Karolinska Institutet

KAROLINSKA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

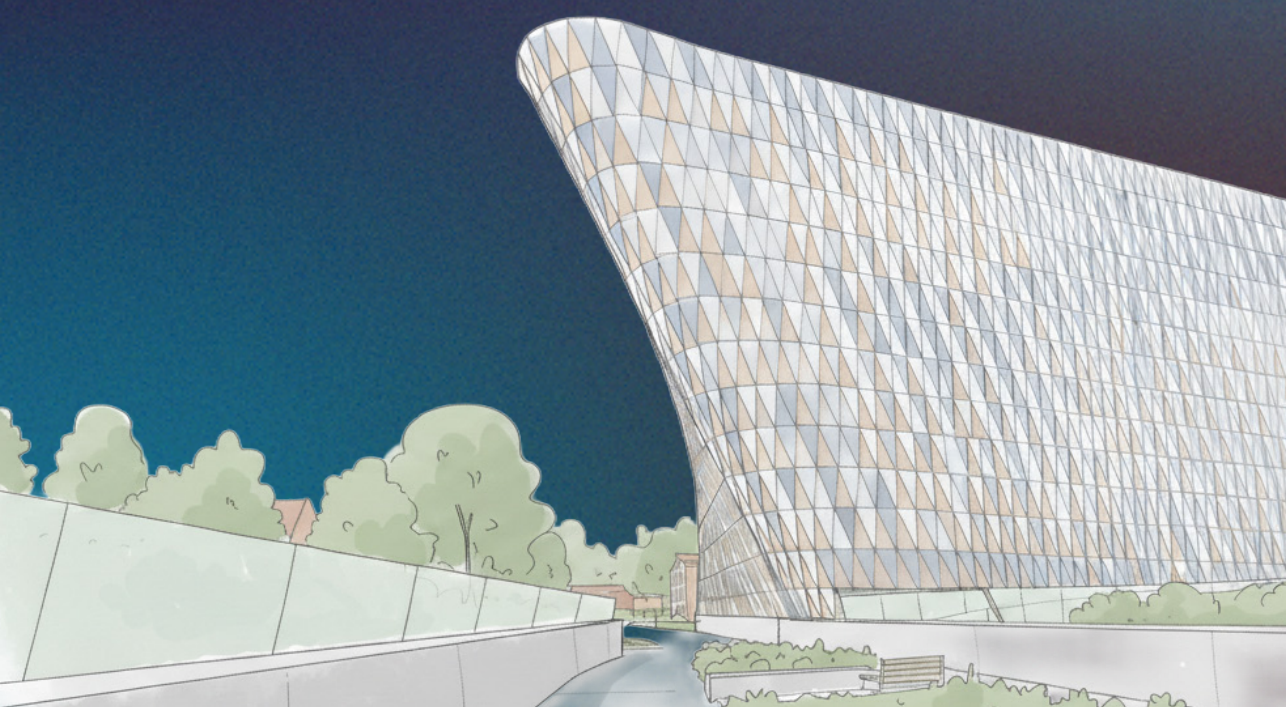
Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center

Cancer Core Europe

10th Cancer Core Europe Annual Meeting
Karolinska CCC Days 2026

23–24 March, 2026
Stockholm

DIGITAL BOOKLET



Welcome to the 10th Cancer Core Europe Annual Meeting and Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center Days 2026

We are delighted to host this year's joint event at Aula Medica at Karolinska Institutet, bringing together participants from several countries across Europe for two days dedicated to advancing cancer research, improving patient care, and strengthening collaboration across our community. By uniting the Cancer Core Europe Annual Meeting with the Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center Days, we aim to offer a program of the highest quality that reflects the combined expertise of all seven CCE centers, and maximizes opportunities for meaningful oncology collaborations.

This year's scientific program features distinguished keynote speakers whose work exemplifies excellence across the cancer research and care continuum: **Irene Braña** (VHIO, Spain), **Eric Fey** (University of Helsinki, Finland), **Elisabete Weiderpass** (IARC, France), and **Michael Baumann** (DKFZ, Germany; European Academy of Cancer Sciences). Another highlight of the program will be the **panel discussion on European synergies**, which will explore how coordinated efforts across the continent can accelerate progress in both research and care.

The meeting also includes an engaging poster session with ca. 45 poster presentations showcasing the breadth of ongoing work within our community. We warmly encourage everyone to visit the posters during coffee and lunch breaks, to speak with the presenters, and to cast a vote for your favorite poster using the QR codes available in the poster area.

As we face global challenges in cancer prevention, diagnostics, and treatment, our ability to work together across disciplines, institutions, and countries is more important than ever. This meeting provides an invaluable platform to share insights, explore new research horizons, and strengthen the collaborative networks that drive progress in oncology.

We extend our sincere thanks to all keynote speakers, panelists, presenters and attendees, as well as to the organizing team whose dedication and hard work made this event possible. Most importantly, we thank each of you for continuing to contribute your expertise, energy, and commitment to improving outcomes for patients everywhere.

We wish you an inspiring, productive, and memorable meeting.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee,

Elias Arnér
MD PhD, Director, Cancer Research KI

Patrik Rossi
MD PhD, Managing Director Cancer Theme, Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center

Welcome to Stockholm!

Cradled by water and light, Stockholm is a capital of islands and inlets, with historic facades set against pine-dotted shores and cultural institutions and green spaces woven throughout the inner city. First-time visitors can expect contrasts: medieval lanes beside neoclassical palaces, modern museums alongside quiet quays, and nature never more than a short stroll away. Two silhouettes appear repeatedly in the skyline: the Royal Palace, one of the largest in Europe, and the City Hall, whose brick tower carries Sweden's Three Crowns and whose grand halls host the Nobel Banquet each December.

A City of Science

Stockholm's identity is closely tied to learning and ideas. In Gamla Stan's old Stock Exchange building, the Nobel Prize Museum presents laureates, artifacts, and the stories behind prize-winning discoveries, forming an elegant link between history and the present. The conference venue, Aula Medica at Karolinska Institutet in Solna, is a striking contemporary landmark with a 1,000-seat amphitheater. It hosts Nobel lectures and highlights the city's strong academic spirit.

Things to Explore in the City Center

Gamla Stan (Old Town): If Stockholm has a heartbeat, you will feel it here: cobbled alleys that suddenly open onto sunlit squares, pastel facades, and the sense that centuries overlap at every corner. It is compact enough to wander without a plan. Trace the curve of Stortorget, step past Storkyrkan, and let yourself get "pleasantly lost" until the water appears again at the edge of the island. It is history you can stroll through.

Stockholm City Hall (Stadshuset): One of Europe's great civic buildings, made from eight million red bricks, with arcades along the water and a tower crowned with Sweden's Three Crowns. Inside, accessible only by guided tour, you will find the soaring rooms used for the Nobel festivities, including the Blue Hall's sweeping staircase and the Golden Hall's shimmering mosaics. Even from outside, the courtyards and waterfront gardens offer a memorable sense of place.

Royal Palace (Kungliga slottet): A vast baroque palace that functions as a living part of the city. Between the state rooms, the Treasury with the regalia, and the *Tre Kronor* Museum, you can explore centuries of Swedish royal history in one visit. Time your stop to see the changing of the guard at 12:15 (13:15 on Sundays), which adds a ceremonial rhythm to daily life in the old town.

Fotografiska: Housed in a restored industrial-era customs building on the Södermalm waterfront, Fotografiska is one of Stockholm's most vibrant cultural venues. It focuses on rotating photography exhibitions, from world-renowned photographers to emerging talents, which means no two visits are alike. The atmosphere is creative and contemporary, and the upper floors offer wide views across the harbor, making the visit as visually rewarding outside the galleries as within.

Nordiska Museet: An architectural landmark on Djurgården, the museum resembles a Nordic Renaissance castle, and stepping inside feels like entering a grand hall of stories. Exhibitions explore 500 years of Nordic life, from fashion, interiors, and craftsmanship to the Sami people, photography, and changing traditions. The scale is impressive, yet the objects and narratives feel remarkably intimate, highlighting everyday lives preserved across time.

Walks & Viewpoints

Riddarholmen Quays (Historic Skyline Walk): A short stroll from Gamla Stan, Riddarholmen's waterside quays offer one of Stockholm's most iconic panoramas: City Hall across the water, Södermalm's cliffs rising to the south, and the sharp spire of Riddarholmskyrkan behind you. It is a simple, flat walk, but rich in atmosphere and perfect for photos.

Skeppsholmen Loop (Art, Water, and Quiet): Cross the small bridge from central Stockholm and take an easy loop around Skeppsholmen, where harbors open on both sides and sculptures appear throughout the landscape. It is peaceful, close to everything, and full of shifting perspectives, especially if you continue to Kastellholmen for a postcard-style view toward the Royal Palace and Gamla Stan.

