

Breakout session 2: Success factors for Nordic collaborations

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Chairman:

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Introduction notes from:

- Jan-Erik Litton, Institution for Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet
- Steinar Aamdal, Department of Clinical Cancer Research, Oslo University Hospital

Key messages

Jan-Erik Litton:

- MBBRI, 2009, Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure, 280 organizations in more than 30 European countries
- Working for expert centers in each country as a basis for transnational collaboration

Key messages

- The Nordic partners have decided to strengthen their collaboration to make better use of the sample collections at a Nordic-Baltic level
- The tasks include mapping, coordination and structuring of national biobanking efforts to facilitate Nordic collaboration and participation in pan-European research activities
- Pilot project – coloncancer, data from registries, biobanks and questionnaires to determine the risk of cancer in the Nordic population

Why Nordic Collaboration?

- Share some particular strength for biobank-based research
- Well established personal identification numbers
- Well organized registers in health-care and disease outcomes
- Public opinion that is generally very positive to medical research
- Nordic Expert centre?

Key messages

Steinar Aamdal:

- Common Nordic platform for early clinical trials in cancer - Nordic net
- Phase 1 and early 2 trials
- Norge, DK, Finland, Sweden
- Patient access to new therapies
- Work for: inclusion and treatment across the borders
- One point of entry
- Harmonization of the approval process
- Development of a common application form
- Web-site with units and ongoing trials

Why a succes, discussion

- Infrastructure potential
- Always worked together – know each other, personal relations
- Collected information in biobanks for a long time
- Similar culture – compared with other European countries
- Humor
- Trust

Why a succes?

- Specific interest and defined interest
- Simple organization a network of doers
- Institution with established international networks

What for NTA do?

- Develop and communicate the Nordic brand, where are the Nordic countries unique
- Do political communications
- Learn politicians about clinical research
- Learn from established networks
- Support the established networks
- Pick the right pilot project

What for NTA do?

- Be able to show results
- Feedback to members of network, politicians and the public
- Build confidence in the health care system
- Communicate with patient organizations
- Consider: Web-site for networks or for patients
- Specialize? Pediatric studies