**Visitors from Abroad**

On September 13, Jan Niess visited from University of Basel, to talk about IL-20 cytokines in intestinal diseases at the CMM lunch seminar. Host: Eduardo Villablanca.

**Awards**

Guðný Ella Thorlacius received one of five poster awards for her poster for the project “Genetic basis and clinical evidence for two disease subtypes of primary Sjögren’s syndrome with distinct outcomes”, at Reumadagarna 2018, held in Uppsala in September by SRF (Svensk Reumatologisk Förening).

Rubin Narayan Joshi was awarded the Biolegene EFIS-Bright Spark Award at the 5th European Congress of Immunology (ECI) September 2-5 in Amsterdam. The scientific committee selected the best 24 abstracts submitted by early career scientists. In addition to the recognition as an ECI 2018 Bright Spark, a cash prize of €500 was given to each award winner.
New Staff

**Carolyn Marks**, PhD, joined Susanne Gräslund and the SGC Karolinska Antibody Production team on September 1. Carolyn has extensive research experience working on neurodegenerative diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). At SGC Karolinska, Carolyn will primarily work on producing and validating antibodies within the ALS Reproducible Antibody Platform (ALS-RAP) project, funded by three ALS patient organizations. The project is a collaboration between KI, University of Oxford and McGill University with the aim to generate, identify and characterize the highest quality, renewable, recombinant antibodies for prioritized ALS-relevant protein targets, which will be made freely available to the ALS community.

**Yujie Wang** from Southeast University in China, joined Ning Xu Landén's group as a visiting PhD student during September 2018 – August 2020. Her study will focus on non-coding RNAs in skin wound healing.

Retreats and Symposiums

**Annual Karolinska Hematology Seminar**

On September 13-14, **Magnus Björkholm** organized the annual Karolinska Hematology Seminar for the 16th time at Rånäs castle. The seminar is a two-day meeting with the aim of offering State of the Art lectures by internationally leading experts in selected hematological areas. The program this year included six invited speakers from USA, UK, Spain and Germany, giving lectures on Multiple myeloma, Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria, Chronic myeloid leukemia, Chronic lymphocytic leukemia, Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma and Acute myeloid leukemia. As special topic this meeting Anders Ekbom, KI, discussed Research fraud in medicine.

The lectures were followed by interesting discussions and exchanges of experience between participants and lecturers.

Ola Landgren, invited speaker from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, and Magnus Björkholm, meeting organizer.
Grants

**Marie Wahren Herlenius** group has, as partners, received a IMI2 EU grant of €15,4 Million for the NECESSITY project. Partners within the project are from several European countries including France (coordination), Norway, England, The Netherlands, Spain, Greece and Italy.

*What is the NECESSITY project?*

The acronym stands for: NEw Clinical Endpoints in primary Sjögren’s Syndrome: an Interventional Trial based on stratifying patients.

Currently, published data from placebo-controlled and adequately powered clinical trials in primary Sjögren’s Syndrome (pSS) are scarce. Although specific novel, validated treatment outcome measures have been developed recently, e.g. European League against Rheumatism (EULAR) Sjögren’s syndrome disease activity index (ESSDAI) and EULAR Sjögren’s syndrome patient reported index (ESSPRI), their recent use in clinical trials has yielded mixed results. Several important features of pSS are not captured. Moreover, no objective validated measure or functional marker of disease activity for assessing therapeutic benefits of improvement is currently available. Sensitive and validated endpoints including objective measures/biomarkers of improvement are thus needed to increase the likelihood of success of drug development in pSS.

*What are the aims of this project?*

The overarching objective is to develop sensitive and validated clinical endpoints for use in future clinical trials of pSS. The goal is to identify and eventually propose a single composite endpoint that could provide evidence of disease-modifying and symptomatic efficacy. In addition, we aim to discover discriminative biomarkers for stratification of pSS patients and will validate these biomarkers and clinical end-points in an investigator-driven multi-arm clinical trial.

---

In June 2018, the Novo Nordisk Foundation awarded **Mats A A Persson**, team leader in Per Svenningsson’s group, an Exploratory pre-Seed grant of DKK 500,000.