Djurgården Waterfront Promenade (Green Escape in a Central Location): This gentle walk traces the edge of the island, with boats gliding by and parks, villas, and museums appearing along the way. It is an excellent way to experience Stockholm's blend of city and nature without leaving the central districts, and it offers a refreshing contrast to the activity of the old town.

City Hall Park & Arches (Short Stroll, Big Impact): The arcaded courtyard, shady colonnades, and waterfront garden behind the City Hall create a sequence of intimate spaces with broad views across Riddarfjärden. It is a brief but rewarding walk, ideal when you want a sense of the city's architecture.

Swedish Culture & Practical Tips

Fika: Fika is a social pause rather than simply coffee: a few unhurried minutes with a hot drink and something sweet (often a cinnamon bun), ideally enjoyed together. It functions as both a noun and a verb in Swedish and is a small daily ritual that shapes the city's rhythm.

Cashless by default: Card and mobile payments are the norm in Stockholm, and some restaurants and venues are expressly cashless. Plan to pay by card or mobile wallet.

Dining hours: Lunch is commonly served from 11:00 to 14:00, and dinner from around 17:00. Many kitchens in casual venues begin winding down by 21:00-22:00 on weekdays, though hours tend to be later on weekends.

March in Stockholm

Late March is transitional. Daylight stretches, but temperatures can still hover near freezing, shifting from crisp sunshine to damp chill. Pack layers, including a warm coat and water-resistant shoes, and check Sweden's meteorological service close to your travel dates for context on typical conditions.

We hope you enjoy exploring Stockholm at your own pace. Whether you spend your time in the city's historic neighborhoods, along its waterfront paths, or inside its museums, there is plenty to discover beyond the conference. In March the days begin to brighten, and even a short walk can offer great views and a welcome sense of calm. We are glad to have you here, and we hope your stay is comfortable, inspiring, and memorable.

About the organizers

Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center

Bringing together cutting-edge research and world-leading expertise

The Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center (Karolinska CCC) offers customized cancer care with a multi-disciplinary, innovative, and science-based approach. Our patient-focused healthcare is provided with respect for and responsiveness to the individual's specific needs, expectations, and values. These are carefully weighed in clinical decisions, and each patient is involved already from the beginning. The patient's influence is significant in order to customize care and improve life during therapy.

Sweden's first comprehensive cancer center

Karolinska CCC is a joint initiative between Karolinska University Hospital and the top-ranking medical university Karolinska Institutet, accredited by the Organization of European Cancer Institutes (OECI).

The hospital and the university are located next to each other, creating a close collaboration both organizationally and physically. Karolinska CCC is Sweden's first accredited comprehensive cancer center and has dramatically increased cancer patients' opportunities.

The center brings together cutting-edge expertise in highly specialized cancer care, as well as basic, translational, and clinical research. This hub of knowledge enables us to really benefit from the extreme dedication among cancer health workers and researchers, which develops and further strengthens our already high standards of cancer care, research, and education in all parts of the cancer field. We believe this is key for developing new cancer therapies.

As a member of Cancer Core Europe, Karolinska CCC has become a part of a more extensive network with contact with other major European centers.

The best possible care

Our vision is to offer and conduct world-leading care, education, and research in all areas of healthcare to improve the quality of life and survival for cancer patients. With Karolinska CCC, we have reached another level of complexity that allows us to join all forces and offer our patients the best possible care and treatment.

By the end of 2021, Karolinska CCC had 383 ongoing clinical trials, including over 2,000 patients. More than 23 percent of new cancer patients were included in a clinical study.

By working using a multi-disciplinary approach with nurses, physicians, and researchers, together with the involvement of patients and their relatives, we create new opportunities within cancer care.

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Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center

Cancer Core Europe

Cancer Core Europe (CCE) is a collaborative and forward-thinking consortium comprising seven leading cancer centers and research institutions: the **Cancer Research UK Cambridge Centre** (Cambridge, United Kingdom), the **German Cancer Research Center** with the **National Center for Tumor Diseases** (Heidelberg, Germany), the **Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus Grand Paris** (Villejuif, France), the **Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori** (Milan, Italy), the **Karolinska Institutet** (Stockholm, Sweden), the **Netherlands Cancer Institute** (Amsterdam, The Netherlands), and the **Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology** (Barcelona, Spain). Together, they are dedicated to advancing cancer research and translating scientific breakthroughs into clinical practice across Europe.

CCE's primary mission is to foster innovation by accelerating the translation of cutting-edge scientific discoveries into real-world patient benefit, enhancing collaboration, and training the next generation of cancer researchers through educational initiatives for preclinical, translational, and clinical professionals. By uniting the expertise and resources of its member institutions, CCE strives to improve patient outcomes, drive progress in cancer prevention and treatment, and contribute to advance cancer research and therapy in Europe.

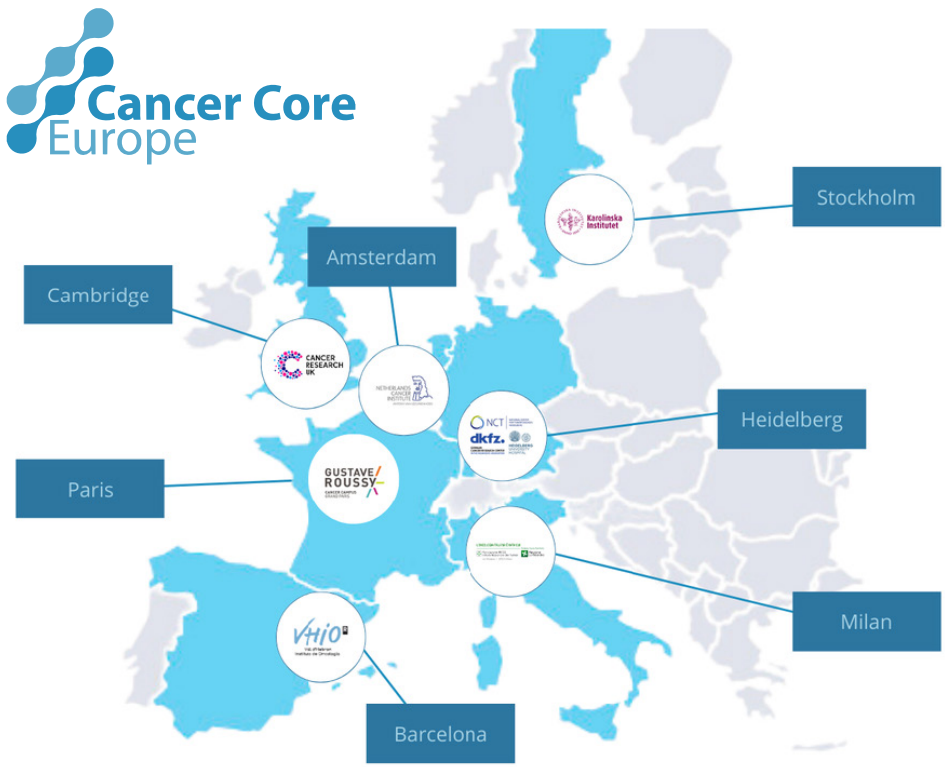


Photo: Cancer Core Europe

Save the date for the next CCE Meeting:
April 12-13, 2027 - Heidelberg, Germany

Practical information about the venue

Aula Medica is one of the most iconic and architecturally striking buildings at **Karolinska Institutet's Campus Solna**, and has hosted numerous international scientific symposia, Nobel related events, and academic ceremonies. Completed in 2013 and designed by **Wingårdh Arkitektkontor**, the triangular structure features a facade of more than 6,000 glass panes, creating a distinctive presence along Solnavägen. Its dramatic geometry, including a 33° facade slope and a 23-meter overhang, makes the building a landmark for visitors approaching the **Karolinska University Hospital** area.

The centerpiece of the venue is the **Erling Persson Hall**, an amphitheater-style auditorium with 1,000 seats, state-of-the-art AV technology, and excellent acoustics. The building also includes bright, multipurpose foyers, where **lunch** will be served on **floors 2 and 3**, and where the **exhibition (floor 3)** and **poster session (floor 2)** will take place, as well as mingling activities.

