UPDATE FROM MATRIX

Welcome to the October 2026 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.

SAVE THE DATE - MATRIX GATHERING 14.-15. APRIL 2027



We have started planning the next national gathering in MATRIX and welcome you all to Trondheim 14.-15. April 2027.

We hope to see all partners represented.

Please make sure you save the dates!

NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR CNS TUMOUR DIAGNOSTICS IMPLEMENTED



Together with Oxford Nanopore Technologies, MATRIX has shown that nanopore sequencing can speed up diagnosis of central nervous system tumours by reading DNA methylation directly – analysis that can take weeks with established methods. After successful validation on 50 tumour samples, the method will be rolled out nationally through InPreD, starting at Oslo University Hospital, Haukeland and St. Olavs hospital.

Learn more >

KREFTFORENINGEN

Forskningsrådet

RESULTS FROM THE UNDERWAY ASSESSMENT OF MATRIX

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) has now concluded in the underway assessment of MATRIX.

The purpose was to assess the centre's activities in relation to our objectives and the success criteria for the centre scheme as established by the RCN.

A panel consisting of Elena Garralda (VHIO, Barcelona), Christophe Massard (Gustave Roussy, Paris) and Klas Kärre (Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm) delivered a very positive evaluation report. They concluded that MATRIX is a very strong and productive centre that has made impressive progress during the first part of the funding period. They also provided several valuable recommendations on how MATRIX can sharpen the scientific strategy, prioritisation and sustainability planning.

Based on the panel report, The Portfolio Board for Health of the RCN decided to continue the centre under the current contract.

MATRIX is now in the process of following up the recommendations from the panel.

NEW PUBLICATIONS MAP PRECISION ONCOLOGY GLOBALLY AND IN EUROPE



Kjetil Taskén is the only Norwegian co-author of a report from The Lancet Oncology Commission on Cancer Genomics and Precision Oncology.

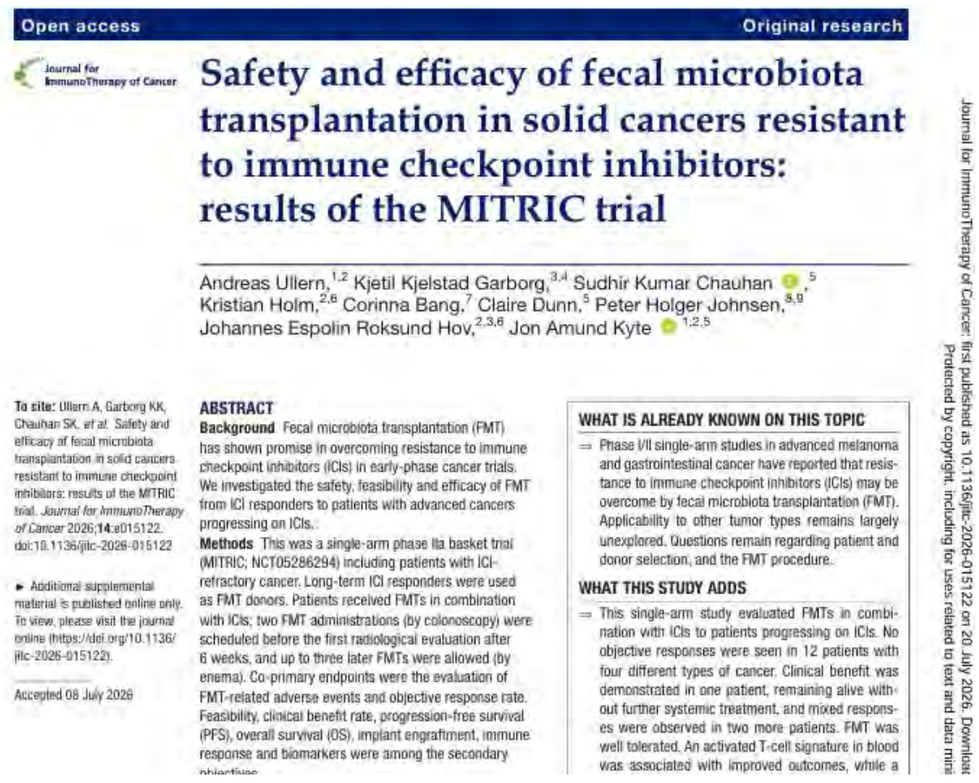
The Commission maps the current global landscape of precision oncology in detail and provides new insight into the scientific, structural and health-system challenges that hinder genomics and precision oncology worldwide. It is the most comprehensive evaluation of precision oncology ever undertaken.

