



# Agenda for Cancer Research KI Executive Board meeting

**Wednesday March 19th, 2025, 15:00-17:00** <https://ki-se.zoom.us/j/67954841418>

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

<b>Board members</b>	<p>Co-Director <b>Marco Gerling</b>, Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology – CLINTEC</p> <p>Co-Director <b>Linda Lindström</b>, Department of Oncology-Pathology</p> <p><b>Päivi Östling</b>, Department of Oncology-Pathology, SciLifeLab</p> <p><b>Ninib Baryawno</b>, Department of Women's and Children's Health</p> <p><b>Eva Jolly</b>, Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Centre coordinator</p> <p><b>Patrik Rossi</b>, Managing Director, Cancer Theme Karolinska University.</p> <p><b>Lise-lott Eriksson</b>, Chair of the Blood Cancer Forum, Patient Group</p> <p><b>Carlos Rodrigues</b>, Department of Women's and Children's Health, Junior faculty representative</p> <p><b>Sara Abu Ajamieh</b>, PhD student representative, Department of Women's and Children's Health</p> <p><b>Dina Dabaghie</b>, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics</p> <p><b>Stefina Milanova</b>, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics</p> <p><b>Pablo Martí Andrés</b>, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics</p>
<b>Invited Guests</b>	
<b>Not present</b>	<p>Chair and Director <b>Elias Arnér</b>, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics</p> <p><b>Simon Ekman</b>, Department of Oncology-Pathology</p> <p><b>Margareta Wilhelm</b>, Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology</p> <p><b>Matthias Löhr</b>, Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology</p> <p><b>Renske Altena</b>, Department of Oncology-Pathology</p> <p><b>Keith Humphreys</b>, Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics</p> <p><b>Jonas Fuxe</b>, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Reference Group Chair</p> <p><b>Joakim Dillner</b> Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology, Cancer Prevention Europe.</p> <p><b>Lena Sharp</b>, RCC Stockholm-Gotland</p> <p><b>Liselotte Bäckdahl</b>, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics</p>

- 1) Welcome to the meeting and approval of minutes from the previous CRKI Executive Board meeting 2025-01-28(A) (M. Gerling, 1 min) DP

No comments on the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes were **Approved**.

- 2) The reference group will be present at the EB meeting 22 April 2025. Our two chairs wish to step down and we will have a new nomination process. Suggestion for agenda: (M. Gerling, 15 min) D

The next EB meeting on April 22nd will include the Reference Group. Both the Chair (Jonas Fuxe) and Vice Chair (Ole Hermansson) will step down earlier than planned. A new nomination process will be initiated to elect two new members (Liselotte Bäckdahl will send out a separate email regarding this process in the coming days). The reference group will drive the election process, nominating new members who will serve a three-year term after agreeing to the roles.



Certain points for discussion have been circulated and are listed in the meeting materials:

- a. KI and KS responses to the national cancer strategy (Point for all news)
- b. The Improvement plan OEI: KCCC responses to OEIs action points (List of points)
- c. Karolinska University Hospital has a new RDE strategy for research, development and education (FoUU).
- d. Election of new chair for CRKI's reference group.

### **Summary:**

Karolinska Institutet and Karolinska Hospital responses to the National Cancer Strategy have been submitted. The improvement plan has also been submitted. The responses have been circulated to the Reference Group and the Executive Board. A new Research and Development strategy and Education strategy from the Hospital, chaired by Olof Akre, has been formulated and active work has started. The election of new chairs of the Reference Group will be discussed at the next EB meeting where the Reference Group is invited to attend.

The deadline for nominations for the reference group is 12 April 2025.

### **Comments:**

- Inquiry about the circulation of the KI response to the cancer strategy and who contributed to writing it: The directors of Cancer Research KI gave their comments, and they asked for input and comments from the Executive Board during the last CRKI EB meeting.
- Discussion on the short deadlines and the need for better collaboration in future strategies.
- Mention of similar issues faced by SciLifeLab and the importance of having common points in responses.
- Reflection on the need for better preparation time for future strategies.

### **3) Selecting new members for KCCC's SAB (M. Gerling, 5 min) IP**

Cancer Research KI was tasked with suggesting members for the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). A total of 17 nominations were received, and a list of suggested selections was made, covering all 14 areas of expertise.

#### **Selection Criteria:**

- Good geographical distribution.
- Inclusion of two potential new chairs from Nordic countries.
- Representation of both men and women and different career stages.

The suggested candidates were approved to be contacted to confirm their willingness to join the SAB. Substitutes will be needed if any of the current suggestions decline the offer.



**Pathology experts:** Discussion on the need to analyze additional nominated candidates with expertise in pathology and ranking the pathologist candidates.

