



Agenda for Cancer Research KI Strategy meeting and Executive Board

Monday October 21 2024, 12:00-14:00 Zoom <https://ki-se.zoom.us/j/61302008223>

(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 Co-Director Yvonne Wengström, Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society, Co-Director Marco Gerling, Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology – CLINTEC Simon Ekman, Department of Oncology-Pathology Linda Lindström, Department of Oncology-Pathology Päivi Östling, Department of Oncology-Pathology, SciLifeLab Margareta Wilhelm, Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, joined from 13:00 Matthias Löhr, Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology Renske Altena, Department of Oncology-Pathology 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 Patrik Rossi, Managing Director, Cancer Theme Karolinska University. Jonas Fuxe, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Reference Group Chair Lise-lott Eriksson, Chair of the Blood Cancer Forum, Patient Group Joakim Dillner Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology, Cancer Prevention Europe. Lena Sharp, RCC Stockholm-Gotland Dina Dabaghie, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics Liselotte Bäckdahl, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics Stefina Milanova, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics Johanna Mayer, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics</p>
Invited Guests	<p>Klas Kärre Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology (left at 12:22h) Matt Hall, NIH</p>
Not attending	<p>Co-Director Yvonne Wengström, Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society, Co-Director Matthias Löhr, Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology Eva Jolly, Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Centre coordinator Patrik Rossi, Managing Director, Cancer Theme Karolinska University Lena Sharp, RCC Stockholm-Gotland</p>

1) Welcome to the meeting and approval of minutes from the previous CRKI Executive Board meeting 2024-09-30 (A) (E. Arnér, 1 min) DP

Meeting started at **12:01h**. Minutes from the previous EB meeting on 30 Sept 2024 were approved. Two additional points were added to the agenda:

- 1) Matt Hall from NIH will join the meeting at 12:15h to talk about shared PhD position - NIH – KI joint cancer PhD programme
- 2) The appointment of a new CRKI co-director



A decision was made to upload the EB minutes on the CRKI website. The CRKI strategy goals are now finalised and available on the website.

2) European Academy of Cancer Sciences (Klas Kärre, 10 min) IP (12:05h)

Klas Kärre, Secretary General, presented the European Academy of Cancer Sciences (EACS) and followed up on the letter that was sent to the partners of CCE. EACS includes 268 participants and 22 countries, is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that acts all over Europe, gives advice and interacts with all stakeholders in the cancer area, bundle the voices of all stakeholders and lobby and idea to governmental bodies, influence policy making. Achievements of the EACS include advocating the launch of the European “Mission on Cancer”, engaged together with all stakeholders in the cancer research continuum, continuous identification of priority areas, designation of excellence program. Molecular oncology journal is now an official partner to the academy. EACS strategic pillars: 1) policy, 2) scientific content, 3) membership EACS fellows, 4) outreach & communication, 5) organization & funding. They are asking us for help regarding outreach and communication, the network needs to be extended and have better communication. EACS would like to interact more closely with CCCs and receive more funding - they are reaching out to the different stakeholders and CCCs to request funding, specially CCE, asking for 5000-7500 euro per year, to establish a council with two-way dialogue between the stakeholders and the academy. The funding is to cover 1 part time person at KI and one part time person in Brussels. Supporters will receive information and provide input on relevant developments via annual general meetings and workshops.

CRKI admin will send out the letter and the ppt from Klas Kärre for EB members to look through, and then it will be brought up as a decision point for next meeting if we would support them with 5000 EUR per year and how can we use the academy.

3) Matt Hall (from NIH and he can join at 12:15 (12:24h):

To discuss to open joint KI-NIH doctoral programme in cancer research, like the neuroscience one. With more information found at: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/research-conducted-at-nimh/scientific-director/office-of-fellowship-and-training/nih-karolinska-institute-graduate-program>. NIH does not award PhDs, instead they have collaboration with 4 universities - London, Oxford, Cambridge and KI. Renewal of the agreement (MoU) is due next year, and it is a good time to consider changing the agreement and establishing PhD programmes within cancer. The PhD students will need to spend half time in NIH, half time in the partner university, will have two supervisors - one at NIH and one at partner university, while NIH cover the funding for the PhD student. 300 of 1000 groups at NIH are dedicated to cancer research, from basic research to clinical studies. There is also a discussion if they will open the recruitment to all programs which involves cancer. CRKI EB is positive of this proposal, and they support the initiative. A proposal to involve Chemical Biology Consortium Sweden (CBCS) was made by Päivi Östling. **Matt Hall left at 12:38h**

4) Conclusions from the KI-Mayo meeting 16-17 October (Elias Arnér, 5 min) DP (12:39h):

It was a great opportunity to strengthen the KI-Mayo collaboration, with positive feedback from both sides. Discussions on the task forces are being finalized and more information will follow.

5) CCC reaccreditation update (Elias Arnér, 5 min) IP (12:40h)

Re-accreditation audit will take place on 4th and 5th of November 2024. The audit team is scheduled to meet with participants during the opening session on the morning of the 4th and the closing session on



the 5th afternoon. It is important that as many members as possible from the CRKI EB board participate in those two open sessions, to strengthen the importance of the re-accreditation. Some of the EB members already have scheduled meetings with the audit team at different points.