In connection with this work, Taskén was also invited to write a review article on the status of precision oncology in Europe, which he did together with Live Fagereng and authors from across Europe.

The article, published in The Lancet Regional Health – Europe, shows that precision oncology is gradually becoming a clinical reality across Europe, but that access to treatment remains a critical bottleneck.

Learn more >

NEW PUBLICATION IN JOURNAL FOR IMMUNOTHERAPY OF CANCER



Open access Original research

Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer

Safety and efficacy of fecal microbiota transplantation in solid cancers resistant to immune checkpoint inhibitors: results of the MITRIC trial

Andreas Ullern,[1,2] Kjetil Kjelstad Garborg,[3,4] Sudhir Kumar Chauhan,[5] Kristian Holm,[2,6] Corinna Bang,[7] Claire Dunn,[5] Peter Holger Johnsen,[8,9] Johannes Espolin Roksund Hov,[2,3,6] Jon Amund Kyte [1,2,5]

To cite: Ullern A, Garborg KK, Chauhan SK, *et al*. Safety and efficacy of fecal microbiota transplantation in solid cancers resistant to immune checkpoint inhibitors: results of the MITRIC trial. *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* 2026;**14**:e015122. doi:10.1136/jitc-2026-015122

► Additional supplemental material is published online only. To view, please visit the journal online (https://doi.org/10.1136/jitc-2026-015122).

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ABSTRACT

Background Fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) has shown promise in overcoming resistance to immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) in early-phase cancer trials. We investigated the safety, feasibility and efficacy of FMT from ICI responders to patients with advanced cancers progressing on ICIs.

Methods This was a single-arm phase IIa basket trial (MITRIC; NCT05286294) including patients with ICI-refractory cancer. Long-term ICI responders were used as FMT donors. Patients received FMTs in combination with ICIs; two FMT administrations (by colonoscopy) were scheduled before the first radiological evaluation after 6 weeks, and up to three later FMTs were allowed (by enema). Co-primary endpoints were the evaluation of FMT-related adverse events and objective response rate. Feasibility, clinical benefit rate, progression-free survival (PFS), overall survival (OS), implant engraftment, immune response and biomarkers were among the secondary objectives.

WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN ON THIS TOPIC

⇒ Phase I/II single-arm studies in advanced melanoma and gastrointestinal cancer have reported that resistance to immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) may be overcome by fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT). Applicability to other tumor types remains largely unexplored. Questions remain regarding patient and donor selection, and the FMT procedure.

WHAT THIS STUDY ADDS

⇒ This single-arm study evaluated FMTs in combination with ICIs to patients progressing on ICIs. No objective responses were seen in 12 patients with four different types of cancer. Clinical benefit was demonstrated in one patient, remaining alive without further systemic treatment, and mixed responses were observed in two more patients. FMT was well tolerated. An activated T-cell signature in blood was associated with improved outcomes, while a

Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer: first published as 10.1136/jitc-2026-015122 on 20 July 2026. Downloaded from http://jitc.bmj.com/ on July 20, 2026 at Universitetsbiblioteket i Bergen. Protected by copyright, including for uses related to text and data mining, AI training, and similar technologies.

A new publication from Jon Amund Kyte and colleagues report findings from the MITRIC-trial.