Address:
Nobels väg 6
171 65 Solna, Sweden

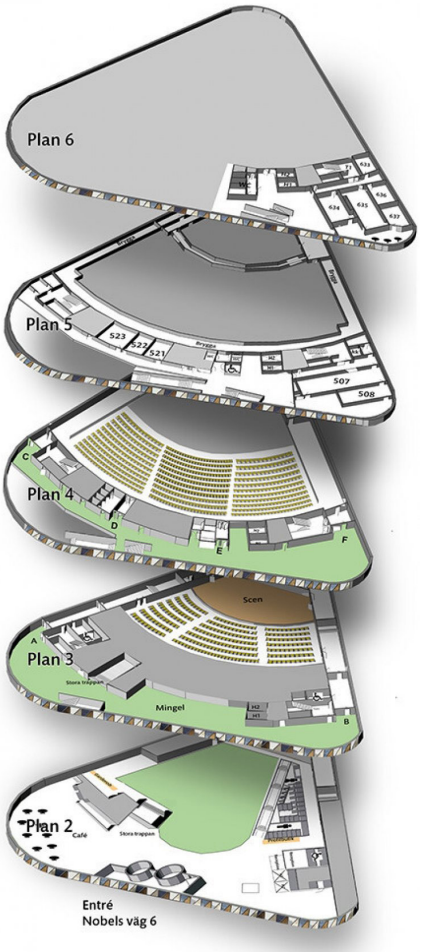


Photo: Janos Kovacs

Getting to Aula Medica

Aula Medica is located on Karolinska Institutet Campus Solna, close to the Karolinska University Hospital and well connected by public transportation.

By Metro (Tunnelbana)
The nearest metro station is **S:t Eriksplan**. From there, you can either walk or take a bus toward the Karolinska area.

By Bus
Several bus lines stop close to Aula Medica, with **Hagaplan** and **Karolinska Institutet Biomedicum** being the nearest stops. Buses **3, 5, and 6** run frequently from central Stockholm and S:t Eriksplan. Additional routes such as **506, 526**, and the **Flygbussarna airport coaches** also pass near the venue depending on your starting point.

By Commuter Train (Pendeltåg)

The closest commuter train station is Stockholm Odenplan, from which buses connect directly to the Karolinska campus.

By Taxi
Taxi services operate widely in the area, and Aula Medica's main entrance on Nobels väg is easily accessible for drop off.

By Car
Limited parking and charging stations are available near Aula Medica and in adjacent Solnavägen facilities.

Information about the breakout sessions

While the main program will take place in the **Erling Persson Hall** at **Aula Medica**, the breakout sessions will be held in **Biomedicum**, the large green glass building located directly next to Aula Medica.

Tuesday 24: Parallel sessions (12.00-13.15) – CCE Breakout Meetings

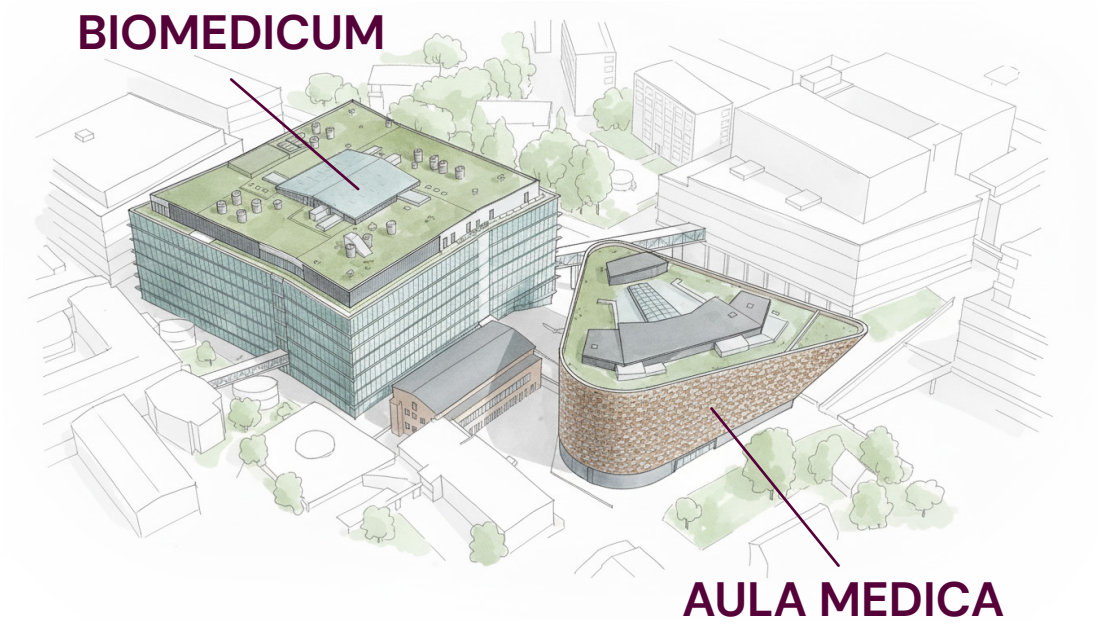
- **Clinical Trials & Translational Cancer Research** – *Eva & Georg Klein*
- **Virtual Data Centre** – *Nils Ringertz*
- ~~**Early Detection & Prevention**~~ – *CANCELLED*

All rooms are located on the entrance level of Biomedicum:

- **Eva & Georg Klein Lecture Hall** is directly to the right after the elevators.
- **Nils Ringertz** is located just behind the Eva & George Klein Lecture Hall.

Clear signage inside the building will guide you to each room. If you need assistance finding your way, please approach the staff at the reception or any of the organizers, who will be available throughout the session transitions.

Please note: Lunch for participants in the breakout sessions will be provided outside the Eva and Georg Klein Lecture Hall (Biomedicum). You should go directly to Biomedicum to pick up your lunch, rather than collecting it at Aula Medica.



Our Sponsors

GSK

GSK is a global biopharma company with a purpose to unite science, technology, and talent to get ahead of disease together. We are committed to developing innovative medicines, with a significant focus on oncology, to address unmet patient needs. Our ambition is to deliver transformative therapies that can make a real difference for cancer patients worldwide.

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MCE is a leading global supplier of research chemicals and bioactive compounds. Offering 150,000+ inhibitors, 50,000+ oligonucleotides, and 20,000+ life science products. Providing one-stop screening libraries and expert service for your drug discovery needs.

AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca is a global, science-led biopharmaceutical company that focuses on the discovery, development, and commercialisation of prescription medicines in Oncology, Rare Diseases, and BioPharmaceuticals, including Cardiovascular, Renal & Metabolism, and Respiratory & Immunology.

Based in Cambridge, UK, AstraZeneca's innovative medicines are sold in more than 125 countries and used by millions of patients worldwide. Please visit astrazeneca.com

AstraZeneca is one of Sweden's leading export companies and has more than 8 000 employees at three locations. Gothenburg is home to one of AstraZeneca's strategic global research centers, Södertälje hosts the company's largest production facility and the headquarters for the Nordic marketing company is situated in Stockholm.

10th Cancer Core Europe Annual Meeting & Karolinska CCC Days 2026

Scientific Committee

Elias Arnér
Ingemar Ernberg
Janne Lehtiö
Magnus Nilsson
Luigi de Petris
Dhifaf Sarhan
Nick Tobin
Päivi Östling

Organizing Committee

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Stefina Milanova

Booklet Design: Pablo Martí Andrés

PROGRAM

Monday, March 23

08:30 Registration and Coffee

09:00–09:25 **Welcome session**
Karolinska University Hospital: Christophe Pedroletti
Karolinska Institutet: Carl Johan Sundberg
Karolinska CCC: Elias Arnér, Patrik Rossi & Eva Jolly
Cancer Core Europe: Josep Tabernero & Javier Carmona (VHIO, Spain)

CLINICAL TRIALS AND TRANSLATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH - *Aula Medica*

Chairs: *Janne Lehtiö* and *Dhifaf Sarhan*

09:25–10:10 **Keynote lecture:** 'The link between translational cancer research and innovative clinical trials'
Irene Braña, *VHIO, Spain*

10:10–10:25 'How to best utilize patient perspective in cancer research and care – the European perspective'
Margareta Haag, *Nätverket mot Cancer, Sweden*

10:25–10:50 Coffee Break

10:50–11:10 'CCE Clinical trials & translational cancer research'
Richard Baird, *CRUK Cambridge, UK* & **Neeltje Steeghs**, *the Netherlands Cancer Centre, the Netherlands*

11:10–11:30 'Advancing Data-Rich Clinical Trials in Oncology: the DART project'
Elena Garralda, *VHIO, Spain*

11:30–11:45 'Technology & Data-driven Precision Medicine – a research and infrastructure perspective'
Päivi Östling, *Karolinska CCC, Sweden*

11:45–12:00 'Research at ATMP'
Samir El Andaloussi, *Karolinska CCC, Sweden*

12:00–12:15 'Theranostics research'
Rimma Axelsson, *Karolinska CCC, Sweden*

12:15–14:00 **Lunch and Poster session**
Parallel session: CCE Board of Directors (by invitation only)

VIRTUAL DATA CENTRE, AI, AND OMICS IN CANCER CARE - *Aula Medica*

Chair: *Päivi Östling* and *Lukas Orre*

14:00–14:45 **Keynote lecture:** 'When Standards Meet Intelligence: OMOP Oncology and Distributed Learning for Real-World Cancer Insights'
Eric Fey, *University of Helsinki, Finland*

