



Skåne University Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Centre

Annual report

2022



Introduction

One year as a Comprehensive Cancer Centre

I am very proud to write this short introduction. Proud of the superb and broad work done at our Comprehensive Cancer Centre (CCC). I hope all of you who make this possible share my pride. All our staff and all managers, everyone working with clinical activities, research and development and the funding agreement targets. A year has already passed since we received our accreditation. This annual report is clear evidence of all the work that has been done throughout the year. That said, it also demonstrates the huge potential for further improvement of what we do, and of course that development never stops. We are not even close to reaching our targets in key areas, such as lead times. However, our CCC organisation has given us new opportunities to jointly develop cancer care. Our organisations have forged closer bonds and now have natural spaces for cooperation, thereby ensuring that our successful development continues. We are also benefiting greatly from the increased clarity provided by the organisation and the strategic plan.

When we received our accreditation, we made it clear that this was just one step in a development process that is always ongoing. The past year has further highlighted this fact. Our journey is continuing. In the next few years, we will also be relocating to the new healthcare buildings in Malmö and introducing Skåne's digital healthcare system, SDV. These years will be exciting and intense.

I would like to conclude by thanking you all for your outstanding efforts, and I would like to take the opportunity to highlight once again one of the aspects noted in the evaluation during our accreditation: the immense talent of our staff. It is particularly pleasing when others recognise their abilities too.



Björn Ekmehag

Chairman of Skåne University Hospital
Comprehensive Cancer Centre steering committee

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Skåne University Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Centre

Skåne University Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Centre (SUHCCC) is a partnership between Skåne University Hospital, Lund University, Regional Cancer Centre South, the Office for Medical Services and Mobile Teams and Specialised Palliative Care at Primary Care Skåne.

In May 2022, SUHCCC received accreditation as a Comprehensive Cancer Centre through the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI). OECI is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes equal access and enhanced quality of cancer care by promoting international partnerships and implementing research and multidisciplinary care. This accreditation means that SUHCCC meets the OECI's quality requirements in respect of cancer care, research and training.

