



NCMM - Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway

Nordic EMBL Partnership

Welcome to the NCMM June 2022 newsletter. If you'd like to share any updates, such as new group members, funding news, publications or events in a future newsletter, just email nuru.saadi@ncmm.uio.no.

NCMM Anti-Harassment Policy

NCMM has zero tolerance for harassment ([see UiO's guidelines regarding harassment](#)). Employees who become aware of any bullying, racism, discrimination or harassment at UiO are obliged to ensure that the employer or safety representative is advised of this, or to use [UiO's reporting system](#).

News from NCMM

i livet, og ofte er resistente mot kjente legemidler.

– Også vi forsker på sjeldne arvelige tilstander, som forskjellige typer alvorlig epilepsi hos barn. Noen av dem kan ha opptil 100 anfall om dagen, og det øker risikoen for plutselig død, fører til forsinket kognitiv og motorisk utvikling, og reduserer livskvaliteten til barna.

– Selv om det fins to dusin anfallsforebyggende preparater på markedet, responderer rundt 30 prosent av pasientene ikke på dem. Om man skulle klare å forebygge anfallene med eksisterende medikamenter, følger det med mange bivirkninger, som reduserer livskvaliteten.

– Håpet er at vi, gjennom vår forskning, avdekker når de første defektene oppstår, og hvordan de endrer hjernen. Om vi forstår de molekylære mekanismene, kan vi gjøre behandlingen mer målrettet.

Alvorlige epilepsier er også forårsaket av en genfeil, og det finnes flere gener som kan forårsake alvorlig sykdom. Det er mulig å sette genfeilen inn i en sebrafisk, som deretter utvikler epilepsi. De ørsmå fiskene blir plassert i testbrønner, og behandles med tusenvis av eksisterende og nye medikamenter. Om legemiddelet



Emma Haapaniemi
Forskningsgruppeleder ved NCMM/UiO



Camila Esguerra
Forskningsgruppeleder ved NCMM/UiO

NCMM group leaders Dr Camila Esguerra and Dr Emma Haapaniemi interviewed in Aftenposten

Camila Esguerra and Emma Haapaniemi were recently interviewed in the Norwegian national press in Aftenposten, where they discussed the advanced technologies NCMM uses to develop new therapies for life-threatening diseases including CRISPR, Zebrafish models and high-throughput screening.

[Learn more](#)

13 special genes linked to epigenetic changes in cancer samples

Abnormal epigenetic changes are observed in the development of multiple types of cancer. Researchers in the Mathelier group at NCMM wanted to explore the molecular mechanisms driving these processes.

[Learn more](#)





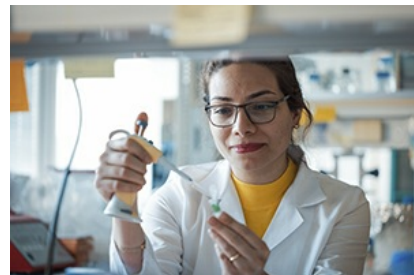
125 000 NOK awarded to Kuijjer group and collaborators for breast cancer research

NCMM group leader, Dr Marieke Kuijjer and Dr Xavier Tekpli (Oslo University Hospital) have been awarded the funding by the foundation for the promotion of cancer research (UNIFOR-FRIMED).

[Learn more](#)

NCMM visits The Danish Research Institute of Translational Neuroscience

Elham Shojaeinia is a PhD student in the Esguerra group at NCMM. She recently visited DANDRITE at Aarhus University, Denmark to learn in depth about the principles of neural organization.

[Learn more](#)

The Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM) visits NCMM

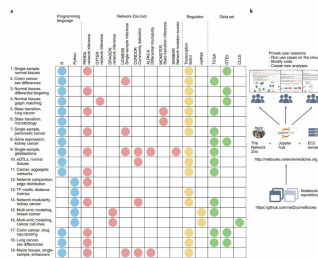
Dr Liye He is a Postdoctoral Researcher with a background in computational science and precision medicine in the group of Professor Tero Aittokallio at FIMM. He recently spent time with the Mathelier group at NCMM.

[Learn more](#)

A career dedicated to research support - from core facilities to research funding agencies

Where are they now? Meet NCMM alumna Rønnaug Steen Kolve and learn about her career path from studies in molecular medicine to managing first a core facility at an international research center and then research funding actions at the Norwegian Cancer Society.

[Learn more](#)

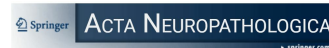


Kuijjer group published in Nature methods

The Kuijjer group have collaborated with Prof John Quackenbush's group at Harvard Chan School of Public Health on Netbooks, a collection of Jupyter notebooks that provide step-by-step case studies for gene regulatory network modeling and analysis, including a contribution of a notebook by PhD student Romana Pop.

[Learn more](#)

Esguerra group published in Acta Neuropathologica



The Esguerra group publish findings on the association between SCN1A overexpression and raised seizure susceptibility.

