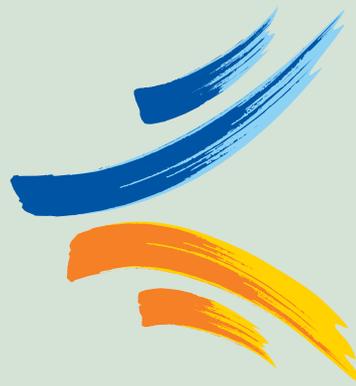




# 2011

## Annual Report



**CAST**  
CANCER • STEM CELL  
INNOVATION CENTER

Established by  
the Research Council  
of Norway

**sfi** Centre for  
Research-based  
Innovation

 **Oslo  
University Hospital**  
Norwegian Radium Hospital



**UiO** : **University of Oslo**

## Introduction

SFI-CAST has been established by the Research Council of Norway based on the unique strength of its concept and its strategic position at the crosslink between the internationally highly reputed Norwegian academic cancer research and an emerging cluster of innovative biotechnology industries.

Using the stem cell tool kit to understand cancer - the concept behind SFI-CAST - comprises a major advance in cancer research. After years of gradual improvements in treating cancer, it is now apparent that the concept of stemcellness in cancer provides a solid basis for major leaps in both diagnosis and treatment in the near future. It is fascinating to see how a novel scientific concept, as described in the initial centre application, turns into solid scientific evidence and subsequently forms the basis for product development with high innovative potential and commercial value.

In the 5 years of its existence, SFI-CAST researchers have established a portfolio of tools that comprise a solid basis for innovative industry development. Moreover, a platform of validated cancer cell lines is emerging that will serve as a standard for industrial SFI-CAST projects. Our lead drug discovery projects have gained maturity and several chemotypes are currently evaluated by industry partners. One spin off company based on SFI-CAST technology is emerging, and a second spin off is on the drawing board. Finally, a pioneering clinical trial based on an in house developed immunotherapy protocol is in progress.

We have no illusions: very substantial scientific and commercial challenges lie ahead of the centre. We face these challenges with confidence that the chosen strategy is correct.

We would like to thank the Research Council of Norway for its support in the SFI-CAST innovation centre, and the academic researchers and industry partners for their dedication and commitment. We would also like to express our gratitude to Inven2, the technology transfer office that has been enthusiastically committed to the implementation of our commercialization strategy.

Finally, we would like to state that the ongoing research is not only about innovation and scientific or commercial progress; it is about saving lives. Cancer is a cruel, often un-curable disease that causes very severe suffering. In this context we feel privileged to be able to develop novel potential cures at the cutting edge of science and technology.



Stefan Krauss  
Director



Ola Myklebost  
Co-director

**Cover front:** DMSO treated SW480 cell (colon cancer cell line) stained with  $\beta$ -catenin in green (Nina Therese Solberg).

**Cover back:** Super-resolution image of a cancer cell, with DNA in blue, endosomes in red and clathrin in green (Ellen Skarpen and Kay Schink).

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## Summary

During the last decade, cancer research has gained substantial knowledge by applying a multidisciplinary developmental understanding of tumour formation and progression, as well as a precise analysis on individual differences in tumours with single cell resolution.

It is now becoming increasingly evident that cancer cells comprise a heterogeneous cell population with dynamic sub-populations of cells showing different biological profiles including cell proliferation, invasiveness and metastatic potential. The temporal and spatial dynamics of heterogeneity appear to be directed by autocrine and paracrine short-and long range effects. Accordingly, evidence is mounting that drug efficacy can be strongly attenuated by the heterogeneous nature of tumour sub-populations, by interactions between those populations itself and the

local environment, the immune system and systematic variations in long-range signalling.

The emergence of developmental and stem cell tools, combined with advanced validated high throughput analytical tools has dramatically enhanced our ability for addressing fundamental questions in oncology. We are now finally able to generate the necessary understanding for addressing and possibly predicting tumours spread, relapse and therapeutic efficacy in *ex vivo* systems as basic tools for drug discovery.

SFI-CAST is an integrated biomedical innovation centre that works towards the identification and characterization of stem cell parameters in tumours. SFI-CAST develops innovative approaches for finding small drugs and antibodies that address specifically stem cell issues in cancer.



Photo: Affitech Research AS



PhD-student Viola Lobert



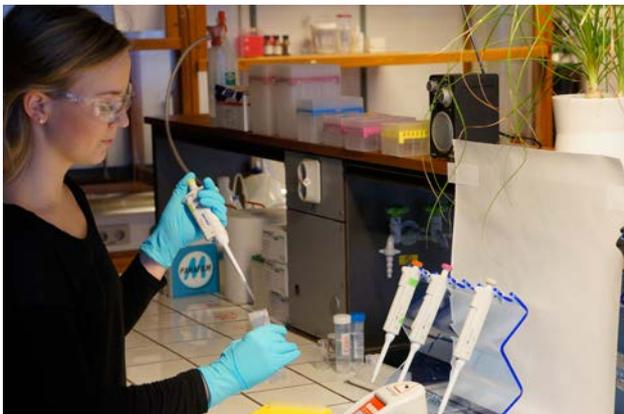
Anne Cathrine Bakken and Andreas Midbøe Hoff

## Vision/objectives

The SFI-CAST biomedical innovation centre works towards identifying new therapeutic intervention points in stemcell pathways and to test these in cancer. Based on validated intervention points, novel therapeutic reagents are developed. A main research focus of the research centre is on Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signalling.



*Hanne Håberg Mørk, master student from NTNU*



*Working in the lab*



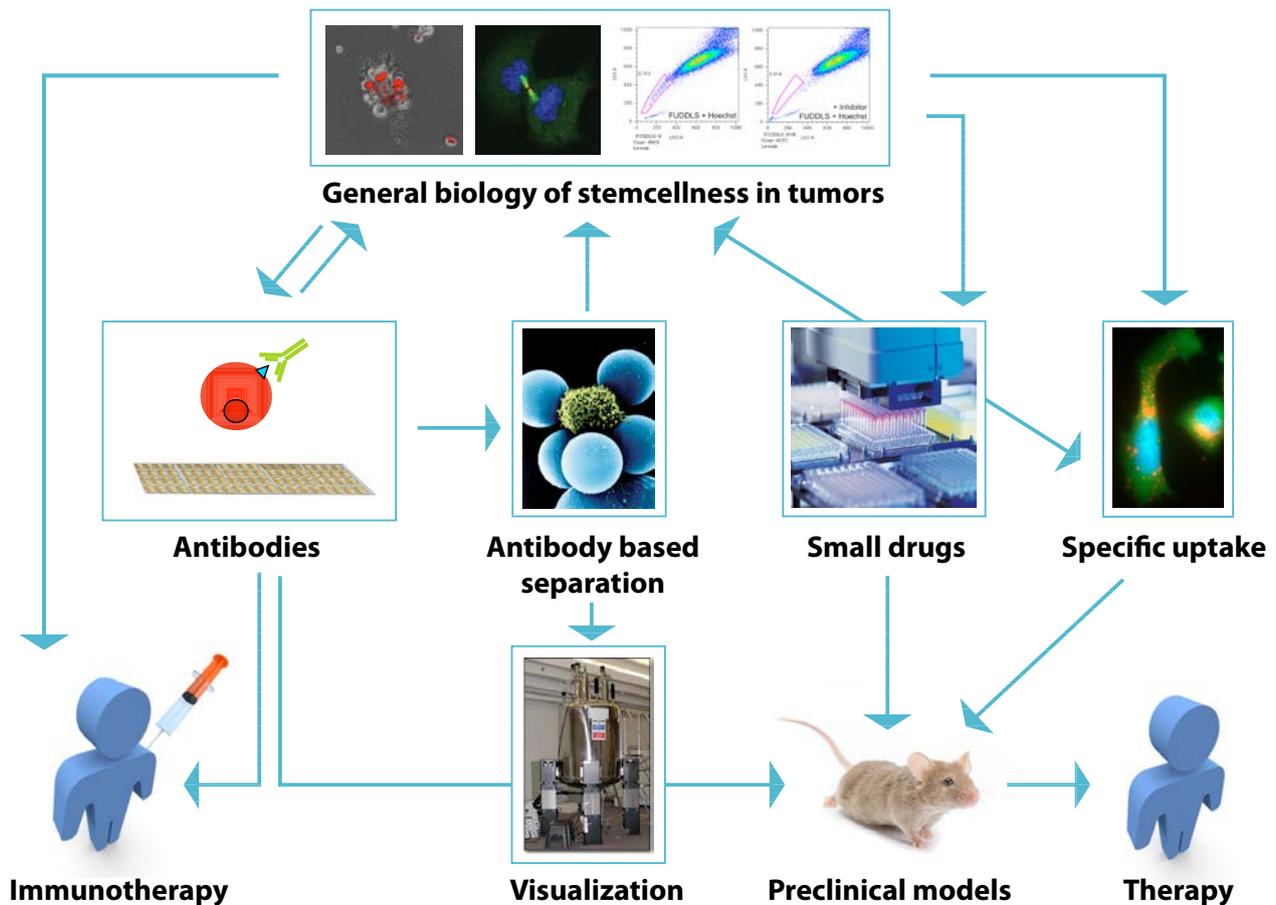
*Sharmini Alagaratnam*

## Research plan/strategy

The SFI-CAST biomedical innovation centre has a work program aimed at advancing basic research on stemcellness in cancer and tumour stem cells to experimental clinical trials. Based on the outcome of this effort, several interactive biotechnology pipelines are fed. (i) Human therapeutic antibodies against drug resistant sub-populations of cells in a tumour are explored with industry partner Affitech AS. (ii) Stem cell pathways are used for differential high throughput screens for novel drugs. (iii) Ways to find improved immunotherapy protocols and targets are being explored and tested. (iv) Specific protocols are

tested for improved therapeutic photo-internalisation with industry partner PCI Biotech ASA.

A major focus of the centre is translational research. Partners at the Norwegian Radium Hospital have been responsible for more than 25 phase I/II clinical trials of cancer vaccines and immune-gene therapy, and will cooperate with clinicians involved in the project. This ensures a swift start of the translational aspect as well as providing clinical material for the individual work programs.



