

## **Ann-Christin Björklund**



Ann-Christin Björklund is a pediatric nurse with extended experience in neuro-oncology from clinical work with children diagnosed and treated for a brain tumor at Uppsala University Hospital, Sweden. Since 2005 she has a consultant nurse role for children with brain tumors including school related issues and supporting children´s everyday life according to child/family needs. Ann-Christin is also a PhD student at Jönköping University with preliminary dissertation plans in 2024. Her research focus on children´s participation in everyday life after ending brain tumor treatment.

Martha Krogh Topperzer



Martha Krogh Topperzer has 20 years experience as a paediatric nurse from the childhood cancer department. She holds a Master in Sociology, and a PhD on interprofessional education for healthcare professionals working with children and adolescents with cancer. Martha has extensive international work experience from Médecins sans Frontières and WHO. She has robust teaching experience and research experience in planning, conducting, and implementing monoprofessional and interprofessional education with up to 14 groups of healthcare professionals.

**Martha Krogh Topperzer**  
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Karin Persson is a speech and language therapist with 20 years of experience in rehabilitation of children and adolescents with acquired brain injury.

Karin is currently a PhD student at Lund University. Her work focuses specifically on language and communication in children with posterior fossa tumors

including the children's own experiences after suffering from cerebellar mutism syndrome. Karin has been involved in the Nordic CMS-study since 2014.

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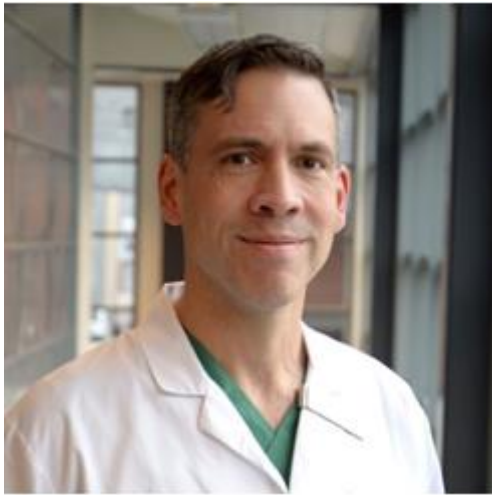


Consultant Karin A. W. Wadt (KW), MD, PhD, associate professor, is the daily leader of the oncogenetic clinic at the Department of Clinical Genetics, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, and part time organizing the national scientific project, STAGING, since April 2016, examining germline whole genome and tumour RNA in paediatric cancer patients with a focus on genetic cancer predisposition and actionable somatic mutations. KW concluded her PhD about familial malignant melanoma in 2015, which at this point was the most extensive Danish oncogenetic studie performed, where participants were offered feedback on their genetic results. KW has extensive experience with interpretation of genome data and integrating these results in conjunction with clinical information and has first-hand experience regarding reporting of secondary genetic findings from several large national studies. KW is a steering committee member in the Host Genome Working Group in SIOPE and is the national coordinator in the European Reference network, GENTURIS, regarding rare cancer syndromes. KW has participated in multiple international clinical guidelines regarding genetic testing and surveillance in rare tumour syndromes. KW has presented her work at several international conferences and has co-organised several meetings. KW has an extensive international collaboration network, and is currently supervisor of four PhD students, and one scholarship student covering various aspects within germline disposition and bioinformatics regarding paediatric cancer and melanoma.

Publications: 74. First author: 10. Last author: 12

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**Prof. David Gisselsson Nord, Lund**  
**- History of genetics in pediatric oncology/hematology**

Dr. David Gisselsson Nord leads the GMS Childhood Cancer Working Group, providing whole genome sequencing to all children diagnosed with cancer in Sweden. He is a clinician-researcher focused on understanding how cancer cells develop resilience against current ontological treatments. He has identified one of the most common mechanisms by which cancer cells alter their genome through repeated breakage of chromosomes with eroded telomeres. Dr. Gisselsson Nord has also established a series of methods for measuring genetic instability of cancer cells that allow better prediction of prognosis and treatment response. Today he divides his time between clinical work as a pediatric pathologist and research on childhood cancer. He combines high-resolution genomics on clinical samples with mathematical modeling and methods from species evolution. By this approach, his team identified four fundamental evolutionary trajectories by which cancer cells compete with each other and evolve towards a higher degree of malignancy. Dr. Gisselsson Nord has received the Fernström Prize to Promising Young Investigators and the SIOP Award for Translational and Basic Research.

