New Staff

Heshuang Qu, BSc, MRes, will join the Jakob Wikström's team as a new PhD candidate from mid-January 2019. She will work on investigating the role of mitochondria in wound healing and typical skin diseases.

Vladimir Shavva graduated from the Saint-Petersburg State University, and received his PhD from the Institute of Experimental Medicine in Saint-Petersburg, Russia. His main research focus has been on the genes involved in atherosclerosis development. He studied the influence of pro- and anti-atherosclerotic stimuli on the expression of various genes (such as C3, apoA-I and ABCA1) as well as protein production in human hepatoma cells and human macrophages. Vladimir started as a postdoc funded by Novo Nordisk fellowship in October 2018 in a project led by Dr. Peder Olofsson in Department of Medicine. The project will focus on the role of acetylcholine producing T cells in human vascular inflammation and atherosclerosis, as well as their function in integrating immune and nervous systems.

In-House Seminar

Professor Ulf Hedin and Assistant Professor Ljubica Perisic Matic held the last seminar of the semester on December 20th. They presented the work behind their publication in JACC: Basic to Translational Science, describing a new method of identifying biomarkers for unstable arteriosclerosis.
Visitors from Abroad

December 5th CMM was visited by Associate Professor Ben Neale from Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, who gave an interesting talk about the work behind the large Brainstorm project that led to a publication in Science. Professor Martin Schalling hosted the seminar.

Associate Professor Thomas Durcan from the Montreal Neurological Institute visited on December 6th and gave a CMM extra seminar presenting his latest research on the use of inducible pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) to model human brain disorders. Dr. Michael Sundström hosted the well-attended seminar.

The lunch seminar on December 6th was given by Dr. Ivan Jelcic from University of Zürich, together with CMM researcher Dr. Faiez al Nimer. They talked about the work behind the publication in Cell that they were both first author of. Host for the seminar was Professor Fredrik Piehl.

Professor Niek de Vries from Academisch Medisch Centrum in The Netherlands visited on December 13th. The Lecture hall was filled to the top when he talked about B- and T-cell responses during the onset of arthritis. Host of the day was Associate Professor Anna Fogdell Hahn.
Grants

Camilla Svensson has been awarded the prestigious Wallenberg Academy Fellow prolongation grant (years 6-10) of 1 750 000 SEK per year during five years. Wallenberg Academy Fellows is a long-term program that addresses young researchers. In the end of the first five-year period the Wallenberg Academy Fellows can be nominated for another five years of funding. 18 researchers were admitted a Wallenberg Academy Fellows prolongation grant during 2018.

Robert Harris got 1 million SEK from The Swedish Childhood Cancer Fund for the project A novel immunotherapy for targeted gene modulation in tumor associated macrophages.

Robert Harris has received 700 000 SEK from Alzheimerfonden for the project Novel Immunointerventions for Progressive Neurological Diseases - towards curing the incurable?

Peter Saliba Gustafsson received the VR postdoc grant of 1 050 000 SEK/year for three years for functional genetic studies of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease at Stanford University. Karolinska Institutet and the Department of Medicine, Solna is administering the grant, and his last year of funding will be financing his research at the Cardiovascular Medicine Unit at CMM (Per Eriksson group).

Nils Landegren has been awarded 250 000 SEK from Åke Wiberg's foundation for an ongoing study on why women run an increased risk of auto-immune diseases. In the study the researchers follow men and women who have initiated hormone replacement therapy and use this as a model to map the effects of sex hormones on the immune system. Samples are collected before, and repeatedly during, hormone treatment, and are investigated by a combination of large scale molecular techniques.

Christopher Sundling was recently awarded two grants: 200 000 SEK from Åke Wiberg's foundation and 50 000 SEK from Tore Nilsson's foundation for the project Unravelling the role of atypical B cells in infectious diseases.

Lara Kular received 200 000 SEK as research grant from Åke Wiberg's foundation.

Sunjay Jude Fernandes has received a grant of 200 000 SEK from MS Forsknings Fonden for the project Understanding Heterogeneity of T Cell Subtypes in Early MS (CIS).

Swedish Heart-Lung Foundation (Hjärt-Lungfonden) Grants 2018

Ingrid Lundberg  
2019: 400 000 SEK  
2020: 400 000 SEK  
Project: The lung as a site for break of tolerance and initiation of anti-Jo1 positive interstitial lung disease.

Ewa Ehrenborg  
2019: 450 000 SEK  
2020: 450 000 SEK  
2021: 450 000 SEK  
Project: The interplay between lipid handling, inflammation and autophagy: implications for cardiovascular disease.

Eric Herlenius  
2019: 450 000 SEK  
2020: 450 000 SEK  
2021: 450 000 SEK  
Project: Apnea and inspiration screen, detect and protect against inflammation induced life-threatening events.

Marie Wahren Herlenius  
2019: 1 600 000 SEK  
2020: 1 600 000 SEK  
2021: 1 600 000 SEK  
Project: Molecular, clinical and epidemiological studies of congenital heart block.