## Scientific Activities and Results

### Scientific Highlights

In 2011, 40 peer reviewed cancer related articles were published by CAST members. Several articles were published in high impact journals. Numerous articles were co-authored by several members of the CAST consortium.

A comparative study of the structural organization of spheres derived from the adult human subventricular zone and glioblastoma biopsies was carried out by Vik-Mo et al... and Langmoen and published in *Exp Cell Res* (2011 Apr 15;317(7):1049-59. Epub 2011 Jan 1).

It was shown that the MDM2 antagonist Nutlin-3a potentiates anti tumour activity of cytotoxic drugs in sarcoma cell lines by Ohnstad et al... and Myklebost. The work was published in *BMC Cancer* (2011 May 30;11:211:1-11. doi: 10.1186/1471-2407-11-211).

Cargo-dependent degradation of ESCRT-I as a feedback mechanism to modulate endosomal sorting was described by Malerød et al...and Stenmark. The work was published in the journal *Traffic* (2011 Sep;12(9):1211-26. doi: 10.1111/j.1600-0854.2011.01220.x. Epub 2011 Jun 13).

Cell polarity and migration: emerging role for the endosomal sorting machinery was reviewed by Lobert and Stenmark and published in the journal *Physiology* (2011 Jun;26(3):171-80).

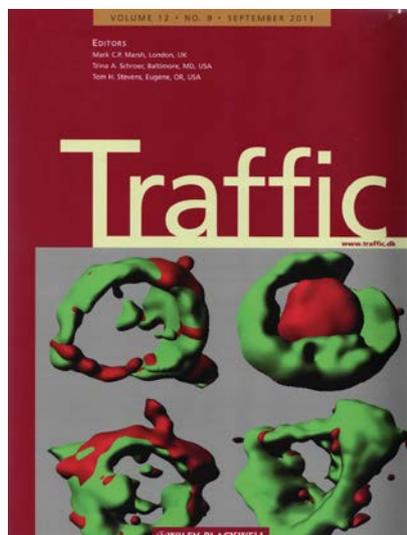
SPG20, encoding a regulator of cytokinesis, was identified as a novel biomarker for early detection of colorectal cancer was reported by Lind et al... and Lothe and published in *Oncogene* (2011 Sep 15;30(37):3967-78. doi: 10.1038/onc.2011.109. Epub 2011 Apr 18).

A genome wide single cell analysis of chemotherapy resistant metastatic cells was carried out for gastroesophageal adenocarcinoma and published by Hjortland et al... and Howig including Myklebost as co-author. The work was published in *BMC Cancer* (2011 Oct 20;11:455).

Osteopontin was described as an important downstream effector of S100A4-mediated invasion and metastasis by Berge et al... and Mælandsmo and published in *Int J Cancer*. (2011 Aug 15;129(4):780-90. doi: 10.1002/ijc.25735. Epub 2011 Mar 11).

Novel synthetic antagonists of canonical Wnt signalling were identified. The work was published by Waaler et al... and Krauss in *Cancer Research* (2011 Jan 1;71(1):197-205).

A novel synthetic smoothed antagonist was identified by Strand et al...and Krauss and published in *PLoS One* (2011;6(6):e19904. Epub 2011 Jun 15).



Front page of "Traffic" where the CAST article "Cargo-dependent degradation of ESCRT-I as a feedback mechanism to modulate endosomal sorting", Malerød L et al. is highlighted.

## Innovative Highlights

Two small molecular tankyrase inhibitors were further advanced with the aim of developing a therapeutic intervention for reducing Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signalling in solid tumours (patent pending). One of the chemotypes has reached clinical candidate status (Krauss-group).

Links between Wnt inhibition, snRNA and differentiation were identified by Myklebost-group, and possible therapeutic implications have been investigated.

Based on development of biomarkers suitable for early detection of colorectal cancer in the groups of Lothe and Skotheim, Inven2, on behalf of Oslo University Hospital, has recently signed a licence agreement with Oxford Gene Technology <http://www.inven2.com/en/oxford-gene-technology>. In addition, the same groups have filed patent applications on two genetic signatures, named ColoGuideEx and ColoGuidePro, with prognostic value in different stages of colorectal cancer. This project is further supported by Innovation funding from the Health Region of South-Eastern Norway.

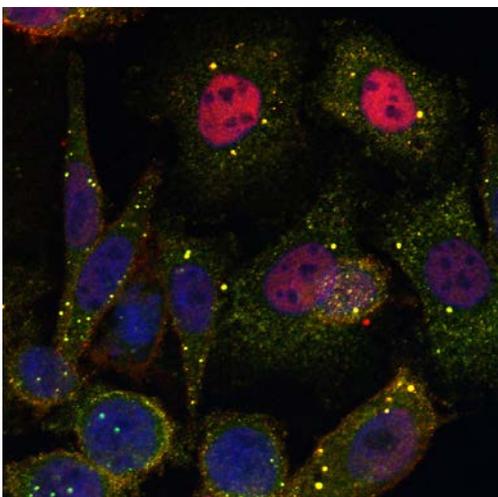
A clinical immune vaccination trial on Glioblastoma was advanced. The clinical phase I trial targeting

cancer stem cells in glioblastoma patients has recruited 18 of 20 patients. The preliminary results show the feasibility of producing autologous tumour stem cells for clinical intervention. We have through mRNA loaded dendritic cells been able to induce an immune response in most patients. This intervention we so far consider safe as no major adverse events have been identified. Also, the possible effect of the immunotherapy on progression free survival seems promising (Langmoen-group).

Substantial improvement of automated sample preparation/chromatography with in-house developed AFFL-SPE-LC (patent applied) and development of high speed LC-MS for high resolution proteomics using silica based monolithic LC columns at high temperature was achieved by Lundanes-group.

Disulfonated tetraphenyl chlorine (TPCS2a), a novel photosensitizer developed for clinical utilization of photochemical internalization was published by PCI Biotech.

PCI Biotech has successfully completed a clinical phase I/II study with Amphinex in combination with the well-established cytotoxic agent bleomycin.



SW480 cells stained with anti-axin and anti- $\beta$ -catenin upon JW270 treatment (Nina Marie Pedersen)

## CAST Core Facilities

The SFI-CAST animal and cell sorting core facility was established thanks to a grant from Radium Hospital and was serviced by four technical employees through 2011. The facility provides advanced cell and animal technology, like high-speed flow-cytometry assisted cell sorting, and cell isolation, propagation, and analysis, as well as a NOD/SCID colony for establishment of xenografts and *in vivo* experiments. In addition to advanced flow sorting equipment (Aria, BD), the core also has also acquired an automatic colony counter (GelCount, Oxford Optronix), a time-lapse equipment (Incucyte, Essenbio) and a gentleMACS tissue Dissociator (Milteny Biotec).

The main goal of the cell culture platform is to establish a collection of CSC model systems for cancer types that are frequent and for which there is a lack of good therapies. The CSC model lines will be characterized for stem cell characteristics like expression of stem cell-specific cell surface markers, aldehyde dehydrogenase activity, the capacity to exclude drugs, and their proliferative capacity by label retention. Stem-cells will be evaluated by the ability to grow anchorage-independent as colonies in 3D cultures.

In 2011 we have focused on stem cell models from pancreatic adenocarcinoma. First, we generated 8 xenografts from patient material from surgical removal of primary tumours, which can be serially passaged in NOD/SCID gamma-null mice. In collaboration with the experienced pancreatic pathologist that provided

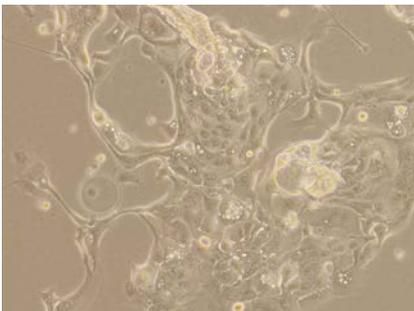
the patient material from Ullevål, we have confirmed that the generated xenografts have high similarity to original patient tumour material, and that *in vivo* propagation of the tumours maintains their structural integrity.

We have successfully established long-term *in vitro* cultures from four of these xenografts. The generated cell lines harbour tumourigenic cells, shown by their ability to regenerate tumours *in vivo*, after injection of as few as 10 000 cells in NOD/SCID mice. These cell lines have been thoroughly characterized for expression of cell surface markers and stem cell characteristics over time in *in vitro* cultures.

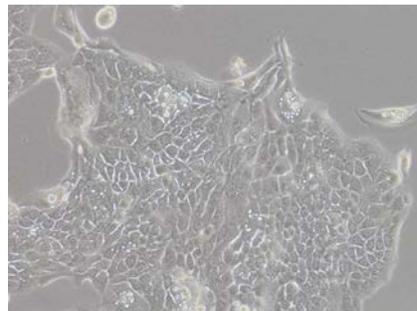
These pancreatic xenograft and cell models are CAST proprietary and available for all CAST members. In particular, these models could be employed to evaluate PCI labelled EpCam antibodies as the expression of EpCam is high in all the cell lines. In addition, they could also be used to test potential pancreatic drugs.

## Personnel 2011

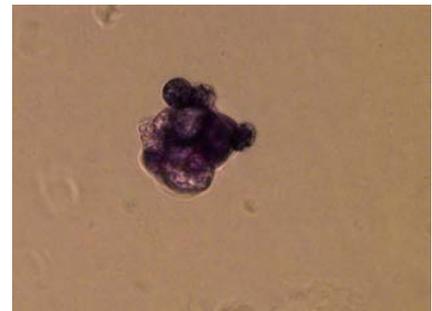
Anna Berit Wennerström, Menaka Sathermugathevan (Cell technicians), Petros Gebregziabher (Animal technician), Nomdo A.C. Westerdaal (Flow sorting technician), Else Munthe (Project leader, Postdoc). MS and EM were supported by industry contributions.



Cell line



Pancreatic Cell Line



ppa

# Organisation

## Management and members

The partners of SFI-CAST have in 2011 consisted of nine research groups and two industry partners. A third industry partner is expected to be granted SFI-CAST membership in January 2012. Seven research groups are located at Oslo University Hospital and two groups at the University of Oslo. In 2011 research activities were carried out at the Norwegian Radium Hospital, the Oslo Research Park, the Ullevål Oslo University Hospital, Domus Medica and the Department of Chemistry (University of Oslo), as well as in the different industries. In total 60 researchers are associated with, or employed by SFI-CAST.