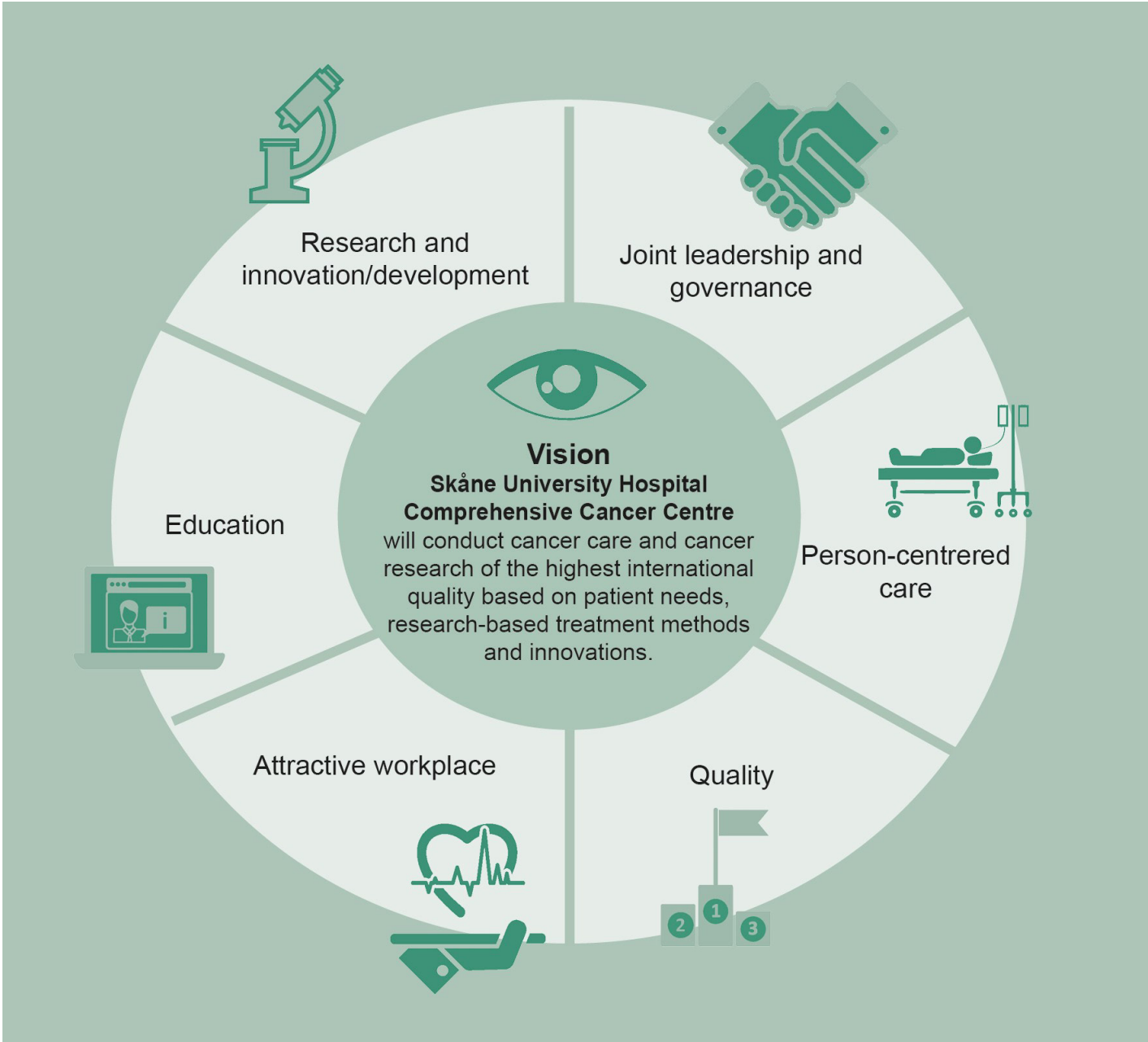
Our mission

Skåne University Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Centre (SUHCCC) works to promote clinical research, faster access to new treatment methods for patients with cancer, greater patient participation and even higher quality of cancer care through more structured partnership. Patients receiving treatment at SUHCCC must be offered the best possible cancer care and research in accordance with the European Code of Cancer Practice (ECCP).

The ECCP states that patients have a right to:

- Equal access to care
- Information about their disease and treatment
- Quality and safety of care
- Specialised multidisciplinary care.
- Participation in decision-making about all aspects of treatment and care
- Information and opportunities to take part in ongoing research and innovation
- Be given the opportunity to achieve the best possible quality of life
- Optimal supportive and palliative care during any part of their cancer journey
- An individual care plan that is clear and addresses rehabilitation and survival
- Reintegration into society so that patients can return to a normal life as far as possible

Source: www.europecancer.com/code



SUHCCC's research progress during the year

In 2022, our cancer researchers were awarded SEK 127.85 million by the Swedish Cancer Society and SEK 31.1 million by the Swedish Childhood Cancer Fund for their projects. We would also like to shine a spotlight on a number of individual researchers who received personal awards during the year.



Göran Jönsson, Professor of Molecular Oncology at Lund University, received this year's Göran Gustafsson Prize in Medicine with the following citation: "For his pioneering work in describing the genetic and molecular landscape and the importance of tertiary lymphoid structures in melanoma". This prize is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences to five young researchers in mathematics, physics, chemistry, molecular biology and medicine who have achieved enormous success in their field.

Göran Jönsson and his research team have published a study in Nature journal in which they were able to demonstrate that specific clusters of B cells in melanoma tumours, known as tertiary lymphoid structures, are linked with prognosis and how patients respond to treatment. This discovery may explain why immunotherapy works better for some patients with malignant melanoma than for others.



Emma Niméus, breast cancer surgeon at Skåne University Hospital and cancer researcher at Lund University, has received the Junior Clinical Investigator Award from the Swedish Cancer Society. This award will allow her to continue leading her research team for six years in their efforts to identify better treatment methods for women suffering from local recurrence of breast cancer.



Pamela Buchwald, Associate Professor at Lund University and senior physician at Skåne University Hospital, was awarded the Swedish Surgical Association's major research prize 2022 for clinically significant research in colorectal cancer with the following citation: "She is already an independent researcher, and as a senior author has published a large number of scientific works of significance in reputable surgical journals concerning clinical management of colorectal diseases".