14:45–15:05	‘CCE Virtual data centre’ **Janne Lehtiö**, *Karolinska CCC, Sweden*; **Marc Deloger**, *Gustave Roussy, France* & **Manoj Waikar**, *DKFZ, Germany*
15:05–15:20	‘Blood based proteomics in cancer diagnostics’ **Mathias Uhlén**, *SciLifeLab, KTH Sweden*
15:20–15:50	Coffee Break
15:50–16:05	‘AI Imaging’ **Mattias Rantalainen**, *Karolinska CCC, Sweden*
16:05–16:20	‘Centre for AI innovation’ **Johanna Furuhjelm**, *Karolinska CCC, Sweden*
16:20–16:35	‘FOCU.SE – The Swedish national collaborative group for implementing comprehensive genetic profiling in patients with advanced cancer’ **Edvard Abel**, *Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Sweden*
16:35–16:50	‘Cellular heterogeneity in glioblastoma’ **Sten Linnarsson**, *Karolinska CCC, Sweden*
16:50	**Wrap-up and End of Day 1**

Tuesday, March 24

EARLY DETECTION AND PREVENTION - *Aula Medica*

Chair: *Ingemar Ernberg*

08:30–09:15 **Keynote lecture:** 'Global cancer burden: IARC's evolving research & prevention strategies'
Elisabete Weiderpass, *IARC, France*

09:15–09:35 'CCE Early detection & Prevention'
Judith Balmaña, *VHIO, Spain*

09:35–09:50 'TETRIS-project: Risk assessment tools for severe side effects after breast radiotherapy: radiation safety through biological extended models & digital twins'
Eva Onjukka, *Karolinska CCC, Sweden*

09:50–10:10 'Faster elimination of cervical cancer'
Joakim Dillner, *Karolinska CCC, Sweden*

10:10–10:35 Coffee Break

EDUCATION AND TRAINING - *Aula Medica*

Chairs: *Nick Tobin* and *Anna Nilsson*

10:35–10:45 'CCE Education and Training'
Ingemar Ernberg, *Karolinska CCC, Sweden*

10:45–10:55 'TRYTRAC'
Priya Chudasama, *National Center for Tumor Diseases Heidelberg, Germany*

10:55–11:05 'CCE Summer School'
Bruno Köhler, *National Center for Tumor Diseases Heidelberg, Germany*

11:05–11:45 **CCE Early Career Award** + Talk by the winners

11:45–12:00 'Advanced nurse practitioners'
Erik van Muilekom, *Netherlands Cancer Centre, Netherlands*

12:00–13:15 **Lunch and Parallel sessions** (CCE Breakout meetings at Biomedicum)
- Clinical Trials & Translational Cancer Research – *Eva & Georg Klein*
- Virtual Data Centre – *Nils Ringertz*
- ~~Early Detection & Prevention~~ – *CANCELLED*

EUROPEAN SYNERGIES - *Aula Medica*

Moderators: *Elias Arnér* and *Eva Jolly*

13:15–14:45 **Panel discussion:** 'European synergies - the different European initiatives'
OECI: Simon Oberst; **CCE:** Alejandro Piris Giménez; **EUNetCCC:** Thomas Dubois; **JANE2:** Annalisa Trama; **European Academy of Cancer Sciences:** Michael Baumann; **Cancer Prevention Europe:** Elisabete Weiderpass; **EU's Cancer Mission:** Penilla Gunther

14:45–15:10 Coffee Break

CONCLUDING SESSION - *Aula Medica*

Chairs: *Elias Arnér* and *Patrik Rossi*

15:10–15:55 **Keynote lecture:** 'Strategies to meet the future challenges of cancer'
Michael Baumann, *DKFZ, Germany; EACS*

15:55–16:15 'From Survival to Survivorship: Redefining Outcomes in Surgical Oncology'
Pernilla Lagergren, *Karolinska CCC, Sweden*

16:15–16:35 'Low-Dose Aspirin for Secondary Prevention in Colorectal Cancer: Results from the Nordic ALASCCA Trial'
Anna Martling, *Karolinska CCC, Sweden*

16:35 **Poster Prize Winners** Announced and **Program Closing**

Mingle
Second floor, Aula medica

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Elias Arnér

Elias Arnér is the Director of Cancer Research KI, and a Professor in Biochemistry at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, and Head of the Department of Selenoprotein Research at the National Institute of Oncology, Budapest, Hungary.

He studies the impact of redox biology in health and disease, with a special focus selenoproteins, redox signaling pathways in mammalian cells, and anticancer therapies that target selenoproteins as their mechanisms of action. Elias Arnér is the Director of Cancer Research KI (CRKI) and a Board member or in the Scientific Advisory Board of several academic bodies as well as biotech companies within in the Life Science arena. He is a member of Cancer Core Europe's Board of Directors.

Elias Arnér has published 175+ articles found in PubMed, with currently 27,000+ citations and an h-index of 74 (Google Scholar), and he has several granted patents.

Patrik Rossi

Patrik Rossi has since 2013 held several senior managerial positions within Karolinska University Hospital and he is since 2015 a member of the executive management team of Karolinska University Hospital. Patrik Rossi has held his current positions since October 2019, he initiated the development of the national CCC network in Sweden and actively supported the development of the Nordic-Baltic CCC network.

Patrik is currently the Managing Director of the Cancer Theme at Karolinska University Hospital, and the Chair of the Board of Directors at Karolinska CCC.

Eva Jolly

Eva is an experienced leader in cancer care, research, and international collaboration, currently serving as Head of the Karolinska CCC Project Unit and Chief Coordinating Officer at Karolinska CCC. She has over 20 years of experience in oncology nursing and leadership, including roles as Nurse Director of Radiation Therapy and Head Nurse positions in oncology at Karolinska University Hospital. She is a member of the OECI Accreditation & Designation Board, as well as the Boards of Karolinska CCC and Cancer Research KI. Eva has led multiple EU-funded projects on cancer networks, innovation, and patient-centered care. She is also a published researcher and frequent speaker at international oncology conferences.

Josep Tabernero

Dr. Josep Tabernero currently serves as the Head of the Medical Oncology Department at the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, the Director of the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO) and Professor of Medicine at UVic-UCC.

His research centers on molecular targeted therapies, targeting specific oncoproteins, and novel immunotherapies, advancing and accelerating more effective personalized cancer medicines for patients displaying genetic lesions or pathway dysregulation. Dr. Tabernero's expertise includes predictive markers of response to anti-cancer therapies and innovative preclinical models (patient-derived xenografts and organoids) for studying tumor development. He has also (co) authored nearly 700 peer-reviewed papers with an H-Index of 129 and serves on the Editorial Boards of various top tier journals including Cancer Discovery, Clinical Cancer Research, and Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology.

Dr. Tabernero's contributions as the former President of the European Society for Medical Oncology - ESMO (2018-2019) and a member of esteemed cancer research associations like AACR and ASCO drive advancements in oncology globally. Dr. Tabernero is also Chair of Cancer Core Europe (since October 2023) and member of the Board of Directors of the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI) and has been a member of the Educational and Scientific Committees of ESMO, ASCO, AACR, AACR/NCI/EORTC, ASCO Gastrointestinal, TAT and ESMO-GI meetings.

Javier Carmona

Javier obtained his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from the Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain, studying DNA methylation alterations in cancer metastasis under the supervision of Manel Esteller. He then pursued postdoctoral training in José Baselga's lab at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, USA, investigating mechanisms of resistance to therapy in HER2-driven breast cancer.

In 2016, Javier joined Nature Medicine as scientific editor handling manuscripts in translational cancer research, clinical oncology and artificial intelligence in biomedicine. In 2019 became Deputy Editor at the journal and leader of the cross-journal community of cancer editors at Springer Nature. In 2022, he returned to Barcelona and currently serves as Head of Scientific Strategy at the Scientific Management Area of the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO) and Chief Scientific Officer for Cancer Core Europe. He is also professor of science communication at the University of Navarra and the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Irene Braña

Dr. Irene Braña is a Medical Oncologist specialized in Head and Neck Malignancies and Early Drug Development. In 2010, she completed her Medical Oncology training at Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, the largest Medical Oncology Department in Spain. She underwent a 3-year fellowship in Drug Development and Head and Neck Malignancies at the Drug Development Program at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, Canada. During that period, she was awarded a SEOM grant, an ASCO Conquer Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award and a Fundación La Caixa Grant.

She currently leads clinical research at the Head and Neck Tumor Unit from the Medical Oncology Department and works in the Early Drug Development Program (UITM). As part of the Head and Neck Unit, she is in charge of the assessment and treatment of patients' candidate for systemic treatment as part of multimodal treatment or in the recurrent/metastatic setting.

Since 2013 he has been working on the development of immunotherapy (immune-checkpoint inhibitors) in the head and neck area from phase I to phase III, including the checkMATE-141, KEYNOTE-048, and KEYNOTE-689 studies. The first two have led to the approval of nivolumab and pembrolizumab in metastatic/recurrent HNSCC, and the last one has recently led to the FDA approval of perioperative pembrolizumab in locally advanced disease.