SFI-CAST is headed by Stefan Krauss (director) and Ola Myklebost (assistant director). The administrative manager in 2011 was Bie Ekblad.

The centre has a project leadership group who meets on a regular basis. The group consists of the eight primary investigators (PI) and representatives of industry partners of the consortium.

The board is responsible for ensuring that SFI-CAST is developed in accordance with the current research plan.

## Academic SFI-CAST members

Elsa Lundanes/Tyge Greibrokk, Department of Chemistry, University of Oslo

Gunhild M. Mælandsmo, Department of Tumour Biology, Oslo University Hospital, the Norwegian Radium Hospital

Harald Stenmark, Department of Biochemistry, Institute for Cancer Research, Oslo University Hospital, the Norwegian Radium Hospital

Iver A. Langmoen, Department of Neurosurgery, Oslo University Hospital, Ullevål University Hospital/ Rikshospitalet

Joel Glover, Department of Physiology, Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Oslo

Ragnhild A. Lothe, Department of Cancer Prevention, Oslo University Hospital, the Norwegian Radium Hospital

Ola Myklebost, Department of Tumour Biology, Oslo University Hospital, the Norwegian Radium Hospital

Stefan Krauss, Unit for Cell Signalling, Oslo University Hospital, Rikshospitalet

Therese Sørli, Department of Genetics, Oslo University Hospital, the Norwegian Radium Hospital

## Industry Partners

Affitech AS  
PCI Biotech Holding ASA  
ODIN Therapeutics AS (pending)

## The Board

In 2011 the board members were

**Jonny Østensen**, Inven2 (Chairman)

**Karen Marie Ulshagen**, University of Oslo

**Stein Kvaløy**, Oslo University Hospital, the Norwegian Radium Hospital

**Kari Kværner**, Oslo University Hospital

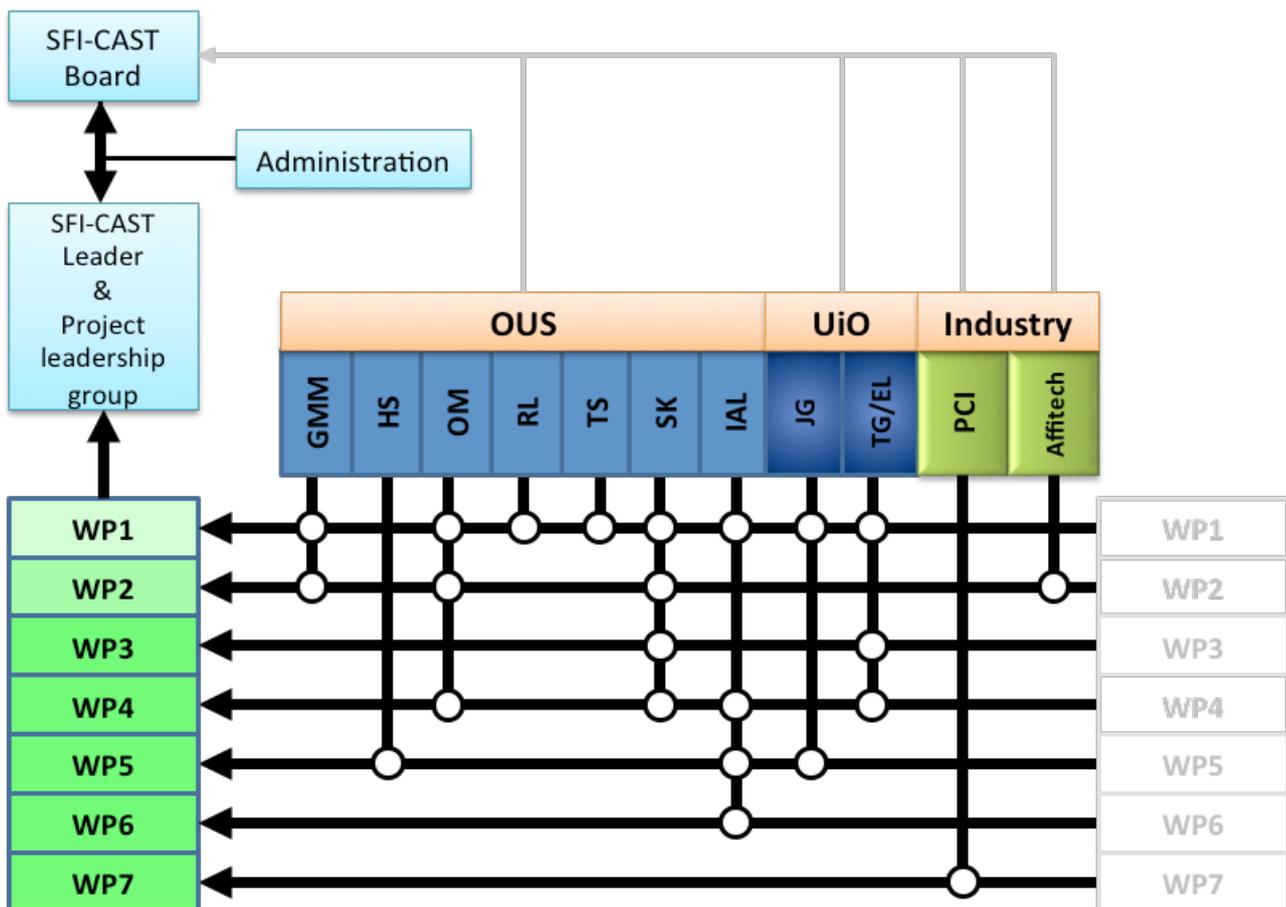
**Michael Braunagel**, Affitech AS

**Anders Høgset**, PCI Biotech Holding ASA

**Øystein Rønning**, Norwegian Research Council (Observer)

## Organisation structure

All partners (OUS, UiO and each industry partner) have a representative in the board. The project leadership group has the scientific responsibility and leader reports to the board. The organization on the working group level shows the competences, the collaboration and responsibilities.



### Abbreviations

OUS - Oslo Universitetssykehus (Oslo University Hospital)

UiO - Universitetet i Oslo (University of Oslo)

GMM - Gunhild Mari Mælandsmo group

HS - Harald Stenmark group

OM - Ola Myklebost group

RL - Ragnhild A. Lothe group

SK - Stefan Krauss group

IAL - Iver Arne Langmoen group

JG - Joel Glover group

TG/EL - Tyge Greibrokk/Elsa Lundanes group

PCI - PCI Biotech Holding ASA

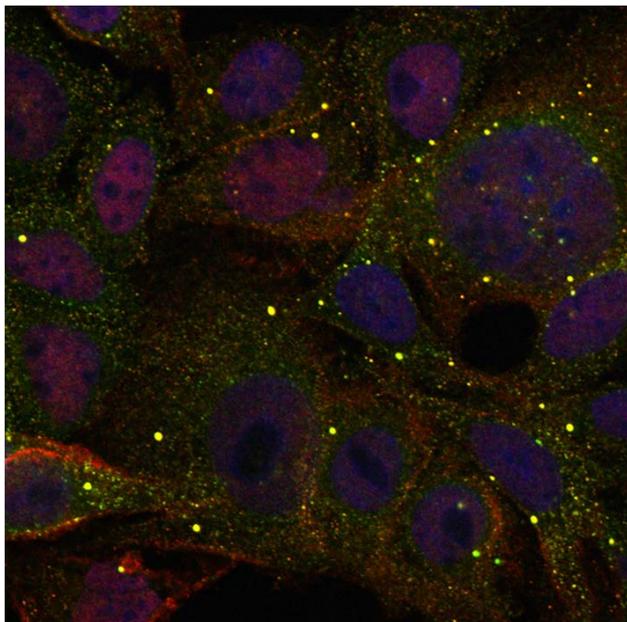
Affitech - Affitech Research AS

WP - Work Program

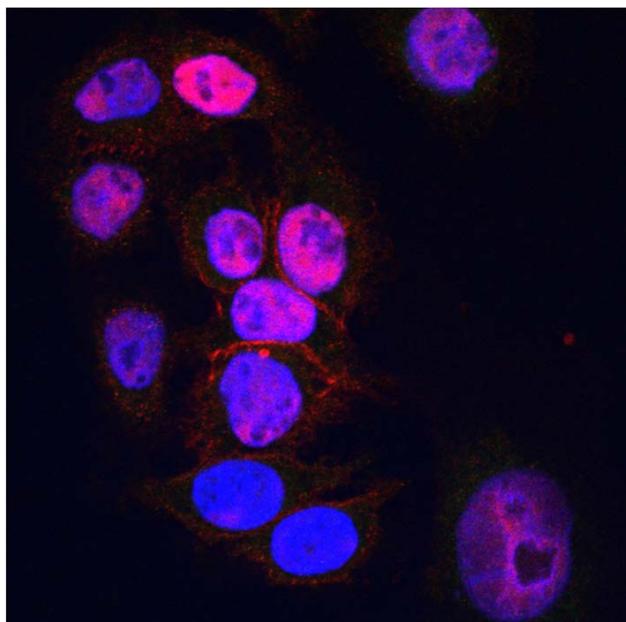
### Cooperation between the centre's partners

All centre activities are centred on integrated work programs. All academic groups in the centre and the industry partners are involved in studying aspects of the Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin stem cell signalling and its inhibition by a proprietary series of small drug in various tumour models. Several groups, including O. Myklebost, G. Mælandsmo and T. Sørli work on elucidating the link

small nuclear RNA and stem cell signalling in cancer. Furthermore, links between S100A4 and stem cell signalling in tumours are established. Collaborations between the industry partners and between industry partners and academic partners are ongoing on a proprietary therapeutic antibody.



SW480 cells stained with anti-axin and anti- $\beta$ -catenin upon JW270 treatment (Nina Marie Pedersen).



SW480 cells stained with anti-axin and anti- $\beta$ -catenin, Control cells (Nina Marie Pedersen).

