



Agenda for Cancer Research KI Executive Board
Thursday March 7, 2024, 12:00-14:00 (starting with light lunch)

Live meeting: Room Nils Ringertz, Biomedicum floor 3

(IP= information point, D=discussion point, DP=Decision point)

Board members	<p>Chair and Director Elias Arnér, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics Co-Director Yvonne Wengström, Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society Co-Director Marco Gerling, Department of Biosciences and Nutrition Linda Lindström, Department of Oncology-Pathology Margareta Wilhelm, Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology 1 (joined 12:10) Matthias Löhr, Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology Keith Humphreys, Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics Ninib Baryawno, Department of Women's and Children's Health, Junior faculty representative Eva Jolly, Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Centre coordinator (joined 12:10) Robert Brännström, Managing Director, Cancer Theme Karolinska University. Lise-lott Eriksson, Chair of the Blood Cancer Forum, Patient Group Dina Dabaghie, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics Liselotte Bäckdahl, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics</p>
Invited Guests	<p>Joakim Dillner, Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology Svetlana Bajalica Lagercrantz, Department of Oncology-Pathology</p>
Not Attending	<p>Lena Sharp, RCC Stockholm-Gotland Jonas Fuxe, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Reference Group Chair Renske Altena, Department of Oncology-Pathology Päivi Östling, Department of Oncology-Pathology, SciLifeLab Simon Ekman, Department of Oncology-Pathology</p>

- 1) Welcome to the meeting and approval of minutes from the previous CRKI Executive Board meeting 2023-12-14, (E. Arnér, 3 min) DP
 E. Arnér welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 Minutes from previous meeting 2024-01-30 were approved.
 Agenda for the meeting was approved.

- 2) CRKI office need one more staff member. (L. Bäckdahl, Elias Arnér, 5min) IP
 Due to the ongoing EU projects and the increased activity of CRKI office there is a big demand for an extra person for the team.
 L.Bäckdahl and D.Dabaghie presented a short overview of the ongoing EU projects where CRKI is actively participating and the work that is being done. The work on EU projects has a separate budget that is being used, detailed budget will be presented during upcoming EB meetings.



Decision:

All EB members agree for getting another member for the CRKI office.

An overview of all ongoing EU projects in the cancer field will be made and presented in upcoming meetings.

- 3) PI retreat at Djurönäset 19-20 February, Summary and evaluation (E. Arnér, 10 min) IP
E. Arnér presented the feedback and evaluation of the CRKI PI- Retreat that was held on the 19-20th of February 2024 at Djurönäset.

A total of 82 researchers participated in the meeting, there was a lower representation from the clinical researchers but that could be attributed to the short time of the announcement, which will be taken in consideration in future retreats.

Feedback of the event:

97% of attendees answered that they would like the event to be repeated. For the question of how often the retreat should happen the answers were as follows: 33% every year, 67% every second year. The overall feedback on the event was positive and the attendees found it to be a good opportunity for networking and getting the latest updates on what is happening in the cancer research field.

Points of improvement include higher participation of clinical researchers and to have a representation of different research topics in oral presentations such as epidemiology, biostatistics, clinical research ...etc.

Feedback on CRKI:

High percentage of participants knew about CRKI and the ongoing activities, lower number knew about Karolinska CCC's ongoing activities. Regarding the grants, applications to KI-Mayo collaborative grants had the lowest percentage, this needs to be investigated if it is due to the lack of information regarding the grant, or the difficulty to find collaborations with Mayo, the topic will be discussed during the upcoming KI-Mayo meeting in May. Regarding major problems that the researchers face, funding opportunities was the main point discussed. CRKI will take this point for discussion during the planned strategy meeting in May.

- 4) Cancer prevention Europe and Cancer research KI: Past, present, and Future plans (Joakim Dillner, 15 min) IP
E. Arnér gave a short introduction to Cancer Prevention Europe (CPE) which is an initiative where KI is participating through CRKI that is paying the annual participation fee of 150,000 sek.
J. Dillner presented the history of CPE that started as a large EU project where KI was participating, during that work as a part of sustainability goal it was decided to establish a network similar to Cancer Core Europe focusing on prevention. The network consists of 8 full members (KI is one of them) and some associated members that are currently being added, with the secretariat held at IARC. Currently both Joakim Dillner and Y.Wengström are KI representatives at the network.



The work of the network focuses on increasing the cancer prevention initiatives in the mission cancer plan of EU, addition of prevention to the latest EU code against cancer, working as lobbying organization, establishment of Cancer Prevention Learning Center, CPE webinar series, Cancer Prevention Trials, and mapping the ongoing cancer prevention research.

Discussion was held on how to structure the work between CRKI and CPE, to increase the communication and inform researchers working on cancer prevention about the network and how they can use it. CPE will communicate with CRKI office to distribute information on ongoing initiatives, seminar series, summer school, learning center ...etc.

