



CCBIO Newsletter

Editor: Eli Vidhammer eli.vidhammer@uib.no

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DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

The year of 2017 has been both productive and rewarding for CCBIO. Excellent papers and theses have been published and defended, and significant additional funding has been granted to several teams. CCBIO-based books have been published. Thanks to Agnete Engelsen, Liv Cecilie Vestrheim Thomsen and Erling Høivik for chairing the CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposia this year, an important arena for training that should be supported by all investigators and teams; thanks to all who supported our courses, scientific seminars and the annual symposium; thanks to Elisabeth Wik for organizing the INTPART-funded CCBIO Scientific Writing Seminar which was held recently and became a huge success with around 90 participants; and to all administrative and scientific personnel for your great efforts.

Please note the dates for the CCBIO Annual Symposium coming up in 2018 (May 23-24th), and on May 22nd, Klaus Pantel, who is a member of the International Faculty, will host a satellite symposium on Liquid Biopsy (also at Solstrand). Read this Newsletter and do not miss any important dates.

We look forward to 2018 and the second term of the CCBIO journey. Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2017 to 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:

Ragna Breines
+ 47 55 58 54 36 ragna.breines@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

NEW IMAGING CENTER ON CAMPUS



The University of Bergen in collaboration with Haukeland University Hospital has recently through financial support from the Bergen Research Foundation (BFS), established the Medical Imaging and Visualization Centre.

This is localized at Haukeland University Hospital, the Radiology Department. The purpose of the center is to strengthen cross-disciplinary research activities related to the state-of-the-art imaging equipment, i.e. high field MRI, CT and pre-/clinical PETCT.

Earlier this year, BFS [announced funding](#) for a total of three research projects that would be linked to the center. The funding has now been announced. 25 researchers submitted project proposals, and two of the accepted investigators were CCBIO collaborators [Ingfrid Haldorsen](#) at the Department of Clinical Medicine and [Arvid Lundervold](#) at the Department of Biomedicine. [Read more about their projects here.](#)



Established by the Research Council of Norway

CCBIO SEMINARS 2017 ROUNDED OFF WITH A SPECIAL SEMINAR AND BOOK SIGNING

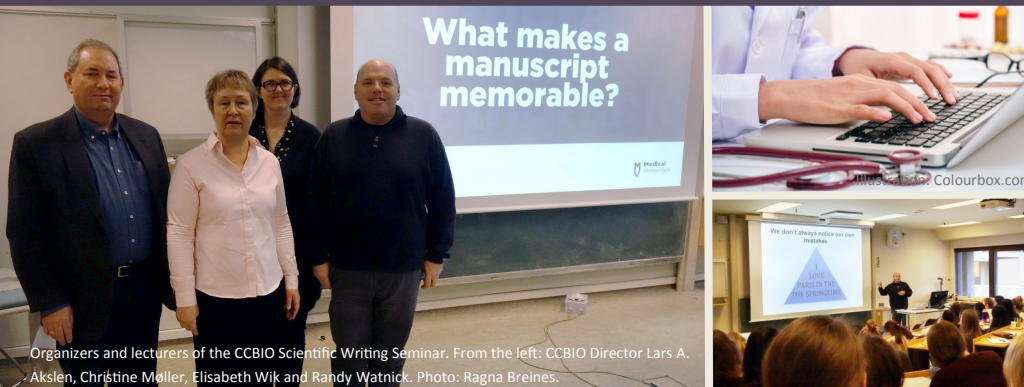


The last 2017 seminar in the CCBIO Seminar series featured speaker **Randolph Watnick** from Harvard Medical School and the Vascular Biology Program at Boston Children's Hospital.

Watnick presented a novel mechanism governing tumor initiation and cancer stem cell function. The results of his group's trials show that a novel signaling axis, involving Notch1, SIRT1 and p53 functionally defines tumour-initiating epithelial cells as well as cancer stem cells. [See abstract here](#).

Watnick and Akslen, editors of the new CCBIO book "[Biomarkers of the Tumor Microenvironment - Basic Studies and Practical Applications](#)" gave the book to CCBIO PhD candidates during the pizza get-together afterwards.

THE ART OF WRITING A SCIENTIFIC PAPER



Organizers and lecturers of the CCBIO Scientific Writing Seminar. From the left: CCBIO Director Lars A. Akslen, Christine Møller, Elisabeth Wik and Randy Watnick. Photo: Ragna Breines.

CCBIO hosted a two-day seminar in scientific writing December 13th and 14th, and the massive interest proves that this is an issue students and researchers alike feel the need to learn more about.

This was a seminar that came about through an exchange program between the University of Bergen and Harvard Medical School.

The seminar was fully booked shortly after announcement. Master students, PhD students, postdocs and senior researchers attended, both from UiB's Faculty of Medicine and other faculties, and from Haukeland University Hospital participated. The auditorium, which takes 90, was full, and the organizers managed a long waiting list till the last minute.