Magnus Bäck  
2019: 1 100 000 SEK  
2020: 1 100 000 SEK  
2021: 1 100 000 SEK  
Project: Nya terapeutiska principer vid valvulärt och vaskulärt åldrande och inflammation.

Joy Roy  
2019: 300 000 SEK  
2020: 300 000 SEK  
2021: 300 000 SEK  
Project: Novel mechanisms and predictors of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm and rupture.

Lars Maegdefessel  
2019: 800 000 SEK  
2020: 800 000 SEK  
2021: 790 000 SEK  
Project: Local microRNA-29b inhibition to halt abdominal aortic aneurysm development and progression.

Per Eriksson  
2019: 1 300 000 SEK  
2020: 1 300 000 SEK  
2021: 1 300 000 SEK  
Project: Thoracic aortic aneurysm pathology.
**DISSERTATION**

January 18, 09:00
What is the function of B cells in experimental atherosclerosis?
Speaker: Monica Centa
Location: CMM Lecture Hall, L8:00
Main supervisor: Stephen Malin, Department of Medicine, Solna
Opponent: Professor Jacob Fog Bentzon, Centro Nacional de Investigaciones, Cardiovasculares Carlos III, Division of Experimental Pathology of Atherosclerosis

**CMM SEMINAR**

January 17, 12:00
Monocytes and dendritic cells with hyperinflammatory profile in lungs of sarcoidosis patients
Speaker: Associate Professor Anna Smed Sörensen, Immunology and allergy unit, MedS
Location: CMM Lecture Hall, L8:00
Host: Associate Professor Anna Fogdell Hahn

January 24, 12:00
3 dimensional neural models for the study of brain physiology and diseases
Speaker: Dr. Sébastien Mosser, NEURIX SA, Switzerland
Location: CMM Lecture Hall, L8:00
Host: Associate Professor Maja Jagodic

**CMM INNOVATION SEMINARS**

The lectures are held in CMM Lecture Hall L8:00, and are followed by networking and mingle in Glada Restaurangen.

15 January 15:30-17:00
How to develop mutually productive collaborations between industry and academia
Speakers: Lars Klareskog, Rheumatology Unit, Dept. Medicine Solna, CMM
Martin Steinberg, Management consultant

22 January 15:30-17:00
EIT Health - a funding opportunity for innovation development
Speakers: Jan-Olov Höög, EIT Health Lead at Karolinska Institutet
Inger Lundqvist, EIT Health Coordinator at Karolinska Institutet

**JOINT CMM/MTC/CID Seminar Series**

On Microbial Pathogenesis

January 16, 14:00
The Type VI secretion system: an antibacterial nanoweapon
Speaker: Professor Alain Filloux, Centre for Molecular Bacteriology and Infection, Imperial College, London
Location: CMM Lecture Hall, L8:00
Host: Dr. Marie-Stephanie Aschtgen, MTC
Publications


Other News

Nobel Price Winner Visit at CMM
This year’s chemistry Nobel price winner George Smith at CMM during a visit to the lab of Martin Schalling on December 6th.

Lucia Celebration at CMM
On December 13th CMM was visited by Karolinska Institutet’s choir A Scalpella. They sang beautiful Lucia songs and carols for us. Karin from Den Glada Restaurangen made sure we all could enjoy some classic Lucia fika: glögg, saffron buns and gingerbread cookies.

CMM Photo Contest 2018
This year we received 17 contributing photos, and choosing a winner was not easy. All contributions will be printed in photo book, and the three winning photos have been printed on a canvas to decorate the CMM walls.

First place: Marilena Tapaki
Name of artwork: Building blocks

Second place: Erik Holmgren
Name of artwork: People at CMM

Third place: Zara Pons Vila
Name of artwork: What you cannot see
**Immunogenicity Course at CMM with International Lecturers**

We had the honor to have PI’s from the ABIRISK consortium visiting CMM to give lectures at the PhD course #3067 in Immunogenicity: Immune responses against biological drugs, December 12th-14th. Purpose of the course was to give an understanding of central terms and definitions in the field of immunogenicity, used in research and in clinical applications and to become familiar with the identified molecular and cellular immunological processes that trigger and increase the risk for anti-drug antibodies (ADA). By giving this course the organizers hope to increase the understanding of how immunogenicity needs to be taken into consideration all the way from choosing your biological target of treatment, to drug development, approval, clinical routine and individualized therapy and health care practice, which was the learning outcome of the course.

From the left: Timothy Hickling from Pfizer (USA), Anna Fogdell-Hahn, Florian Deisenhammer from Tirol Kliniken (Innsbruck, Austria), Niek de Vries from AMC (Amsterdam, the Netherlands), Bernard Maillere from CEA (Paris, France), Marc Pallardy (Paris, France), Liz Jury UCL (London, UK), Philippe Broet ISERM (Paris, France and Montreal, Canada), Sebastian Spindeldreher Novartis (Basel, Switzerland) and finally Pierre Dönnes Scicross (Åland). People not on the photo, but who also gave lectures are Nicky Dunn (Department of Clinical Neuroscience, KI) and Per Marits (Department of Clinical Immunology and Transfusion Medicine, Karolinska University Hospital).