Link to learning center that can be used for researchers and students:

<https://cancerpreventioneuropa.iarc.fr/learning-centre/>

- 5) Translational Seed Funding grant presentation of the projects that were funded (L.Bäckdahl, E. Arnér, 5 min) IP

E. Arnér and L. Bäckdahl gave a recap on the process and decision for translational seed funding grant. The following researchers and projects were awarded for 2023:

- Magda Bienko and Theo Foukakis: *“Translating extrachromosomal circular DNA detection in the clinic to improve breast cancer patient stratification and management”*
- Gunnar Schulte and Matthias Löhr: *“Structure-driven development of novel strategies to target pancreatic cancer”*
- Marcus Buggert and Jeanette Lundin: *“Next-generation mRNA-based CD19 CAR T cell deployment in chronic lymphocytic leukemia”*
- Fredrik Wermeling and Richard Rosenquist Brandell *“CRISPR-based identification of combinatorial vulnerabilities and drug targets in chronic lymphocytic leukemia”*

- 6) CCE: new CRKI-approved member for board of directors (E. Arnér, 5 min) IP

CRKI is currently a member of Cancer Core Europe (CCE) and is responsible for paying the annual participation fee. Currently work is ongoing on appointing a new representative for the CCE board from CRKI. The decision for new representative will be presented and taken during the next EB meeting.

- 7) Mayo-CRKI Collaboration grant- Timeline (E. Arnér, 5 min) IP

The announcement has gone out for the upcoming Mayo-CRKI collaborative grant, with a deadline set to 5th of April. The evaluation will be done by an external committee based on topics, in each application a researcher from KI and a researcher from Mayo apply together. Up to 3 grants will be awarded for 2024.



Discussion on the structure of the grants and future calls will be taken during the planned upcoming meeting in Santa Fe between Mayo and CRKI in May 2024. A point will be added to next EB meeting to plan for the joint meeting.

8) NIO Radiation Therapy workshop Update (R. Altena, E. Arnér, 5 min) IP

Withing the framework of the “Twinning agreement” between the Karolinska Institutet (KI), Stockholm and the National Institute of Oncology (NIO), Budapest, a workshop in radiation therapy is planned in Budapest 3-4th of June 2024. Renske Altena and Alexander Valdman are coordinating the scientific program from KI side. The workshop is open for students and clinicians from both institutes and is being advertised on the different channels accordingly (CRKI, NatiOn, KCCC, Tema Cancer). The registration is free, the travel costs are covered by CRKI, and the accommodation is covered by NIO.

Based on the evaluation of the planned workshop a future workshop on PCM will be arranged in Stockholm during the autumn of 2024.

9) Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center Update (P. Rossi, 5 min) IP

Robert Bränström is appointed as the new representatives in CRKI as an acting head for theme cancer since P. Rossi have taken the role as an interim director of the hospital. R. Bränström gave a short introduction on his background in research and his work as oncologist.

KCCC day is planned on the 12th of April 2024, the event will be joint with Sjöbergsstiftelsen and there will be a presentation of the Sjöberg prize winner. The registration is now open for the one-day event. Based on previous feedback the event will be held entirely in English and is open for researchers and clinicians on both KI and the hospital side. The program consists of presentations from various backgrounds clinicians, nurses, physicians, and researchers. The annual KCCC report covering the activities for 2023 will be launched during the event.

Re-accreditation is ongoing with the collection of both qualitative and quantitative data, the onsite visit is planned for October 2024.

Short Break 10 min

10) CRKI Budget information for 2024 (L. Bäckdahl, 5 min) D

This point is postponed to the next meeting.

11) Ca 13.30 NatiOn – National research school in clinical and translational cancer research budget, decision on contribution from CRKI for 2024 (Documentation in attachment). (S. Bajalica Lagercrantz, 15 min) DP

NatiOn have submitted a detailed justification for additional funding request from CRKI. During December meeting NatiOn requested a total of 1,450,000 sek in funding from CRKI, later the written proposal asked for 2,215,000 sek in funding support. The increased demand in funding is explained by several factors: 1) The salary contribution for 2024 for the regional research schools has increase by approximately 40% compared to 2023. 2) There is an overlap between NatiOn VI



and NatiOn VII during 2024 which leads to higher costs this year (this happens every 2.5 years).
3) The final number of students is now decided, and it will be 17 students participating from KI.
4) New information of students on paternity leave. Taking all these factors in consideration recalculation of the needed funds have been presented by S. Bajalica Lagercrantz with the final request to be 1,950,000sek of funding from CRKI to cover for NatiOn VI and NatiOn VII that will be during 2024.

