

Centre for Cancer Biomarkers





DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Dear all

We are now rapidly approaching the next and more independent phase of CCBIO. The 10-year support from the Norwegian Research Council finally ends on June 30, 2024 (leaving behind a transition period of 12 months). After this date, we continue as a center and research network supported by UiB and with external research grants. Our core activities are being continued – such as key research projects, education, and communication. Notably, we aim to focus more on innovation. Our concepts and findings will be made visible for colleagues, patients and policy makers at different levels. We have established a firm platform for cutting-edge activities and look forward with excitement!

In this newsletter you can read and reflect on various stories, with some details, ranging from highlighted research to new grants. Congratulations to all those involved.

Please also take a close look at our updated information on new faces, recent publications, media appearances, calls, courses and other events.

By the end of this first CCBIO phase, I would like to thank all of you for your intense efforts and all the time used over the years, from the early days of designing the concept and carving out the application - through the very active years from 2013, and to this day: all PIs and colleagues, scientific and administrative staff, and the international faculty for strategic advice and support. In particular, I would like to thank our SAB: Ate van der Zee, Bruce Zetter, and Carl-Henrik Heldin. This team has made a difference and supported us in the best possible way. CCBIO would not have been the same without you!

For myself, I feel privileged to have been the CCBIO director through all these years and working with all of you. It is with optimism that we look ahead – with our unique teams and networks and with all the available resources. With another musical nod, it is time to move on 'into the great wide open.'

Best regards, Lars A. Akslen, Director

PS: Do not forget to take down the dates for next year's gathering – the 13th CCBIO Annual Symposium – on May 13-14, 2025 (Solstrand).

Capturing cancer complexity and clinical challenges

Discussing current cancer biomarkers at CCBIO's 12th Annual Symposium



The 12th CCBIO Annual Symposium took place May 14-15, 2024, at Solstrand outside of Bergen in excellent weather, facilitating a radiant frame for networking and meetings in the sunshine during the breaks. The program showcased current cancer biomarker research as well as taking a step back considering global perspectives on cancer.

As is CCBIO's tradition, the scientific program covered a broad range of current topics within cancer biomarkers, with many renowned international speakers, among them Raza Ali, Frances Balkwill, Ian Mills, Linda Lindstrøm, Randy Watnick, Göran Jönsson, Anna Vähärautio, Patrick Micke, and Rolf Brekken. See the full program here.

One of the current 'hot topics' and a strategic field for CCBIO, relates to imaging mass cytometry – was particularly covered in the keynote presentation by Raza Ali from Cambridge University. We had a chat afterwards with Dr. Ali on the challenges of translating imaging discoveries to treatment for the patients, a question the audience was particularly concerned with. <u>Read his comments here.</u>

The CCBIO Director Lars A. Akslen finds that this year's symposium has continued to focus on timely and 'hot' topics – such as singlecell analytics technology and high-dimensional tissue imaging, relevant for mechanistic studies and also closer to the clinic, for example in mapping of the tumor immune microenvironment and response predictors for immunotherapy. "I think these annual meetings have become extremely important for the local cancer research community, but certainly with a national and international participation and perspective as well. It is very motivating to already start the planning for next year's gathering – when we enter the CCBIO 2.0 phase and continue into the future. It is time to move *into the great wide open*," Akslen says. <u>Read more here</u>.

Continuing a strong cancer research network



The 12th CCBIO Annual Symposium has recently taken place, with a program showcasing current cancer biomarker research. This was the final symposium in CCBIO's 10-year period funded by the Research Council of Norway as a Centre of Excellence (CoE), however not the last. CCBIO will continue its core activities, maintaining what has become a strong cancer research network.

As chairman of CCBIO's Scientific Advisory Board Carl-Henrik Heldin says in a recent interview: "I think – from the university perspective – this should have high priority, because through the Centre of Excellence CCBIO, the university gained a lot. It made it possible to develop cancer research here in Bergen in a very fruitful way. And the university should continue to build on what is strong and be helpful in terms of making it possible to continue what has been developed so nicely."