Margareta Haag

Margareta Haag is the Chairperson of Nätverket mot cancer, the Swedish Network Against Cancer, an umbrella organization representing cancer-profiled patient organizations, since 2018. With a long-standing commitment to patient advocacy, she brings decades of leadership experience from the health and life science sectors. From 1987 to 2002, she served as the Executive Director of The Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science, guiding its global development and strategic expansion.

A lymphoma patient since 1994 and a lymphoedema patient since 1995, she has transformed her personal experience into sustained national and international engagement in cancer policy, patient rights, precision health, and co-creation within research and innovation. She has chaired Nätverket mot cancer and previously served as Chair of Svenska Ödemförbundet (2010–2024), where she now holds the title of Honorary Chair.

She is an active member of multiple high-impact steering groups, including All.Can.se, Genomic Medicine Sweden (GMS), where she also contributes to the Co-creation Committee, and the Person Council of the Centre for Patient-Centered Care (GPCC) at Gothenburg University. Her engagement extends to national policy arenas, including board membership in the Agenda for Health and Prosperity (2021–2025) and involvement in Forska! Sverige through its member association.

Her work in precision health encompasses membership in the steering groups of Vision Zero Cancer (Nollvision Cancer) and Precision Health Test Bed Sweden Cancer. She also serves on the Council of EUPATI Sweden and is a member of EUPATI.eu beginning in 2025.

At the European level, she co-leads Working Group 7 of the EU-CIP (Cancer Information Portal) Project (2025–2029), focusing on “Patients and inhabitants” in collaboration with Skåne Comprehensive Cancer Centre. Since 2025, she has contributed to OECI WG4Patients, developing recommendations for patient co-creation within Comprehensive Cancer Centres across Europe.

Her strategic patient advocacy work includes collaboration with researchers and peers within GMS, Biobank Sweden, and ATMP Sweden. Nationally, she was appointed to the government reference group for implementing the EU Beating Cancer Plan with a focus on digital infrastructure (2025–2026).

She has also contributed to assignments within the National Board of Health and Welfare, including ECHoS (2024–2025) and EUnetCCC (2024), and is a member of BBMRI-ERIC, Cancer Patients Europe (CPE), and OECI.

Her advisory board engagements include the EU digital rehabilitation project AMB@R, the Vinnova Project PROMISE – Precision Omics Initiative Sweden, and initiatives at Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

Across all roles, she is a leading voice for patient participation, precision medicine, equitable cancer care, and the integration of co-creation across national and European health innovation ecosystems.

Richard Baird

Dr. Richard Baird is an Academic Consultant in Experimental Cancer Therapeutics at the University of Cambridge and Cancer Research UK Cambridge Centre, and Honorary Consultant in Medical Oncology at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. He has a specialised focus on the clinical development of novel therapies for breast cancer.

His work integrates translational research and early-phase clinical trials, aiming to bring innovative treatments from bench to bedside. Dr. Baird is UK Chief Investigator in several national and international clinical studies, namely PIONEER, CALIBRATE, CamBMT, POSEIDEN and Basket of Baskets.

Neeltje Steeghs

Neeltje Steeghs, M.D., Ph.D. is a Medical Oncologist and Clinical Pharmacologist at the Netherlands Cancer Institute and Professor of Early Clinical Drug Development at the University of Utrecht. She leads the National Platform for Early Phase Clinical Trials in the Netherlands, and advises pharmaceutical companies. Her research focuses on early-phase oncology trials, drug development, and pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics integration. She has chaired national oncology groups, served on regulatory and ethical boards, authored over 200 publications, and is recognized for expertise in safe and effective anticancer drug dosing. She serves on ESMO and AACR-NCI-EORTC scientific committees and is ESMO Developmental Therapeutics Faculty (2026–2030). Within Cancer Core Europe she serves as co-chair for the Clinical trials and translational research pillar and as the Phase I Platform lead.

Elena Garralda

Elena Garralda, MD PhD is a Medical Oncologist, Principal Investigator and Researcher.

Currently serving as Director of the Molecular Cancer Therapy Research Unit (UITM) – CaixaResearch, Co-Director of the Clinical Research Program and Head of the Early Drug Development at VHIO. Dedicated to translational research, she coordinates the phase I program and the clinical research program, where complex clinical trials with drugs in early development (phase I and early phase II) focus on targeted agents and immunotherapies.

Her work specially emphasizes immuno-oncology and first-in-human studies of targeted therapies, rational combinations, and biomarker-driven trials. She actively integrates genomic profiling and immunological insights to guide biomarker-driven treatment strategies, and she is widely recognized for her expertise in early-phase clinical trials and for pioneering the implementation of next-generation cell therapies, including tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) targeting neo-antigens in tumors resistant to checkpoint inhibitors.

Dr Garralda is PI on several EU-funded projects (e.g., CCE-DART, PCM4EU) focused on delivering personalized cancer care across Europe. She is chair of EORTC's RECIST Task Force, member of ENA's Scientific Committee and usually serves as faculty of the "Methods in Clinical Cancer Research" annual workshop, as Faculty at ESMO and as member or chair of several working groups, associations and Scientific Committees.

She has authored over 150 articles published in peer-reviewed journals including Journal of Clinical Oncology, Nature Medicine and New England Journal of Medicine, has presented more than 200 abstracts and posters in international congresses such as AACR, ESMO, ASCO, TAT or ENA, and serves as reviewer for JAMA Oncology, Annals of Oncology, Cancer Treatment Reviews, British Journal of Cancer, Clinical Cancer Research, Lancet Oncology, Nature Reviews or ESMO Open among others.

Päivi Östling

Päivi Östling is an Associate Professor specializing in precision cancer medicine (PCM). She has established a functional precision medicine (fPM) platform at SciLifeLab Solna, Karolinska Institutet (KI) and Kallioniemi research group where they generate individualized drug profiles and multi-omics data for solid and hematological cancers. Since 2021, she has advanced precision medicine infrastructure at SciLifeLab and KI through national and European initiatives, including TEF-Health and the Joint Action on PCM, where she co-leads diagnostics. Päivi also drives projects to enable SciLifeLab's research infrastructure into clinical trials and to establish a PM sample center for multimodal data generation. She holds key roles in Swedish Life Science organizations such as SWELife, Cancer Research KI, Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Genomic Medicine Sweden, contributing to development in precision medicine, health data, and AI.

Samir El Andaloussi

Samir El Andaloussi is Professor of Biomolecular Medicine and Advanced Therapies at the Department of Laboratory Medicine. He is Principal Investigator for the Biomolecular Medicine lab and Head of Division for Biomolecular and Cellular Medicine within the department. He is also the Director of Research at newly established Karolinska ATMP Center. Additionally, he is also co-founder of Evox Therapeutics that develops engineered extracellular vesicles (EVs) for treatment of genetic diseases. Samir has worked on various aspects related to non-viral extrahepatic delivery of RNA and protein therapeutics, now with emphasis on the use engineered EVs and synthetic LNPs. He has recently established EV engineering methods that enable efficient targeted delivery of macromolecular therapeutics, such as gene editors and mRNAs in pre-clinical models with focus on cancer and CNS.

Rimma Axelsson

Rimma Axelsson is Professor of Nuclear Medicine at the Department of Molecular Medicine and Surgery.

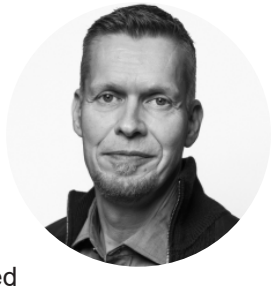
Rimma was born in 1960 in Baku in the then Soviet state of Azerbaijan. She studied medicine in Baku, graduating in 1985. Between 1985 and 1993, she worked at a cancer centre in Moscow, where she became an oncologist in 1987.

Rimma received her Swedish MD licence in 1995, and has since been working at Huddinge Hospital that later became Karolinska University Hospital. She became a specialist in nuclear medicine in 1997 and in radiology in 2000. She earned her PhD from KI in 2000, was made docent of nuclear medicine in 2006 and has been an adjunct professor at KI since 2012, and she was appointed Professor of Nuclear Medicine at Karolinska Institutet on 1 February 2022.

Eric Fey

Eric Fey is a distinguished scientist in systems biology and medicine, currently spearheading the development of AI applications and federated learning at the Helsinki University Hospital. His roles include the Data Team Lead at the iCAN Digital Precision Cancer Medicine flagship, University of Helsinki; AI Development Manager, HUS Helsinki University Hospital; and National Node Lead, OHDSI Finland. With a PhD in Engineering and a strong background in system biology and data science, Eric has a proven track record in academia, entrepreneurship, and industry, including the 2017 Irish Laboratory Award for Collaboration Achievement, and a significant role as Assistant Professor at University College Dublin School of Medicine. His innovative work in establishing the swarm-learning capabilities across the Finnish university hospitals and a published proof-of-concept that mathematical models of cancer signalling can outperform classical biochemical biomarkers demonstrate his commitment to advancing precision medicine through technology.