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## **E-health in pediatric oncology**

Charlotte Castor, paediatric nurse, PhD

Charlotte Castor has a long-term experience of paediatric care and from being a “konsultsjuksköterska” in paediatric neuro-oncology care at Skåne University Hospital in Lund. In 2019 she defended her PhD thesis in health sciences named Home care services for sick children. Charlotte Castor’s clinical work as well as her research interest departure in the needs of the sick child and the needs of sick children’s families' and of ways to support these needs throughout the illness trajectory. During her postdoc period at Lund University she has participated in several international projects aiming at development and evaluation of eHealth within paediatric care. A further interest has been the knowledge based development and implementation of paediatric palliative care as well as educational assignments. Charlotte is co-supervisor to PhD students within eHealth, paediatric palliative care and paediatric oncology rehabilitation.

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**Prof. Stefan M. Pfister, Heidelberg**  
**– Genetics in targeted treatment**

Stefan Pfister serves as Director of the Preclinical Research Program of the new Hopp Children's Cancer Center Heidelberg, a joint venture between the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) and Heidelberg University Hospital. He is heading the Division Pediatric Neurooncology at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) since 2012. Being a pediatrician by training, Pfister received his MD from Tübingen University, and his clinical education at Mannheim and Heidelberg University Hospitals. As a physician-scientist, he completed postdoctoral fellowships with Christopher Rudd at the Dana-Faber Cancer Institute/Harvard Medical School, and with Peter Lichter at the German Cancer Research Center, Division of Molecular Genetics. Pfister's research focuses on the genetic and epigenetic characterization of childhood brain tumors by applying next-generation profiling methods, the development of faithful models and functional validation of findings, and the preclinical testing of new treatment options using these models. In all his activities, translating novel findings into a clinical context is of highest priority. For his translational neurooncology projects, Pfister received amongst others the German Cancer Award in 2012. In 2020 he became member of the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina.

Deputy Head KiTZ Clinical Trial Unit and Brain Tumors, Department of Pediatric Oncology, Hematology and Immunology, Heidelberg University Hospital



**Prof. Smita Bhatia, Alabama**

**– Genetics and Adverse Outcomes in Childhood Cancer Survivors**

Smita Bhatia, MD, MPH completed her training in Blood Banking and Hematology/Oncology and Epidemiology from the University of Minnesota. She served as founding chair of the Dept. of Population Sciences at City of Hope from 2006 to 2014. Dr. Bhatia joined University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in 2015 to establish the Institute for Cancer Outcomes and Survivorship. She is the White Endowed Professor in Pediatric Oncology at UAB. With over 380 peer-reviewed publications and continuous funding from NCI and LLS since 2000, she is an internationally renowned leader in cancer outcomes and survivorship. She serves as Associate Editor for the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* and Senior Editor for *Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers and Prevention*. She is an elected member of American Society for Clinical Investigation and Association of American Physicians. She is the recipient of the Frank H Oski Lectureship Award from ASPHO, the Clinical Scholar Award from LLS and the Outstanding Investigator Award from the NCI. She was the recipient of the Dean's Excellence Award in Mentoring (2020), and the Distinguished Professor award from UAB (2021).