Read more here.



New K.G. Jebsen center granted to Bjørn Tore Gjertsen



Bjørn Tore Gjertsen's proposal for a new K. G. Jebsen center for medical research made it to the top and was granted 21 Million NOK from the foundation, which was more than doubled by the University of Bergen, giving a total budget of 43 million NOK over the next five years.

The new K. G. Jebsen Centre on Acute Myeloid Leukemia will work with diagnostics at single-cell level, aiming at treatment response after merely hours and days, and use this information to optimize or replace the planned treatment.

The response to therapy is currently measured after weeks to months of treatment, thereby losing important time. This could result in weeks of non-functional and harsh treatment for the patient, and loosing valuable time that could have been used for targeted and functional therapy. However, an immediate response to chemotherapy can be measured by investigating the functional properties of the leukemic cells, and thereby predict the patient's long term response to the treatment.

The new centre is building on the work of recent publications (Tislevoll et. al., <u>Nature Communications 2023</u> and Malani et. al., <u>Cancer Discovery 2022</u>) on how functional diagnostics with cancer cell signaling can be used to optimize treatment in acute myeloid leukemia.

Read more here (in Norwegian) or in NRK article.

Strengthening the focus on patient and public involvement



This year, we got the great news that the DAM Foundation has granted the joint CCBIO & Neuro-SysMed course CCBIONEUR910 Patient and Public Involvement in Medical and Health Research with NOK 400.000, allowing us to expand the course. The report from this year's course shows great enthusiasm, and we got some valuable insight from a patient representative who is familar with both the CCBIO Annual Symposium and the CCBIONEUR910 course.

This is a unique course that includes patient organizations, health care personnel and researchers, and facilitates for them to get together and exchange their experiences and perspectives. The course has since 2021 been run by CCBIO and Neuro-SysMed with invitation to patient organizations within cancer and neurological diseases. This year however, a collaboration has been made with Nasjonalforeningen for folkehelsen, NorCRIN, REMEDY, MATRIX, FORMI, NorHead and their patient organizations. The course has with this expanded from regional to national and to other disease groups. The DAM grant secures a two-year expansion of the course. Read more in this article (Norwegian).

Also read this article about the most recent course (Norwegian only).

Patient involvement in cancer biomarker research is a work in progress, says experienced patient representative Jeanette Hoel. Read more here.

CCBIO collaboration article highlighted in JITC

K101 CAR Tc

Mock Tc



PET - Standard Uptake Value

The Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer (JITC) has selected the publication, "Efficient CAR T cell targeting of the CA125 extracellular repeat domain of MUC16," as one of the recent highlights in JITC. This is a collaboration work between Oslo and Bergen, including the groups of Line Bjørge and Emmet McCormack.

The article is now featured on JITC's homepage and a summary was included in the May JITC Digest email on May 15 that reaches over 60,000 cancer immunotherapy professionals worldwide.

This work concerns new immunotherapeutic strategies for ovarian cancer (OC). Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy empowers patients' own T cells to fight and eradicate cancer, and has been tested against various targets in OC. A promising candidate is the MUC16 ectodomain. This ectodomain remains on the cell surface after cleavage of cancer antigen 125 (CA125), the domain distal from the membrane, which is currently used as a serum biomarker for OC. CA125 itself has not been tested as a possible CAR target. In this study, the team examined the suitability of the CA125 as a target for CAR T cell therapy.

The team's *in vitro* and *in vivo* results, including PDX studies, demonstrate that the CA125 domain of MUC16 represents an excellent target for treating MUC16-positive malignancies.

See the publication here.

Targeting tumor aggressiveness in young breast cancer patients





Above: Collage of the group members. Below: Current group leaders Elisabeth Wik and Erling Høivik at the Solstrand meeting.

