will be held outside Uppsala on 17.-18.11., as a result of last year's inaugural gathering at Sotra and the establishment of a Scandinavian network for tissue based biomarker studies. And we also recommend the NORBIS/CCBIO workshop in August.

Have a great summer all of you! And do not forget to relax a little bit!

Best regards, Lars A. Akslen, Director

CONTACT INFORMATION



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Bjørn Tore Gjertsen (Co-Director)

Donald Gullberg

Anne C. Johannessen

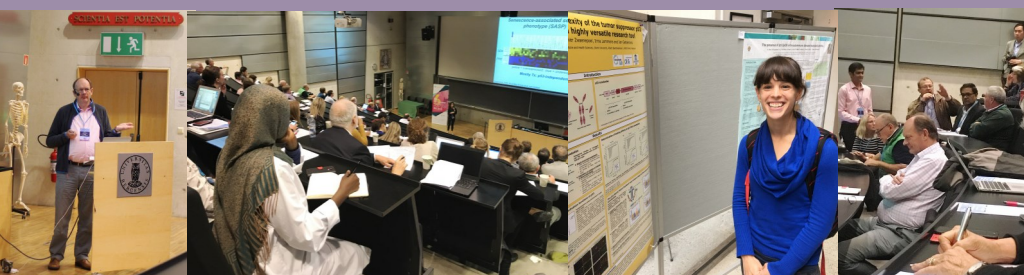
Karl Henning Kalland

James Lorens

Rolf Reed

Oddbjørn Straume

SUCCESSFUL P53 MEETING IN BERGEN



The p53 community met at Haukeland Campus for the 3rd international p53 isoform conference, 18th to 21st of June.

CCBIO had the great pleasure of hosting The Third International p53 Isoform conference at Basic Biology-building, UIB Haukeland Campus. We welcomed researchers from all corners of the world including the pioneers who contributed in discovery and crucial first investigations in the p53 field including Sir David Lane, Varda Rotter, Moshe Oren, Mina Bissel, Judith Campisi and Curtis Harris. P53 is one of the most researched gene and protein in human biology, especially in relation to cancer. We wish to highlight more specifically the subfield of p53 isoforms, a discovery of Jean-Christophe Bourdon, and Sir David Lane. The isoform research of p53 has emerged during the last 10 years and seems now to position the p53 gene as an important molecular hub in biology showing its print on almost all biological processes.

[Read more here.](#)



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DETECTING BIOMARKERS THROUGH BIOINFORMATICS



CCBIO and Helse Vest organized on June 18.-19. 2017 a new type of symposium focusing on the methodology required to identify new biomarkers in patient materials.

The Biomarkers & Bioinformatics in Clinical Trials and Clinical Studies Symposium, June 18th-19th 2017 at Solstrand Hotel, was aimed at researchers focusing on biomarker detection through use of patient material and advanced bioinformatics tools. As the research background of the presenters as well as of the participants differed widely, the two days were filled with interesting lectures followed by enthusiastic discussions on a range of topics related to how novel and complex methods within bioinformatics, biostatistics and mathematics can help biomedical research move forward. Reflections on practical and ethical challenges of performing research involving patients and their biological tissues resonated well, and the conversations continued well into the breaks. During the symposium the participants were introduced to many of the available infrastructures, tools and available contact points for practical help and networking.

[Read more here.](#)

EPIGENETICS AND CANCER RISK



Thursday, June 8, Professor Martin Widschwendter gave a special seminar entitled "Epigenetics and Cancer Risk", with main focus on epigenome-based cancer risk prediction. The rationale for the approach as well as opportunities and challenges were presented.

Martin Widschwendter is the leader and coordinator of the EU H2020 supported project [FORECEE](#), which main goal is through different omics technologies to establish screening test for prediction and prevention of female cancers. During the seminar the rationale and an outline of FORECEE was also provided. During his stay in Bergen Martin Widschwendter also attend a 2-days face-to-face meeting for the partners in the FORECEE-consortium. The Women's clinic, Haukeland University Hospital is partner institution for the project.