**Comments:**

- Highlighting the importance of including Charles Swanton due to his molecular pathology background if he is willing to be part of the SAB.
- Emphasis on the need for diverse expertise in pathology and molecular pathology.
- Agreement on the need for respectful handling of sensitive issues regarding contributions of current members of the SAB.

4) Kommittén för Forskning: Action plan regarding gender equality outcome of CRKI Grants. (L. Lindström, 10 min) D

Continuation of the discussion initiated during the past EB meeting. The proportion of female researchers matches the proportion of awarded grants, and it is consistent over the years. KI has approximately 30% female professors, reflected in the PI database with a little more than 30% female PIs. It is surprising, though, that fewer women are listed as PIs on the CRKI database, possibly due to women feeling less senior and not announcing themselves as PIs. Marie Arsenian-Henriksson highlighted that historically, gender inequality has been a larger problem within cancer research.

**Points to be included in CRKI response:**

- Gender differences for all grants (applications/concessions) will be made clear.
- Career age will be included, showing higher proportion of males with increased seniority.
- Gender distribution within CRKI will be balanced across all roles.

**Suggestions:**

- Organize a retreat for female PIs, preferably more senior than postdoc level, to increase the number of female PIs in the database and support women (potential collaboration with WISE).
- Favor applications from female applicants if there are two exactly similar applications (rare occurrence).
- Mentorship program for junior female PIs to guide them in their career decisions.
- Organize a lecture by Anders Warpman (who previously lectured on this topic in Onco-Pat) for EB members.
- Circulate the information for feedback and emphasize the need for new ideas to improve gender equality.

**Comments:**

- General agreement on the need for better support and mentorship for female PIs.



**Karolinska  
Institutet**



- Discussion on whether the retreat should be women-only or include everyone to address the issue comprehensively.
- Need for suggestions for improving the action plan and the importance of constructive feedback.

5) CCE site visit 20-21 March: lecture Josep Tabernero 12.00 March 21 (L. Lindström, 2 min) IP

**Welcome Session:** March 20, 14:00-15:30 in Biomedicum. This session will include a welcome from Cancer Research KI, presentations from working groups leaders, and a theranostics presentation.

**Lecture by Josep Tabernero:** March 21 at 12:00 in Bioclinicum. The lecture will also be broadcasted online via Teams.

6) Evaluation of the PI retreat, important lessons from the event, possible solutions and how frequently should it be organized? (L. Lindström, 10 min) DP

The PI retreat held last February in Djurönäset was found to be stimulating, inspiring, interesting, and helpful by many participants whose specifically highlighted its usefulness for networking and meeting other PIs. The feedback from junior faculty was very positive, especially from those new to KI or from different fields.

**Suggestions for Improvement:**

- Consider different types of PI retreats each year, such as focusing on women in science or junior PIs, for instance.
- Introduce themes like collaboration, clinical trials, and interdisciplinary discussions.
- Increase knowledge about available infrastructures at KI and Karolinska Hospital and clinical cohorts.
- Keep the retreat open to younger PIs and ensure broad participation.

**Penalty for No-Shows:**

- No-shows and last-minute cancellations cost a considerable amount of money to CRKI.
- Proposal to charge the cost to the Department or researcher for no-shows or late cancellations.

**Decision:**

It was **APPROVED** to charge the full cost of the participation in the retreat for no-shows and last-minute cancellations, as well as for those participants who do not stay the night. These terms will be clearly stated in the registration form. This was agreed for both the PI retreat and the annual Cancer Research KI retreat.



It was **APPROVED** that the PI retreat will be held annually, reassessing the demand in future editions.

#### 7) Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center Update (Eva Jolly, 10 min) IP

Dina Dabaghie updated the Board on behalf of Eva Jolly.

- **OCI Improvement Plan:** The response to the OECI improvement plan has been submitted. The document is available in the pre-meeting materials and will be accessible on SharePoint after the meeting.
- **Karolinska CCC Day:** Scheduled for March 31st. As of 19 March 2025, 350 participants and 29 posters are expected. The annual report will be launched on the same day.
- **Upcoming Workshop:** A new workshop for the management group is scheduled for April 15th to work on the improvement plan and follow up on strategy work.
- **Upcoming Meetings:**
  - National CCC Network Meeting: May 8th in Uppsala, with a dinner the evening before.
  - Nordic Baltic CCC Meeting: May 28th in Copenhagen, with a dinner the evening before.

There was positive feedback on the success of the KCCC day from the Board members, noting the high number of participants (360 registered participants) and posters (32 posters), and the event's growth in the past years.

#### 8) Cancer Research KI organization: IP

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

- WG1 Research (L. Lindström)

##### **PI retreat:**

The PI retreat and its evaluation were discussed in point 6.