## Research Groups/Academic Partners



### STEFAN KRAUSS-GROUP STEM CELL SIGNALLING

#### Aim

The main goal of the group within SFI-CAST is to gain understanding on stemcellness in cancer, and to use this knowledge for developing antagonists to the stem cell pathway.

#### Status

Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signalling is a functional network that regulates centrally stem cell properties in a cell and broad range of biological systems, including organ development and control of intracellular metabolism. Deregulated canonical Wnt signalling is a common denominator in a variety of tumours. About 90% of sporadic colon cancers show aberrant Wnt signalling, while all pancreatic adenocarcinomas exhibit alterations in Wnt/Notch signalling. Other major cancers with Wnt activating mutations include gastric, hepatocellular, ovarian, prostate, and non small cell lung cancers, as well as melanoma, breast cancer and cancers of the hematopoietic system. We and others have identified the adenosine binding pocket of tankyrase as an attractive biotarget to inhibit Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signalling. We have developed a series of highly specific tankyrase inhibitors that

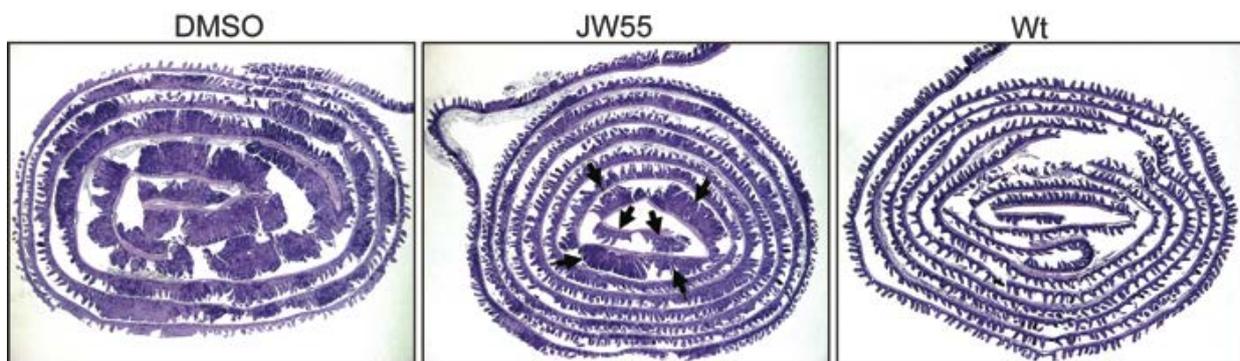
show efficacy *in vitro* and *in vivo* in mouse models. The inhibitors are now further developed with the aim of using the inhibitors as potential human therapeutics.

#### Innovative potential

The novel small drug tankyrase inhibitors that we develop could have significant therapeutic potential.

#### Collaborations within the centre

We actively collaborate with E. Lundanes/T. Greibrokk on analytical tools, with O. Myklebost and I. Langmoen on tankyrase inhibitors in various tumour models and with H. Stenmark on the DC complex. Work with T. Sørli on animal models and with G. Mælandsmo on tumour models is planned.



*JW55 treatment decreases development of adenomas in conditional Apc knockout mice. A, representative microscopy images showing H&E-stained sections of Swiss-rolls (the distal part of the ileum is centered) demonstrating an extensive decrease in adenoma development in the small intestine of JW55-treated (100 mg/kg) mice when compared to control mice (DMSO).*



## IVER LANGMOENS-GROUP MALIGNANT BRAIN TUMOURS

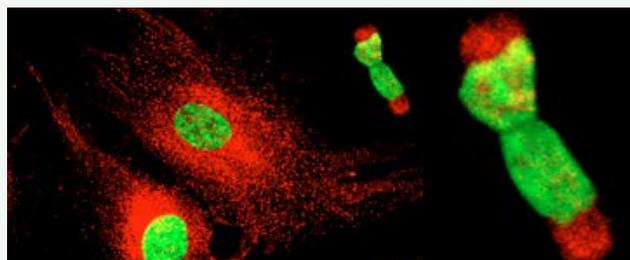
### Aim

The main focus of the group in the frame of SFI-CAST is on cultivation and characterization of cancer stem cells in primary cultures from brain tumours and identification of new therapeutic targets in glioblastoma.

### Status

Both normal and tumour stem cells show a high proliferation rate when cultured. Interestingly, the proliferation rate falls dramatically also in tumour stem cells when they are induced to differentiate. Normal and tumour stem cells show a similar pattern of differentiation, i.e. in neuronal and glial directions, although differentiated cells from the tumour were clearly abnormal morphologically and differentiation in itself progressed much faster. We performed a number of experiments studying the effect that *in vitro* culture of tumour stem cells has on the cells' ability to form tumours, to differentiate and to undergo genotypic and expressional changes. We have also explored the cellular organization of neuro- and tumour spheres, looking at the cellular heterogeneity of such spheres. By sorting tumour cells based on surface antigens, we hope to establish methods for better identification of the progenitor population.

We used microarray technology to compare the global gene expression in normal stem cells and tumour stem cells, in order to identify possible targets for treatment and to better understand the biology of the cell population that escapes current treatment and causes recurrences. The results of this comparison study show a significant up regulation in tumour stem cells of genes connected to regulation of focal adhesion, actin cytoskeleton, axon guidance as well as the Wnt signalling pathway. Putative target genes have been confirmed at the protein level using immunohistochemistry and Western blot. This work is currently submitted for publication. The roles of the possible targets in the Wnt pathway are investigated using Wnt inhibitors. In particular, we investigated a set of 20 genes that were highly up-regulated in GBM tumour cultures using micro-array data. Currently, the genes' roles in glioma are investigated using shRNA-knockdown based technology and its effect on proliferation, apoptosis and sphere-forming capacity. Preliminary results look very promising with publications in preparation.



*Expression of NAA30 in GMB-To595 and normal cells*

Based on the preclinical data we have established a clinical protocol. This protocol is designed to harness the patients' own immunity. The inclusion of patients into the "Phase I/II trial of vaccine therapy with hTERT, survivin and tumour stem cell derived mRNA-transfected dendritic cells in patients receiving standard therapy for glioblastoma" started in February 2009. So far 18 patients have been included in the study. This clinical trial is backed up from the collaboration through the Cancer Stem Cell Innovation Centre (SFI CAST) and is collaboration with the Neurosurgical department, Dept. for Clinical cancer Research, Dept. for Cell Therapy, and Dept. for Immunology, Inst. for Cancer Research, the Norwegian Radium Hospital and the Oncological department at Oslo University Hospital.

### Innovative potential

We advance FACs (facilitated cell sorting and cytometry) to carry out specific measurements of cell sub-group behaviour within cell populations and allows for elaborate assessment of experimental parameters. The ability for distinction of many wavelengths of fluorophore as well as the development of sophisticated antibody-fluorophore conjugates means that data relating to cell cycle, division rate, phenotype and even transitory signalling pathway activation can be assessed within control and experimental cell populations.

### Collaborations within the centre

We actively collaborate with J. Glover and S. Krauss.



## RAGNHILD A. LOTHES-GROUP STEM CELL BIOMARKERS

### Aim

We aim to gain insight into the role of stem cells in the development and progression of cancer, and in particular for the pluripotent cancer cells developing from testicular germ cells. Specifically, we compare mRNA profiles of embryonal carcinomas and embryonic stem cells to identify genes with malignancy specific expression, genes which are relevant for development into cancer stem cell biomarkers and drug targets.

### Status

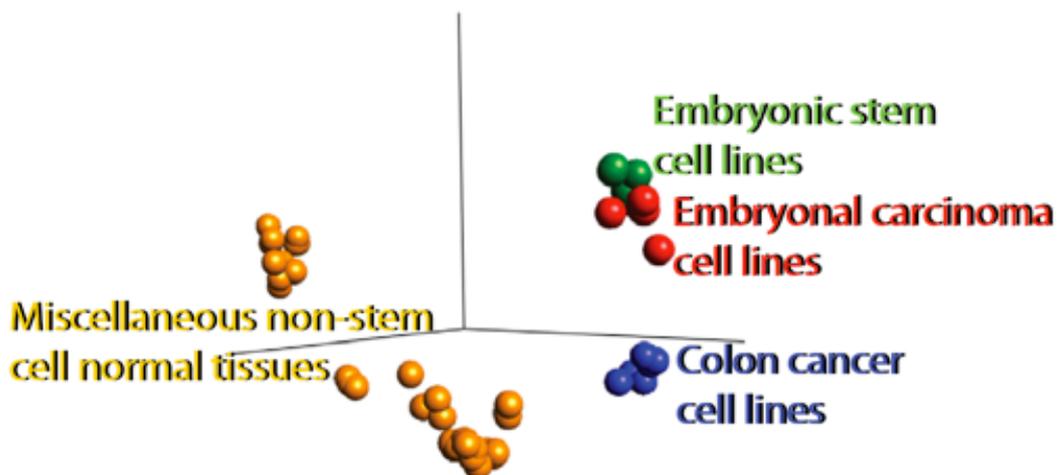
We have carried out detailed transcriptome studies of panels of both embryonal carcinoma (EC) and phenotypically similar, but non-malignant, embryonic stem (ES) cell lines. Genome technologies such as exon microarrays and whole-transcriptome RNA-sequencing have been used to identify genes with malignancy specific expression or transcript structures. From the top-most differentially expressed genes and individual exons between EC and ES cells, we have now validated several genes and transcripts that we are in progress of defining their role in cancer.

### Innovative potential

Molecules which are specific to cancer cells with stemness properties can be used both as cancer biomarkers and as targets for therapy.

### Collaborations within the centre

We collaborate predominantly with H. Stenmark.



*Overall features of the gene expression profiles, as seen from principal components analysis, demonstrate the close relatedness between EC and ES cells.*



## ELSA LUNDANES AND TYGE GREIBROKK-GROUP ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

### Aim

We develop analytical tools for analysis of proteins and small molecules, mostly based on liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry, with emphasis on sensitivity, resolution and automation.