Although CCBIO this summer completes its 10-year appointment as Center of Excellence by the Research Council of Norway, the center will continue its activities, and so do all the research groups and collaborations that have been established through these years. It has been a privilege for the CCBIO leadership to follow these groups from the very beginning and watch them grow and now continue to expand. We had a chat with one of them, the research group Breast Cancer of the Young – Bergen (BCY-B).

Associate Professor Elisabeth Wik established the young breast cancer project during her postdoctoral period in CCBIO.

"The BCY-B research group is truly a real product of CCBIO," Elisabeth acknowledges. "It was initiated and grown under the CCBIO umbrella, nourished and supported by the group's mentor Professor Lars A. Akslen and others from the CCBIO family, including parts of the international faculty," she explains.

In the early pre-group phase, the group set out to characterize a population-based cohort of breast cancer patients below 50 years at time of diagnosis. These were patients not yet included in the Norwegian breast screening program. The BCY-B studies are mainly tissue-based, integrating histopathologic, clinical, and molecular data, with support of large-scale (omics) data. Ongoing work includes projects focusing on age-dependent hormone receptor-related alterations, the breast cancer immune cell landscape across ages, and metastases in the young.

Read more here.

Visit to a world scale biobank



In January 2024, Professor Dana Costea visited the <u>Laboratory</u> <u>Support, Biobanking, and Services (LSB)</u> at the <u>International</u> <u>Association for Research on Cancer (IARC)</u> in Lyon, a branch of the World Health Organization (WHO).

IARC hosts one of the largest and richest collections of biological material in the world. With an astounding 6.5 million samples stored in 250 freezers sourced from 50 different states worldwide, the facility stands as a global hub for cancer research. An additional 4 million cell samples are preserved in nitrogen. This exceptional infrastructure enables groundbreaking studies and innovations in the fight against cancer on a truly international scale. Dana found the team there very helpful in sharing their expertise and experience, as well as protocols and standard operational procedures. She also met with Dr. Dilani Lokuhetty, Head of the WHO Classification of Tumours Programme (WCT) at IARC, giving Dana an illuminating journey into the intricate world of cancer classification and diagnosis. The WCT provides a comprehensive evidence-driven categorization of cancer types, facilitating diagnosis and research worldwide. Dana reports that understanding the frameworks and principles of WCT's work broadens ones's knowledge on the vital role that standardized classifications play in the ongoing battle against cancer. Well worth a visit!

Kleinmanns chair at Cancer Crosslinks



Katrin Kleinmanns and fellow chair Fredrik Schjesvold with speaker Dr Leo Rasche. Photo by Margit Selsjord/ Oslo Cancer Cluster On January 25, around 300 people participated in scientific sessions during the 16th edition of the conference Cancer Crosslinks, themed "Bridging innovations to improve clinical outcomes for cancer patients". Among the moderators were CCBIO's Masterclass graduate and Researcher Katrin Kleinmanns (McCormack and Bjørge groups).

This edition of Cancer Crosslinks covered a range of topics, including targeted treatments and immunotherapies, the role of new technologies in oncology, and the impact of tumour heterogeneity on clinical outcome. The audience gained insights, for instance into how the composition of the microbiome can affect response to immunotherapy, and in the case of myeloma; how a single dormant cancer cell can cause a patient to relapse after 10 years of remission. Participants also got an overview of the personalized oncology landscape in Germany and heard how Al-driven innovations can change the way clinical studies are run. More info here.

The ESGO Helga Salvesen Award 2024

ESGO Helga Salvesen Translational and Clinical Research Award:

Prof. Xavier Matias-Guiu Guia



The <u>ESGO 2024 Congress</u> took place March 7-10, where many of our people were present. Extra special for CCBIO was the biannual awarding of the ESGO Helga Salvesen Translational and Clinical Research Award, in honor of our late colleague and first co-director of CCBIO.