Janne Lehtiö



Professor Janne Lehtiö holds an MSc from the University of Helsinki, Finland, and a PhD in engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm. He gained industry experience in the U.S. biotech sector and completed postdoctoral training in cancer research at Karolinska Institutet (KI), Sweden. In 2015, he was appointed Professor at KI and, since 2021, also holds a shared clinical professorship at Karolinska University Hospital, where he leads the proteomics unit. His lab focuses on proteome analysis, systems biology, and precision medicine in oncology - particularly lung, breast, and leukemia research - ranging from method development to clinical applications.

Lehtiö has extensive experience in research infrastructures, having led core facilities and national initiatives, and contributing as an expert in technology-driven personalized medicine. From 2018 to 2023, he served as Scientific Director of SciLifeLab, Sweden's national bioscience infrastructure. He is a steering group member and area lead in precision medicine for the SciLifeLab-KAW Data-Driven Life Science program. He also serves on the board of the Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center and Cancer Core Europe. Professor Lehtiö is a member of the Nobel Assembly at KI.

Marc Deloger

Dr. Marc Deloger is the Head of the Bioinformatics Platform at Gustave Roussy, one of Europe's leading cancer centers. He specializes in computational oncology, high-throughput sequencing analysis, and the development of genomic tools that support precision medicine and translational cancer research. His work involves providing advanced bioinformatics expertise to clinical and research teams, enabling the interpretation of complex molecular data for patient care and innovative studies in solid tumors and rare cancers.

Dr. Deloger has contributed to a wide range of scientific publications, reflecting his broad expertise in cancer genomics, viral integration mechanisms, host-pathogen interactions, and evolutionary genomics. His research includes studies on myeloid cell dysregulation in severe COVID-19, genomic drivers of Small Cell Carcinoma of the Ovary Hypercalcemic Type (SCCOHT), mechanistic signatures of HPV insertions in anal cancer, and the role of XPO1 in erythroid differentiation for the treatment of beta-thalassemia. He has also worked extensively on genomic diversity, gene family expansion, transposable elements, and genome evolution in parasitic organisms and model species.

Within precision oncology, Dr. Deloger has contributed to influential clinical genomics programs such as MOSCATO and related trials evaluating the use of whole-exome sequencing, transcriptome sequencing, and circulating tumor DNA for treatment selection in advanced cancers. His work has helped demonstrate the added value of integrative molecular profiling in both adult and pediatric oncology settings.

Across his career, Dr. Deloger has been committed to advancing the role of bioinformatics as a central component of modern cancer research, supporting the development of personalized treatment strategies and improving the understanding of cancer biology through high-quality genomic analysis.

Manoj Waikar

Manoj Waikar is a software engineer and researcher with more than fourteen years of experience spanning software architecture, applied research, and advanced software engineering. He is currently a Research Assistant at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), where he contributes to computational and data-driven projects that support cancer research and innovative analysis pipelines.

Before joining DKFZ, Waikar held senior technical leadership roles in industry.
As Senior Software Architect at Intercax, he guided architectural strategy across multiple products and development teams, working at the intersection of systems engineering, modeling technologies, and large-scale software delivery. His career has included roles as Technical Project Manager, Team Lead, Senior Developer, and Founder of Codionics, reflecting a versatile background and strong entrepreneurial mindset.

Waikar has deep expertise in functional programming and enterprise software development. His technical interests include Scala, F Sharp, and Clojure, along with extensive experience in object-oriented design and classic design patterns. His hands-on engineering work ranges from microservices built with Lagom to REST services with Play and enterprise solutions on the .NET platform. He also brings strong database capabilities in SQL Server, Oracle, and Cassandra. He is the author of a Packt publication on data-oriented development with AngularJS.

His educational background reflects a broad multidisciplinary foundation. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Jai Narain Vyas University, a Diploma in Advanced Computing from the CDAC Advanced Computing Training School, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management in Marketing from the Institute of Productivity and Management. He is based in Böblingen in the state of Baden-Württemberg in Germany.

Throughout his career, Manoj Waikar has combined software engineering depth, architectural leadership, and research experience to support high-impact technological and scientific projects, including his current focus on computational approaches in cancer research.

Mathias Uhlén

Mathias Uhlén research has resulted in more than 800 peer-reviewed publications leading to more than 100,000 academic citations with an h-index of 144. He has supervised more than 100 graduate students to PhD-exam. He has co-founded more than 20 start-up companies based on his research, including publicly listed companies Biotage (Sweden) and Abclon (South Korea). His focus in science has been technology- and data-driven research, involving protein science, antibody engineering, systems biology and precision medicine.

Mattias Rantalainen

Since 2013, Mattias Rantalainen leads the Predictive Medicine group at Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Karolinska Institute in Sweden. Dr. Rantalainen completed his PhD at Imperial College London with a thesis focused on multivariate pattern recognition methods and applications in the biomedical domain, followed by postdoctoral research at the Department of Statistics and at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics at University of Oxford.

Dr. Rantalainen focus on medical research that is driven by statistical machine learning, artificial intelligence (AI) and large population representative data sets. His research is centered on projects in areas of precision cancer medicine and computational pathology.

Dr. Rantalainen leads the CHIME project at Karolinska Institute, focused on large population representative studies in computational precision pathology. He is the coordinator of the Swedish AI Precision Pathology (SwAIPP) consortium, and the ABCAP consortium, which are both focused on large-scale AI-based computational cancer precision pathology.

Johanna Furuhjelm

Johanna Furuhjelm works at the intersection of health innovation and applied research, currently serving as Director of the Centre for AI Innovation at Karolinska Institutet and Deputy Node Leader and Node Coordinator for TEF-Health (Testing and Experimentation Facilities for Health AI and Robotics) in Sweden. Her work focuses on supporting the development and testing of AI and robotics solutions in healthcare, helping researchers and companies bring new technologies closer to clinical use.

At Karolinska Institutet, Johanna helps make research infrastructure and expertise more accessible to external partners, fostering collaboration between academia and industry. Through TEF-Health, she contributes to building a national testbed for health AI, aimed at improving the quality and safety of emerging technologies.

Previously, Johanna worked as the coordinator for Cancer Research KI, where she supported strategic and operational development across the cancer research field. She also has experience in market intelligence and business development within the biotech and healthcare sectors, working with innovations from academia, start-ups, and industry.

She holds a PhD and MSc in Biosciences from the University of Helsinki, and has a background in project management, strategic planning, and research translation.

Edvard Abel

Edvard Abel is a consultant in oncology at the Dep of Oncology at Sahlgrenska Comprehensive Cancer Center in Gothenburg. He holds the position of Centre Director at Sahlgrenska CCC, as well as Medical Lead of the Phase I/First-in-Human trial unit at the Dep of Oncology. Dr Abel is the clinical principal investigator of the coming FOCU.SE trial, a national collaboration between Genomic Medicine Sweden, SciLifeLab and the oncological trial units, among others.

Sten Linnarsson

Sten Linnarsson took his PhD in 2001, studying neurotrophic factors regulating neuronal survival, growth and plasticity. Instead of a postdoc, he founded a company to develop methods for gene expression analysis and single-molecule DNA sequencing. In 2007, he was appointed assistant professor and in 2015 Professor of Molecular Systems Biology at Karolinska Institute. He is currently the dean of the preclinical research departments at Karolinska Institute.

He was awarded the 2015 Erik K. Fernström Prize for his work in single-cell biology. He is a member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), the Organizing Committee of the Human Cell Atlas initiative, the Nobel Assembly and Nobel Committee for Medicine or Physiology at Karolinska Institutet.

Since 2007, Linnarsson has pursued single-cell biology of the adult and developing human nervous system. He has made important contributions to single-cell technology: unique molecular identifiers (UMIs) for accurate quantification; Patch-seq for combined electrophysiology, morphology and transcriptomics; RNA velocity to extract dynamic information from snapshot measurements, and more. In a series of recent papers he has used these methods to explore the mammalian brain, culminating in complete single-cell atlases of the mouse nervous system (2018 and 2021) and the human brain (2023).

Currently, his group focuses on the origin and cellular composition of human brain cancer.

Elisabete Weiderpass

Elisabete Weiderpass, MD, MSc, PhD, is Director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC/WHO), the World Health Organization's specialized cancer agency, based in Lyon, France. She took office in January 2019 and, in May 2023, was elected for a second five-year term, commencing on 1 January 2024.

Dr Weiderpass is an expert in cancer epidemiology and cancer prevention, with a particular interest in cancer registration, the understanding of cancers and the implementation of effective prevention strategies. She has published more than 1,000 scientific papers in peer-reviewed international journals. She is a member of the EU Mission Board for Cancer, Chair of the Gustave Roussy Scientific Council, a member of the Governing Council of INSERM, a member of the Scientific Council of the Centre Léon Bérard, a member of the International Scientific Committee of DKFZ, a Steering Committee member of the WHO Academy and, since March 2025, a member of the French National Academy of Medicine (Académie Nationale de Médecine).

