

Report on the visit of Dr Oksana Kovtonyuk in the  
Department of Medicine, Center for Molecular Medicine,  
Karolinska Institutet, Sweden within  
7PR21/BASTION/WP1 (Twinning)



foto 1. Dr. Oksana Kovtonyuk at the entrance to the Centre for Molecular Medicine, Karolinska Institutet.

From November 2nd till December 22nd 2013 I visited the Department of Medicine at Center for Molecular Medicine (CMM), Karolinska Institutet (Stockholm, Sweden). This visit was coordinated under the twinning agreement between the Medical University of Warsaw and the Karolinska Institutet in WP1 (Task 1.1). During my stay in Stockholm, I conducted research projects in the field of experimental oncology together with a research team led by Professor Cecilia Söderberg-Nauclér.

Professor Cecilia Söderberg-Nauclér is the head of the Cell and Immunology Group at CMM. She is one of the best known experts in the field of microbial pathogenesis. Her publication track include papers in *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journal of Immunology*, *Oncoimmunology*, *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, *Blood*, *International Journal of Cancer* and other top scientific journals. Research group of Professor Söderberg-Nauclér focuses on understanding cytomegalovirus (CMV) pathogenesis and DNA damage response pathways in inflammation and cancer with a future goal to improve patient diagnosis, prevention and treatment of inflammatory diseases and

cancer. Collaboration between researchers from the CMM and our team in Warsaw initiated prior to my visit in Karolinska Institutet by Dr. P. Religa, who is my group leader. As a part of our collaboration, we have planned and started *in vivo* experiments on the study of anti-viral treatment of CMV-infected tumors (colon cancer, brain tumors).

The main goal of my stay in Stockholm was to get acquainted with the research projects conducted by Professor Cecilia Söderberg-Nauclér's team, get familiar with their laboratory techniques and to perform immunohistochemical staining of tissue samples from Poland with their further analysis. I had a possibility to learn and perform various laboratory techniques such as microtome sectioning, tissue fixation, immunohistochemical staining of different tissues, preparation of samples for cell analysis and cell sorting by flow cytometry. Moreover, I had a chance to get familiar with optimized immunohistochemistry protocols which can be used to identify viral proteins in tumors.

During my stay at Karolinska Institutet I had a unique possibility to participate in scientific meetings with many teams working in the Department of Medicine as well as with invited speakers from abroad. My visit was a great time to discuss obtained results and to plan ahead for the future projects and collaboration.

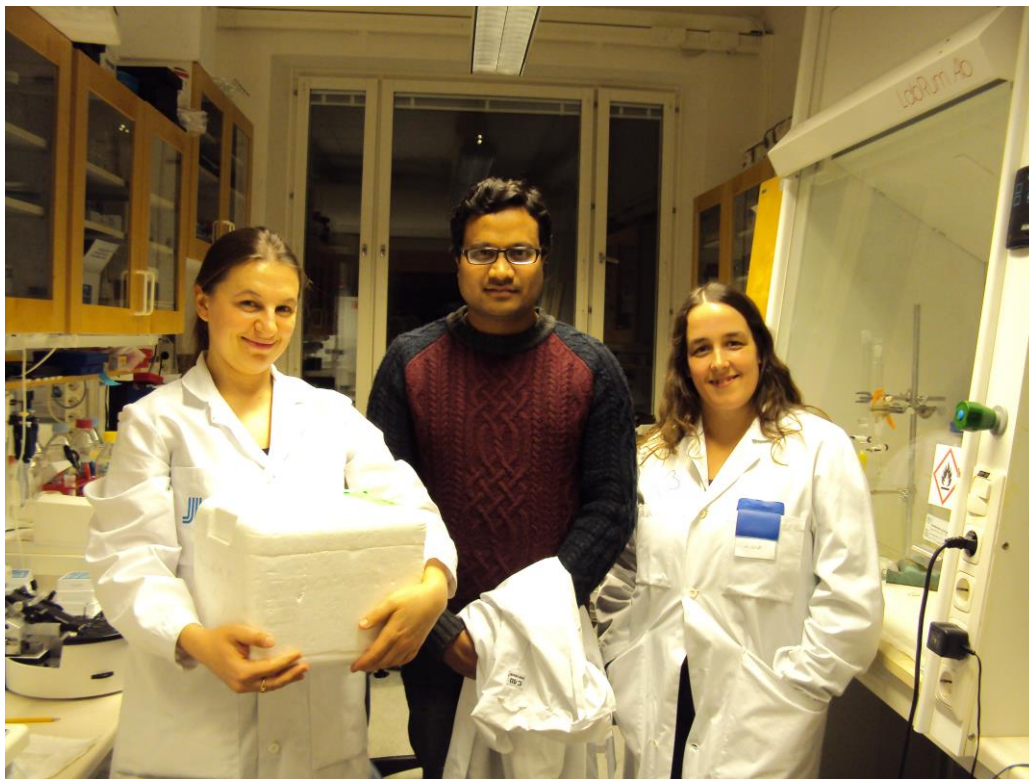


foto 2. Dr Kovtonyuk with members of the Cell and Immunology Group (Dr Abdul-Aleem Mohammad and Dr Helena Costa) in the laboratory at CMM.