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Integrated Molecular Profiling of Breast Cancer

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The tumor initiation, progression and clinical presentation are directly dependent on its genetic and biochemical environment – the entire body. Our group is working on different projects related to how genetic variation affects occurrence of somatic alterations, gene expression patterns and genome wide copy number alterations in human breast and ovarian tumors. Understanding inherited genetic variability and how it affects crucial biological pathways is likely to lead to new successful prevention and treatment strategies. The research in the group is focusing on constitutive variation such as single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), somatic mutations and copy number variations (CNVs) in relation to susceptibility, clinical presentation, treatment response and adverse side effects of treatment. Gene regulation and proximal phenotypes (RNA expression and metabolic profiles), Genomic Instability and DNA methylation patterns in cancer as well as molecular mechanisms underlying treatment response will be discussed.

Biography

Vessela N. Kristensen is a Professor I at the Medical Faculty of the University in Oslo (UiO) in Clinical Epidemiology at the Department of Clinical Molecular Biology and Lab science (EpiGen), Akershus university hospital, and Group Leader at the Department of Genetics, IKF, Det Norske Radiumhospital. She has been also visiting adjunct professor at Princeton University, Professor II at the Centre for Integrative Genetics, University of Life Sciences, Ås and assistant professor at the Advanced Technology Center at NCI, NIH, Bethesda. Kristensen has also worked Berzelius Laboratory at Karolinska Institutet. She was also granted a fellowship to study in the lab of Dr. N. Harada at Fujita Health University, Nagoya, Japan. Kristensen's research interests are related to how genetic variation affects occurrence of somatic alterations, gene expression patterns and genome wide copy number alterations in human breast and ovarian tumors (<http://www.ous-research.no/kristensen/>). This work has lead to the communication of 132 scientific papers since 2002. She is a recipient of several national and international grants and awards, member of scientific and administrative boards in Norway and abroad and member of academic evaluating committees in Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland. Current topics of research are in the field of genomic variation in relation to susceptibility, clinical presentation, treatment response and adverse side effects of treatment, gene regulation and proximal phenotypes (RNA expression and metabolic profiles) in breast cancer.

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