### Status

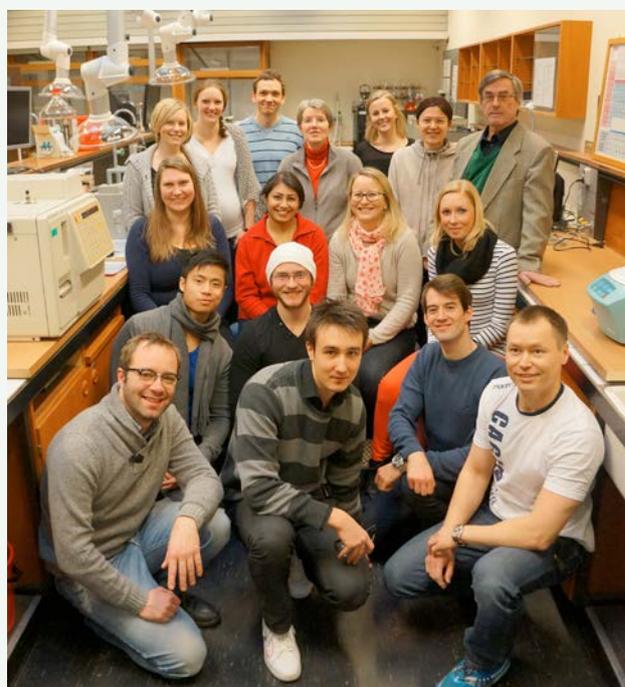
The Lundanes group has developed analytical tools for sensitive determination of potential cancer biomarkers such as oxysterols. In addition, an ambitious effort is being put in to developing a label-free method for drug target discovery (“drug deconvolution”). The group expects the method, which may significantly aid drug discovery, to be completed in 2012. The Lundanes groups is pro-active in cooperation with other CAST members, especially the Krauss group, and co-publish regularly. Recently, members of the Lundanes group have engaged in cooperation with CAST industry partner Affitech AS, in a co-effort to develop and apply novel technology for the analysis of glycoproteins.

### Innovative potential

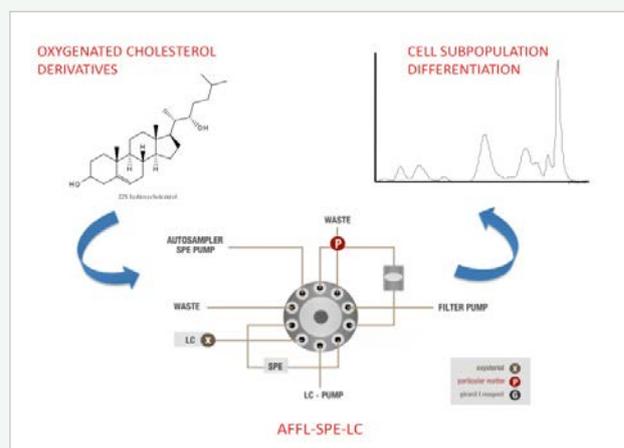
The Lundanes group has prioritized patenting, and is in discussions with external industry partners regarding commercialization of analytical methods.

### Collaborations within the centre

We actively collaborate with S. Krauss on analytical methods for small molecules, metabolites and proteins. We also collaborate with industry partner Affitech AS.



The research group of Elsa Lundanes and Tyge Greibrokk at Inst. for Chemistry



The Lundanes group develops novel technology able to study complex cellular processes with minimal amounts of sample.



## OLA MYKLEBOST-GROUP MESENCHYMAL PROGRAMMING

### Aim

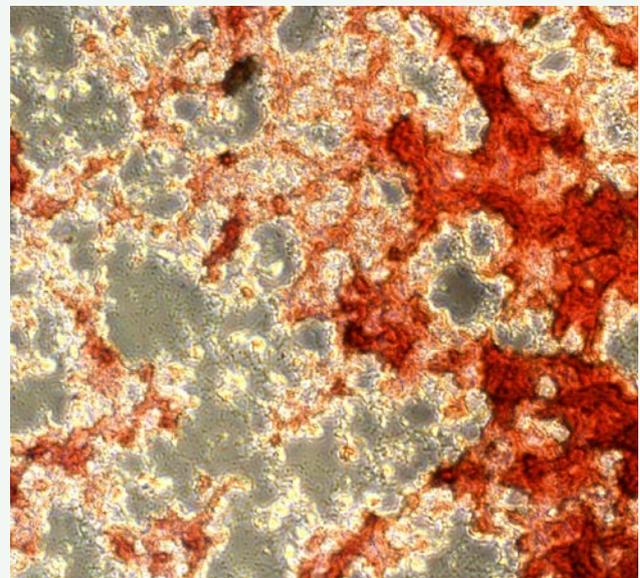
The Myklebost group is focused on the biology of mesenchymal cancers, also known as sarcomas, and is investigating the regulation and properties of stemness and differentiation in these tumours. The studies are extended to breast cancers of the mesenchymal phenotype.

### Status

The microRNA let-7 is considered a tumour suppressor and a regulator of stemness and differentiation, and is normally highly expressed in well differentiated tissues. The expression of let-7 is frequently lost in cancer. Interestingly, HMGA2 is expressed early in development, but is abruptly downregulated following expression of let-7, thus HMGA2 and let-7 are conversely expressed. HMGA2, which is an architectural transcription factor, is amplified and rearranged in sarcomas, and frequently upregulated in a variety of epithelial-derived cancers, such as breast, ovarian, pancreatic and lung cancer. Using a model system consisting of a human breast epithelial cell lines and the mesenchymal counterpart (which have undergone epithelial to mesenchymal transition (EMT)); we have found that HMGA2 is preferentially expressed in the more aggressive mesenchymal-like breast cells. Furthermore, continued expression of HMGA2 in these mesenchymal-like cells is essential for survival of these cells. We are currently investigating the exact role of HMGA2 and let-7 in this EMT model system, with focus on the mechanism regulating cell proliferation.

The Wnt pathway is frequently upregulated in osteosarcoma and Wnt inhibition may therefore have therapeutic potential in these cells. We are currently testing the effects of specific tankyrase inhibitors developed by the Krauss group in our osteosarcoma cell lines, with focus on proliferation, apoptosis, differentiation, colony formation and invasive capacity.

Using a liposarcoma xenograft model system we have shown that cancer stem-like cells are strongly enriched by cell sorting based on Aldefluor in combination with CD133. The Aldefluor<sup>high</sup> CD133<sup>high</sup> subpopulation generates tumours more efficiently *in vivo* and colonies more efficiently *in vitro*. In collaboration with PCI Biotech we have successfully targeted the CD133 positive population, thus eliminating the cancer stem-like cells, in this model system, using *in vitro* PCI technology.



Osteogenic differentiation in osteosarcoma cells induced by the tankyrase specific inhibitor OD270

### Innovative potential

Therapeutic strategies based on *Let-7* and miR34 will be evaluated in collaboration with Mirna Therapeutics (Austin, Texas).

### Collaborations within the centre

We actively collaborate with S. Krauss, J. Glover and PCI Biotech AS as well as with Affitech AS.



## GUNHILD MÆLANDSMO-GROUP TUMOUR HETEROGENEITY

### Aim

A central aim of the group has been to optimize methods for single cell preparation from tumour tissue, isolation of various cell populations from the heterogeneous tumour mass and cultivation of the cells for maintenance and further evaluation of stemness characteristics and differentiation capability.

### Status

In the breast cancer project we now utilize several models representative for basal-like and luminal-like breast cancer grown orthotopically in nude mice. We have isolated and characterized tumour cell populations from two such models. Subpopulations from the luminal like tumour had the highest tumour initiating potential and more detailed analysis revealed population heterogeneity with respect to several cell surface markers. Re-injected pure subpopulations defined by chosen markers, indicated differences *in vivo* tumourigenicity as well as regenerative capacity. In collaboration with T. Sørli whole genome expression analysis has been performed, and some interesting pathway differences have been found. Studies of the proteome and epigenetic differences have been initiated.

In the Melanoma project, our recent publication suggests that melanoma does not harbour a small stable cell subpopulation that could be distinguished by specific CSC-related markers. Rather, our data suggests that a large fraction of melanoma cells from heterogeneous subpopulations have CSC-like properties; alternatively, that most of the cells can transiently adopt a CSC-like identity. The latter has been linked to a phenomenon called “phenotype-switching”, which seems to be regulated by the signals from tumour microenvironment (TME). Therefore, we are focusing now on how TME factors affect melanoma cells phenotypes and functions

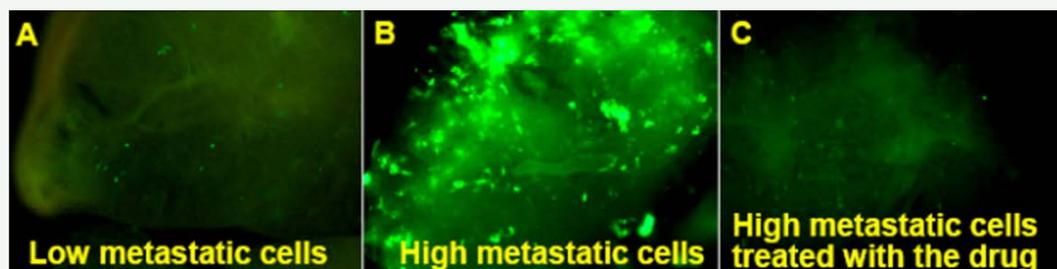
related to metastasis and drug-response. In another subproject we are investigating the molecular and functional characteristics of melanoma cells isolated from different sites of metastases i.e. different microenvironments. In parallel, we are studying how the microenvironment is modulated by the developing metastases in order to identify TMAE alterations that could be linked to metastatic growth.

### Innovative potential

The ultimate goal is to identify how the molecular and functional properties of melanoma cells are affected by the microenvironment factors. Further, to reveal the peculiarities in the crosstalk between melanoma cells and the microenvironment in various metastatic sites and the consequence of such crosstalk for metastases development and drug-response. Increased understanding of the tumour-microenvironment interactions might reveal novel targets for therapeutic intervention.

### Collaborations within the centre

We actively collaborate with T. Sørli, S. Krauss and PCI Biotech AS.



Ex vivo clonogenic growth of low (A) and high (B, C) metastatic melanoma cells in puma without (A, B) or with (C) the *Brafv600e* inhibitor Vemurafenib. The images illustrate the inhibitory effect on metastatic colony formation in lung tissue. Melanome cells were labelled with green fluorescent protein, and intensley green areas represent tumour colonies.



