

PANELISTS

Professor Maria Eriksson (Karolinska Institutet)



Maria Eriksson is Professor at the Department of Biosciences and Nutrition (BioNut) at Karolinska Institutet--Fleminsberg campus, Stockholm. Her research group focuses on genetic mechanisms that affect ageing.

Since April 2019, she is also a member of the KI Recruitment Committee, which processes and decides on matters regarding senior lecturers, professors (incl. Adjunct positions) and guest teachers at KI.

Professor Ylva Engström (Stockholm University)



Ylva Engström is a Professor and research group leader at the Department of Molecular Biosciences, The Wenner-Gren Institute at Stockholm University. Her research focuses on understanding how innate immunity is regulated, the links between host-pathogen interaction, cellular proliferation and differentiation at the level of signal transduction and gene regulation.

Since 2018, she is also Vice Dean of the Faculty of Science at Stockholm University. This board, together with external experts, is involved in recruitment and promoting to positions of Professor (Professor), Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor (universitetslektor), and Associate Senior Lecturer/Assistant Professor Tenure track (Biträdande lektor).

Prof. Peter Hansell (Uppsala University)



Peter Hansell is Professor in integrative physiology and research group leader at the Department of Medical Cell Biology at Uppsala University. Since 2013, he is a member of the Recruitment Committee at the Faculty of Medicine at Uppsala University. Moreover, since 2017 he is a deputy chairman of this committee and handles all senior academic positions at the University and Academic Hospital.

ROUND TABLES

Sara Hägg (Karolinska Institutet)



Sara Hägg, PhD is a Senior Researcher at the Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Karolinska Institutet (KI) in Stockholm, Sweden. She also holds a Docent title in Molecular Epidemiology (an academic teaching appointment). She did her undergraduate training at Stockholm University majoring in Molecular Biology (MSc) and Computer Science (BSc) and completed her thesis in Computational Biology (PhD) at Linköping University, Sweden, in 2009. She held postdoctoral fellowships at KI (2011-2014) in Genetic Epidemiology and at Uppsala University (2013-2014) in Molecular Epidemiology. After that, she became an Assistant Professor at KI and has run her own research group focusing on molecular epidemiological studies of aging. In 2016, she did a short sabbatical at the Department of Medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine.

<https://ki.se/en/meb/molecular-epidemiological-studies-of-aging-and-age-related-diseases>

Sebastian Lewandowski (Karolinska Institutet)



Dr. Sebastian Lewandowski earned his PhD degree from the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology in Warsaw, Poland in 2005. After his PhD Sebastian did a two and a half year postdoc on stipend in the BioNut department at KI. In 2008 he started a second postdoc in Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research at KI with Prof. Ulf Eriksson. There he switched fields and started a project on blood-brain barrier dysfunction in ALS neurodegeneration. This was a long-time investment in learning new biology in a new context. In the meantime the group moved to MBB department at KI while he moved from the position of senior researcher to lab engineer. During that time he learned the value of networking with clinicians across Europe and with their help curated a unique collection of ALS patient samples. The project was eventually well published and allowed him to recruit grants that currently pay his salary. Now with the use of collected patient samples and mouse model data Sebastian has the privilege to run his own research line at the CNS department and SciLifeLab.

<https://staff.ki.se/people/seblew>

Asghar Muhammad (Karolinska Institutet)



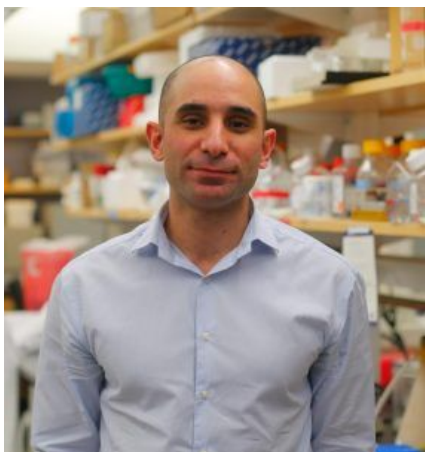
Dr. Muhammad Asghar is Senior Researcher at the Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine Solna, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden. Dr Asghar is an expert in infectious diseases and aging biology and his research focuses on one of the presently most interesting and yet most challenging questions in biology and medicine: how physiological stressors, such as infectious diseases, impinge ‘cost’ on the body, and how such cost eventually leads to organ dysfunction, physiological degradation, aging and senescence.

Dr. Muhammad is highly skilled and independent scientist and has produced several high-impact papers (including, *Science Magazine*, *Aging Cell* and *Proceedings of the Royal Society Biology*). These publications got worldwide attention and he has received *Katma Award* from Cooper Ornithological Society USA for outstanding paper of the year 2015. Dr Asghar has recently received two highly prestigious grants, Ragnar Söderberg Fellowship and VR-Starting grant to establish himself as a young research Leader.

Born and raised in Punjab, Pakistan, Dr. Muhammad received his BS-Zoology (4-years) degree from Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan, Pakistan. Later moved to Sweden and completed his MSc and PhD in molecular ecology at Lund University. He then completed a 4-years post-doctoral training at the Department of Medicine, Karolinska Institutet. After that, he served as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Medicine, KI for two years before assuming a Group leader and Senior Researcher position. Dr. Muhammad love nature, reading, traveling and music.