NEXT YEAR'S CCBIO ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



Make sure to save the date for the 6th CCBIO Annual Symposium, which takes place at Solstrand Hotel & Bad **May 23-24 2018!** [Read more here.](#)

COMING CCBIO EVENTS

- 27.06.17, [Doctoral defense, Sura Aziz](#). Place: Stort Auditorium, Sentralblokken, Haukeland University Hospital, Jonas Lies vei 65, Bergen. Trial lecture at 10.15, disputation at 12.15.
- 23.-25.08.17, Norbis/CCBIO workshop "[Network Biology/Integromics Bioinformatics- Applications towards medicine](#)" Bergen.
- 31.08.17, CCBIO901, Junior Scientist Symposium
- 31.08.17, CCBIO Seminar
- 28.09.17, CCBIO Seminar
- 26.10.17, CCBIO Seminar
- 17.-18.11.17, [The Second Scandinavian Seminar on Translational Pathology](#), Sigtuna, Sweden. Focusing on tissue based tumor research with the aim of creating a Scandinavian network consisting of scientifically dedicated pathologists and pre-clinical researchers. The meeting will include presentations from senior and junior researchers and provide opportunities for fruitful discussions.
- 23.11.17, CCBIO Seminar
- 23.11.17, CCBIO901, Junior Scientist Symposium
- 21.12.17, CCBIO Seminar

OTHER RECOMMENDED COMING EVENTS

- 24.08.17, [R&D Summer Networking Event](#), Oslo Cancer Cluster.
- 11.09-15.12.17, Course: [Entrepreneurship in healthcare](#). Researchers and clinicians will learn from experienced life science entrepreneurs or business development executives how to develop a research idea into business and to develop a business plan. Organized by the University of Oslo, NTNU, and Karolinska Institutet, developed in collaboration with Nansen Neuroscience Network and Copenhagen Business School, supported by the Norwegian Research Council.
- 24.-26.09.17, [Translational Medicine Conference 2017](#). Prague.

NEW COORDINATOR FOR THE JUNIOR SCIENTIST SYMPOSIA

Agnete Engelsen has now ended her period as coordinator of the [CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposia](#), and Liv Cecilie V. Thomsen (postdoc in Gjertsen's group) takes over in the team with Erling Høivik. Thank you to Agnete for a great job! The autumn dates are August 31st and November 23rd. These are high quality seminars, and you earn credits, so don't forget to sign up as participant or speaker!



Liv Cecilie



CCBIO SNAPSHOTS



NEW ADMINISTRATIVE LEADER AT CCBIO



While CCBIO's administrative leader Geir Olav Løken takes a year leave from August 1st 2017 to pursue his dream of sailing the seas of the world, Ragna Breines will be filling in on his responsibilities at the CCBIO administration.

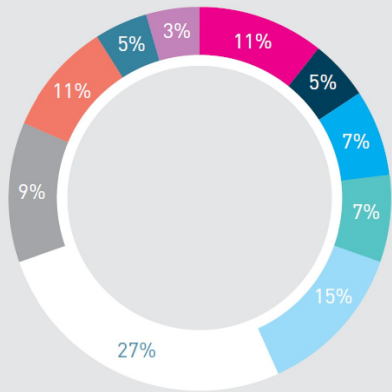
After finishing a PhD in molecular biology at University of Tromsø in 2011, Ragna has worked in various admin. positions both at the University of Tromsø and the University of Bergen. The last four years she has been project coordinator at the Geophysical Institute here in Bergen. The main projects she coordinated was two national research schools and an annual international summer school. Ragna is looking forward to work with a new research community and to meet new challenges at CCBIO.

WHO ARE WORKING AT CCBIO?