Chip-AML22: Skåne University Hospital coordinates EU project

The goal of the Chip-AML22 project is to ensure that all children in Europe suffering from acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) have access to equal treatment. This project is being coordinated by Skåne University Hospital and is funded by the EU4Health programme. AML is a serious form of blood cancer requiring intensive chemotherapy and, in some cases, stem cell transplantation. The prognosis is good in most cases, and some 80 per cent of children affected survive. Treatment for these children varies around the world, and the ongoing research project will be studying the effects of different treatment methods as part of an initiative to promote equal cancer care. The project brings together 14 countries, mostly in Europe, in a treatment study that will examine factors such as how children respond to different types of treatment. Kees-Jan Pronk, senior physician in paediatric oncology at Skåne University Hospital and Associate Professor at Lund University, and Elise Witthoff, project coordinator at Skåne University Hospital and Lund University, are coordinating the EU project in close partnership with Professor Gertjan Kasper at the Princess Máxima Centre for paediatric oncology in the Netherlands, who is the lead author for the treatment protocol.



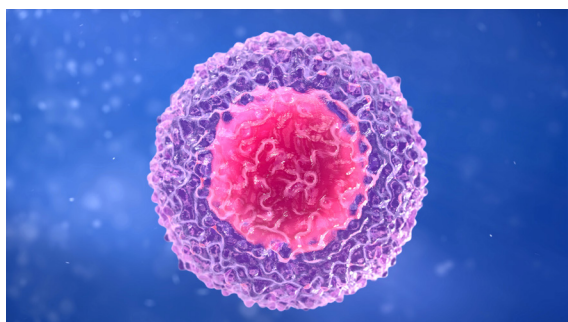
Kees-Jan Pronk and Elise Witthof

New steps in advanced cancer cell therapy

Three years ago, Skåne University Hospital became the first hospital in the Nordic region to start treating lymphoma patients with CAR T-cell therapy in clinical routine. CAR T-cell therapy is a form of treatment that essentially involves taking what are known as T-cells from the patient and sending them to a laboratory, where these cells are reprogrammed, turning them into aggressive cells that attack a specific protein on the surface of the cancer cells when introduced back into the body. This is an advanced therapy that is used when traditional cancer treatments are ineffective, and can offer the possibility of a cure in this situation. More than 25 patients have undergone the treatment to date, with positive results, and the treatment is now available at another four hospitals in Sweden: in Stockholm, Gothenburg, Uppsala and Linköping. Up to now, CAR T-cell therapy has been most successful in patients with cancers such as lymphoma, acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and myeloma.

Synchrony: new radiotherapy technology that follows tumour movement in real time

Skåne University Hospital is one of the first hospitals in the Nordic region to use a new radiotherapy technology known as Synchrony, which means that the beam follows the movement of the cancerous tumour during treatment. This technology, which is currently being used on prostate cancer patients, leads to more precise radiotherapy delivery, making it safer and gentler on patients. The new technology makes it possible to take X-ray images during radiation therapy, calculate the position of the tumour and adjust the radiation field to the new position without interrupting the radiation therapy. The patient's respiration can also be monitored to further provide a real-time model of how the tumour is moving. This allows certain types of tumours that move during treatment to be irradiated with greater precision than was previously possible, thereby avoiding exposing surrounding tissue to radiation unnecessarily during treatment.



CAR-T cell

Organisation

The organisation is based on the existing structure of all partners, and all activities are represented in a steering committee and in the cancer process owner group. The steering committee makes long-term and strategic decisions for the cancer centre, while the process owner group is responsible for operational efforts and deals with cancer-related issues.