Professor Salvesen was also an ESGO Council member, member of ENTRIGO and founder of ENITEC, and the ESGO Council decided to initiate the biannual ESGO Helga Salvesen Award for a major contribution in translational research. This award is meant for a clinician or translational researcher who made a significant contribution to translational research in gynaecological oncology in the past few years.

This year, the award was given to <u>Professor Xavier Matias-Guiu Guia</u> from the Hospital U de Bellvitge and Hospital U Arnau de Vilanova, Barcelona, Spain, at the Presidential and Awards session of the ESGO 2024 Congress in Barcelona. <u>Read article here</u> (in Norw.).

Methods in Cancer Biomarker Research



We will run the course CCBIO905 this fall – all students and fellows should make sure not to miss it! This course focuses on the full panel of standard and advanced methods with relevance for cancer biomarker research. The intention is to provide an understanding of the various methodologies and their application in basic and translational cancer research. The course further covers relevant topics like optimal sample collection and biobanking.

When: September 25-27, 2024
Place: Auditorium at campus Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen
Program: Preliminary program is available on this page.
Registration: through <u>Studentweb (</u>UiB students) or <u>Søknadsweb (guest students)</u>
Responsible for the course: Lars A. Akslen and Agnete Engelsen have the academic responsibility.

The thematic parts include methods ranging from basic techniques on nucleotides and proteins to more advanced approaches, as well as bioinformatics and biobanking.

The course will focus on methods to study biomarkers in tissue samples, blood samples, circulating tumor cells and DNA, and other biologic materials. Methodologies like PCR techniques, microarray, next-generation sequencing, bioinformatics and artificial intelligence, immunohistochemistry, in situ hybridization, protein ligation assays, Western blot and ELISA, tissue microdissection and proteomics, flow cytometry, flow and imaging mass cytometry, and biobanking will be presented. Changes in nucleic acids and proteins in different settings will be discussed, as will the clinical applications.

New faces in the CCBIO family

Welcome to new members in the CCBIO groups!



Daniela Pavlicenco is a new PhD student at the Gynecologic Cancer Research Group. Daniela holds a master's degree in Pharmaceutical Science with a focus on Nanomedicine applied in Cancer and has recently completed a Pharmaceutical & Technology Development Graduate Programme at AstraZeneca where she focused on the Advanced Drug Delivery strategies. On her PhD, she will be working on defining the cellular and molecular states associated with subpopulations of endometrial cancer cells that drive metastasis, to identifying novel targets for treating endometrial cancer. Camilla Krakstad is her main supervisor and Hege Berg her co-supervisor.



Lorena Larios Salazar has recently joined the Department of Clinical Medicine as a PhD student. She holds a master's degree in Molecular and Cellular Biotechnology, where she specialized in exopolysaccharides for medical applications. Recently, she worked as a guest researcher at the University of Bergen, expanding her knowledge base on various cancers (head and neck, vulva, and penile), understanding tumor-stroma interactions, and exploring new biomarkers. For her PhD, she will focus on novel double-functionalized nanodiamonds for targeted treatment to prevent oral cancer recurrence. Her main supervisor is Daniela Costea, with Line Bjørge, Harsh Dongre and Christian Arvei Moen as her co-supervisors.

Anna Gorbunova is a new postdoc connected to the research group of Carina Strell. She received her PhD from Moscow State University in December 2022. Her PhD thesis focused on the impact of mitochondrial quality control proteins on lung adenocarcinoma progression. During her PhD study, Anna gained a passion for translational cancer science focused on cell death induction and treatment improvement. At UiB, Anna will focus on investigating the molecular mechanisms behind treatment resistance in cancer patients.

Recent doctoral defenses

Congratulations to the following completed PhDs related to the CCBIO groups!



Ole Vidhammer Bjørnstad defended May 31, 2024 his PhD work at the University of Bergen with the dissertation "*Neural Interactions in the Breast Cancer Microenvironment*". Main supervisor has been PhD Heidrun Vethe, and co-supervisors have been PhD Manuel Carrasco, PhD Dimitrios Kleftogiannis and Professor Lars A. Akslen.

