

Minutes: First meeting in the “Danish network of preclinical radiobiology research”

Participants: Lotte Bjergbæk, Mike Horsman, Jan Alsner, Faisal Mahmood, Dennis Zetner, Brita S. Sørensen, Jesper G. Eriksen, Per R. Poulsen, Pil Fredericia, Jens Overgaard, Petra Hamerlik, Claus Storgaard Sørensen, Guido Keijzers, Ludvig Muren, Lars R. Petersen, Anders E. Hansen, Morten Scheibye-Knudsen, Jan Benada, Brian Larsen, Tinna Stevnsner, Fedor Zhuralev, Michael Jensen.

Welcome and Introduction

Brita welcomed the 21 representatives from 10 different institutions across Denmark and explained the background for the meeting and establishment of the Network. Jesper introduced DCCC-RT, the natural setting in which the Network could operate.

Presentations from the participants

All participants presented very shortly (8 minutes) their institutions and field of research.

Discussion with themes including: The need for network of preclinical radiobiology researchers? Common research goals or experimental approaches? Is there a potential need for network subgroups? Are all major Danish preclinical radiobiology teams represented? Possible collaborations, Future meetings.

Brita suggested using the DCCC-RT as a platform for the Network for collaboration and sharing of information. Mike suggested that each institution make half a page of bullet points to make it visible whom to contact for collaboration. Many mentioned that there is a need for more collaboration across the country. Important that this group is a “loose” network open for everyone, but also a bit formalized for having the opportunity to apply for money for giving the possibilities to arrange meetings etc.

Jesper will contact the DCCC-RT steering group for having a “corner” of the webpage.

Jens suggested finding a common platform on ageing patients, tumor response and normal tissue response. Jesper suggested that this could be coupled with immune response to radiotherapy. In general we could make thematic groups or events - not exclusively but open for everyone. Could it be basis of a Novo application?

Cohorts already exists: “Kost og kræft-kohorten” and the 100-year cohort at SDU/Kaare Christensen. The critical issue is to get the fresh frozen tissue. Tinna also mentioned that there are specific strains of “ageing” mice.

Jens: We need to look at every kind of normal tissues that should be avoided as well as tumours - less stem cells, higher mutational load etc.

Michael, would like to collaborate with everyone who calculate dose levels on a cellular level; inhomogeneity across the cell.

Annual meeting for the Network 2019: This could be linked to DCCC-RT annual meeting. Jesper and Brita will explore this.

Network event in Copenhagen: Claus is with Brita organizing a visit by Martin Pruschy (Univ. Zürich) to Copenhagen. Martin Pruschy will speak at BRIC May 9th 12.00, the seminar title: “Targeting ADAM17 in Combination with Radiotherapy”. All network members are welcome.

Potential or desirable Network members: Helge Thiesgaard in Odense? All current members are encouraged to “spread the word” about the Network.

The meeting ended with a presentation of DCPT by Cai Grau and a guided tour at the DCPT facility.