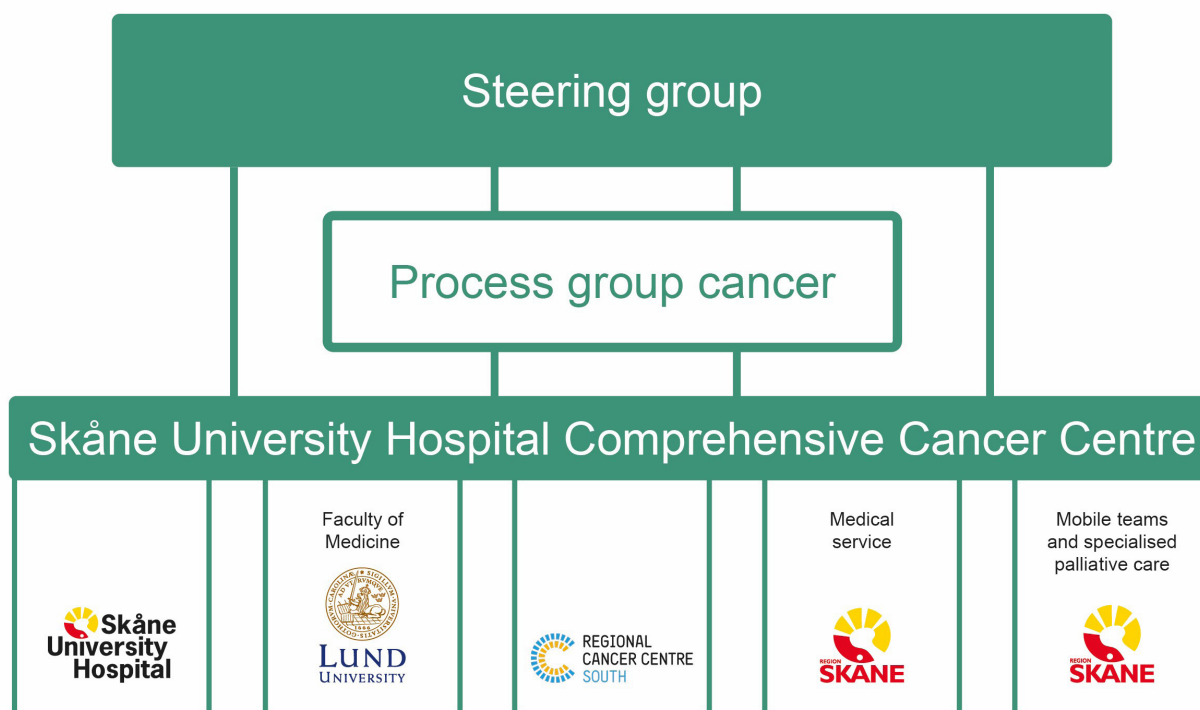
Steering committee

The steering committee meets once a month and is made up of representatives of all parties involved. Its work over the past year has focused on development within SUHCCC, with emphasis on internal organisational issues, patient participation and national and international partnerships. The following functions and individuals are part of the steering committee:

- **Björn Ekmehag**, Chairman of the steering committee, SUH, Region Skåne
- **Malin Axelsson**, Head of Nursing, SUH, Region Skåne
- **Gunilla Bodelsson**, Office for Medical Services, Region Skåne
- **Silke Engelholm**, medicine officer, SUH, Region Skåne
- **Sven Karlsson**, patient safety officer, SUH, Region Skåne
- **Nick Lamb**, patient representative
- **Maria Rejmyr Davies**, quality officer, RCC South.
- **Lisa Ryden**, research and development officer, LU and SUH, Region Skåne
- **Ingrid Vesterberg**, Palliative care and ASIH in Primary Care, Region Skåne.
- **Sophia Zackrisson**, LU
- **Malin Peterson**, coordinator, SUH, Region Skåne
- **Karin Svedberg**, coordinator, SUH, Region Skåne