This doctoral work, which includes three scientific papers, has shed light on the occurrence of neural precursor cells in breast cancer, and the interactions between neural precursor cells and breast cancer cells. The first work shows how the detection of cells expressing doublecortin (DCX) in breast cancer tissue is associated with worse outcome for the patients. The team also developed a 3D cell model to study the interaction between neural precursor cells and breast cancer cells more closely, and their data showed an increase in aggressive tumor features in breast cancer cells after co-culture with these neural cells. In addition, they established a new 3D model to investigate how the neurotransmitter

norepinephrine affects basal and luminal breast cancer cell lines. The results clearly show heterogeneity in response to norepinephrine stimulation and beta-blockers in the various breast tissue cells. In the third project, Bjørnstad investigated the differentiation potential of breast cancer stem cells against multipotent neural cells as neural precursor cells of the central nervous system and the peripheral nervous system. The results show that nerves can affect breast cancer, because nerve elements can enhance the aggressive properties of cancer cells. This shows a potential to target the communication between nerve cells and cancer cells in future cancer therapy.

<u>See the press release</u> (Norwegian).

Hassan Abdel-Raouf Abdel-Wahab Mohamed Ali defended May 24, 2024 his PhD work at the University of Bergen with the dissertation *"Stemness and osteogenic differentiation of induced pluripotent stem cells generated in xeno-free conditions*". Main supervisor has been Professor Kamal Mustafa, and co-supervisors have been Professor Daniela Elena Costea, Professor Helge Ræder and Dr. Salwa Suliman.

Mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) have long been fundamental in the strategies for bone tissue engineering and are important in the formation of new bone. However, these cells pose several challenges. MSC-like cells (iMSC) derived from induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS) have emerged as viable alternatives to traditional MSC. In this doctoral work, the team has developed a xeno-free protocol that supports the generation of iPS from various sources, the subsequent differentiation into iMSC, and the osteogenic differentiation of these iMSC. These findings suggest a new approach to strategies in bone tissue engineering with no use of potentially harmful xenogeneic products.







Victoria Xenaki defended May 23, 2024 her PhD work at the University of Bergen with the dissertation "Nanosafety aspects: Dental health care workers' perception of nanomaterials and in vitro nanotoxicity assessment using new approach methodologies". Main supervisor has been Professor Emeritus Anne Nordrehaug Åstrøm, and co-supervisors have been Professor Mihaela Roxana Cimpan, Professor Daniela Elena Costea and Associate Professor Ileana-Mihaela Cuida Marthinussen.

The first part of the work identifies risk/benefit perceptions and intention/motivation related to the use of nanomaterials among dental health personnel in Norway. The second part of the dissertation concerns *in vitro* cytotoxic effects of TiO2 nanoparticles. Reduced growth of oral cells was observed after exposure to TiO2 nanoparticles, which should be investigated further.

See the press release (Norwegian).

Relevant calls for funding



Here is a selection of upcoming deadlines for funding, relevant to CCBIO students and researchers. For more details, please check the links below and find more calls at the Faculty of Medicine's page on <u>External funding opportunities</u>. Do you have concrete plans to apply for funding, want to discuss funding possibilities for your idea, or want more information on a specific call, please send an email to: medforsk@uib.no

Note: even if there are many various deadlines, the Faculty of Medicine now has introduced the *internal deadlines March 15 and September 15*. First, you submit your intention of applying for external funding in <u>this registration form</u>, and a notification of your plans will be sent to the Head of Department, Head of Administration, a financial officer and research advisors at the Faculty of Medicine. All applications must be approved by the department's management. This form is a tool intended to ensure that these administrative processes are taken care of.