**Olle Kämpe** and **Nils Landegren** received a grant of DKK 3 Million from the Novo Nordisk Foundation.

**Majid Pahlewan Kakhki** have recently received MSIF/ECTRIMS McDonald Fellowship from Multiple Sclerosis International Federation. The fellowship consists of a two-year grant, around SEK 750,000 to work on the project entitled Epigenetics approach to understand mechanisms underpinning disease progression in Multiple Sclerosis.
DISSERTATION
5/10 09:00
HIV susceptibility factors in the human genital mucosa
Speaker: Maria Röhl
Location: Welandersalen B2:00, Karolinska University Hospital Solna
Principal supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Annelie Tjernlund, MedS
Opponent: Prof. Kenneth Rosenthal, McMaster University, Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, Ontario

19/10 09:00
Antibody responses to Plasmodium falciparum as markers of exposure and tools to monitor malaria transmission
Speaker: Victor Yman
Location: Welandersalen B2:00, Karolinska University Hospital Solna
Principal supervisor: Prof. Anna Färnert, MedS
Opponent: Prof. Chris Drakeley, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK

CMM SEMINAR
4/10 12:00
Human milk derived exosomal miRNAs and their protective capability in infants
Speaker: Prof. Kenneth Rosenthal, McMaster University, Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, Ontario
Location: CMM Lecture Hall, L8:00
Host: Prof. Kristina Broliden

18/10 12:00
T cell vaccinology- what infections have NOT been teaching us about how to make better vaccines
Speaker: Prof. Ross Kedl, University of Denver
Location: CMM Lecture Hall, L8:00
Host: Prof. Karin Loré

25/10 12:00
Genetic identification for brain cell types underlying schizophrenia
Speaker: Dr. Jens Hjertling-Leffler
Location: CMM Lecture Hall, L8:00
Host: Dr. Ida Nilsson

1/11 12:00
Applied epigenomics: insights into the pathogenesis of Multiple Sclerosis
Speaker: Assoc. Prof. Maja Jagodic
Location: CMM Lecture Hall, L8:00
Host: Prof. Tomas Ekström


Das D., Doñas C., Akeus P., Quiding-Järbrink M., Mora JR. & Villablanca EJ. β7 integrins contribute to intestinal tumor growth in mice. *Plos ONE.* 2018 Sep 20;13(9):e0204181.


Correction: In the printed and e-mailed version of the September issue, a majority of the authors were cut off in the following publication:

Other News

Workshop
On October 23rd there will be a free of charge whole day Workshop: *Measuring metabolic engines and fuels with the Agilent Seahorse XF Analyzer.*

Nick Howe from Agilent technologies will give an introduction to Seahorse basic technology and assays, followed by lab sessions. The workshop is sponsored and supported by Jakob Wikström.

There is a limited amount of available spaces. For registration, contact nick.howe@agilent.com

Visit by SGC CEO Aled Edwards
Aled Edwards, SGC CEO, visited Per-Johan Jakobsson group and Michael Sundström team at CMM for two days to discuss and establish new collaborations. With a long history at the SGC Aled has extensive experience of how to establish successful public-private partnerships and he is a strong advocate of open science. Aled met among others the leadership of Science for Life Laboratory, and their Drug Discovery and Development Platform as well as Chemical Biology Consortium Sweden. See and listen to a recent TEDx-talk by Aled here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wtp7R97jz5k

CMM Innovation kick-off
CMM Innovation’s kick-off attracted more than 40 participants who listened to inspiring talks by CMM innovator and entrepreneur Hans Grönlund, Senior Partner of Novo Seeds Stephan Christgau and business development expert Marek Poszepczynski among others, sharing the ins and outs of commercialization of life science projects. The interactive talks answered many questions and lively discussions and networking over beer and snacks took place at Glada Restaurangen after the presentations. The tip of the day from the kick-off was pre seed funding available from the Novo Nordisk Foundation to support commercialization of biomedical research findings in a unique ‘no strings attached’ fashion: http://novonordiskfonden.dk/en/content/exploratory-pre-seed-grants

Additional activities organized by CMM Innovation will be announced in the next few months.

Liselotte Jansson, Chair of the CMM board, held the introduction talk at the CMM Innovation kick-off.

Mingle session after the CMM Innovation presentations.
Visit by Takeda Pharmaceuticals
Three representatives from Takeda Pharmaceuticals recently spent two weeks at CMM with Louise Berg and her team to dissect protocols and methods within the IBD research project and follow the flow of patient material from the clinic to the laboratory at CMM. The close proximity to the hospital and excellent clinical collaborations at CMM are of paramount importance in this public-private partnership project.

Presentation of thesis at international meeting
Ylva Kaiser was invited by the Swedish Lung Medicine Association (SLMF) to present her dissertation at a satellite meeting during the European Respiratory Society (ERS) congress in Paris on September 18th. Ylva Kaiser defended her thesis, *The Blind Spot: Inflammatory Pathways and Specific Antigens in Pulmonary Sarcoidosis*, at KI 27th of April this year, and she is one out of two who have defended in the field of pulmonary medicine in Sweden during 2017-18. The presentation was very well received and much appreciated by all participants.

Superintendent’s Corner

During mid- and late October the annual safety inspections will be conducted in CMM L8 and L5, by the CMM work environment coordinator Anna-Lee Cöster Jansén together with the work environment groups from each department.

In October Per Eriksson group will move from floor 2 and 3 to BioClinicum. The rest of the moving groups will move to BioClinicum during week 47 and 48.