Cancer process owner group

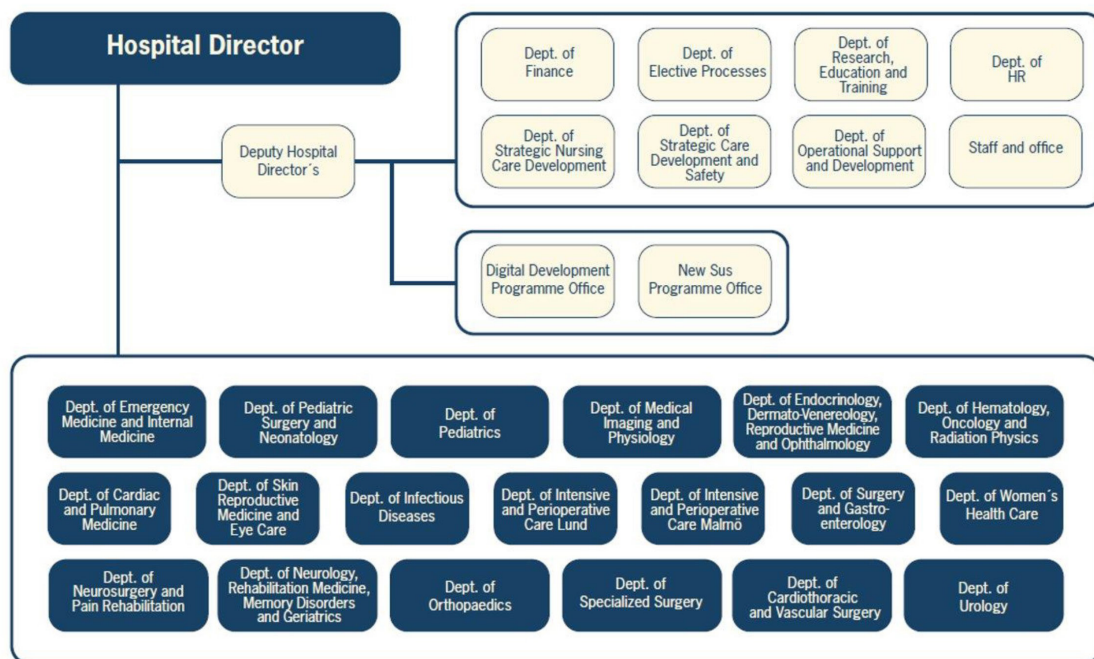
The cancer process owner group meets once a month and holds operational responsibility for the activities devised to promote the development of the cancer centre. The group's mission is to work on the basis of patients' needs to create high quality cancer care throughout the patient process. This includes monitoring the development of Skåne University Hospital and local work within the hospital, supporting process work across departmental boundaries and monitoring and supporting level structuring and quality work. The group supports cancer processes in matters relating to optimisation and partnership regarding matters such as patient relations, resource utilisation, flows, research, training and development, and monitoring of quality, patient safety, production and finances.



Skåne University Hospital

Skåne University Hospital (SUH) provides healthcare at regional, national and international level. Care, research and training are the hospital's three missions. SUH is the host organisation for SUHCCC, and Chief Administrative Officer Björn Ekmechag chairs the SUHCCC steering committee. Care is provided over 19 departments, and cancer care is provided in a large proportion of these.

Skåne University Hospital organization



Cancer care at SUH

SUH provides national specialised medical care (NSMC) according to decisions made by the board for specialised medical care. The following NSMC cancer care assignments at SUH are already included:

- Curative radiochemotherapy for anal cancer
- Curative surgery for rare and complex conditions of oesophageal cancer.
- Curative surgery for vulvar cancer
- Radiochemotherapy for vulvar cancer
- Skeletal and soft tissue sarcoma of the extremities and abdominal wall
- Abdominal sarcoma

In 2022, SUH was awarded five additional NSMC cancer care assignments:

- Care of abdominal neuroendocrine tumours (NET) and advanced adrenal tumours
- Advanced pelvic surgery
- Vulvar cancer
- Curative surgery for penile cancer
- HIPEC – advanced treatment of metastatic peritoneal cancer

Besides the NSMC assignments, SUH is also responsible for the following assignments in the field of regionally structured cancer care:

- Medical oncology treatment, radiotherapy and some haematological treatment
- Surgical treatment for oesophageal and cardiac cancer (national mission)
- Surgical treatment for liver and biliary tract cancer
- Cytoreductive treatment for advanced ovarian cancer
- Surgical treatment for some renal cancers
- Cystectomy for bladder cancer

Lund University

Lund University offers more than 270 first and second cycle programmes, as well as 1400 freestanding courses. The university offers third cycle studies at all nine faculties. Individuals also have the opportunity to acquire new knowledge throughout their lives by means of skills development and continuing professional development in a variety of fields.