## HARALD STENMARK-GROUP INTRACELLULAR TRAFFICKING AND SIGNALLING

### Aim

The aim of this group's research is to understand how intracellular membrane trafficking serves to regulate stem cell signalling, in particular signalling in the Wnt pathway.

### Status

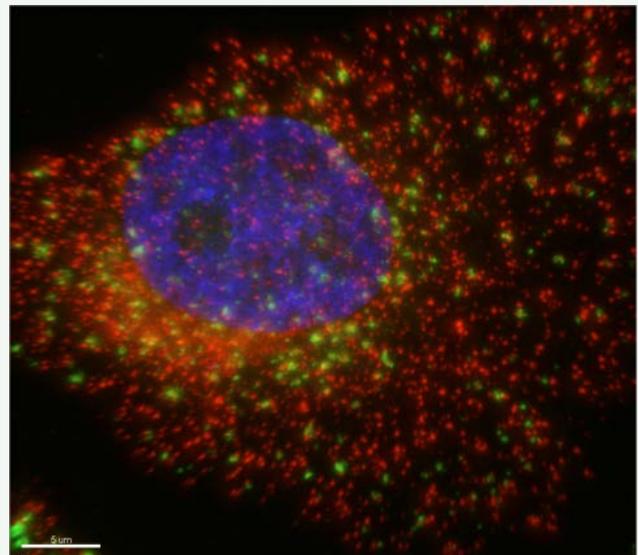
The group works on a molecular dissection of the Wnt signalling pathway, with focus on components of the endocytic pathway. Recent evidence suggests that endosomal sequestration of inhibitory factors is a key event in Wnt signalling, and the group will explore this further as a possible target for therapy.

### Innovative potential

This research has innovative potential to point out new avenues for therapeutic targeting of Wnt signalling – one of the key signalling pathways in cancer stem cells.

### Collaborations within the centre

Within CAST, the group collaborates closely with the group of S. Krauss in pharmacological targeting of the Wnt pathway, and with the group of R. A. Lothe/R. Skotheim in identification of tumourigenic hits on the Wnt pathway.



Super-resolution image of a cancer cell, with DNA in blue, endosomes in red and clathrin in green. Image courtesy of Ellen Skarpen and Kay Schink.



## THERESE SØRLIÈS-GROUP BREAST CANCER HETEROGENEITY

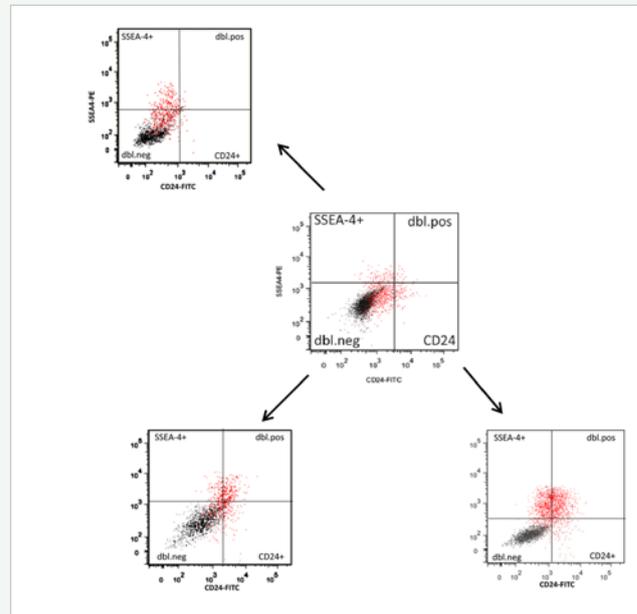
### Aim

In the frame of CAST, our group focuses on intra-tumour heterogeneity and the role of different sub-populations of cells for progression of breast cancer.

### Status

Breast cancer is a collection of diseases demonstrating heterogeneity at the molecular, histopathological and clinical level. Several subpopulations of cells exist within tumours which are different with respect to differentiation status and ability to drive tumour growth. We are studying breast cancer heterogeneity by using both cell lines and orthotopically growing xenograft models. By use of sets of specific surface markers and FACS sorting, we have identified, isolated and characterized cells that are different with respect to invasiveness and tumorigenicity, *in vitro* as well as *in vivo*. These have been further characterized by gene expression profiling and signatures and candidate single markers with potential clinical implication have been identified.

From the characterization of tumour cell subpopulations using microarrays and mass spectrometry (underway), we expect to identify markers for the more aggressive tumour cells. These could potentially be used for further separation of the cell populations and as candidates for small molecule targeting.



Flow cytometry analysis of a luminal breast cancer xenograft model using CD24 and SSEA-4.

### Innovative potential

We will establish conditional transgenic mouse models in combination with reporter gene and lineage tracing mouse strains to study expression patterns of specific proteins and cells of origin of tumour formation. These will be ideal for testing of targeting drug candidates.

### Collaborations within the centre

We collaborate with the Mælandsmo group on the breast cancer project.



## JOEL GLOVERS-GROUP IMAGING

### Aim

*In vivo* imaging for following the fate of tumour cells and potential tumour stem cells in animal models. Develop labelling and imaging protocols that facilitate non-invasive *in vivo* cell tracking at the highest possible spatial resolution.

### Status

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)-based tracking is increasingly attracting attention as a means of better understanding stem cell dynamics *in vivo*. Intracellular labelling with micrometer-sized particles of iron oxide (MPIOs) provides a practical MRI-based approach due to superior detectability relative to smaller iron oxide particles. However, insufficient information is available about the general utility across cell types and the effects on cell vitality of MPIO labelling of human stem cells. We labelled 6 human cell types from different sources: mesenchymal stem cells derived from bone marrow (MSCs), mesenchymal stem cells derived from adipose tissue (ASCs), presumptive adult neural stem cells (ad-NSCs), foetal neural progenitor cells (f-NPCs), a glioma cell line (U87) and glioblastoma tumour stem cells (GSCs), with two different sizes of MPIOs (0.9 and 2.84  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Labelling and uptake efficiencies were highly variable among cell types. Several parameters of general cell function were tested *in vitro*. Only minor differences were found between labelled and unlabeled cells with respect to proliferation rate, mitotic duration, random motility and capacity for differentiation to specific phenotypes. *In vivo* behaviour was tested in chicken embryos and severe combined immunodeficient (SCID) mice. Post-mortem histology showed that labelled cells survived and could integrate into various tissues. MRI-based tracking over several weeks in the SCID mice showed that labelled GSCs and f-NPCs injected into the brain exhibited translocations similar to those seen for unlabeled cells and as expected from migratory behaviour described in previous studies. The results support MPIO-based cell tracking as a generally useful tool for studies of human stem cell dynamics *in vivo*.

### Innovative potential

We work towards evaluating the potential for developing specialized MPIOs for targeted delivery of drugs.

### Collaborations within the centre

An active collaboration has been maintained with the groups of I. Langmoen and O. Myklebost.

## Industry Partners



[www.affitech.com](http://www.affitech.com)

### AFFITECH RESEARCH AS

#### About the company

Affitech Research AS, a biopharmaceutical company listed on the Nasdaq OMX Copenhagen exchange, is dedicated to the discovery and development of human antibody therapeutics in cancer and other diseases with unmet medical needs. The repeated use of antibodies as therapeutic agents to fight cancer, autoimmune or infectious diseases, requires antibodies that are non-immunogenic in humans. Affitech has therefore been focusing on the discovery and development of fully human antibodies, which we believe have the maximum potential for becoming ideal therapeutics for a variety of diseases combined with a lowered risk of immunogenicity.

#### SFI-CAST interaction

In the frame of SFI-CAST, Affitech together with its academic partners is working towards the discovery of antibodies targeting possible stem cell subpopulations of pancreatic cancer cells that show increased chemotherapy resistance and increased metastatic potential. The project is funded by the Research Council of Norway through the Industrial PhD scheme.

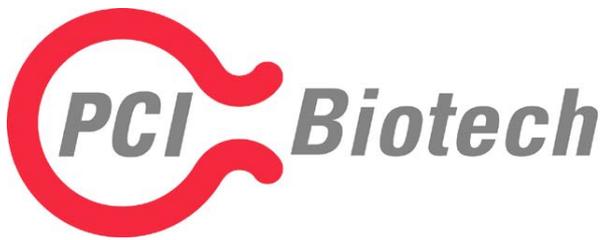
#### Status 2011

Affitech's Russian partner IBC Generium has filed a Clinical Trial Application in Russia for testing of r84 in clinical trials. R84, an antibody developed by Affitech in collaboration with Peregrine Inc. The product candidate is a new patented human monoclonal antibody to human vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), and is being developed as a potential treatment of cancer. The anti-VEGF antibody will be evaluated in patients with various cancers and is a possible competitor to bevacizumab (Avastin® - Roche).

Also in 2011, Affitech's first anti-GPCR antibody program AT008, designed to block the binding of chemokine ligands to its cell surface receptor CCR4, entered preclinical pharmacology testing. The program includes several different antibodies with multiple potential mechanisms of action targeting hematological cancers and solid tumours, either directly, through metastatic lesions and/or regulatory T cells. It also has potential utility in some immunological diseases such as severe asthma. A lead candidate has now been identified.



Photo:  
Affitech Research AS



www.pcibiotech.no

## PCI BIOTECH HOLDING ASA

### About the company

A New Concept in Localised Cancer Treatment

PCI Biotech® has developed a unique and patented photochemical drug delivery technology for use in cancer therapy and other diseases.

PCI (PhotoChemical Internalisation) is a technology for light-directed drug delivery by triggered endosomal release and was developed to introduce therapeutic molecules in a biologically active form specifically into diseased cells. This proprietary technology can provide local enhancement of a range of different drugs, including several cancer drugs currently in clinical use.

PCI Biotech is creating value via 2 axes; 1) develop the proprietary photosensitizer Amphinex® for use in combination with marketed cancer drugs and 2) develop PCI for use in other areas.