<https://ki.se/en/meds/team-muhammad-asghar>

Ninib Baryawno (Karolinska Institutet)



Dr. Ninib Baryawno is trained in translational cancer with a focus on childhood cancers of the nervous system and malignancies of the bone marrow. He began his career path towards independent research group at Karolinska Institutet (KI) by studying at the undergraduate Biomedical program at KI between 2001-2005. In 2005, he became a PhD candidate at Karolinska Institutet in the group of professor Per Kogner and associate professor John Inge Johnsen, where the focus of his thesis was to develop novel therapeutics based on better biological understanding of the childhood brain tumor

medulloblastoma. A disorder of development, arising mostly in the cerebellum during embryogenesis and is largely dictated by events in stem cell regulatory signaling pathways. The results of his work were published as a thesis “New Potential Targets in Medulloblastoma Therapy – Studies on Cellular Mechanisms and Mediators”, and successfully defended in February 2010. It was the interest in stem cell based approaches to disease that brought him together with professor David Scadden at Harvard University in 2011. As a post-doctoral fellow in the Scadden lab, he applied single-cell RNA-sequencing to study the role of hematopoietic stem cell niche in the development of malignancies of the bone marrow such as prostate bone metastases and leukemia. He also discovered a link between the bone marrow and brain in the central nervous system regeneration after brain injury.

As of January 2018, Ninib started his own independent laboratory at KI. His research is focused on studying solid cancers prone to spread to the bone, specifically adult cancers of the prostate and kidney, and pediatric cancers such as medulloblastoma and neuroblastoma. The lab is using single-cell technologies as a tool to understand the cellular interactions between cancer cells and the bone marrow microenvironment in the context of cancer development, tumor cell dissemination and cancer resistance. The adult cancer research is conducted at Harvard University while the pediatric cancer research is focused at KI.

<http://baryawnolab.com/>

Susanne Keipert (Stockholm University)



Dr. Susanne Keipert’s research focuses on the understanding of mammalian energy metabolism, with the ultimate goal to identify novel treatment options to combat obesity and diabetes. Working on endocrine molecular mechanisms improving metabolism, she received her Ph.D. in 2011 at the German Institute for Human Nutrition under the supervision of Prof. Susanne Klaus. She completed her research projects as postdoctoral fellow within two years, before moving to one of the leading institutes for metabolic research in Germany, the Institute for Diabetes and Obesity at Helmholtz Diabetes Center, in Munich. She gained first insights into scientific leadership by temporarily acting as head of the Research Unit Mitochondrial Biology. In 2018, Susanne decided to move to

the Department of Molecular Biosciences, The Wenner-Gren Institute, at Stockholm University, to work as a Research Scientist. Shortly after her move, she was awarded one of the prestigious Starting Grants of Vetenskapsrådet that promoted her to an independent group leader in 2019.

<https://www.su.se/mbw/research/research-groups/integrative-biology/group-keipert>

Tara Jabar Hessa (Stockholm University)



Dr. Tara Jabar Hessa received her BS/MS in Molecular Biology at Stockholm University. She earned her Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Stockholm University, where she worked on membrane protein biogenesis and insertion into Endoplasmic Reticulum. She joined the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), for postdoctoral work on membrane protein quality control and degradation. She then moved to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NIH) as a Research Fellow, where she worked on mitochondria quality control

in the context of Parkinson's diseases. At present she works at the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Stockholm University, as an Assistant Professor.

<https://www.su.se/english/profiles/hessa-1.182036>

Ronald van den Berg (Stockholm University)



Dr. Ronald van den Berg obtained a PhD in Computer Science at the University of Groningen, Netherlands in 2009. From 2009-2012, he was a postdoctoral associate at the systems neuroscience lab of Prof. Wei Ji Ma at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. From 2013-2015, he was a Research Associate in the sensorimotor learning lab of Daniel Wolpert at the University of Cambridge. He then moved to Uppsala University where he worked as a Researcher (Forskare) from 2015 to 2019. He is currently a Senior Lecturer at the Stockholm University. His research is mainly focused on understanding and modeling of visual working memory, perception, and decision-making.

<http://ronaldvandenberg.org/>

Marcel den Hoed (Uppsala University)



The laboratory of Dr. Marcel den Hoed focuses on the identification of causal genes for human diseases with specific emphasis on cardiovascular and metabolic disorders. Dr. den Hoed completed his PhD at the Maastricht University, The Netherlands in 2009. He then moved to Cambridge, UK for a two year fellowship (Career Development Fellow) at the University of Cambridge. This was followed by a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Karolinska Institute. In 2013 Dr. den Hoed obtained a Researcher position at Uppsala University and in 2014 he became an Assistant Professor at Uppsala University where he currently leads a research group.

https://www.igp.uu.se/research/genetics_genomics/marcel-den-hoed/

Ilaria Testa (KTH Royal Institute of Technology)



Dr. Ilaria Testa's research group works at the interface of physics, chemistry and neuroscience to develop novel paradigms and concepts based on super-resolution light microscopy or fluorescence nanoscopy to address contemporary challenges in biophysics and molecular biology. Dr. Ilaria Testa completed her PhD at the University in Genoa in 2009. She did her postdoctoral work with Prof. Stefan Hell at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry (2009-2015). In 2015 she became an Assistant Professor at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology (and a fellow at the Science for Life Laboratory) and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2018.

<http://www.testalab.org>

Pelin Sahlén (KTH Royal Institute of Technology)



Dr. Pelin Sahlén is an Assistant Lecturer (tenure-track) at the Royal Institute of Technology specialising in genome regulation and complex disease genomics. She holds a PhD in Molecular Biology and Genetics from the University of Cambridge (UK) and MSc in computational biology from Sabanci University (Turkey). After her PhD, she worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute for two years on complex disease genetics, focusing on type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Then she moved to Stockholm

for her second post-doctoral study at KTH and there developed a method (HiCap) to map gene regulatory interactions at high resolution. She also worked as a senior bioinformatician in National Genomics Infrastructure Applications Development before she took on her current position.

<https://www.scilifelab.se/researchers/pelin-akan-sahlen/>