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**Prof. Henrik Hasle, Department of Pediatrics, Aarhus University Hospital Skejby, Aarhus N, Denmark**

**– Sherlock Holmes lunch lecture**

Henrik Hasle is professor in pediatric hematology/oncology at the department of Pediatrics, Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark. Henrik Hasle is a founding member of the European Working group on Myelodysplastic Syndromes in Childhood (EWOG-MDS) and served as chairman of the group 1998-2002. Henrik Hasle was the chairman of the acute myeloid leukemia (AML) group of the Nordic Society for Pediatric Hematology and Oncology (NOPHO) 2002 to 2010 and the chairman of the International-BFM-AML study group from 2016. Cofounder of the Adult Life after Childhood Cancer in Scandinavia (ALiCCS) research program on late effects in Nordic children with cancer. Henrik Hasle is the author or coauthor of more than 250 peer reviewed journal articles mainly dealing with myeloid leukemia in children, genetic predisposition to cancer, and late effects after cancer therapy.

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**MD PhD Marie Stenmark Askmalm, Lund**

**– Basic in genetics, inheritance, analysis methods and genetic counseling**

Marie Stenmark Askmalm is Associate Professor in Medical *Genetics* and *Senior Consultant* in Clinical *Genetics*. She is also head of the unit Center for Rare Diseases, South Sweden (CSD Syd) at the Regional Center for Hereditary Cancer at Skåne University Hospital, Lund. During her medical studies she started her PhD studies in breast cancer related to the tumour suppressor protein p53, especially concerning the prognosis and prediction of adjuvant therapy. After her PhD at the Medical Faculty of Health Science at Linköping University she continued her research in DNA repair pathways and the effect of radiotherapy in breast cancer. Her training in Clinical Oncology fostered her interest in the field of oncogenetics and during her role as a Clinical oncologist, she both developed and was the head of the oncogenetic clinic in the South East Health Region in Sweden.

Stenmark Askmalm trained in Clinical Genetics attained present position in Lund 2015. She is at the Regional Cancer Center South Regional Cancer Process Leader (RPPL) in hereditary cancer and has led a subsidiary project in the South Health Care Region to improve the process of identifying patients and families in need of genetic counselling as well as the superintendence.

Stenmark Askmalm is chair of National task group “Hereditary Cancer” constituent of Confederation of Regional Cancer Centres in Sweden as well and member of the national Program Group of Rare Disease in the National System for Knowledge-driven Management within Swedish Healthcare.

Present research interest is in the field of hereditary cancer, especially genetic counseling, and medical care processes for patients with a genetic predisposition for cancer.

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**Nurse Charlotte Armins-Waldeck, Lund**

**– Basic in genetics, inheritance, analysis methods and genetic counseling**

Charlotte Armins Waldeck is at present working within Healthcare Quality Management at the Center for Rare Diseases, South Sweden (CSD Syd), and at the Regional Center for Hereditary Cancer at Skåne University Hospital, Lund. Both centers support healthcare providers, other professionals, and authorities in patient care improvement in the field of rare diseases and/or hereditary cancer.

Waldeck is a trained nurse and holds a master's degree in public health science. Moreover, she has special interests in the field of education, genetic counseling, aspects of health literacy, patient-centered care, and empowerment. In collaboration with Marie Stenmark Askmalm, she is acting responsible leader for the commissioned education programme "Clinical genetics and genetic counseling, 15 credits", at Lund University.

In the past Waldeck held a position as junior lecturer at the Nursing programme (180 credits) at Linköping's University, Faculty of Health 2013 – 2018, where she was teaching undergraduate nursing students, supervising bachelor thesis work and responsible course leader for semester 5 and 6.

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**Ann Nordgren is Senior consultant and Professor in Clinical genetics**

at Sahlgrenska University hospital, Gothenburg University, Karolinska University hospital and Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. Her clinical work and research is mainly focused on phenotyping and genetic diagnostics of childhood cancer predisposition syndromes, overgrowth and intellectual disability syndromes. She is since May 2021 coordinator of a large prospective national study - Genomic Medicine Sweden Childhood Cancer Predisposition "GMS ChiCaP", offering whole genome sequencing (WGS) to all children diagnosed with cancer in Sweden irrespective of diagnosis. This talk will include preliminary results from the GMS ChiCaP

study, recommendations for germline genetic testing and examples of clinical benefits to individual patients when implementing WGS in the routine diagnostics for childhood cancer.