

Curriculum vitae – Lars A. Akslen (per June, 2025)

Name: Akslen, Lars Andreas
Date of birth: 31.12.1957
Sex: Male
Nationality: Norwegian

Researcher unique identifier(s)

ORCID ID 0000-0003-2710-9543; ResearcherID: C-1202-2017; Web of Science Researcher ID: AAG-6097-2021; URL for personal website: <http://www.uib.no/en/ccbio/73499/cancer-biomarkers>

Education

1993 Ph.D. (dr. med.) University of Bergen, Norway
1982 MD University of Bergen, Norway

Positions

2025 – p.t. Adjunct Professor of Pathology, Karolinska Institutet
2013 - 2024 Director, Centre for Cancer Biomarkers CCBIO, Norwegian Centre of Excellence (CoE), University of Bergen (center continued as CCBIO 2.0 from 2024)
1993 - p.t. Professor of Pathology, University of Bergen (100%)
1988 - p.t. Senior Consultant, Surgical Pathology, Haukeland University Hospital (20% position)
1988 - 1993 Assistant/Associate Professor of Pathology, University of Bergen

Project management experience

2013 - 2024 Director, Centre for Cancer Biomarkers CCBIO, Norwegian Centre of Excellence
1988 - 2010 Coordinator, Academic Pathology Development Project (Tanzania, Uganda)
1988 - p.t. Multiple project grants as project leader from Norwegian Cancer Society, Research Council of Norway (RCN), including NFR Miljøstøtte (RCN), FRIPRO, INTPART, and Helse Vest RHF (Regional Health Trust Research Funding)

Supervision of students

39 PhD students (completed; 29 females, 10 males), 5 ongoing; 2 master students (completed); 10 postdocs (completed), 4 ongoing (postdocs/researchers); 8 have become full professors (6 females, 2 males)

Scientific meetings

2024 2nd CCBIO - VBP Research Meeting (INTPART) (Harvard collaboration)
International network meeting, Organizer (Bergen)
2013-2024 The CCBIO Annual Symposium. Annual international research meeting (around 200-250 participants). Founder, Organizer and Chair (Bergen) (organized 11 times)
2023 100th Anniversary Symposium, The Norwegian Society of Pathology: Updates and Future of Pathology (280 participants) (organizer and chair)
2022 6th Nordic Pathology Symposium (ScanPath), Organizer and Chair (Bergen)
2019 4th Nordic Pathology Symposium (ScanPath), Organizer and Chair (Bergen)
2019 1st CCBIO - VBP Research Meeting (INTPART) (Harvard collaboration)
International network meeting, Organizer (Reykjavik, Iceland)
2017 2nd Nordic Pathology Symposium (ScanPath), Organizer and Chair (Bergen)
2016 1st Nordic Pathology Symposium (ScanPath); Symposium on Translational Pathology
Founder, Organizer and Chair (Bergen)

Commissions of trust

2010 - 2018 Board member, The Norwegian Cancer Society
2008 - 2012 President, The Norwegian Society of Pathology
2004 - 2007 Vice President, The Norwegian Society of Pathology
2004 - p.t. Member of the Board, The Broegelman Legacy
2000 - 2013 APMIS Editorial Board (National Editor and Review Editor Pathology)

1994 - p.t. Faculty opponent on 30 theses (national and international)

Track record

Publications: June 2025: **391 publications** in peer reviewed journals (or in press) (PubMed: 390).

Citations: > 40.900; H-score=81 (Web of Science, Clarivate).

PubMed publications: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=akslen+I&sort=date>

Selected publications (n=20)