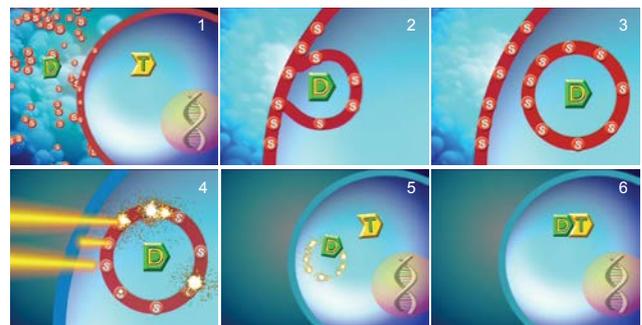
PCI Biotech has completed a clinical phase I/II study with Amphinex in combination with the well-established cytotoxic agent bleomycin (Blenoxane®) at University College Hospital in London. The study has primarily enrolled patients with Head & Neck cancer, a disease with local control issues that the PCI technology could potentially contribute to solve. Strong tumour response was observed in all patients, and a phase II study within Head & Neck cancer is planned to start in Q4 2011/Q1 2012.

### SFI-CAST interaction

PCI biotech has together with several SFI-CAST partners (Myklebost, Mælandsmo, Stenmark and Krauss) initiated and obtained encouraging results after targeting of different cancer cells (sarcoma, carcinoma of breast, colon and pancreas) expressing relevant stem cell markers.

### Goals for 2012

We aim to further document the concept of combining PCI with cancer stem cell targeting toxins *in vivo*.



Principle of the PCI technology; 1, Administration of photosensitizer (S) and drug (D). 2, D and S is taken up by endocytosis and 3, sequester in endo-lysosomal vesicles. 4, Light activation of (S) leads to formation of reactive oxygen species, which burst the membrane of the vesicles leading to 5, cytosolic release of the drug and 6, interaction with its biological target (T).



Monica Bostad, Ph.D. student in Pål K. Selbo's project group is performing an *in vitro* photochemical internalization (PCI) experiment. Blue light is used to trigger PCI-based delivery of a model toxin drug that is targeting a cancer stem cell marker.

# Recruitment

## Awards

- Hanne Røberg Larsen: Waters Innovation Award: “On-line filtration to improve robustness in automated solid phase extraction liquid chromatography” Group leader: Elsa Lundanes
- Hanne Røberg Larsen: GE Healthcare Award for Young Scientist. Group leader: Elsa Lundanes
- PCI Biotech won two prizes in DnB NOR's Innovation Prize Award 2011 September 6th. As well as receiving the “People's Choice Award”, they also won the main prize. The price money is in total 1.1 MNOK.
- Harald Stenmark elected member of the European Academy of Cancer Sciences (EACS)



Hanne Røberg Larsen receives the GE Healthcare Award for Young Scientist



DnB NOR's Innovation Prize Award 2011 and People's Choice Award

## Doctoral Degrees

- **Einar Osland Vik-Mo**, M, *Propagation and characterization of stem like cells from brain tumours - establishment of a clinical protocol for immunotherapeutic targeting of tumour stem cells in glioblastomas*, supervised by Iver A. Langmoen, Univ. of Oslo
- **Ying Jing**, F, *Identification of a distinct subpopulation of slow cycling tumour initiating cells in oesophagus cancer cell lines*, supervised by Stefan Krauss and Ondrej Machon, Univ. of Oslo (PhD in Republic of China)
- **Christoph R Müller**, M, *Novel approaches to the treatment of high-grade sarcoma.*, supervised by Gunnar Sæter and Ola Myklebost, Univ. of Oslo

## Master Degrees

- **Hanne Røberg-Larsen**, *Determination of oxysterols in cancer stem cells using on-line automated filtration and filter-flush solid phase extraction liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry*, F, Elsa Lundanes and Tyge Greibrokk, Dept. of Chemistry, Univ. of Oslo.
- **Tale Barøy**, *Characterization of LSAMP, a novel candidate tumour suppressor gene in osteosarcomas*, F, supervised by Ola Myklebost, Dept. of Tumor Biology, OUS /Univ. of Oslo
- **Eivind Valen Egeland**, *Osteogenic differentiation of mesenchymal stem cells: identification of potential regulators*, M, supervised by Ola Myklebost, Dept. of Tumor Biology, OUS/ Univ. of Oslo
- **Andreas Hoff**, *Stem cell related and malignancy-specific transcripts*, M, supervised by Rolf I. Skotheim and Ragnhild A. Lothe, Dept. of Cancer Prevention, OUS/Univ. of Oslo
- **Hemaseh Bideli**, *Studier av TGF $\alpha$  og S100A4 mediert regulering av matriks metalloproteinase 3 i epitelceller fra mamma kjertel*. Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Supervisor: Kristin Andersen,
- **Kotryna Vasiliauskaite**, *Tumour microenvironment interactions in malignant melanoma: impact on metastasis and sensitivity to therapy*. Vilnius University, Lithuania. Supervisor: Lina Prasmickaite
- **Maria Rist**, *Effect of tumour microenvironment-derived factors on melanoma growth and drug-response: an in vitro study in three-dimensional cultures*. Department of Pharmacy, University of Tromsø. Supervisor: Lina Prasmickaite

## International cooperation

### International Networks

- Eurobonet (www.eurobonet.eu) (OM)
- International Liposarcoma consortium (www.liposarcomaresearch.org) (OM)
- EuroStars (PCI Biotech)
- Nordforsk network on cilia and centrosomes, Nordic autophagy network (HS)
- Michael Rosenblum, MD Anderson Cancer Center, USA, academic collaboration (PCI)
- Mina Bissell and Mark LaBarge, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA, USA. Collaboration on stem cells and tumour-microenvironment interactions in breast cancer (GMG)

### International collaborations

- Alan Mackay-Sim, Australian National Adult Stem Cell Centre, Brisbane, Australia (IL)
- Nobuo Tanaka, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Japan (academic). Collaboration in development of high resolution, high speed chromatography for proteomics applications (EL)
- Yasuhiro Watanabe, Tottori University, Japan (IL)
- Charles Liu, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA (IL)
- David Tirrell, California Institute of Technology, Los Angeles, USA (IL)
- Dolph Hatfield, NIH, Washington, USA (IL)
- Katherine Mc Glynn and Stephen Chanock, NCI, NIH, Bethesda, MA, USA. Genome-wide association study of testicular germ cell cancers (RAL)
- Luke Tolley, University of Southern Illinois, USA (academic). Collaboration in development of methodology for drug/protein interaction studies (EL)
- Meenhard Herlyn, Wistar Inst., Philadelphia, USA. Cooperation on studies of melanoma heterogeneity and the role of tumour microenvironment on melanoma properties by using 3D *in vitro* systems (GMM)
- Nai Wen Chi, Scripps, San Diego USA. Collaboration on tankyrase (SK)
- Sendurai Mani, MD Anderson Cancer Centre, Houston Texas, USA. Collaboration on investigating the role of HMGA2 and let-7 in his human EMT models. (OM)
- Soldano Ferrone, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (CCC), USA, academic collaboration (PCI)
- Sonja Hess, Proteome Exploration Laboratory (PEL), California institute of Technology (Caltech), Pasadena, California, USA. Collaboration regarding selective enrichment and determination of N-linked glycoproteins (EL)
- Winston Hide, Harvard University, MA, USA (IL)
- Elisabetta Marangoni, Curie Institute, Paris, France (academic). Collaboration on Orthotopic xenograft models of breast cancer subtypes (TS)
- Elisabetta Marangoni and Paul Cotton, Curie Institute, Paris, France. Collaboration on exchange of orthotopic breast cancer models of luminal and basal-like breast cancer (GMM)
- Dietmar Gradl, Universität Karlsruhe, Germany. Collaboration on animal models (SK)

- Ivan Dikic, University of Frankfurt, Germany. Collaboration on ubiquitin regulation of cell signalling (HS)
- Jens Peter von Kries, Leibniz-Institute Für Molekulare Pharmakologie, Berlin, Germany. Collaboration on HTS screens (SK)
- Pål Johansen, University Hospital Zürich, Switzerland, academic collaboration (PCI)
- Colin Hopper, University College London Hospitals, England, academic collaboration (PCI)
- Peter W. Andrews and Neil Harrison, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK. Comparative analyses of embryonal carcinomas and embryonic stem cells (RAL)
- Anders Björklund, Wallenberg Center/University of Lund, Sweden (IL)
- Ernest Arenas, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden (IL)
- Ernest Arenas, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. Collaboration on stemcells (SK)
- Denator, Göteborg, Sweden (IL)
- Herwig Schuler, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. Collaboration on crystallography (SK)
- Lars Åhrlund-Richter, Department of Woman and Child Health, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. Collaboration on stem cells and invasive properties of melanoma cells. Use engraftment of human melanoma cells in human environment by prior injection of embryonic stem cells and formation of teratoma in nude mice (GMM)
- Ludesi, Malmö, Sweden (IL)
- Monica Nistér, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden (IL)
- SpectraCure AB, Sweden, industry collaboration (PCI)
- Tobias Jonnson, Merck Sequent, Umeå, Sweden (academic/industry). Collaboration on understanding and application of novel (HILIC) LC columns. (EL)
- Ole W Petersen, Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, The Panum Building, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (academic). Collaboration on heterogeneity and tumourigenicity of subpopulations of cells from breast cancer cell lines and tumours (TS)
- Ole W. Pettersen, Department of Medical Anatomy, The Panum Institute, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Collaboration on stem cells and tumour-microenvironment interactions in breast cancer. (GMM)

