

Minutes SSG Working Group Meeting (WGM) - Visceral & retroperitoneal group, February 3, 2026, at Slagthuset, Malmö, Sweden.

Christoffer Vannas from Gothenburg has in his theses explored strategies to therapeutically target fusion oncogene–dependent signaling and demonstrated that epigenetic modulation can induce adipogenic differentiation programs in MLS models. His work showed that pharmacological perturbation of oncogenic transcriptional networks promotes lipid accumulation and phenotypic maturation of tumour cells, supporting the concept that MLS cells retain lineage plasticity and can be redirected toward an adipocyte-like state.

Building on this framework, he presented subsequent studies indicate that combined BRD4 and histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibition shows activity in MLS models by suppressing fusion oncogenic signaling and inducing brown adipose tissue programming, suggesting that epigenetic reprogramming of tumour identity represents a promising therapeutic strategy.

Kjetil Boye from Oslo presented their study on genomic tumor complexity as a prognostic biomarker in patients with localized high-risk gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST) treated with surgery. Tumors with simple karyotypes (≤ 5 chromosomal aberrations) had markedly better recurrence-free survival than those with complex genomes, independent of established risk factors. High-risk patients with genomically simple tumors showed low recurrence rates, suggesting that many may not benefit from prolonged adjuvant imatinib therapy. The findings indicate that genomic complexity could improve risk stratification and support treatment de-escalation in selected patients.

Furthermore, Karolina Stray Andreassen, medical oncologist from Oslo, presented a family with a germline *KIT* exon 13 mutation (p.K642E) associated with gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST). All five affected family members developed multiple primary GISTs, but only one exhibited metastatic disease. She proposed a surveillance strategy based on CT imaging with defined examination intervals. Given the apparently indolent nature of the tumor disease, she also suggested that surgery should initially be deferred.

Following the coffee break, Stefan Lindskog from Gothenburg presented a proposal for an adjuvant study in dedifferentiated liposarcoma.

The meeting concluded with a discussion regarding the future of the session. It was noted that the representation between surgeons and oncologists is markedly unbalanced, and the board will be asked to propose, ahead of the next meeting, whether the visceral session should be incorporated into the oncologists' session on Monday.

Each presentation was followed by lively and engaging discussions, with active participation from the audience, contributing to a highly rewarding meeting.

Written by Stefan Lindskog, chair of the SSG visceral- and retroperitoneal group