[Learn more](#)



Anita Kavlie presents EATRIS at Innovation Hangouts

Anita Kavlie, national coordinator for EATRIS-Norway, pitched EATRIS at innovation hangouts – a new meeting place for academia and industry organised by the Life Science Growth House. 170 participants were present from industry, hospitals and academia. Anita has already been contacted by interested parties who were present and enjoyed her pitch. (Photo: LMI)

[Learn more](#)

NCMM Scientific retreat recap

On the 13th & 14th of June NCMM held its first scientific retreat in three years. The retreat comprised of two days of excellent talks from the research environment and Associate Investigator network representing NCMM's wide expertise in molecular medicine.



[Learn more](#)



Sekulic group organizes international dynamic kinetochore workshop

The Sekulic group welcomed over scientists 90 from 9 countries to the EMBO dynamic kinetochore workshop at Soria Moria Hotel in Oslo. They discussed the latest kinetochore research and networked across 4 days of talks and 2 poster sessions.

Welcome to...



Britt Olaug Lindestad

Britt has an MSc in Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology from NTNU. Before joining NCMM, she was working in a lab in the department of gastromedicine at Rikshospitalet. She has joined the Haapaniemi group as a lab technician and will be working with biobanking of PBMCs, helping with T-cell editing, and collecting stem cells from cord blood at Rikshospitalet. She looks forward to learning new lab techniques, improving her knowledge about gene therapy and CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing, and being part of the Haapaniemi group and the exciting scientific community at NCMM.



Amna Farooq

Amna is a biologist at heart and a programmer. Before she joined NCMM she was a PhD student at Radium hospital where she developed computational solutions for downstream analysis of High Throughput Sequencing data, particularly DNA methylation. She has joined the High-Throughput Chemical Biology Screening Platform to work on data analysis and the design, development and application of new data analysis pipelines. She will act as a bridge between Radium hospital and the platform. She is looking forward to an exciting role that offers lots of learning and growth opportunities.



Ladislav Hovan

Ladislav has a Master's degree in Natural Sciences from the University of Cambridge and a PhD in Chemistry from University College London, UK. During his PhD degree, he was part of the A*STAR research attachment programme at the National University of Singapore. After his degree, he did postdoctoral research in molecular dynamics at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. Ladislav has joined the Kuijjer group as a postdoc to work on developing computational approaches for network modeling using spatial transcriptomics data.



Verena Monika Sturmlechner

Verena studied Molecular Medicine at the Medical University of Innsbruck and just finished a master's degree, with a focus on genetics and cell biology. She has joined the Saarela group as an intern and will be analysing exome data of common variable immunodeficiency (CVID) patients. She is looking forward to learning more about CVID and the genetics behind the disease, as well as gaining further insight in different computational analysis tools used in the field.



Henriette Nikolaisen Myrland

Henriette has a bachelor's in biology from NMBU and is now currently taking a master's degree in biotechnology at NMBU. She will be working on a master's thesis on genetic models for sleep deprivation in both the Haapaniemi group and the Boccara group. She is looking forward to learning more about sleep and the molecular tools that she will get to use.



Kristine Lippestad

Kristine is in her fourth year of study of the Master's program in Biotechnology at NTNU, Trondheim, where she specializes in Systems Biology. She will work on modeling regulatory heterogeneity in breast cancer subtypes in the Kuijjer group.



Theodor Midtbø Alstad

Theodor is a Master's student in Informatics at UiO, with focus on Robotics and Intelligent Systems. He has joined the Kuijjer group on the UiO:Life Science summer student program and will be working on integrating two of the group's computational tools to model regulatory heterogeneity based on single-cell data.



Ismael Manzanares

Ismael is a Biochemistry student from the University of Granada and has joined the Kuijjer group to work on an Erasmus+ project involving deconvolution of bulk breast cancer data.



Sigrid Fu Skjelbostad

Sigrid has a bachelor's in Biotechnology and Chemistry from OsloMet and is now a master's student at NMBU. She is writing her master's thesis in collaboration with the Haapaniemi group. She will be working on a project looking at CRISPR-Cas9 technology for therapeutic use in primary immunodeficiency diseases. She is looking forward to getting insight into the well known CRISPR technique, as well as working with a research group on an everyday basis.



Tuva Sundell

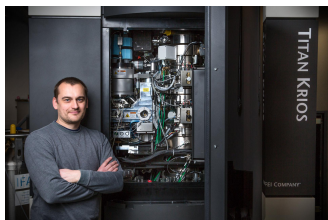
Tuva is in her second year of an MSc in biotechnology, specializing in genetics, at the NMBU. She has a bachelor's in Biology from the University of Agder. She will be working with the Haapaniemi group for her master's project. She is looking forward to learning new techniques in the Haapaniemi group.



