



UPDATE FROM MATRIX

# Welcome to the December 2025 newsletter

MATRIX, the Norwegian Centre for Clinical Cancer Research, officially opened in August 2022. News and events are published on the [MATRIX website](#) regularly. In addition, we send out quarterly newsletters. If you would like to share any updates, such as publications or funding news, or would like to be added to the subscriber list, please contact [Nina Ånensen](#).

## SITE VISIT FROM MATRIX SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD



The MATRIX Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) came to Oslo for their first site visit on 13. November. SAB consists of five high level international experts covering all research areas of MATRIX. All the work packages were presented and discussed in the meeting.

Overall the SAB feels MATRIX has achieved a lot in three years, but also pointed out a few areas where MATRIX could be strengthened.

[Learn more >](#)

## NATIONAL MATRIX MEETING IN OSLO



MATRIX arranged a face-to-face national meeting in Oslo on 14. November. MATRIX partners from all health regions were present, alongside representatives from our user council and also our funders.

The programme had a joint scientific session, sessions in the work packages, as well as a social component.

Thank you to all who participated!

[Learn more >](#)



## FIRST PATIENT INCLUDED IN PSEUDOVAX



Pseudomyxoma peritonei (PMP) is a rare disease with few treatment options. Otherwise rare single-nucleotide mutations in the GNAS oncogene (coding for Gsa) are detected in up to 90% of PMP cases.

Pseudovax is a phase I trial testing a new cancer vaccine targeting mutated GNAS to treat PMP. The hypothesis is that patients with GNAS-mutated PMP have a preexisting, attenuated immune response directed against mutated Gsa protein and that vaccination with Pseudovax/GM-CSF can be combined with PD-1 inhibition (tisnelizumab) with acceptable toxicity. The vaccine is expected to reactivate or induce de novo measurable immune response, and tisnelizumab to restore anticancer immunity of exhausted immune cells in patients.

The vaccine is developed based on research from the lab of Kjersti Flatmark at the Radium hospital. The first patient received the first vaccine dose on 4. November.

## MYPATH-MATRIX DIGITAL SOLUTION IS LIVE AT OUS



MyPath-MATRIX aims to implement patient centered care (PCC) through a digital solution offering tailored care pathways and real-time communication regarding symptoms and preferences. The project is an implementation study conducted in Norway (MyPath-MATRIX) and across Europe.

The first version of the digital platform has now been developed, installed, and deployed at Oslo University Hospital. Feedback has been positive. The team says: "We have received feedback from patients saying that the digital solution works so much better than what we had before. The range of questions is more comprehensive, the timeline feels more relevant, and the questionnaire includes advanced features, for example for the pain registration. They find it very valuable!"

In Norway, the solution is expected to be rolled out at Sykehuset Telemark and Helse Møre og Romsdal in 2026.

[Learn more >](#)

## MATRIX ATTENDED ESMO 2025 IN BERLIN



MATRIX was well represented at this years ESMO congress held in Berlin on 17.-21. October. MATRIX-affiliated researchers presented findings in both oral and poster-sessions.

MATRIX also had several meetings with pharmaceutical companies to discuss possible collaboration.

**[Learn more >](#)**

## MATRIX ATTENDED ONKOLOGISK FORUM 2025 IN TRONDHEIM



Onkologisk Forum was held in Trondheim on 20.-21. November. From MATRIX, Åslaug Helland, Stein Kaasa, Kjetil Taskén and Åsmund Flobak were all invited to speak in the main programme. Åsmund Flobak also chaired the session for the Norwegian Precision Medicine Cancer Group (NPCG).

MyPath-MATRIX had a booth in the exhibition area during the conference to present their digital solution for patient centered care.

During the gala dinner, MATRIX director Åslaug Helland was presented with a honorary membership of the Norwegian Oncology Society. A highly deserved honour and we offer our congratulations!

**[Learn more >](#)**



## SIGRID SKÅNLAND AWARDED RAGNAR MØRK LEGACY PRIZE 2025



MATRIX-affiliated researcher Sigrid Skånland is the recipient of the 2025 Dr Ragnar Mørk Legacy Prize.

Skånland is a researcher at the Department of Cancer Immunology, Institute for Cancer Research, and receives the prize for her ground-breaking research on leukemia therapy. The personal award of 200 000 NOK was presented at a ceremony at the Radium Hospital on 21. November, where Sigrid Skånland delivered her prize lecture.

**[Learn more >](#)**

## ÅSLAUG HELLAND ELECTED FELLOW OF EACS



Åslaug Helland has been elected a new fellow of the European Academy of Cancer Sciences (EACS).

EACS is a non-profit, non-governmental organization composed of eminent oncologists and cancer researchers. Fellows are elected yearly by their peers based on the distinctiveness of their contributions to cancer research and cancer care.

**[Learn more >](#)**

## COSENSE-1 RECEIVES MEDIA ATTENTION



COSENSE-1 is a study to test the potential for implementation of a functional precision medicine platform in clinical practice, to support clinicians in selecting between two equivalent first-line treatment regimens, FOLFOX and FOLFIRI, for patients with metastatic colon cancer. Åsmund Flobak at St. Olav's hospital, is the PI of the trial.

COSENSE-1 received some media attention this fall, including from NRK.

**[Learn more >](#)**

## NEW FUNDING



Several MATRIX-associated researchers have recently received external funding for their research:

- Åsmund Flobak at St. Olavs Hospital and Sigrid Skånland at OUS have received funding from the Norwegian Cancer Society. You can read an interview with Flobak on the [Cancer Society web page](#) regarding the grant.
- Åsmund Flobak also received funding from the Joint Research Committee between St. Olavs hospital and the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, NTNU.
- Emiel Janssen at Stavanger university hospital has received new funding from Helse Vest.
- Kjetil Taskén at OUS has received new funding from Helse Sør-øst.

Congratulations to all!



## OSLOMET MASTER COURSES ON CLINICAL TRIALS



For the third time this fall, OsloMet has offered the master course “Introduction to Clinical studies for Healthcare Personnel” (MAVIT5800). The course has been fully subscribed all three times. This fall 32 students completed the course.

A second master course has now been approved by the OsloMet education committee: Clinical Trials for Healthcare Professionals - Planning and Conduct (MAFAR500). This is a more advanced course focusing on planning and performing clinical trials and will be offered for the first time in the fall of 2026.

## KATHINKA SCHMIDT SLØRDAHL DEFENDED HER PHD-THESIS



On 18. December, MATRIX-Rare study doctor, Kathinka Schmidt Slørdahl, defended her thesis for the degree of PhD.

In her thesis, Slørdahl has investigated survival after curative treatment for anal cancer, and explored late effects and quality of life among patients treated for anal- and rectal cancer with curative intent.

Congratulations to Kathinka for obtaining her PhD!

**[Learn more >](#)**

## SEASON'S GREETINGS!



As the year comes to a close, we would like to thank you all for your continued collaboration throughout the year. Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

We look forward to working together and achieving great things in 2026.