



Minutes for Cancer Research KI Executive Board Meeting

Monday August 26, 2024, 13:00-15:00 online <https://ki-se.zoom.us/j/65469293330>

(IP= information point, D=discussion point, DP=Decision point, A=Attached document)

Board members	<p>Chair and Director Elias Arnér, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics</p> <p>Co-Director Yvonne Wengström, Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society</p> <p>Co-Director Marco Gerling, Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology (attended from 13:15h)</p> <p>Simon Ekman, Department of Oncology-Pathology</p> <p>Linda Lindström, Department of Oncology-Pathology</p> <p>Päivi Östling, Department of Oncology-Pathology, SciLifeLab</p> <p>Margareta Wilhelm, Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology</p> <p>Matthias Löhr, Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology</p> <p>Renske Altena, Department of Oncology-Pathology</p> <p>Keith Humphreys, Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics</p> <p>Ninib Baryawno, Department of Women's and Children's Health, Junior faculty representative</p> <p>Eva Jolly, Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Centre coordinator</p> <p>Robert Brännström, Managing Director, Cancer Theme Karolinska University.</p> <p>Jonas Fuxe, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Reference Group Chair</p> <p>Lise-lott Eriksson, Chair of the Blood Cancer Forum, Patient Group</p> <p>Joakim Dillner Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology, Cancer Prevention Europe.</p> <p>Lena Sharp, RCC Stockholm-Gotland</p> <p>Dina Dabaghie, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics</p> <p>Liselotte Bäckdahl, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics</p> <p>Stefina Milanova, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics</p> <p>Johanna Mayer, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics</p>
Invited Guests	
Attending	<p>Elias Arnér, Simon Ekman, Ninib Baryawno, Margareta Wilhelm, Sara Ajamieh, Matthias Löhr, Keith Humphreys, Linda Lindström, Eva Jolly, Lise-lott Eriksson, Päivi Östling, Marco Gerling, Renske Altena, Robert Brännström, Liselotte Bäckdahl, Stefina Milanova, Johanna Mayer</p>
Not attending	<p>Yvonne Wengström, Co-Director, Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society</p> <p>Jonas Fuxe, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Reference Group Chair</p> <p>Dina Dabaghie, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics</p>

- 1) Welcome to the meeting and approval of minutes from the previous CRKI Executive Board meeting 2024-05-21(A) (E. Arnér, 1 min) DP



Meeting started at 13:02h. The agenda for the meeting was approved. Minutes from previous meeting on 2024-05-21 were approved. Minutes from strategy meeting on 2024-05-21 were approved.

2) Conclusions from CRKIs Strategy meeting in May (Elias Arnér, 15 min) D

13:03h: The mentimeter results from the CRKIs Strategy meeting in May 2024 showed that 79% of respondents in the strategy meeting think CRKI could not be better. The areas that need improvement are the task forces, Mayo Collaboration grant and from the administrative activities - the database, which requires an update. The Work Groups (WG) are well-evaluated, CRKI has strong impact on Karolinska Institutet (KI), Karolinska hospital (KS) and organizations. CRKI should invest more in networking, meetings, translational research and data infrastructure.

Regarding CRKI networking activities, we just started this year having the PI retreat, and there is enormous interest in the upcoming Djuronäset and PI retreats, with long waiting lists for participations for Djuronäset. Due to the high interest in Djuronäset CRKI Cancer Retreat, a **proposal** was made to look for a bigger venue for next year so more people can join. CRKI is looking into how to organize after-work (AW) networking events and looking for appropriate venues. The AW was proposed to be informal, standing with a beer on north and/or south campus; and/or monthly cancer pub where CRKI books the venue, while the people bring their own food/drinks. Päivi Östling proposed that every month a different working group could be responsible for the program and organisation. This way the wide range of activities of CRKI will be highlighted. One possible venue for such a monthly AW is Urban Deli at Forskaren.

To do: Elias Arnér suggested that all have a look at the strategy meeting again for ideas. Next meeting on 30th of September will be in person together with the reference group. We should devise an action plan for the next 1-2 years for our strategy, and formalize it together with the reference group. EB members are encouraged to submit additional ideas.

3) Feedback Mayo retreat, KI-Mayo task forces update (Elias Arnér, 5 min) IP

13:17h: At the Mayo retreat in Santa Fe, during the discussions was established that the Mayo clinic is motivated to continue the collaboration with CRKI and to continue with additional initiatives. Such activities require additional funding, for example from the binational Sweden-US initiative. After discussion with Mayo, 3 taskforces were formed: haematology, breast cancer, emerging technologies in cancer research, with the overall theme of refined early diagnostics and interventions (REDI). The task forces have the agenda of phrasing potential areas of research at KI and Mayo where additional results could emerge. Then they could be discussed in the executive board. We could acquire new funding. On those discussions the collaboration with Mayo will be strengthened.