Trond Mohns forskningsstiftelse (TMF) & Haukeland universitetssjukehus (HUS): <u>Forskingsprogram for</u> <u>avanserte kliniske kreftstudiar</u>. Forskningsstiftelsens visjon er å utgjere ein vesentleg forskjell for utviklinga av norske forskingsmiljø som siktar mot det høgaste internasjonale nivået. Gjennom det nye forsknngsprogrammet ynskjer TMF og sjukehuset i fellesskap å stimulere til klinisk kreftforsking av høg kvalitet i Bergen. Søknadsfristen for innlevering av skisse og steg 1 pre-kvalifisering er **15. august**. Søknadsfrist er 10. januar 2025 for inviterte til å sende full søknad til TMF.

RCN Qualification - Research Commercialisation from Publicly Funded Research. 200.000-500.000 NOK, 3-12 months. The funding must be used to clarify the commercial potential of promising research results. Deadline: open-ended

RCN <u>Doctoral Project in the Public Sector.</u> Doctoral scholarships, 3-4 years. **Deadline: continuous**

RCN Three-year Researcher Project with International <u>Mobility (FRIPRO).</u> 4-4,4 MIO NOK, 3 years. For reseachers with a doctoral degree. Must hold a masters or PhD from a Norwegian research institution. Mobility requirement: two years abroad, one year in Norway. **Deadline: continuous**

RCN <u>Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists</u> (<u>FRIPRO</u>). 4-8 MIO NOK, 3-4 years. All thematic areas. Applicants must hold a PhD, defense date within the last 2-7 years. **Deadline: continuous**

RCN <u>Researcher Project for Experienced Scientists</u> (<u>FRIPRO</u>). 4-12 MIO NOK, 3-8 years. Must have approved doctoral at least 6 years ago. All thematic areas. **Deadline:** continuous

RCN <u>Qualification - Research Commercialisation</u> <u>from Publicly Funded Research</u>. 200.000-500.000 NOK, 3-12 months. The funding must be used to clarify the commercial potential of promising research results. **Deadline: continuous**

Horizon Europe / ERC starting Grant. 1,5 MIO EUR, 5 years. For researchers to start their own research group, 2-7 years after their PhD. UiB offers a mentoring program for first-time applicants, proposal reading sessions, and writing courses. Contact medforsk@uib.no. Deadline: recurring. Next: Fall 2024

Helse Vest Open project support: Applicants employed at Helse Vest can apply directly. Applicants from UiB can apply if they have a collaboration agreement with Helse Vest. 1,5 MIO NOK per year for 3 years. **Deadline:** annually, 15 September

Helse Vest short-Term projects. 500.000 NOK. Deadline: recurring, 15 September 2024

Familien Blix fond. Medical research in cardiovascular diseases and cancer. 80 000 NOK to cover running costs. Deadline: 25 June 2024

Raagholt Foundation. Cardiology, vision, cancer. Running costs, travel grants, course fees. Deadline: 1 Sep. 2024

<u>ERC Advanced Grant</u>. 2,5 MIO EUR, 5 years. Bottom-up frontier research grant for established research leaders. Deadline: 29 August 2024

ERC Consolidator Grant: 2 MIO EUR, 5 years. Bottomup frontier research grant for researchers at at 7-12 years after obtaining their doctorate. **Deadline: 14 Jan. 2025**

EMBO <u>Postdoctoral Fellowships.</u> 2-year fellowships with obligatory mobility, relocation allowance and support for children. Eligibility: 0-2 years after obtained PhD. Applicants must have at least one first (or joint first) author primary research paper. **Deadline: continuous**

<u>Travel grant from The Faculty of Medicine</u>: PhD candidates and postdocs with UiB stipend, granted for stays 3-12 months. **Deadlines: continuing**

<u>Helse Vest mobility grant</u> - Granted for 6 or 12 months. Postdoctoral fellowship applicants are especially encouraged to apply for an overseas fellowship over the course of their fellowship period. **Deadline: continuous**