Prior to joining IARC, Dr Weiderpass served as Head, Department of Research at the Cancer Registry of Norway, and of the Genetic Epidemiology Group at the Folkhälsan Research Center in Finland. She was Professor of Medical Epidemiology at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden, and Professor of Cancer Epidemiology at the Arctic University of Norway. She has held visiting professorship positions in cancer epidemiology in Brazil, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Kuwait and is an honorary Adjunct Professor at the Yale School of Public Health in the USA.

Judith Balmaña

Dr. Judith Balmaña is Head of the Hereditary Cancer Unit and Senior Consultant in the Breast Cancer Unit at Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, and Head of the Hereditary Cancer Genetics Group at VHIO. She trained internationally at Dana-Farber and the Basser Center for BRCA, earned her PhD from UAB, and holds academic roles at UAB and the International University of Catalonia. She plays a leading role in European and international oncology societies, contributing extensively to ESMO guidelines and education in cancer genetics, and coordinating key initiatives in hereditary cancer across Europe.

Her research focuses on the genetic epidemiology and clinical management of hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. Working closely with VHIO, her group studies BRCA1/2 variants and variants of uncertain significance, develops risk prediction tools integrating genetic and non-genetic factors, and explores whole genome sequencing for clinical use. She is deeply involved in the clinical development of PARP inhibitors, co-leading international trials and research on resistance mechanisms, supported by competitive funding and a strong translational program including patient-derived models.

Eva Onjukka

Eva Onjukka is associate professor at the Department of Oncology Pathology at Karolinska Institutet, and co-ordinator of R&D in external-beam Radiotherpy Physics at Karolinska University Hospital (Stockholm, Sweden). She is an expert in prediction modelling of radiotherapy side effects, currently focusing on head and neck-, lung- and breast cancer. She is work package leader in the EU-funded TETRIS project, where Cancer Core Europe institutions have a leading role. The aim of TETRIS is to provide personalized risk scores for severe side effects after breast cancer radiotherapy, informing a tailored follow-up for each patient.

As custodian of a local quality registry for head and neck cancer radiotherapy, Eva leads a research program on advanced prediction models adapted to real-world data. The aims are to identify more effective treatment strategies and implement evidence-based treatment planning. Among the collaborators are Tiziana Rancati (Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Milan, Italy) and Epistat Epidemiology AB (Uppsala, Sweden). Further active research projects are conducted in the field of precision radiotherapy (SBRT) in collaboration with Karin Lindberg and Kristin Karlsson (Karolinska University Hospital/Karolinska Institutet), and the Nordic SBRT Study Group. She is also PI for a clinical trial (RealMove (Lung): NCT06322329) on the use of MRI for lung tumour motion management in SBRT.

After training as a Medical Physicist in Stockholm, Eva joined the research group of Alan Nahum at the University of Liverpool to obtain a PhD in mechanistic modelling of radiotherapy side effects. Since returning to Stockholm, she has consolidated her research program with multiple PhD students and international collaborations and commitments, mainly within the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology.

Joakim Dillner

Joakim Dillner, MD, PhD, Professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the Karolinska Institutet and Head of Section for Molecular Cancer Diagnostics at the Karolinska University Hospital. He has founded and is responsible for the National Cervical Screening Registry and leads the National project on faster elimination of cervical cancer.

Ingemar Ernberg

Igemar Ernberg is professor of Tumor Biology. He made his PhD thesis at Karolinska Institutet with George Klein in 1979, finished his MD in 1984, studied abroad in Omaha, Nebraska 1986 and at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge UK 1988-1990. He was secretary of science at the Swedish Cancer Society 1983-93. He was the first chair of the new department Microbiology and Tumorbiology Center (MTC) of Karolinska 1993-1999. He is now the chairperson for the Karolinska Institute (KI) Precision Cancer Medicine (PCM) program. He is co-director of Cancer Center Karolinska (CCK), while he heads his research group of 10 at MTC. He has been running the lecture and course series “What is life? The future of Biology” at Karolinska Institutet for 18 years.

Ingemar Ernberg’s work has dealt with tumor viruses in man, cancer genetics, lymphoma biology, transcritional regulation (HIV, EBV) and epigenetics (methylation). One seminal discovery established that the B-lymphocyte is the site of EBV-latency in vivo (Gratama et al, PNAS, 1988), another one on the regulation of EBV by epigenetic methylation. More recent interests have dealt with genomic signatures and global gene expression profiles, as well as designing methods to allow quick analysis of the gut normal flora. This has led to an increasing interest in tissue biology, self-organization of biological systems and the possibilities and limits of simulations in silico as an additional scientific tool.

Priya Chudasama

Priya Chudasama leads the Precision Sarcoma Research Group at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) since 2019. She completed her training in Molecular Biotechnology and Virology from University of Pune in India. Based on a German Research Foundation-scholarship, Priya performed her doctoral thesis at the University Medical Center in Erlangen studying molecular pathogenesis of Kaposi's sarcoma. Her postdoctoral training focused on identification of therapeutic targets and translational genomics in sarcoma at the DKFZ and the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) Heidelberg, during which she was awarded AACR Scholar-In-Training Award and German Sarcoma Conference Research Award in 2018.

In 2019, she was awarded the Emmy Noether grant to establish her independent research group at the DKFZ. The mission of her team is to improve clinical care of rare and challenging tumors called bone and soft-tissue sarcomas. To this end, her team performs patient-oriented research at the pre-clinical front by applying structural and functional genomics tools towards better understanding of the tumor biology, and laying the groundwork for genomics-guided precision cancer therapies. For research investigating sarcomas with high genomic instability, she was granted the Richard & Valerie Aronsohn Memorial Research Award (Sarcoma Foundation of America) in 2022. Current interests of Priya's lab are study of complex structural variants using long-read sequencing, integration and interrogation of spatial multiomes as well as identification of induce-proximity-based therapeutics in sarcoma.

Bruno Köhler

Bruno Köhler obtained his medical training at University Hospital Mainz, Germany. During his thesis work he made first contact with GI oncology and programmed cell death in primary liver tumors. In 2011, he moved to Heidelberg as a PostDoc fellow at the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) and the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) to continue his research on cell death and survival mechanisms in gastrointestinal cancer. He led an independent translational research group at NCT Heidelberg since 2015. Bruno is a board-certified medical oncologist with a focus on gastrointestinal malignancies. He was responsible for the clinical cancer research program “colorectal cancer” at NCT Heidelberg 2022-2025 with a focus on early onset tumors.

As of August 2025, he holds a position as full professor for early clinical trials and precision oncology at the University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein in addition to his affiliation with NCT/DKFZ in Heidelberg. Bruno is a former Cancer Core Europe TRYTRAC fellow. He has a passion for networking and mentorship as pillars of a professional career.

Erik van Muilekom

Erik van Muilekom, started his nusing career in 1987. After his general training, he specialized in Oncology and became a staff nurse at a surgical ward for abdominal surgery at the Netherlands Cancer Instituut-Antoni van Leeuwenhoek hospital in Amsterdam. He became an advanced nurse practitioner (Verpleegkundig Specialist) in 2001 and finished his master degree in Advanced Nursing Practice in 2007. His current focus in urology is localized and metastasized prostate- and penile cancer and sexual rehabilitation. He participates as specialist in the centre for early cancer detection and is an active member of the advanced nurse practitioners core team (Kernteam Verpleegkundig Specialist).

Besides his hospital work, he has been a board member and treasurer of the Dutch Oncology Nursing Society and for years chair of the national annual congress for oncology nurses. He is still president of his own foundation (Stichting Oncowijs) to promote expertise in oncology/ urological nursing by organising masterclasses and was from September 2011 until 2017 president of the European Oncology Nursing Society. From 2018 until 2024 he was a member of the supervisory board of the National Cancer Information platform “kanker.nl”.

In 2007 he received the Prof. Dr. Muntendam Prize from the Dutch Cancer Society for his efforts in promoting the expertise of oncology nursing and patient education, in 2016 the Oeuvre Prize for his work and achievements over 25 years for the Dutch Oncology Nursing Society (V&VN Oncology) and in 2020 the Lifetime Achievement Award from the European Oncology Nursing Society.

As an author of prostatecancer and oncology nursing handbooks and many publications in this field, he helps to improve care for cancer patients. He is a speaker on a national and international level and is involved in projects and an advisor for EONS, EAUN and other partners in healthcare.

Simon Oberst

Simon Oberst is Director of Quality and Accreditation at the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI). Until 2022 he was Director of Clinical Development, Cancer Research UK Cambridge Centre; and concurrently Chair of the Accreditation and Designation Board of the OECI.