## National Cooperation

### National Cooperation

- Anne-Lise Børresen-Dale, Department of Genetics, Institute for Cancer Research, Oslo University Hospital. Partner in OSBREAC and Head, KGJ-Center - Collaborator on molecular characterization (GMM).
- Daniela-Elena Costea and Anne Chr. Johannessen, Department of Pathology, Gade Institute, University of Bergen: Stem cells and epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) in oral cancer and breast cancer (GMM)
- Ingrid Gribbestad, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Circulation and Medical Imaging, Trondheim (academic) (TS)
- Ingrid Gribbestad, Department of Circulation and Medical Imaging Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Partner in OSBREAC and the KGJ-Center – Collaborator on function and molecular MR spectroscopy (GMM)
- Ian Mills, NCMM Oslo, chromatin IP (SK)
- Jens Preben Morth, NCMM Oslo, crystallography (SK)
- Kjetil Tasken, NCMM Oslo, and the Chemical Biology Screening Platform, the Biotechnology Centre, UiO, collaboration on screening of inhibitors of S100A4-induced EMT (GMM)
- Lars Akslen, Department of Pathology, Gade Institute, University of Bergen. Collaborator on tumour-stroma interactions in breast cancer and melanomas with special focus on vascularisation and endothelial markers (GMM).
- Malcom Reid, NIVA (academic). Collaboration on application of AFFL-SPE-LC technology for analysis of pharmaceuticals and metabolites (EL)
- Olav Haraldseth, Fuge MIC Trondheim. Collaborated on MRI-based tracking of MPIOs in mouse brain and other tissues (JG)
- Terje Johansen, University of Tromsø. Collaboration on protein aggregation in cell signalling and pathologies (HS)
- Toni Hurtado, NCMM Oslo, will be collaborating with OSBREAC on molecular characterization of breast cancer and the involvement of stem cell subpopulations (GMM)
- Partner in OSBREAC and K.G. Jebsen Center for Breast Cancer Research (GMM):
  - OSBREAC – Oslo Breast Cancer Research Consortium is headed by Steering Group leader Prof. emeritus Rolf Kåresen, OUS Ullevål. The groups participating in OSBREAC perform molecular and functional characterization of breast cancer patients/cells at different steps during cancer development with the aim of identifying biomarkers to be utilized for stratification into more personalized treatment regimes for the patient.
  - The K.G. Jebsen Center for Breast Cancer Research is headed by Prof. Anne-Lise Børresen-Dale and is based on the OSBREAC initiative.



## Internet

The Norwegian Cancer Society: [www.kreftforeningen.no](http://www.kreftforeningen.no); Research project of the month: "Kreftspredning - kan det forhindres" 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2011 (G. Mælandsmo)

Forskning.no: "På sporet av spredningsgåten", 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 (G. Mælandsmo)

Forskning.no: "Vi kan hindre kreftspredning", 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011, (G. Mælandsmo)

Helse Sør-Øst: [www.helse-sorost.no](http://www.helse-sorost.no); Dr. Mælandsmo: "Researcher of the month"; "Metastaseforskning - et stort puslespill", September 2011 (M. Mælandsmo)

Dr. Pål Selbo was interviewed in connection with the European Cancer Organization (ECCO) in Stockholm, September 24<sup>th</sup>. The interview was published on [ecancer.tv](http://ecancer.tv) and was rated as "editors pick" in the "Technologies" category; <http://ecancer.org/tv/pubdate/1162>

Articles about PCI Biotech winning the DNB Innovation Prize:

[http://www.forskningsradet.no/no/Nyheter/Innovasjonspris\\_til\\_PCI\\_Biotech/1253968916092?lang=no](http://www.forskningsradet.no/no/Nyheter/Innovasjonspris_til_PCI_Biotech/1253968916092?lang=no)

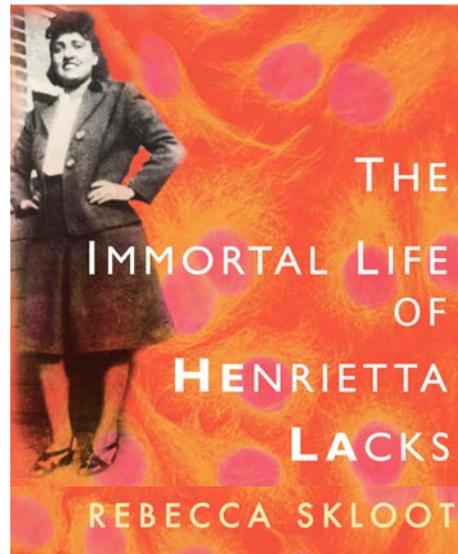
<http://www.hegner.no/bors/article650626.ece>

Per Walday (CEO of PCI Biotech) held this lecture under the Norwegian Research Council's Business seminar (Forskningsrådets næringslivsdag) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqreKujXSXU>

## Radio

Steven Ray Wilson: Interview on Norwegian radio (NRK) on "Analytical tools and doping in sports": <http://nettradio.nrk.no/>

- Ola Myklebost: Interviewed in Ekko on NRK P2: HeLa-cellene, - Henrietta Lacks uødelige liv, 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 2011. Viten: "HeLa-cellene - Ny kreftbehandling". The book about Henrietta Lacks immortal life, just been published in Norwegian, is the story of Henrietta and her cancer cells and the enormous importance they have had and still have in research.



## Other

- Therese Sørli; "Congress update newsletter" after ECCO 16 in Stockholm: <http://stockholm2011.ecco-org.eu/News-and-alerts/~media/ECCO%20documents/Stockholm%202011/News%20and%20alerts/Congress%20update%20services/Edition%2010%20October%202011%20web.ashx>
- Harald Stenmark interviewed in Journal of Cell Biology: <http://jcb.rupress.org/content/192/4/544.long>

# Appendix

## PERSONNEL

### Principal Investigators

Stefan Krauss  
 Ola Myklebost  
 Joel Glover  
 Iver Arne Langmoen  
 Ragnhild A. Lothe  
 Elsa Lundanes  
 Tyge Greibrokk  
 Gunhild Mari Mælandsmo  
 Harald Stenmark  
 Therese Sørli  
 Anders Høgset  
 Alexander Duncan

### Administrative Manager

Bie Ekblad

### Senior Scientists

Leonardo Meza-Zepedea  
 Lina Prasmickaite  
 Pål Selbo  
 Rolf I. Skotheim

### Postdoctoral Researchers

Andrey Voronkov  
 Anne-Mari Håkelien  
 Biljana Stangeland  
 Else Munthe  
 Eva Wessel Stratford  
 Gabor Halasi  
 Helle Malerød  
 Jean-Luc Boulland  
 Jennifer L. Dembinski  
 Kristin Andresen  
 Lene Malerød  
 Marianne Stabell  
 Nina Marie Pedersen  
 Nina Therese Solberg  
 Ondrej Machon  
 Petter A. Olsen  
 Sharmini Alagaratnam  
 Silje Lauvrak  
 Steven R. Wilson

### PhD students

Cecilie Sandberg  
 Einar Vik-Mo  
 Eldrid borgan  
 Elin Johnsen  
 Hanne K. Hustoft  
 Heidi Namlø  
 Ingrid Johanne Bettum  
 Jo Waaler  
 Kaja Lund  
 Magnus Røgeberg  
 Martin F. Strang  
 Mrinal Joel  
 Nirma Skrbo  
 Ping Wang  
 Viola Lobert

### Master students

Anastassia Serguienko  
 Andreas Hoff  
 Anders Grimsmo  
 Hanne Røberg-Larsen  
 Hemaseh Bideli  
 Hong Diem Nguyen  
 Kirsten Strømme  
 Khanh Quang Huynh  
 Kotryna Vasiliauskaite  
 Maria Rist  
 Marius Strømbo Eng  
 Rebecca C. Frøen  
 Svein R. Angel  
 Tore Vehus

### Technical personnel

Anna-Berit Wennerström  
 Anne Cathrine Bakken  
 Birthe Mikkelsen  
 Huyen Mong Thi Dinh  
 Jeanette Daffinrud  
 Kobra Sultani  
 Menaka Sathermugathevan  
 Monica Bostad  
 Monika Gelazauskaite  
 Nirma Skrbo  
 Nomdo A.C. Westerdaal  
 Olga Machonova  
 Petros Gebregziabher  
 Russel Castro  
 Victoria Edwards

## ACCOUNTS

### Funding and Cost

#### Funding

		Amount
The Research Council	The Norwegian Research Council	10 895
The Host Institution	Oslo University Hospital (Rikshospitalet) HF	7 287
Research Partners	University of Oslo	1 298
Enterprise partners	PCI Biotech AS	1 228
	Affitech AS, in kind	963
Total		21 671

All figures in 1000 NOK

#### Costs

		Amount
The Host Institution	Oslo University Hospital (Rikshospitalet) HF	16510
Research Partners	University of Oslo	2 668
Enterprise partners	PCI Biotech AS	1 530
	Affitech AS	963
Total		21 671

All figures in 1000 NOK

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal papers 2011

- Abrahamsen H and Stenmark H. Growth signaling from inside. *Science*. 2011, 334: 611-612
- Alagaratnam S, Lind GE, Kraggerud SM, Lothe RA, and Skotheim RI. The testicular germ cell tumour transcriptome. *Int J Androl*. 2011 Aug;34(4 Pt 2):e133-50; discussion e150-1. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2605.2011.01169.x. Epub 2011 Jun 9. Invited review.
- Andersen K, Mori H, Fata J, Bascom J, Oyjord T, Mælandsmo GM, Bissell M. The metastasis-promoting protein S100A4 regulates mammary branching morphogenesis. *Dev Biol*. 2011 Apr 15;352(2):181-90. Epub 2010 Dec 31.
- Berg K, Nordstrand S, Selbo PK, Tran DT, Angell-Petersen E, Hogset A. Disulfonated tetraphenyl chlorin (TPCS2a), a novel photosensitizer developed for clinical utilization of photochemical internalization. *Photochem Photobiol Sci*. 2011 Oct;10(10):1637-51. Epub 2011 Jul 20.
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## Patents

### Krauss-group

#### Patent 1

Title: Azole derivatives as Wnt pathway inhibitors (title on published WO patent application)

Priority application: EP09251497.5, Priority date 05.06.2009

PCT application: PCT/GB2010/001118, International filing date 07.06.2010

Publication: WO2010139966, International publication date 09.12.2010

The application is filed in US, EPO, Canada, Australia, Japan, China and India.

#### Patent 2

Title: Compounds

Priority application: US 61/420,942, 08.12.2010

PCT application: PCT/GB2011/052441, 08.12.2011

#### Patent 3

Title: Wnt pathway inhibitors

Priority application: US61/579094, 22.12.2011

### Lundanes-group

Wilson SR, Svendsen K, Larsen HR. "On-line filtration and filter wash for chromatography systems", patent application filed 21 June 2011, DOFI 11019.

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