Research Council of Norway mobility grant -Scholarship for research stays abroad for 3 -12 months for PhD candidates and Post Doctors in projects with funding from the Research Council. **Deadline: continuous**

<u>Fulbright grant</u>, for Norwegian citizens. 100.000 NOK, 3-12 months research stay in US. **Deadline: October**

ERASMUS+ staff mobility, subsidising mobility of up to 2 months, for UiB staff including PhD-candidates and post docs, to attend courses or individual laboratory visits. **Deadline: biannually, 15 September and 20 January**

Grants though the IMMUNO-model COST Action: (The grants are available to all who sign up for the COST Action, this is just a case of joining online and selecting the 2 WGs that is most appropriate for each individual.Norway is a COST Full Member Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC).) See all available grants here (mobility grants).

Coming CCBIO events



Make sure to save the dates in your calendar, and register when applicable. You can see all planned CCBIO events in the <u>CCBIO web calendar</u>.

- June 20, CCBIO seminar, Bergen, speaker tba
- August 28-31, CCBIO-VBP Research Meeting 2024, Bergen
- August 29, CCBIO Seminar, Bergen, speaker tba
- September 25-27, <u>CCBIO905 Methods in Cancer Biomarker Research</u>, Bergen
- September 26, <u>CCBIO Seminar</u>, Bergen, speaker Marit Valla
- October 31, CCBIO Seminar, Bergen, speaker tba
- November 28, CCBIO Seminar, Bergen, speaker tba
- December 12, CCBIO Seminar, Bergen, speaker Fran Balkwill

Other relevant coming events



Events from collaboration partners and other relevant events.

- June 10-13, <u>EACR 2024 Congress: Innovative Cancer Science</u>, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- July 3-6, World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer, Barcelona, Spain
- June 18, <u>Research Day</u> at the UiB Faculty of Medicine, Bergen.
- July 19-20, Best of ASCO, Boston, USA
- August 12-16, Arendalsuka several cancer research related topics. Arendal
- September 8-11, <u>2024 International Cancer Immunotherapy Conference</u> (<u>CICON24</u>), National Harbor, MD USA
- September 12, Intelligent Health Conference, Oslo Cancer Cluster, Oslo
- September 13-17, <u>the ESMO Congress</u>, Barcelona, Spain
- September 15-18, <u>AACR Special Conference in Cancer Research</u>: <u>Advances in</u> <u>Pancreatic Cancer Research</u>, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- September 17-19, <u>World Cancer Congress</u>, Geneva, Switzerland
- September 18-19, <u>Nordic Life Science Days</u>, Malmø, Sweden
- September 26, Lung Cancer Symposium, Oslo
- October 8-10, EACR Conference on Cancer Metabolism, Bilbao, Spain
- October 17, <u>UiB Læringskonferanse</u>, Bergen
- November 12-14, the EACR Conference on Liquid Biopsies, Lyon, France
- December 3-4, the EACR Virtual Conference on Cancer and Ageing, online event

Publications

You can find the CCBIO publications on this pubmed link. See some of the most recent below.

- Grøndal SM, Tutusaus A, Boix L, Reig M, Blø M, Hodneland L, Gausdal G, Jackson A, Garcia de Frutos P, Lorens JB, Morales A, Marí M. Dynamic changes in immune cell populations by AXL kinase targeting diminish liver inflammation and fibrosis in experimental MASH. Front Immunol. 2024 May 16;15:1400553. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2024.1400553. eCollection 2024. PMID: 38817615
- Ingebriktsen LM, Svanøe AA, Sæle AKM, Humlevik ROC, Toska K, Kalvenes MB, Aas T, Heie A, Askeland C, Knutsvik G, Stefansson IM, Akslen LA, Hoivik EA, Wik E. Age-related clusters and favorable immune phenotypes in breast cancer of the young. Mod Pathol. 2024 May 27:100529. doi: 10.1016/j.modpat.2024.100529. Online ahead of print. PMID: 38810731
- Tornaas S, Kleftogiannis D, Fromreide S, Smeland HY, Aarstad HJ, Vintermyr OK, Akslen LA, Costea DE, Dongre HN. Development of a high dimensional imaging mass cytometry panel to investigate spatial organization of tissue microenvironment in formalin-fixed archival

clinical tissues. Helivon. 2024 May 14;10(10):e31191. doi: 10.1016/j.heliyon.2024.e31191. eCollection 2024 May 30. PMID: 38803925