The Lund University Cancer Centre (LUCC), which conducts frontline cancer research, conducts cancer research at Lund University. This research spans the entire chain, from preclinical research to clinical studies involving cancer patients, as well as the perspectives of patients and their families. LUCC has more than 15 strategic translational networks coordinated on the basis of diagnoses and processes. The purpose of the networks is to foster collaboration between basic and clinical research and between different specialisms.

Mobile teams and specialised palliative care, Primary Care Skåne

Mobile teams, specialised palliative care and advanced medical care in the home (ASIH) include the Palliative Development Centre (PC), whose research, development and training mission is conducted in partnership between Region Skåne and Lund University. PC is tasked with conducting research and developing care and skills in general and specialised palliative care. This is achieved by means of clinical, epidemiological and other research, implementation of research results, systematic quality management methods and training. PC includes academic expertise in palliative medicine and nursing, quality development and training coordinators and administrative resources.

Specialised palliative care is based on the notion that the patient's needs should determine access to palliative care. Equal care should be provided regardless of the patient's diagnosis or age, or where the care is being provided.

Office for Medical Services

The Office for Medical Services provides healthcare, research and training in laboratory medicine, prehospital care, imaging and laboratory technology and infection control. A number of the departments where the Office for Medical Services operates are involved in activities related to cancer care. Examples include the Department of Clinical Genetics, Pathology and Molecular Diagnostics, which is responsible for key assignments in the national Genomic Medicine Sweden (GMS) partnership, which focuses on the implementation of precision medicine in healthcare. Through GMS, we have been awarded assignments and funding by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs to develop diagnostics in the form of sequencing of cancer tumours in women and children. The Swedish Childhood Cancer Fund has provided funding to enable whole genome sequencing of all childhood tumours. The Department of Clinical Immunology and Transfusion Medicine has a key part to play in the ongoing ATMP (Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products) initiative. ATMPs are innovative and complex biological medicines based on cells, tissues or genes, offering new treatment options for various forms of cancer.

Regional Cancer Centre South

Regional Cancer Centre South (RCC South) is a knowledge-intensive organisation responsible for supporting knowledge-based development of cancer care in the Southern healthcare region through collaboration. Its mission includes providing and supporting the introduction of quality-assured knowledge support that can facilitate the planning, follow-up and development of cancer care in a variety of ways. Knowledge support is being developed as part of a national partnership involving the country's other five RCCs and with the support of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR). The mission also involves coordinating, supporting and following up government-funded cancer initiatives. RCC South's working model is based on regional patient process leaders (RPPLs) who are tasked with working towards a cohesive process focusing on the perspectives of patients and their families.



Reference council for patients and relatives

Cooperation with patients and their relatives is a crucial prerequisite in efforts to run and develop cancer care that meets patients' needs. As decided by the steering committee, the reference council for patients and relatives at SUHCCC was therefore formed in autumn 2022. The reference council's mission is to advise on cancer care from the perspectives of patients and their families so that these perspectives can be taken into account at a strategic level.

Scientific advisory board

An international scientific advisory board (SAB) was been established together with LUCC in 2022. This group is tasked with advising on the development and promotion of research opportunities within the cancer centre based on the expertise of each member, and their first physical visit to SUHCCC is scheduled to take place in October 2023.

This group consists of:

- Professor Mark Middleton, consultant Medical Oncologist at the Oxford Cancer and Haematology Centre and Head of the Department of Oncology at the University of Oxford
- Professor Lars Bullinger, Director of the Medical Department, Division of Hematology, Oncology, and Tumor Immunology, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- Professor Alex Molasiottis, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean, College Arts, Humanities and Education, Derby University
- Professor Inge-Marie Svane, Centre for Cancer Immunotherapy (CCIT), Department of Oncology and Department of Hematology, Copenhagen University Hospital, Herlev (taking office in 2024)

National and international work

SUHCCC is part of a national network made up of representatives from the three accredited Swedish Comprehensive Cancer Centres (CCCs), SUHCCC, Karolinska CCC and Sahlgrenska CCC. The purpose of this network is to share experiences and information and create a national partnership for development within the framework of the CCCs' mission. SUHCCC is also part of a Nordic CCC network with a view to reinforcing cooperation in strategic areas for the Nordic region and the rest of Europe. The first meeting of the two networks was held during the OEIC Oncology Days 2022.