Simon is a specialist in quality systems and organisational development in cancer, and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales. After graduating from Trinity College, Cambridge, he was a consultant with KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers. After spells in industry and charities, he moved to being Director of Improving Cancer Services with the UK's leading cancer patient charity, Macmillan Cancer Support.

As Director of Clinical Development for the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Centre for 10 years, Simon Oberst was working with University of Cambridge and Cambridge University Hospital leaders to deliver a state of the art 25,000 M2 Cancer Research Hospital on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

As chair of the Accreditation Board of OECI from 2015 to 2022 he has overseen the accreditation of over 50 of the leading Cancer Centres in Europe, as well as establishing consensus quality standards for cancer centres and networks. He has been a key author on subjects such as: bridging research and clinical care – the comprehensive cancer centre. As Director of Quality and Accreditation for OECI, he has been involved with many of the EU Actions in cancer arising from Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and Horizon Europe. He presently coordinates OECI's leadership of the EU Action – Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures for the EU, CCI4EU.

Alejandro Piris Giménez

Alejandro Piris Giménez is Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) and Head of the Scientific Management Area at the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO, Barcelona -Spain) since 2010. He is also a member of the VHIO's Board of Directors and VHIO's Internal Scientific Committee, as well as a reviewer of national and international Oncology funding proposals/ calls. He is founder and co-director of the Master's in Health & Science Management (VHIO & Autonomous University of Barcelona) and holds a Master's in management of R, D & I in Health Sciences (Carlos III Health Institute/ UNED University). He holds a degree in Veterinary Medicine from the Complutense University of Madrid and a PhD in Microbiology and Immunology by the Pasteur Institute (Paris, France). He was previously Juan de la Cierva researcher at Centro Nacional de Biotecnología (CNB, Madrid -Spain-). Additionally, he is adviser for the Alliance of Spanish foundations against cancer and consultant for the CaixaResearch Institute and Cris Contra el Cáncer.

His personal interest is cancer research at all levels, but with special focus in 4P Medicine (Oncology) and Scientific & Strategic Management/ Direction.

Main 5 articles co-authored in last 5 years (2020-2025), include: (1) Worldwide Innovative Network (WIN) Consortium in Personalized Cancer Medicine: Bringing next-generation precision oncology to patients. Oncotarget. 2025; (2) Preclinical data and design of a phase I clinical trial of neoantigen-reactive TILs for advanced epithelial or ICB-resistant solid cancers. Immunooncol Technol. 2024; (3) Cancer Core Europe: Leveraging Institutional Synergies to Advance Oncology Research and Care Globally. Cancer Discov. 2024; (4) Support systems to guide clinical decision-making in precision oncology: The Cancer Core Europe Molecular Tumor Board Portal. Nat Med. 2020; (5) Caring for patients with cancer in the COVID-19 era. Nat Med. 2020

Thomas Dubois

Thomas Dubois is the head of the European and international affairs – French National Cancer Institute (WP 5). He holds a PhD from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS). He conducted his thesis as a young researcher at the National Institute of Demographic Studies (INED) on the issues of development economics. He then served as political advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in charge of monitoring France's international development policy in the field of reproductive, maternal and child health. He was then appointed diplomatic advisor to the Minister of Health and Social Affairs.

Annalisa Trama

Annalisa Trama, is the Director of the Evaluative Epidemiology Unit at the Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale Tumori (INT), Milan, Italy.

Her research activities focus on rare cancers, adolescent and young adult cancers and cancer networks. She is an expert in population-based research including population-based cancer registries and administrative datasets. She was a founder of RARECARE (surveillance of rare cancers in Europe) which proposed a definition for rare cancer. She was the founder of RARECAREnet Asia, a collaboration between European and Asian population-based cancer registries (CRs) on rare cancers. In the area of rare cancers, she co-coordinated the Joint Action on Rare Cancers (JARC), carried out between 2016 and 2019 within the framework of the Third Health Programme of the European Union (EU) with 34 partners and 18 EU Member States. She coordinates the clinical registry of EURACAN, the European Reference Network on rare adult solid cancers. She coordinates the Joint Action on Network of Expertise (JANE2) including 124 partners from 32 countries She was a founder of the first Italian adolescent and young (AYA) cancer survivor cohort and she coordinate the Steering committee of this cohort. She is a member of the Scientific Coordination of EUROCARE (surveillance of cancer patients in Europe). She is PI of national and international projects exploiting secondary use of real-world data (e.g. electronic health record, administrative database, clinical registries, population-based registries) and use of innovative solutions (e.g. data fusion; AI approach for defining causal relationship; AI solution to support interoperability of data sources).

She is (co)author of more than 100 papers in peer-reviewed medical journals.

Michael Baumann

A radiation oncologist by training, Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h. c. Michael Baumann is Chairman and Scientific Director of the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg. He also acts as spokesperson of the German Cancer Consortium (DKTK) and co-spokesperson of the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) as well as co-chair of the Steering Committee of the German National Decade against Cancer. He is one of the key leaders in the establishment of Germany's National Cancer Prevention Center (NCPC).

Michael Baumann is member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and recipient of numerous academic awards, including the Michael Fry Research Award of the Radiation Research Society (RRS), the Janeway Medal of the American Radium Society (ARS), and the Breur and Regaud Awards of the European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ESTRO). Michael Baumann is past president of the German Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (DEGRO), the ESTRO, and the European Cancer Organization (ECCO). Currently, Michael Baumann serves as President of the European Academy of Cancer Sciences (EACS).

Penilla Gunther

Penilla Gunther is an experienced policymaker as a former member of the Swedish Parliament, the Nordic Council and chair of the Welfare Committee, and also from local and regional councils. She is the founder of FOKUS Patient®, a digital and physical meeting place for life science & healthcare with a patient perspective. She is the President of the European Patient Safety Foundation and has been appointed by the European Commission as an Expert in the Cancer Mission Board, which provides a better understanding of cancer, allows for earlier diagnosis and optimisation of treatment, and improves cancer patients' quality of life during and beyond their cancer treatment.

She has recieved a heart transplant and survived cancer twice.

She is a steering committee co-chair for smartCARE - a flagship initiative in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, under the EU4Health Programme 2021-2027. The project is developing a cancer survivor smart card - in the form of a mobile app - to improve the health and wellbeing of cancer survivors throughout Europe.

A founding member, she sits on the steering group of National & European Parliamentarians for Cancer Action.

Pernilla Lagergren

Pernilla Lagergren is Professor of Surgical Care Sciences at Karolinska Institutet and holds a part-time professorship at Imperial College London. She is a registered nurse with a clinical background in surgical and oncological care, having worked for several years as a specialist contact nurse for patients with oesophageal and gastric cancer.

She has led a research group since 2006 focusing on survivorship after upper gastrointestinal cancer, using patient-reported outcomes (PROMs) to examine health-related quality of life, symptom burden, recovery, and other key dimensions of long-term outcomes following cancer surgery. She has established and leads large national cohort studies and clinical trials, and has been instrumental in developing a digital patient-support tool aimed at improving long-term recovery and survivorship for patients with oesophageal or gastric cancer.

Professor Lagergren has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles and has been the main supervisor of 10 PhD students to completion. Her research has received several prestigious prizes, including Anders Jahre's Nordic Prize for Young Medical Researchers (2015) and the Hilda and Alfred Eriksson Research Award from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (2020).

As a strong advocate for integrating the patient perspective into research and clinical practice, she works in close partnership with patient representatives and both national and international stakeholders to ensure that research findings translate into meaningful improvements in cancer care and survivorship.

Anna Martling

Anna Martling is Professor of Surgery at Karolinska Institutet (KI) and Chief Physician and Colorectal Surgeon at Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden. She defended her PhD on rectal cancer in 2003, became a board-certified surgeon in 2004, and Associate Professor in 2009. She has served as Head of the Department of Surgery, Deputy Head of the Center for Gastrointestinal Disease, and Dean of KI (2019–2023).

Between 2020 and 2024, Prof. Martling led the implementation of precision medicine in healthcare in the Stockholm region. Since 2008, she has headed the Colorectal Surgery research group, focusing on clinical, translational, and epidemiological studies in colorectal cancer. Her leadership has advanced TME surgery, introduced HIPEC and cytoreductive surgery, and implemented organ-preserving rectal cancer treatments nationally.

As Principal Investigator, she has led major multicenter trials including Stockholm III and ALASCCA, earning several awards, such as the Swedish Surgical Society's Great Research Prize (2013) and "Cancer Researcher of the Year" by the Swedish Cancer Society (2021).

Prof. Martling serves on multiple national and international boards, including Research!Sverige, Radiumhemmets Forskningsfonder, Sophiahemmet, Bactiguard, and SmartCella. She is an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (FRCS), American College of Surgeons (FACS), American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (FASCRS), and European Society of Coloproctology (FESCP).

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