6) Update on the CRKI event calendar (Elias Arnér, L Bäckdahl 5 min) IP (12:42h)

Liselotte Bäckdahl has shared the updated event calendar, the events are detailed in point 11. Two documentaries screenings on Nobel prize winners, scheduled for 4th and 5th Nov are covered by the American company, and aim to be networking events; En dag för cancerforskning on 6th Nov, currently has 680 people registered; ethics applications online seminar is on 22 Nov; 4th Dec – Industry seminar with LIF; CCE site visit scheduled for 30 Jan 2025; PI retreat in Feb 2025; PCM course with NIO 24-28 March 2025; Radiotherapy workshop NIO, 12-13 May 2025; Swedish Cancer Research Meeting SCRM Malmö 22-23 May 2025 - are asking for chairs for the sessions, and the chairs will get free registration.

7) NIO workshops PCM and Radiotherapy update (Elias Arnér, 5 min) IP (12:50h)

The two next workshops are now planned and the dates set.

- PCM course with NIO 24-28 March Stockholm. In collaboration with NatiON and FoTO.
- Radiotherapy workshop with NIO, 12-13 May

We are getting ready to have a Twinning application for EU funding.

8) Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center Update (Patrik Rossi, 5 min) IP (12:52h)

KCCC is currently preparing for the re-accreditation, focused on meeting with patients, e.g. waiting times for cancer care. KCCC has the shortest waiting list compared with the other regions, even though it could still be improved. P. Rossi thinks we can do better synchronization between CRKI and KCCC. Engaged in different projects, political, ongoing vårdansvar avdelningen, new cancer strategy that is led by Mef Nilbert under the umbrella of Socialstyrelsen. There is a Department of Onc-Pat day on Friday (25 Oct 2024).

9) Cancer Research KI organization: IP (12:58h)

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

- **WG1 Research (L. Lindström):** Dina Dabaghie gave feedback on Djurönäset Cancer retreat. The feedback was very positive overall, in total 123 people answered the survey (more than previous years), most responses came from Onk-Pat department, mostly Postdocs and PhD students. The overall satisfaction, scientific presentations, breakout session received around 4.5/5 and patient perspective was especially well appreciated. The poster session and free time/ mingling was rated less than other sessions. Most of the participants would like the retreat to stay in Djurönäset. Changing the venue of the retreat is under discussion. Liselotte Bäckdahl gave an updated on the BlueSky grant, applications are still being reviewed by evaluators, there will be a consensus meeting in November.
- **WG2 Education (M. Wilhelm):** prepping for reaccreditation of KCCC, planning a course on palliative cancer care, starting spring 2026



- **WG3 Outreach (Y. Wengström):** Renske Altena gave an update on En dag för cancerforskning with 680 registrations. In addition, a LinkedIn page was created to increase visibility of CRKI.
- **WG4 Precision Cancer Medicine (P. Östling):** iPCM will be discontinued, it will be continued as a routine at Karolinska hospital instead, experts and bioinformaticians will stay involved. Imaging biopsy center BIC pilot, writing a paper on 10 pilot projects run by PCM programme, TRYTRAC 2025 – career programme, 18 applicants, 4 accepted. Cancer Core Europe site visit is planned for January. Virtual data center: there are 80 parameter list, working on how the parameters can better be matched to terms used in the hospital.
- **WG5 Industrial Collaboration (S. Ekman):** Stefina Milanova gave an update on Industry website
- **CPE Cancer Prevention Europe (J. Dillner):** not present. Follow up with Joakim for the Early Career Representative will be initiated as soon as possible.

10) Cancer Research KI administration update including Budget update (L. Bäckdahl and D. Dabaghie, 5 min) (13:18h)

L. Bäckdahl will provide update on the budget next time. Kick off from EUnetCCC will take place tomorrow, 22 Oct 2024. The PIs database is under updating.

11) Seminar and workshops by CRKI and relevant organisations:

- a. Film event 2 Nobel laureates Documentaries; Phil Sharp and Jim Alison, 4 and 5 November
- b. En Dag för Cancerforskning, 6 November 2024
- c. Online CRKI-CDO seminar Navigating the Regulatory Landscape at Ease – Support at KI for Ethics Applications 22 November.
- d. LIF-KI industry collaboration seminar “Biomarker driven Precision Medicine” seminar, 4th December, Ragnar Granit, Biomedicum
- e. CCE site visit to KI/KCCC, 30 January
- f. PI retreat Djurönäset, 17-18 February 2025
- g. PCM course with NIO 24-28 March Stockholm
- h. Radiotherapy workshop with NIO, 12-13 May
- i. Swedish Cancer Research Meeting SCRMM Malmö, 22-23 maj 2025

12) Any other issue? 13:20h

- A) Yvonne Wengström will step down as co-director and Renske Altena has been suggested as new co-director. The nomination committee nominated Renske Altena as the new co-director from 1st of January, in addition to serving as a head the task force for cancer in Mayo-collaboration, and the outreach group. Renske is leaving Karolinska Hospital and moving to establish a new oncology facility in private hospital that was started in Helsinki (Finland) and now will be established in Sweden. However, she will stay as a researcher in KI. Therefore, it will be difficult for her to be the co-director for CRKI and the task force for breast cancer. So, Renske will stay at CRKI and lead the outreach WG, but will not be able to head the other two



roles. Therefore, we will go back to the nomination committee to discuss finding a new co-director for CRKI.

- B) Margareta Wilhelm raised the question about the task forces that were supported. On the home page of CRKI, the names of the task forces are listed, but it would be good to have more information about the task forces and contact details of the people in each task force. Moreover, CRKI should consider how to distinguish the different task forces (KI tumor specific ones and KI-Mayo ones).

13) End of meeting 13:30h.