MITRIC was a single-arm, phase IIa basket trial at Oslo University Hospital. The trial included twelve patients with metastatic disease that had progressed on checkpoint inhibitors. The patients received repeated faecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) combined with immunotherapy. The donors were cancer patients with long-lasting responses to checkpoint inhibitors. The hypothesis was that modulating the gut microbiota could overcome resistance to immunotherapy.

The trial showed that FMT combined with checkpoint inhibitors was safe and feasible, but with limited clinical activity.

The paper "*Safety and efficacy of fecal microbiota transplantation in solid cancers resistant to immune checkpoint inhibitors: results of the MITRIC trial*" was published in Journal for Immunotherapy of Cancer.

Learn more >

MATRIX ATTENDED ESMO 2026 IN MADRID



MATRIX was well represented at this years ESMO congress held in Madrid on 23.-27. October.

MATRIX-affiliated researchers presented results in both oral and poster-sessions. We also presented the MATRIX structure and achievements in the centre to date on a poster.

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

Learn more >

MYPATH IMPLEMENTED AT ÅLESUND HOSPITAL



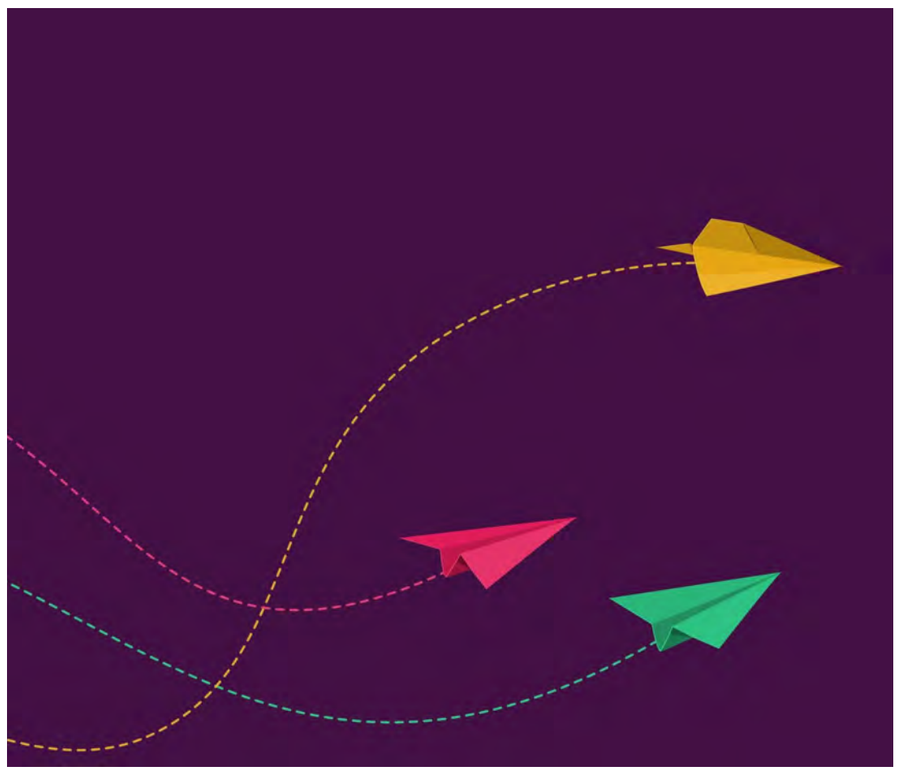
The MyPath-MATRIX digital solution is now live at Ålesund hospital.

MyPath-MATRIX is a digital solution offering tailored care pathways and real-time communication about symptoms and preferences. The solution has previously been implemented at Oslo University Hospital and Sykehuset Telemark.

The first patient was included in Ålesund in September.

Learn more >

SUPPORT FOR RESEARCHER INITIATED TRIALS



It is still possible to apply for support from MATRIX to researcher-initiated trials involving MATRIX partners.

Principle investigators affiliated with MATRIX partner institutions can register their trials in an online form (see link below) in order to request support.

Registration form >