The lecturers, Christine Møller, assistant editor of APMIS and an experienced lecturer in medical and scientific writing, and Randy Watnick, assistant professor at the Vascular Biology Program, Harvard Medical School, proved to complement each other in an excellent way, fitting the CCBIO aim of excellency at all levels!

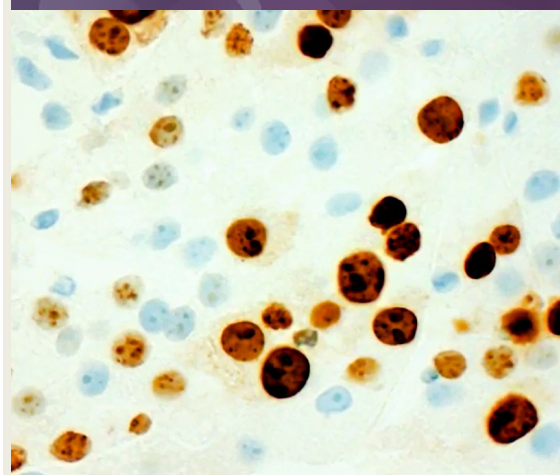
[Read more here](#), including some useful writing tips and good advice.

COMING CCBIO EVENTS

- 29. January-February 2nd, and February 19th to 23rd, **CCBIO Research School course CCBIO903 Cancer Research: Ethical, economical and societal aspects**. Note First deadline 25 December 2017 – Registration for vacant places until 25 January 2018.
- February 1st, CCBIO Seminar, speaker Professor **Helge Wiig**
- February 22nd, CCBIO Seminar, speaker Professor **Ole Frithjof Norheim**
- March 22nd, CCBIO Seminar, speaker Assistant Professor **Aaron Meyer**
- April 26th, CCBIO Seminar, speaker Professor **Ian Mackenzie**
- May 22nd, Satellite Symposium on Liquid Biopsies, Solstrand.
- May 23rd and 24th, CCBIO Annual Symposium 2018, Solstrand.

OTHER RECOMMENDED COMING EVENTS

- January 18th, 10th Cancer Crosslinks 2018, Precision Treatment: Exploiting Recent Advances – Fast and Furious? Oslo Cancer Cluster Innovation Park, Oslo.
- January 2018, The Annual Research Presentation at the Research School in Clinical Medicine. University of Bergen (UiB), Haukeland University Hospital.



COMING COURSE: CANCER RESEARCH - ETHICAL, ECONOMICAL AND SOCIETAL ASPECTS



We are happy to announce the date for the next CCBIO903 course, titled Cancer Research: Ethical, economical and societal aspects: 29 January-2 February and 19-22 February 2018.

The course will focus on aspects such as how to assess the cost-effectiveness of cancer biomarkers, how to make medical decisions when surrounded by risks, uncertainties and even ignorance, what the 'good life' can actually mean, and what the future may hold for cancer research. We will address important questions and dilemmas that cancer researchers and clinicians face every day.

CCBIO903 is a 5 ECTS credits PhD course within CCBIO's Research School for Cancer Studies (RSCS). PhD candidates and cancer researchers as well as students at the Medical Student Research Programme at the UiB are welcome to apply.

[Read more here.](#)

DEVELOPING A MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTIC TOOL FOR ORAL CANCER



We congratulate CCBIO dental student Martha Rolland Jacobsen for the research dissemination prize at the research fair of the Medical Faculty's recent Clinical Dentistry Week!

Martha presented her research work, which is part of a larger research project that aims to combine the expression of 13 biomarkers known to play a role in the progression of OSCC, in order to develop a molecular diagnostic tool for oral cancer. The project represents an important part of CCBIOs effort towards 'biomarker discovery' and is strategically important for CCBIOs effort to contribute towards delivering point-of-care cancer diagnosis on a global level.

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

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.](#)



RECENT CCBIO IN THE MEDIA

- 28.11.17, National Foundation of Cancer Research (USA), [Parasite Killer Found to be Effective Cancer Treatment Candidate](#), Karl-Henning Kalland.
- 27.11.17, E24 Børs, [Bergen Bio ber Helsetilsynet om godkjenning](#), BerGenBio.
- 25.11.17, BT, [Helsetilsynet ba BerGenBio stanse forskningsprosjekt](#), BerGenBio.
- 23.11.17, the Australian Hospital Healthcare Bulletin, [Gut instinct: tapeworm drug fights prostate cancer](#), Karl-Henning Kalland.
- 20.11.17, ScienceNordic, [Tapeworm drug fights prostate cancer](#), Karl-Henning Kalland.
- 17.11.17, Colorectal Cancer Canada, [Tapeworm Medicine Stops Prostate, Colon Cancer Cells from Growing, New Study Finds](#), Karl-Henning Kalland.
- 17.11.17, Prostate Cancer News Today, [Tapeworm Medicine Stops Prostate, Colon Cancer Cells from Growing, New Study Finds](#), Karl-Henning Kalland.
- 17.11.17, Pan European Networks, [The Nexus: efficient approaches](#), Roger Strand.
- 17.11.17, DotEmirates, [Existing parasite drug may fight prostate, colon cancer](#), Karl-Henning Kalland.
- 16.11.17, European Pharmaceutical Review, [Tapeworm drug fights prostate cancer](#), Karl-Henning Kalland.

