



# The DCCC Brain Tumor Center

## Year 2022 Activities & Plans for 2023

### **Donations for brain tumor research in favour of The DCCC Brain Tumor Center**

In collaboration with the Danish Brain Tumor Association we receive donations in favour of our research.

A book "**Brain Tumor Stories – when life strikes knots**" was released in March 2022 by the Danish Brain Tumor Association – when life strikes knots" the book is in Danish only:  
"Hjernetumorfortællinger – når livet slår knuder"

This year's [AACR Congress](#) in April 2022 took place in New Orleans, US, and was represented by **Professor Bjarne Winther Kristensen's Research Group** incl. research assistant Dylan Scott Lykke Harwood and Postdoc Atul Anand.

A celebration for two researchers related to the DCCC Brain Tumor Center took place in March 2022 as **Benedikte Hasselbalch and Søren Møller** both appointed as chief physicians.

The SNOG-Fibtra Symposium 2022 in May 2022 in Helsinki, was presented by our researchers the Co-Director of The DCCC Brain Tumor Center, **Hans Skovgaard Poulsen** presented the center. Hans is also a member of the Scientific Committee of the SNOG-Fibtra Symposium 2022. **Joachim Weischenfeldt** was an invited speaker, and he talked about *Mutational processes shaping the evolution of brain tumours*, Joachim is also member of the Board of directors at The DCCC Brain Tumor Center.

### **A major research grant for glioblastoma research received by Professor, Bjarne Winther Kristensen, our Principal Investigator for WP 3**

In August 2022 Bjarne and his team received DKK 2,863,200 from Denmark's Free Research Foundation for Health and Disease (in Danish Danmarks Frie Forskningsfond for Sundhed og Sygdom (FSS)) for the project: "Targeting glioblastoma recurrence by novel insight into the post-surgical microenvironment in patients". In the project, the post-surgical microenvironment is investigated with spatial transcriptomics (GeoMx) and new targets tested in a pre-clinical relapse animal model, which the research group has developed in a recently completed PhD project published in [Neuro Oncology](#) (PMID: 34964899). Postdoc Signe Regner Michaelsen is mainly responsible for the project.

### **Prognostic calculator for adult patients with Glioblastoma**

Glioblastoma patients treated with standard therapy (maximal safe surgical resection, radiotherapy with concomitant and adjuvant temozolomide) have a variable prognosis. We have identified 6 prognostic factors that explains some of the variability in prognosis. Using these factors, we have established a prognostic calculator that allow the user to estimate the probability of survival at 6, 12, 18, 24 and 36 months (Abedi AA et al, [Front Oncol](#), 2021, PMID: 33718145). In September 2022 the prognostic calculator was released on our website and can be used for risk stratification and treatment planning, as well as improve enrolment criteria for clinical trials. The authors and The DCCC Brain Tumor Center have diligently controlled the algorithm ensuring that it is in accordance with the results of the study. Absolutely no warranty for the use of this algorithm is provided. This calculator is freeware and you are welcome to use the tool.

At the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the European Association of Neuro-Oncology (**EANO 2022**) in Vienna, Austria in September 2022, on behalf of the center, Hans Skovgaard Poulsen, Vincent Nicolay Fougner, Maya Jeje Schuang Lue, Thomas Haargaard Urup and Josephine Deleuran Hendriksen presented their data. And this year's [award winning abstract](#) was given to Simone Bendix Maarup who is among our researchers and associated to The DCCC Brain Tumor Center.

In October we were happy to present a strong scientific program of **the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting, focusing on tumor heterogeneity**. A group of highly distinguished international and national scientists shared their knowledge with us. In [the digital booklet](#) you find all you need to know about 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting 2022.

The DCCC Brain Tumor Center is truly a national center, and with great pleasure the event was hosted by Professor Morten Høyer, member of board of the DCCC Brain Tumor Center, and Medical Director of the Danish Center for Particle Therapy, in the beautiful surroundings of the ARoS Art Museum. Once again our international scientific advisory board supported us. With the presence of Professor Webster Cavenee, Professor Manfred Westphal, and Professor Michael Weller, engaging in presentations and discussions. Trust the meeting will open people's eyes and make them to think tumor heterogeneity into future clinical trials.

A site visit to our researchers in Odense at the OUH took place in December 2022, as part of the upcoming evaluation of all the Center's 20 work packages. We met the PIs regarding WP 7 and WP 18 and had some fruitful discussions.

Our aim is to discuss possible progress and prepare everyone for **the 2023 evaluation process** which will take place in a 2-day event in September 15-16, 2023 in Copenhagen.

Please have look at [the Evaluation Form](#)

### **Spread the word... use our logo, link your activities to our website**

Please use the logo made for presentations in your publications, abstracts and posters, to be found at our [google drive](#) and please make sure to link your activities to our website:

<https://dcccbraintumor.dk/>

Kindly mail all relevant material, presentations – especially your publications, abstracts and posters to [anne-marie.bach@regionh.dk](mailto:anne-marie.bach@regionh.dk) to be published at our website, thanks a lot.

### **Changes in the following Work Packages:**

December 2022

**WP 18:** *Shared decision-making in glioblastoma patients – treatment decisions, patient involvement, and emotional well-being*

PI Helle Sørensen von Essen, OUH and Co-PI Frantz Rom Poulsen, OUH

PI has re-designed the study to make it more ambitious and clinically relevant.

Currently, a hearing at the Board of Directors is ongoing (January 9, 2023), in respect of the change in the WP 18 project description.

September 2022

**WP 5:** *Identification and validation of novel therapeutic targets*

PI Krister Wennerberg, BRIC, Co-PI; Jérémy Arieu-Bonnet, BRIC, postdoc

Decided by the Steering Group August 2022.

Since April 2022 young researchers' portraits have been published on our website, all having a share in our WPs, and in the years to come we will continue **promoting our young researchers**:

WP 1, 2 and 15: Maya Jeje Schuang Lü, RH  
WP 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 : Jeremy Arie-Bonnet, RH  
WP 8: Silas Haar Nielsen, RH  
WP 10, 11, 12: Kim Møller Hochreuter, AUH  
WP : Simone B Maarup, RH  
WP 16: Aleena Azam, RH  
WP 18: Helle Sørensen von Essen, OUH  
WP 19: Peter Jagd Sørensen, RH

### **International collaborations across national borders in Europe**

We are in the process of setting up formal collaboration agreements with the following research institutions

- Norlux, Dept. of Oncology, Luxembourg Institute of Health, Luxembourg
- Department of Clinical Sciences, Lund University, Sweden
- Dept. of Oncology, The Norwegian Radium Hospital, Oslo University Hospital
- Turku Bioscience Centre, University of Turku & Åbo Akademi, Finland
- Dept. of Immunology, Genetics and Pathology, Uppsala University, Sweden

### **New member of the Board of Directors and as member of the Steering Group**

After 17 years as a board member and the past 10 years as chairman of DNOG, **René J. Laursen** is stepping down as at end of 2022 - his successor is a neurosurgical colleague; **Christian Bonde Pedersen**, Dept. of Neuro-surgery, OUH. The DCCC Brain Tumor Center has been grateful for the collaboration with René J. Laursen and wish him the best of luck in his future. A warm welcome to Christian Bonde Pedersen !

We wish you a Merry Christmas and look forward to continuing our great network and collaborations in 2023.

With warm greetings from Ulrik Lassen, Hans Skovgaard Poulsen & Anne-Marie Bach