##### **Annual CRKI retreat:**

Regarding the annual retreat, the Keynote speakers confirmed are Bob Weinberg, Hans Clevers, and Michelle Monje, focusing on translational, clinical, and basic research, with consideration of gender differences. Invitations have been extended to KI researchers, including clinicians, and currently planning breakout sessions, including patient perspective, meet the speakers, and scientific sessions. It was suggested to announce the retreat during the upcoming KCCC day to increase the attendance of clinicians, and to invite patient advocates to the retreat.

##### **Mayo Collaborations:**

Continuing several collaborations with Mayo, including task forces and requests for applications (RFAs). Meetings are being held with Mayo, particularly in the breast cancer group. Despite the challenges faced by American researchers due to administrative changes, plans are progressing well.



- WG2 Education (M. Wilhelm)

Marco Gerling updated the Board on behalf of Margareta Wilhelm.

FoTO is currently working on establishing syllabi and approving them for 7 courses running in the autumn. Besides, it has been identified that many teachers lack formal training in team-based learning. KI has been providing training only in Swedish so far; however, English courses will be provided soon. The dates for these courses are April 1st, April 29th, May 7th, and May 15<sup>th</sup>, and they are open for all teachers at KI.

- WG3 Outreach (R. Altena)

Dina Dabaghie updated the Board on behalf of Renske Altena on the upcoming events:

- (a) **Joint webinar with Cancerfonden on clinical treatment studies:** 3 researchers awarded the *kliniska behandlingsstudier* grant from Cancerfonden will present their work on April 7th. The webinar will be introduced by Malin Sund from Cancerfonden.
- (b) **Webinar for cancer patient organizations:** organized on April 10th and aimed for patient organizations, not for researchers, although anyone is welcome to join.
- (c) **En dag för cancerforskning:** scheduled this year for November 12th as an online event. The outreach group has started working on the program.

- WG4 Precision Cancer Medicine (P. Östling)

There is an upcoming course together with the National Institute of Oncology (Budapest, Hungary) happening next week, focusing on SciLifeLab platforms, clinical trials, and various aspects of precision cancer medicine. More than 30 participants are expected.

Karolinska University Hospital has developed a Biopsy and Intervention Centre (BIC). There is a clear need to increase biopsies for biomarker-driven trials and precision medicine (3-7% estimated increase in biopsy needs). A pilot study focusing on lymphoma had positive responses. The challenges for the development of this project have been identified: long distance between radiology, cytology, and pathology for patients, and lack of resources. The proposed next steps are to continue forming the biobank within lymphoma and discuss its expansion to other indications and securing a six-month fellowship for a radiologist to continue work on the biobank (there is no more funding available from *Radiumhemmet* for this project).

- WG5 Industrial Collaboration (S. Ekman)

Stefina Milanova updated the Executive Board on behalf of Simon Ekman.



**Karolinska  
Institutet**



There is an upcoming seminar in collaboration with KI Science Park on AI followed by afterwork scheduled for March 26th (Elisabeth Eppstein will be one of the speakers), and a seminar on IP for junior researchers is currently being planned for May (preliminary date: 13th May).

- CPE Cancer Prevention Europe (J. Dillner)  
No updates were presented.

- 9) Cancer Research KI administration update (S. Milanova, P. Martí Andrés and D. Dabaghie, 5 min)

**Reminder about events organized by CRKI:** All upcoming events are listed on the website, which is regularly updated. There is a separate section for events to keep everyone informed. Everyone is encouraged to check this section regularly.

**Reminder about the CCE Visit:** Scheduled for Thursday March 20th from 14:00 to 15:30. Everyone was encouraged to join if possible. There will also be a lecture by Josep Tabernero on Friday March 21st at 12:00 online or in-person at Bioclinicum.

- 10) Seminar and workshops by CRKI and relevant organizations:

- a. CCE site visit 20-21 March:
  - (1) March 20, 14-15.30 CRKI presentation, in Peter Reichard, Biomedicum
  - (2) March 21, 12-13.00, J. Tabernero CCE Lecture, J3:12 Nanna Svartz, Bioclinicum
- b. AI workshop, The Power of AI in Oncology and Healthcare, March 26, 15-19, AWL café, Innomedicum, Campus Solna
- c. PCM course with NIO, 24-28 March Stockholm
- d. KCCC Day, Aula Medica, 31 March 2025
- e. Cancerfonden Webinar -The Clinical Treatment Study grant. April 7<sup>th</sup>, 13-15.
- f. Patient Workshop On-line -Tumörformer vanliga hos kvinnor, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 13-14.30
- g. Radiotherapy workshop with NIO, 12-13 May Stockholm
- h. Swedish Cancer Research Meeting SCRM Malmö, May 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> 2025
- i. Djurönäset Cancer retreat, 22-23 September 2025
- j. En dag för Cancerforskningen, 12 November 2025

- 11) Any other issue?

No other issues were discussed.

- 12) End of meeting

Meeting ended 16:32.