Suggestion from EB: To introduce a new routine for NatiOn funding where instead of a fixed amount allocated, NatiOn will send an official written request with detailed budget for each year for EB board to consider. To take the current activities in consideration and the possible overlap between the different NatiOn schools.

Decision:

All in agreement to provide the requested funding of 1,950.000sek to NatiOn for year 2024.
All in agreement of new routine for NatiOn to submit a budget report at the end of each year with a detailed request for funding for the year to follow, for EB to revise and take a decision.

12) Almedalen 2024 -Can we afford not to have precision medicine? (L. Bäckdahl) IP

The topic for the Almedalen is decided to be “Can we afford not to have Precision medicine” and currently planning is ongoing to decide on speakers. Suggested: Anna Martling, Patrik Rossi, Acko Ankarberg Johansson (minister of health), Mef Nilbert (who is appointed to update national cancer plan in Sweden), Patient representative (Margareta Haag), Researcher (Richard Rosenquist Brandell). The plan is to have a high-level talk and panel discussion in folkhälsodalen with a moderator that will introduce the topic (Anna Martling) followed by a debate. The aim is to have two sessions of 45 minutes at folkhälsodalen.

Discussions from EB members:

- Think about inviting a health economist to the panel (suggestion Oskar Frisell, the Swedish institute of health economics).
- Possibility to be a part of the other sessions organised by Karolinska Hospital. This can be tricky since usually the topics is about how to run a university hospital, but it can be investigated as an option.
- KI and Hospital will also be a part of the event that is organised by zero vision cancer as partners, during an event organised on the 7th.
- Important to talk about the implementation of PCM and how it will contribute to the patient lives for it to be implemented into the health strategy and budget.

13) Jonas Bergh reception 20 March 18.00 The Nobel Museum (L. Bäckdahl) IP

Reminder to RSVP to the planned reception for Jonas Bergh and the previous and current EB members, that will be held at the Nobel Museum on the 20th of March at 18:00.



14) Cancer Research KI organization: IP

a.) All WG leaders, update on working group progress (5 min each, 25 min total) IP

- WG1 Research (L. Lindström)

Translational grant and PI Retreat have been discussed earlier in this meeting.

No updates on the Swedish Cancer Research Meeting.

Planning has started for the CRKI annual retreat at Djurönäset (23-24th of September 2024). The format will stay the same as previous years, currently in the process of contacting the keynote speakers. The event will be announced during April through the different channels.

A discussion on increasing participation of clinicians and to have a presentations on various types of clinical research including other clinical areas such as nursing, physiotherapy, psychosocial research .etc.

- WG2 Education (M. Wilhelm)

Spring FoTO courses are currently running.

17th International PhD student Cancer Conference – Max Delbrück Centre, Berlin 12-14 June. Aim for 5 KI students.

InCheck Univ Heidelberg/Mannheim, KI workshop June 24-27 – Planning on-going.

- WG3 Outreach (Y. Wengström)

L. Bäckdahl presented the program for En Dag för Cancerforskning that is planned on 6th of November 2024. The event will be online with Mark Levengood as the moderator. The program is being finalized and advertisement is planned for the event.

- WG4 Academic and healthcare collaboration (Vacant) – discussion regarding new WG4 leader (E. Arnér)

Discussion is ongoing on appointing a new leader for the WG4, the current suggestion is to have this in parallel with the work being done at the PCM group with Päivi Östling as a lead.

Discussions are ongoing a decision point will be added to the next EB meeting.

- WG5 Industrial Collaboration (S. Ekman)

No updates

b.) Update from CRKI Reference Group (10 min, J. Fuxe) IP

No updates

15) Cancer Research KI administration update (L. Bäckdahl and D. Dabaghie, 5 min) IP

Reminder of the upcoming events and seminars mentioned below.



16) Seminar and workshops by CRKI and relevant organizations: IP

- a. Industry Collaboration Seminar, Breakfast with KI Science Park, 13th of March 08:00-10:30.
- b. Karolinska CCC day, 12th of April
- c. CRKI-RCC Patient organization workshop, 24th of April 13:00-15:00
- d. CRKI-Mayo collaboration Meeting ,28-29 May
- e. Mayo/Karolinska Joint Cancer Research Symposium, 17th of June 15:00-18:00
- f. CRKI Djurönäset Retreat, 23-24 September
- g. CCE Summer School, 6-11th October
- h. Mayo Clinic – Karolinska Meeting, 16-17 October
- i. En Dag för Cancerforskning, 6 November

17) Cancer Research KI Executive Board Meetings Spring 2023:

24th of April 14-16, online meeting

21st of May 12-16, in person meeting including lunch and Strategy discussions

18) Any other business

Mayo Clinic – KI meeting scheduled for 16-17 October. CRKI we will be responsible to coordinate the cancer part of the program, we will need to appoint chairs for that.

19) End of meeting

13:46