Did you ever wonder who CCBIO consist of? Here's a headcount for you!

CCBIO STAFF OVERVIEW
(HEADCOUNT)

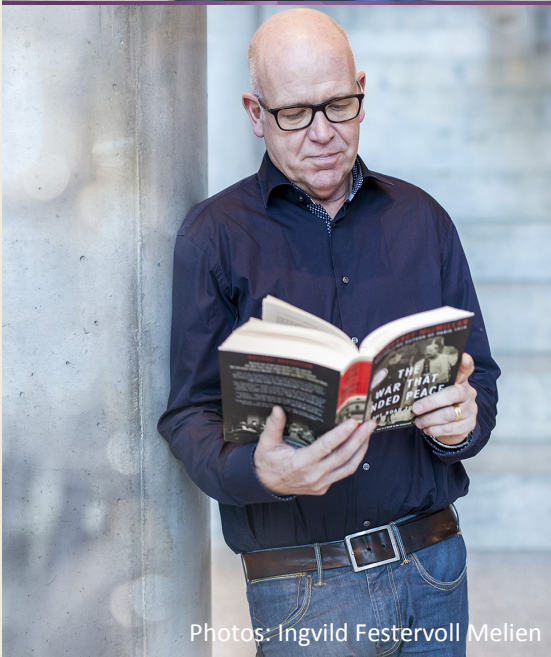
- PIS & ASS INV
- PROF & ASS PROF
- ADJUNCT PROF/RESEARCHERS
- RESEARCHERS
- POSTDOCS
- PHD STUDENTS
- STUDENTS
- TECH STAFF
- ADMIN STAFF
- OTHER



TOTAL: 176 PERSONS

The breakdown of CCBIO's headcount shows a rather balanced composition of senior researchers and "researchers to be" in the form of PhD students and master students as well as technical and administrative support staff. However, in accordance with the RCNs policy of a 1-to-1 relation between PhDs and postdocs, CCBIO aims to increase the amount of CoE-financed postdoctoral positions and other positions for younger researchers. This will increase the chance of high impact publications and major breakthroughs originating from CCBIO's recruitment positions and thereby increase the level of excellence. It will also improve the scope for recruiting future excellent researchers.

In 2016, CCBIO enlarged its group of investigators by recruiting five associate and junior associate investigators, four of them female. This is part of CCBIO's effort to ensure continuation after 2023 and has also improved gender balance within the CCBIO investigator group. The basis of CCBIO's international network of 13 adjunct professor and researchers is now complete, ensuring excellent access to high-level collaboration, advice and tuition for CCBIO's researchers, PhDs and postdocs.



Photos: Ingvald Festervoll Melien

CCBIO DOCTORAL DEFENSES



Karen Klepsland Mauland defended June 9th 2017 her dissertation "Context-related biomarkers in endometrial cancer. A study with focus on obesity and genomic alterations". Supervisors: PhD Henrica Maria Johanna Werner, PhD Erling André Høivik and Professor Jone Trovik. [See press release.](#)



Anna Berg defended June 22nd 2017 her dissertation "Molecular alterations and diagnostic imaging in premalignant and malignant endometrial lesions for improved diagnosis and treatment". Supervisors: Professor Ingrid Haldorsen, Professor Camilla Krakstad and PhD Henrica Werner. [See press release.](#)



Inga Reigstad defended June 22nd 2017 her dissertation "Investigation of different aspects of the tumor microenvironment as determinants of tumor development and progression". Supervisors: Professor Linda Stuhr and Professor Rolf K. Reed. [See press release.](#)



Sura Aziz defends **June 27th** her dissertation "Biological and clinico-pathologic markers in breast cancer. With focus on histologic features, markers of proliferation and angiogenesis". Supervisors: Professor Lars A. Akslen and Associate Professor Elisabeth Wik.