1. Perou CM, Sørlie T, Eisen MB, van de Rijn M, Jeffrey SS, Pollack JR, Rees CA, Ross DT, Johnsen H, **Akslen LA**, Haugen DRF, Pergamenschikov A, Williams C, Zhu SX, Lønning PE, Børresen-Dale AL, Brown PO, Botstein D. Molecular portraits of human breast tumours. *Nature* 2000; 406:747-752.
2. Foulkes WD, Stefansson IM, Chappuis PO, Bégin LR, Goffin JR, Trudel M, **Akslen LA**. Germline BRCA1 mutations and a basal epithelial phenotype in breast cancer. *JNCI* 2003;95:1482-5.
3. Bachmann IM, Halvorsen OJ, Collett K, Stefansson IM, Straume O, Haukaas SA, Salvesen HB, Otte AP, **Akslen LA**. EZH2 expression is associated with high proliferation rate and aggressive tumor subgroups in cutaneous melanoma and cancers of the endometrium, prostate and breast. *J Clin Oncol* 2006;24(2):268-73.
4. Stefansson IM, Salvesen H, **Akslen LA**. Prognostic impact of alterations in P-cadherin expression and related cell adhesion markers in endometrial cancer. *J Clin Oncol* 2004; 22(7):1242-52.
5. Collett K, Eide GE, Arnes J, Stefansson IM, Eide J, Braaten A, Aas T, Otte AP, **Akslen LA**. Expression of enhancer of zeste homologue 2 is significantly associated with increased tumor cell proliferation and is a marker of aggressive breast cancer. *Clin Cancer Res* 2006 Feb 15;12(4):1168-74.
6. Stefansson IM, Salvesen HB, **Akslen LA**. Vascular proliferation is important for clinical progress of endometrial cancer. *Cancer Res* 2006; 66(6):3303-9.
7. Gravdal K, Halvorsen OJ, Haukaas SA, **Akslen LA**. A switch to N-cadherin expression is of strong prognostic importance in prostate cancer. *Clinical Cancer Res* 2007;13(23):7003-11.
8. Gravdal K, Halvorsen OJ, Haukaas S, **Akslen LA**. Proliferation of immature tumor vessels is a novel marker of clinical progression in prostate cancer. *Cancer Res* 2009 69: 4708-4715.
9. Salvesen, HB, Carter SL, Mannelqvist M, Getz G, Stefansson IM, Engelsen IB, Dutt A, Trovik J, Greulich H, Bø TH, Jonassen I, Thomas R, Garraway LA, Øyan AM, Sellers WR, Kalland KH, Meyerson M, **Akslen LA**, Beroukhi R. Integrated genomic profiling of endometrial carcinoma associates aggressive tumors with indicators of PI3 kinase activation. *PNAS* 2009; 106(12):4834-9. (shared last author).
10. Kang SY, Halvorsen OJ, Gravdal K, Bhattacharya N, Lee JM, Liu NW, Johnston BT, Johnston AB, Haukaas SA, Aamodt K, Yoo S, **Akslen LA**, Watnick RS. Prosaposin inhibits tumor metastasis via paracrine and endocrine stimulation of stromal p53 and Tsp-1. *PNAS* 2009;106(29):12115-20.
11. Straume O, Shimamura T, Lampa MJG, Carretero J, Oyan AM, Borgman CL, Downing SR, Short S, Kang S-Y, Watnick R, Chen L, Collett K, Bachmann IM, Wong K-K, Shapiro GI, Kalland KH, Folkman J, **Akslen LA**, Naumov GN. Suppression of Heat Shock Protein 27 induces long-term dormancy in human breast cancer. *PNAS* 2012;109(22):8699-704. (shared last author).
12. Catena R, Bhattacharya N, El Rayes T, Wang S, Choi H, Gao D, Ryu S, Joshi N, Bielenberg D, Lee SB, Haukaas SA, Gravdal K, Halvorsen OJ, **Akslen LA**, Watnick RS, Mittal V. Bone marrow-derived Gr1+ cells can generate a metastasis-resistant microenvironment via induced secretion of thrombospondin-1. *Cancer Discov.* 2013;3(5):578-89.
13. Hugdahl E, Kalvenes MB, Puntervoll HE, Ladstein RG, **Akslen LA**. BRAF-V600E expression in primary nodular melanoma is associated with aggressive tumor features and reduced survival. *Br J Cancer* 2016 Mar 29;114(7):801-8.
14. Wang S, Blois A, El Rayes T, Liu JF, Hirsch MS, Gravdal K, **Akslen LA**, Drapkin R, Mittal V, Watnick RS. Development of a cyclic therapeutic peptide that targets ovarian cancer via the microenvironment. *Science Transl Med* 2016 Mar 9;8(329):329ra34.
15. Hofvind S, Holen Å, Aase HS, Houssami N, Sebuødegård S, Moger TA, Haldorsen IS, **Akslen LA**.