4) October Mayo Meeting update (Linda Lindström, 5 min) IP

13:21h: Many abstracts have been received for the upcoming Mayo-KI meeting in October. CRKI have met with Mayo team, and they will aim to have oral presentations of different lengths, one selected from KI and one from Mayo, maybe from prevention medicine. Participation from CRKI EB is encouraged. A meeting with the EB of Mayo was suggested to discuss future collaborations in person, possibly on 15 Oct. Once an appropriate time is arranged, an email to EB will be sent.

5) Need of election of new Co-director in 2025 after Yvonne? (Elias Arnér, 3 min) DP



13:27h: As co-director **Yvonne Wengström**'s term concludes at the end of 2024, the need for a 2nd co-director was discussed. After discussing with Ola Hermanson, vice-chair of the CRKI reference group and responsible for elections for new members of Cancer Research KI Executive Board, there is no requirement in the SFO guidelines for a 2nd co-director. Yvonne Wengström will be asked if she would like to be re-elected. And if not, will be asked if she has any suggestions for a co-director at CRKI. All in the meeting agreed to have a 2nd female co-director, who preferably represents healthcare. The election of a new co-director needs to be executed asap and Ola Hermanson needs to be informed.

6) Continued PCM and radiotherapy workshops with NIO (Elias Arnér, 8 min) D

13:34h: There was a workshop in radiotherapy in Budapest with 5 representatives from KI, which was very successful. CRKI will organize a workshop on precision cancer medicine (PCM) and maybe also a radiotherapy workshop in Stockholm, as a reciprocal to the one in Budapest. There is a course through NatiOn in PCM in March 2025, week 13. The NatiOn organizers were contacted and asked if we could organize the workshop together with them, but they haven't responded. There is a discussion also if a synergy could be made with the FoTo course in PCM. The course is usually in Swedish, so NATION would need to have the course in English to make it work. NIO prefers to have the workshop in March over the fall. As no premises have been booked for the course, CRKI admin could help with this to find a suitable venue. There is a syllabus for the Nation course, but it requires an update. NIO will be informed so they could start to select lecturers and attendees.

Regarding the workshop in Radiotherapy, Radiumhemmets forskningsfond has established a coordinating position for radiotherapy in Stockholm region with Kristina Viktorssons, so the radiotherapy workshop could be organized with her. For clinicians, it will be important to announce the two workshops asap.

7) New adjusted demands for ethical approval secondary use of data (M. Gerling, 5 min) D

13:42h: There are compliance issues around ethical permits based on the new interpretation of current regulation, driven by KI Compliance office from February 2024. A KI researcher needs to have the appropriate ethical permit, which raised problems with PhD defences and collaborative and translational projects, if the permit only included someone from Karolinska hospital. KI must be listed as "huvudman". In addition, the use of public data, which has been analyzed freely by many researchers, now requires an additional ethical permit in Sweden. Therefore, CRKI would like to help support the scientists in this issue and plan a joint meeting between KI and KI compliance office to have an open discussion about the new rules, their impact and understand better the needs of the researchers. EB agrees to organise a lecture/webinar with M. Gerling, KI compliance office and KS legal department to address this topic and bring more clarity to this issue. The meeting would be recorded and made available on the website for all interested parties. CRKI administration will investigate how to organise this with M. Gerling.

Margareta Wilhelm pointed out that all doctoral students must take a mandatory course in quality assurance in clinical research even though they are analysing publicly available datasets.

8) Planning for joint PhD program in cancer research with NIH (Elias Arnér, 5 min) DP

13:57h: A successful joint PhD program in neuroscience has existed between KI and NIH for a long time (at least 15 years). NIH does not award PhDs themselves but collaborates with a lot of other universities and advertises joint positions. The student has two supervisors: one at KI, and one at NIH. NIH selects the student first and then the PhD student is admitted at KI. They spend half the time at NIH, and the other half at KI but the salary of the student is paid 100% by NIH. The PhD degree is



awarded by KI. NIH are interested in having a similar joint program for cancer research. All EB agreed that this could be an excellent opportunity for more collaboration and funding, and should be put into motion, involving student boards, Robert Harris and KI leadership to establish the program.

9) Keynote lectures invited speakers for 2025 (Liselotte Bäckdahl, 5 min) D

14:05h: We will aim to plan 1-2 keynote lectures for 2025 to invite prominent/ excellent speakers. CRKI admin will send a description of what the keynote lecture would mean, and EB members would send a reply with suggested speakers for the keynote lectures.

10) Admin update: New staff CRKI (Elias Arnér and Liselotte Bäckdahl, 5 min) IP

14:07h: Introduction to Stefina and Johanna who will help CRKI administration, Dina will work 50% with Eva Jolly at the KS from 1 Oct 2024.

11) Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center Update (Robert Brännström and Eva Jolly, 5 min) IP

14:12h: Self-assessment was sent in by KCCC and got approved by OEI. A peer review audit visit onsite will be on 4-5th of November. There will be a pre-meeting for everyone involved on the 3rd of October and all EB members will be invited to this full-day workshop. There will be more preparation for those interviewed by OEI before the visit. More information will follow.

On 1st October, two new EU-funded projects are starting: Joint Action EUnetCCC (network of CCCs) and Joint Action JANE 2 (network of expertise). The two actions will also be interconnected, the leaders of the joint actions will also try to find the synergies between the two projects. There are more EU-funded projects upcoming: UnCan2, precision medicine and digitalization. Eva Jolly will inform once there is more information on leading positions and participation in these upcoming projects.

12) Cancer Research KI organization: IP, 14:18h

a.) All WG leaders, update on working group progress (3 min each, 18 min total) IP

- **WG1 Research (L. Lindström):** Current affairs are Mayo meeting in October, Blue Sky grant- a triage meeting is planned, and the final organisation for the Djuronäset retreat, all is confirmed apart from the breakout session. PI retreat, on 17-18th of February, the registration is now open, and it is filling up fast. All EB members are encouraged to register.
- **WG2 Education (M. Wilhelm):** The 4 days' workshop in June with Heidelberg and Mannheim, with lots of speakers from KI, was very successful. Now, there are more students than ever registered in the Biomedicine program (more 70 in bachelor's and 67 students accepted in masters). During the master, they need to do projects in research labs. There will be a project fair later in the year and there is an idea to have our own project fair of CRKI. An email could be sent to all CRKI PIs to ask if anyone is interested in having a master student and compile a list. FoTo: 8 courses planned in the spring semester.
- **WG3 Outreach (Y. Wengström):** Y. Wengström was not present at the meeting, so update was given by Liselotte Bäckdahl. Organisation for En dag for cancerforskning is ongoing, preparing the website and registration that will start in September. Communication office has been contacted to help with the advertisement of the event.



- **WG4 Prevention Cancer Medicine (P. Östling):** Writing on an application to radiumhemmetts forskningsfonden to make a sample central: streamline process on clinical samples, laboratory and expert unit: collect SOPs, structured and cost-effective way. Included tool is creating unique sample IDs. PCM program sends a separate application to radiumhemmetts forskningsfonden.
- **WG5 Industrial Collaboration (S. Ekman):** we have a new member, Sophie Monsen Lerenius, with the aim of connecting well with KS. One of the reasons for the low evaluation of WG5 is low visibility. We are currently updating the website to connect and network better. Several seminars are coming up on industrial collaboration and the next will be on 4th of September on Intellectual property. For Cancer Research Horizon, there is an upcoming meeting in the autumn. We are connecting with PMCK and Sophie, KI Science Park to have joined seminars for breakfast with many companies. We want to raise questions about the merit portfolio, and we need to involve other parts of KI and EB to be sorted. Moreover, we would like to have a preset keywords in the database to be added to the KI researchers.
- **CPE Cancer Prevention Europe (J. Dillner):** J. Dillner was not present at the meeting, no major updates

b.) Update from CRKI Reference Group (3 min, J. Fuxe) IP

14:31h: J. Fuxe is not present, but next time we will have a meeting with reference group, have a look at mentimeters and if any strategy idea, EB members are encouraged to send an email to be added to the agenda.

13) Cancer Research KI administration update including Budget update (L. Bäckdahl, 5 min):

14:33h: All funding for Mayo grant receivers have been paid out. More update on the budget will follow in the next EB meeting. Additional funds were unexpectedly spent because of cancelled flights from the Santa Fe meeting. The Blue-Sky grant's deadline is on 30 Aug, last time checked there were opened 30-40 applications and have 6 external reviewers. The coming up events working on are En dag för cancerforskning and Djurönäset retreat.

14) Seminar and workshops by CRKI and relevant organisations: IP, 14:35h

- a. Industry Seminar on Intellectual property, 4 September 2024
- b. Djurönäset Retreat, 23-24 September
- c. CCE Summer School, 6-11th October
- d. Mayo Clinic – Karolinska Meeting 16-17 October 2024
- e. En Dag för Cancerforskning 6 November 2024
- f. PI retreat Djurönäset 17-18 February 2025

15) Any other business 14:36h



There is an Uppsala – Stockholm Innovation seminar, in Aula medica on 10 Oct 2024, <https://kisciencepark.se/event/stockholm-uppsala-life-science-conference/>, could be included into the newsletter. Almedalen meeting was successful, with more than 1000 people who looked at the webinar about PCM.

16) End of meeting 14:38h