Time: Tuesday 27. June 2017 at 12.15 (trial lecture at 10.15). **Place:** Stort Auditorium, Sentralblokken, Haukeland University Hospital. [See link.](#)

PUBLICATIONS



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

- Karjalainen R, Pemovska T, Popa M, Liu M, Javarappa KK, Majumder MM, Yadav B, Tamborero D, Tang J, Bychkov D, Kontro M, Parsons A, Suvela M, Mayoral Safont M, Porkka K, Aittokallio T, Kallioniemi O, McCormack E, Gjertsen BT, Wennerberg K, Knowles J, Heckman CA. [JAK1/2 and BCL2 inhibitors synergize to counteract bone marrow stromal cell-induced protection of AML.](#) Blood. 2017 Jun 15. pii: blood-2016-02-699363. doi: 10.1182/blood-2016-02-699363. [Epub ahead of print].
- Halle MK, Ojesina AI, Engerud H, Woie K, Tangen IL, Holst F, Høivik E, Kusonmano K, Haldorsen IS, Vintermyr OK, Trovik J, Bertelsen BI, Salvesen HB, Krakstad C. [Clinicopathologic and molecular markers in cervical carcinoma; a prospective cohort study.](#) Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2017 Jun 6. pii: S0002-9378(17)30732-9. doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2017.05.068. [Epub ahead of print]
- Landolt L, Eikrem Ø, Strauss P, Scherer A, Lovett DH, Beisland C, Finne K, Osman T, Ibrahim MM, Gausdal G, Ahmed L, Lorens JB, Thiery JP, Tan TZ, Sekulic M, Marti HP. [Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma is linked to Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition and to Fibrosis.](#) Physiol Rep. 2017 Jun;5(11). pii: e13305. doi: 10.14814/phy2.13305.
- Azeem W, Hellem MR, Olsen JR, Hua Y, Marvyn K, Qu Y, Lin B, Ke X, Øyan AM, Kalland KH. [An androgen response element driven reporter assay for the detection of androgen receptor activity in prostate cells.](#) PLoS One. 2017 Jun 1;12(6):e0177861. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0177861. eCollection 2017.
- Magnussen SN, Hadler-Olsen E, Costea DE, Berg E, Jacobsen CC, Mortensen B, Salo T, Martinez-Zubiaurre I, Winberg JO, Uhlin-Hansen L, Svineng G. [Cleavage of the urokinase receptor \(uPAR\) on oral cancer cells: regulation by transforming growth factor - \$\beta\$ 1 \(TGF- \$\beta\$ 1\) and potential effects on migration and invasion.](#) BMC Cancer. 2017 May 19;17(1):350. doi: 10.1186/s12885-017-3349-7.



RECENT CCBIO IN THE MEDIA

- 22.06.17, abc nyheter, "[Intens sommersoling kan gi føflekkreft](#)", Oddbjørn Straume.
- 06.06.17, Tidsskriftet, Den Norske Legeforening, [Proliferasjonsmarkører ved brystkreft](#)", Gøril Knutsvik.
- 22.05.17, Oslo Børs NewsWeb, "[BerGenBio Announces Start of Randomised Phase I/II Trial Assessing Selective AXL Inhibitor BGB324 in Combination with Current Therapies in Melanoma](#)", Oddbjørn Straume.
- 18.05.17, NRK Radio, Ekko, "[Kreft i fremtiden](#)", radio interview with Roger Strand and Lars A. Akslen.

CCBIO BOOK RELEASE

Note the release of the first CCBIO-based book!
Title: Cancer Biomarkers: Ethics, Economics, and Society, edited by Anne Blanchard and Roger Strand. [Read more here.](#)



CCBIO'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016 IS AVAILABLE

Now you can read the brand new CCBIO Annual Report 2016!

You can find the report [on this link.](#) (Give it a minute to download, it is a large pdf document, full of all the exciting research CCBIO has done during the last year!) If you would like to have it in paper, let us know.



Good reading!



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