Two-view digital breast tomosynthesis versus digital mammography in a population-based breast cancer screening programme (To-Be): a randomised, controlled trial. *Lancet Oncol* 2019 Jun; 20(6):795-805.

16. Krüger K, Silwal-Pandit L, Wik E, Straume O, Stefansson IM, Borgen E, Garred Ø, Naume B, Engebraaten O, **Akslen LA**. Baseline microvessel density predicts response to neoadjuvant bevacizumab treatment of locally advanced breast cancer. *Sci Rep*. 2021 Feb 9;11(1):3388.

17. Sui L, Wang S, Ganguly D, El Rayes TP, Askeland C, Børretzen A, Sim D, Halvorsen OJ, Knutsvik G, Arnes J, Aziz S, Haukaas S, Foulkes WD, Bielenberg DR, Ziemys A, Mittal V, Brekken RA, **Akslen LA**, Watnick RS. PRSS2 remodels the tumor microenvironment via repression of Tsp1 to stimulate tumor growth and progression. *Nat Commun* 2022;13:7959.

18. Lien HE, Berg HF, Halle MK, Trovik J, Haldorsen IS, **Akslen LA**, Krakstad C. Single cell analysis of tumor heterogeneity in low-stage endometrial cancers reveals low epithelial vimentin expression associates with recurrent disease. *eBioMedicine* 2023;92: 104595.

19. Kjølle S, Finne K, Birkeland E, Ardawatia V, Winge I, Aziz S, Knutsvik G, Wik E, Paulo JA, Vethe H, Kleftogiannis D, **Akslen LA**. Hypoxia induced responses are reflected in the stromal proteome of breast cancer. *Nat Commun* 2023 Jun 22;14(1):3724.

20. Bjørnstad OV, Carrasco M, Finne K, Ardawatia V, Winge I, Askeland C, Arnes JB, Knutsvik G, Kleftogiannis D, Paulo JA, **Akslen LA**, Vethe H. Global and single-cell proteomics view of the co-evolution between neural progenitors and breast cancer cells in a co-culture model. *eBioMedicine* 2024; 108:105325.

Research monographs

Akslen LA, Jacobsen GK, Vainio O (eds.). Angiogenesis. (Special Issue). *APMIS* 2004;112(7-8):399-549
Akslen LA, Naumov GN, Folkman J (eds.). Tumor Dormancy (Special Issue). *APMIS* 2008;116(7-8):541-770

Lars A. Akslen & Randolph S. Watnick (Eds.) Biomarkers of the Tumor Microenvironment. Springer 2017 (534 pages)

Lars A. Akslen & Randolph S. Watnick (Eds.) Biomarkers of the Tumor Microenvironment. Springer 2022 (textbook format, 593 pages; second edition)

Lars A. Akslen & Randolph S. Watnick (Eds.) Biomarkers of the Tumor Microenvironment. Springer 2026 (3rd edition, textbook approved, work initiated 2025)

Mobility

2004 - 2005 Visiting Professor, Harvard Medical School, Children's Hospital, Boston, USA (invited by Prof. Judah Folkman); multiple shorter follow-up visits (collaboration)
1998 - 1999 Visiting Professor, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Philadelphia, USA (invited by Prof. Virginia A. LiVolsi)

Fellowships and awards

2023 Helse Vest Research Award (second time) (Bergen)
2023 Elected Member, Academia Europaea
2018 Honorary Member, The Norwegian Society of Pathology (Oslo)
2017 Thon Award for Student Based Research (Oslo)
2013 Elected Member, Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (Oslo)
2011 Honorary Diploma, Hordaland Innovation Award (Bergen)
2011 Helse Vest Innovation Award (Bergen)
2009 Appointment as Associate Investigator, NCMM Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (Nordic EMBL Partnership) (Oslo)
2009 King Olav V's Cancer Research Award (Oslo)
2008 Helse Vest Research Award (Bergen)
2004 The Unger Vetlesen Medical Fellowship Award (Oslo)
2002 Best Research Group, Faculty of Medicine, University of Bergen (Bergen)