Ruchi Saigal

Ruchi has a bachelor's in Molecular Biology from UiO. She is currently a master's student in Biomedicine at OsloMet. She has joined both the Haapaniemi group and the Boccara group to work on genetic models of sleep deprivation using CRISPR-Cas9 technology. She is looking forward to deepening her understanding of two very interesting fields within molecular biology and physiology, and learning as much as she can from her accomplished supervisors and group members.

Updates from the Nordic EMBL Partnership



Cryo-EM in Aarhus: from the resolution revolution to in situ structural biology

Meet DANDRITE Affiliated Researcher and structural biologist Thomas Boesen to learn about the power of cryo-EM and the national EMBION Cryo-EM Facility he manages at Aarhus University.

[Learn more](#)

FIMM Meta: Cooperating with researchers to answer their questions with metabolomics approaches

In this article, we meet FIMM's Metabolomics Unit Manager, Anni Nieminen, and learn about the power of metabolomics and the core facility she directs at FIMM.



[Learn more](#)

News from EATRIS

European joint programme on rare diseases innovation management toolbox launched

On 30 June, the European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases (EJP RD) launched the Innovation Management Toolbox (IMT). This new tool is a reference library of resources in rare disease translational medicine. It is free to use and has been designed to provide investigators with self-help resources specific to their needs. Each resource is curated to improve searchability and the database is actively maintained.

[Learn more](#)

eatris

Latest Funding opportunities from UiO External Funding Unit

[Merck Research Grants](#)

Deadline: 31 August 2022

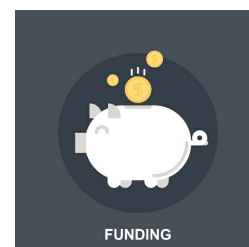
[Nordic Cancer Union Research Grant](#)

Deadline: 1st September 2022

[MSCA Postdoctoral Fellow](#)

Deadline: 14 September 2022

Further funding opportunities can be found via the Faculty of Medicine's [External Funding Unit page](#).



Upcoming Events

NCMM Tuesday Seminar: Rolf Skotheim

9 August 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, via Zoom

NCMM Associate Investigator Professor Rolf Skotheim, Department of Molecular Oncology, Institute for Cancer Research, Oslo University Hospital and University of Oslo, will present his research as part of the NCMM Tuesday Seminar Series. [Learn more.](#)

From research to production - Norway a home for the health industry (Arendalsuka)

18 August 4:30pm to 6:00pm

The value creation potential in the health industry has received increased attention in Norway, and reports over the past five years show significant growth. We bring together the actors along the health industry value chain to discuss how we can realise even more of the potential for value creation in this sector. [Learn more.](#)

Save the date: General meeting about the election of the Dean on 5 September

5 September 14:00 pm - 16:00 pm

The meeting will take place in the large auditorium at Rikshospitalet. The meeting will also be streamed for participants and you can submit questions in advance. [Learn more.](#)

Entrepreneurship in Healthcare Course

22 September - 2 December

Learn how to develop a research idea into a new company from experienced entrepreneurs, life science executives and academics. The course is free and the School of Health Innovation covers breakfast, lunch, and dinners as well as two nights of accommodation for each module. [Learn more.](#)

Communicating Research and Writing Grant Applications Course

14 September - 21 October

Learn how to communicate research and write better grant applications. Final date for registration is 14 August. [Learn more.](#)

Job Vacancies at NCMM

Communication Officer

NCMM is now seeking outstanding candidates for the position of Communications Officer. The position is permanent and externally funded. **Deadline: 7th August 2022.**

PhD Research Fellowship in Soft Biomaterials and Interface Science (Gözen group)

The project aims at elucidating the impact of interfaces at the nano- and micro- scale, on the behavior of biological soft materials. **Deadline: 15th July 2022.**

PhD Research Fellowship in Soft Biomaterials and Interface Science (2 positions. Gözen group)

This is a large scale interdisciplinary project in collaboration with the Department of Mathematics and Centre for Cancer Cell Reprogramming, at the University of Oslo. Overall aim of the project is to establish how cellular double lipid bilayer vesicles are formed and developed in response to interfacial contacts. **Deadline: 15th July 2022.**

Need support? Key contacts at NCMM

Health and Safety enquiries

[Karen-Marie Heintz, HSE Coordinator](#)

Lab management enquiries

[Edna Xian Hu, Lab Manager and Head Engineer](#)

Human resources enquiries

[Nina Modahl, HR Adviser](#)

IT enquiries

[Melaku Tadesse , Head Engineer](#)

Administrative support enquiries

[Larissa Lily, Senior Executive Officer](#)

[Carlos Romeo Rodriguez, Senior Executive Officer](#)

Communications enquiries

[Nuru Saadi, Senior Executive Officer](#)

NCMM health and safety info:

University of Oslo security and alarm centre: 22856666

Fire: 110 Police:112 Ambulance:113

Visit the University of Oslo [health, safety and environment webpages](#)

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