- Puco Ketal.incl. Bjørge L. IMPRESS-Norway: improving public cancer care by implementing precision medicine in Norway; inclusion rates and preliminary results. Acta Oncol. 2024 May 23;63:379-384. doi: 10.2340/1651-226X.2024.28322. PMID: 38779911
- Espedal H, Fasmer KE, Berg HF, Lyngstad JM, Schilling T, Krakstad C, Haldorsen IS. MRI radiomics captures early treatment response in patient-derived organoid endometrial cancer mouse models. Front Oncol. 2024 May 7;14:1334541. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2024.1334541. eCollection 2024. PMID: 38774411
- Caulier B et al. incl. Gjertsen BT, McCormack E. CD37 is a safe chimeric antigen receptor target to treat acute myeloid leukemia. Cell Rep Med. 2024 May 8:101572. doi: 10.1016/j.xcrm.2024.101572. Online ahead of print. PMID: 38754420

Recent CCBIO in the media

Recent media appearances by CCBIO PIs and group members. For all media hits, see CCBIO's web pages.

- 20.05.24, Helse Førde, "Brukarmedverknad gir betre forsking", mention of the CCBIONEUR910 course.
- 17.05.24, Pledge Times, "New path to tumor cell death due to chemotherapy discovered", Benedicte Sjo Tislevoll.
- 10.05.24, TV2, "Håper å revolusjonere kreftbehandlingen", Bjørn Tore Gjertsen.
- 07.05.24, NRK, "Nye krefttall forbauser særlig ett grep får æren", Oddbjørn Straume
- 20.03.24, HealthTalk, "Livmorkreft: Dette bør du vite om symptomer, diagnose og behandling", Line Bjørge.
- 19.03.24, Dagbladet, "Ny kreftbehandling godkjent: Mange vil bli kurert", Line Bjørge.
- 19.02.24. VG, "Brystkreftmedisin under lupen: Ser ut til å ha dårligere overlevelse", Oddbjørn Straume.
- 15.02.24, Firdaposten, "Florømann leier storsatsing på blodkreft-behandling", Bjørn Tore Gjertsen.
- 08.02.24, NRK, "Helge vart kreftfrisk gjennom forskingsprosjekt: Har betydd alt", Bjørn Tore Gjertsen, Benedicte Sjo Tislevoll.
- 08.02.24, Bergens Tidende, "43 millioner til nytt blodkreft-senter", Bjørn Tore Gjertsen.
- 29.01.24, Forskerforum, "Mot normalt", Anne Blanchard.
- 19.01.24, UiB Nyheter, "Mottar 400 000 for kurs i brukermedvirkning i forskning", CCBIO.
- 17.01.24, NRK, "Vil bruke fingeravtrykk til å avsløre brystkreft", Oddbjørn Straume.
- 04.01.24, HealthTalk, "Livmorkreft: GSKs kreftkombinasjon når hovedmålet i senfase-studie", Line Bjørge

Programs and Research Teams

Mechanisms of Tumor Micro-

- environment Interactions:
- Donald Gullberg Karl-Henning Kalland Emmet McCormack

Exploration and Validation of Cancer Biomarkers:

- Lars A. Akslen Jim Lorens
- Camilla Krakstad
- Daniela Costea
- Elisabeth Wik Carina Strell
- Agnete Engelsen



Clinical Applications and Trial

- Studies:
- **Bjørn Tore Gjertsen**
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