LIQUID BIOPSIES SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM



Note that we will host a Satellite Symposium on Liquid Biopsies May 22nd 2018 at Solstrand Hotel, the day before and at the same place as the CCBIO Annual Symposium 2018.

[Professor Klaus Pantel](#), University Klinik Hamburg will be key speaker and CCBIO organizer of the Satellite Symposium on Liquid Biopsy and with additional international speakers. Professor Pantel is also an [international affiliated investigator](#) at CCBIO.

The Liquid Biopsies Symposium will include presentations on Circulating Tumor Cells (CTCs), circulating nucleic acids (DNA, miRNA) and microvesicles, with emphasis both on clinical applications and the biology of metastasis. Updated information will be available [on this webpage](#).

10TH CANCER CROSSLINKS 2018, JANUARY 18TH

CANCER CROSSLINKS

Oslo Cancer Cluster invites to their 10th annual full-day seminar, titled "Precision Treatment: Exploiting Recent Advances – Fast and Furious?"

Hear what international and Norwegian experts have to say about recent advances in oncology research and new perspectives on the challenges and opportunities ahead when translating new insights into better treatments for cancer patients. CCBIO's Junior Associate Investigator Elisabeth Wik will be contributing in the lecture *Making Sense of Big Data for Oncology Patients - Vision and Reality*. CCBIO Postdoc Liv Cecilie Vestrheim Thomsen is also contributing as one of the chairpersons. [Read more here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

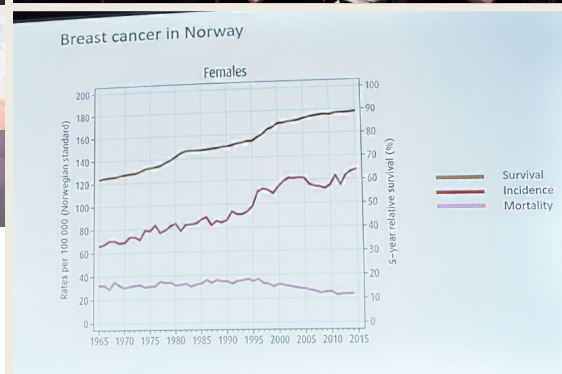
You can find the CCBIO publications [on this pubmed link](#). See the last 5 below.

- Ramnefjell M, Aamelfot C, Helgeland L, Akslen LA. [Low expression of SerpinB2 is associated with reduced survival in lung adenocarcinomas](#). *Oncotarget*. 2017 Oct 3;8(53):90706-90718. doi: 10.18632/oncotarget.21456. eCollection 2017 Oct 31.
- Ludwig KF, Du W, Sorrelle N, Wnuk-Lipinska K, Topalovski M, Toombs JE, Cruz VH, Yabuuchi S, Rajeshkumar NV, Maitra A, Lorens JB, Brekken RA. [Small molecule inhibition of Axl targets tumor immune suppression and enhances chemotherapy in pancreatic cancer](#). *Cancer Res*. 2017 Nov 27. pii: canres.1973.2017.
- Forthun RB, Aasebø E, Rasinger JD, Bedringaas SL, Berven F, Selheim F, Bruserud Ø, Gjertsen BT. [Phosphoprotein DIGE profiles reflect blast differentiation, cytogenetic risk stratification, FLT3/NPM1 mutations and therapy response in acute myeloid leukaemia](#). *J Proteomics*. 2017 Nov 21;173:32-41.
- Halle MK, Tangen IL, Berg HF, Hoivik EA, Mauland KK, Kusonmano K, Berg A, Hurtado A, Kalland KH, Øyan AM, Stefansson I, Vintermyr OK, Werner HM, Haldorsen IS, Trovik J, Salvesen HB, Krakstad C. [HER2 expression patterns in paired primary and metastatic endometrial cancer lesions](#). *Br J Cancer*. 2017 Nov 23.
- Konings GF, Cornel KM, Xanthoulea S, Delvoux B, Skowron MA, Kooreman L, Koskimies P, Krakstad C, Salvesen HB, van Kuijk K, Schrooders YJ, Vooijs M, Groot AJ, Bongers MY, Kruitwagen RF, ENITEC, Romano A. [Blocking 17β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase type 1 in endometrial cancer: a potential novel endocrine therapeutic approach](#). *J Pathol*. 2017 Nov 16.

CCBIO SNAPSHOTS



CCBIO Special Seminar with Rameen Beroukhi Nov. 3rd.



Marit Valla presenting at her doctoral defense



Giving congratulations at Cornelia Schuster's doctoral defense



Anna Berg's doctoral defense



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](#)