SUHCCC also participates in various working groups linked with the ongoing national initiative for implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. This plan was launched by the European Commission in 2021 with the long-term ambition of providing equal cancer care all over Europe. In Sweden, this work is being coordinated by the National Board of Health and Welfare and includes everything from prevention, early detection, care and living conditions after treatment to issues relating to data sharing within Europe, accreditation of cancer centres and establishment of cooperation on rare cancer diagnoses.

Research, development and innovation

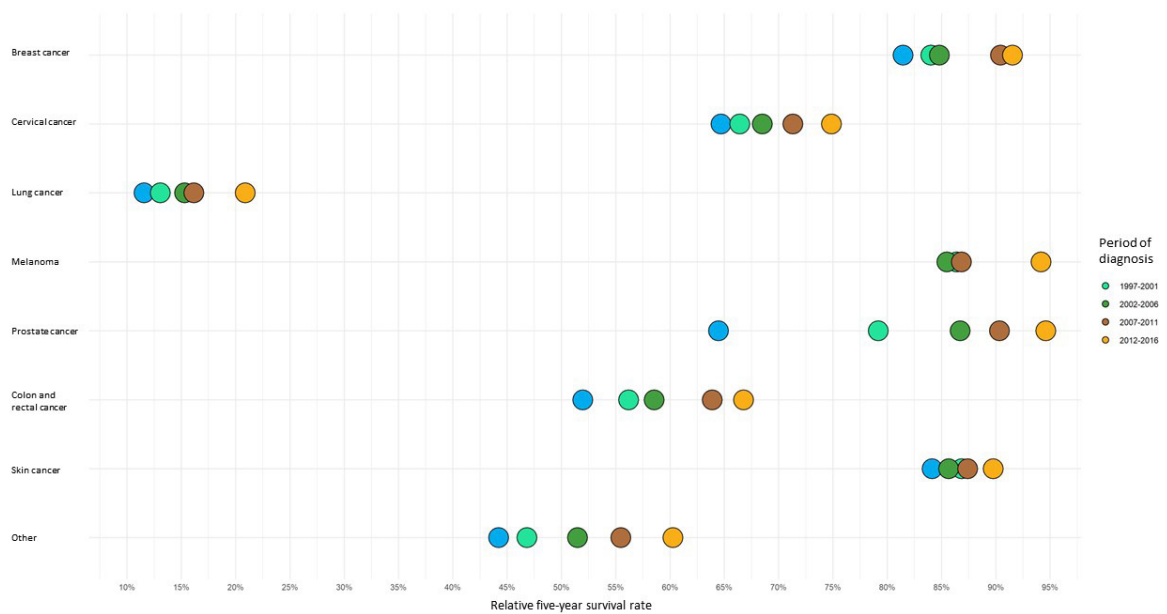
One of SUHCCC's missions is to ensure that cancer care is of high quality and continuously assessed and developed through contributions from research and innovations in diagnosis, care and treatment. The following steps have been taken during the year to improve conditions for research at SUHCCC:

- These research issues have been integrated into the strategic plan, and the Research Liaison Group has been made permanent so as to go on developing this part of the centre.
- The translational teams at the Lund University Cancer Centre (LUCC) have been developed during the year and are undergoing continuous assessment.
- Forum South has reported all clinical trials throughout the year.
- Some SUH units have been making efforts to recruit new research staff.
- A training course for research coordinators has been announced at Lund University.
- The cancer process owner group has introduced a regular item to its monthly meetings, with research questions and information on research news.
- A proposed structure has been developed for monitoring applications to national and international funding bodies.
- RCC South is working to support the initiation, maintenance and use of disease-specific collections of samples relating to cancer, and new collections of samples have been initiated during the year relating to areas such as penile cancer. The RCC South website has been updated to include information about the sampling procedure and the link to clinical data in order to make these collections of samples available to researchers.
- A scientific advisory board has been established.

Healthcare production and accessibility

Survival

We are continuing to see improvement in five-year survival rates for cancer patients in the Southern healthcare region, which includes Blekinge, Kronoberg, Skåne and southern Halland.



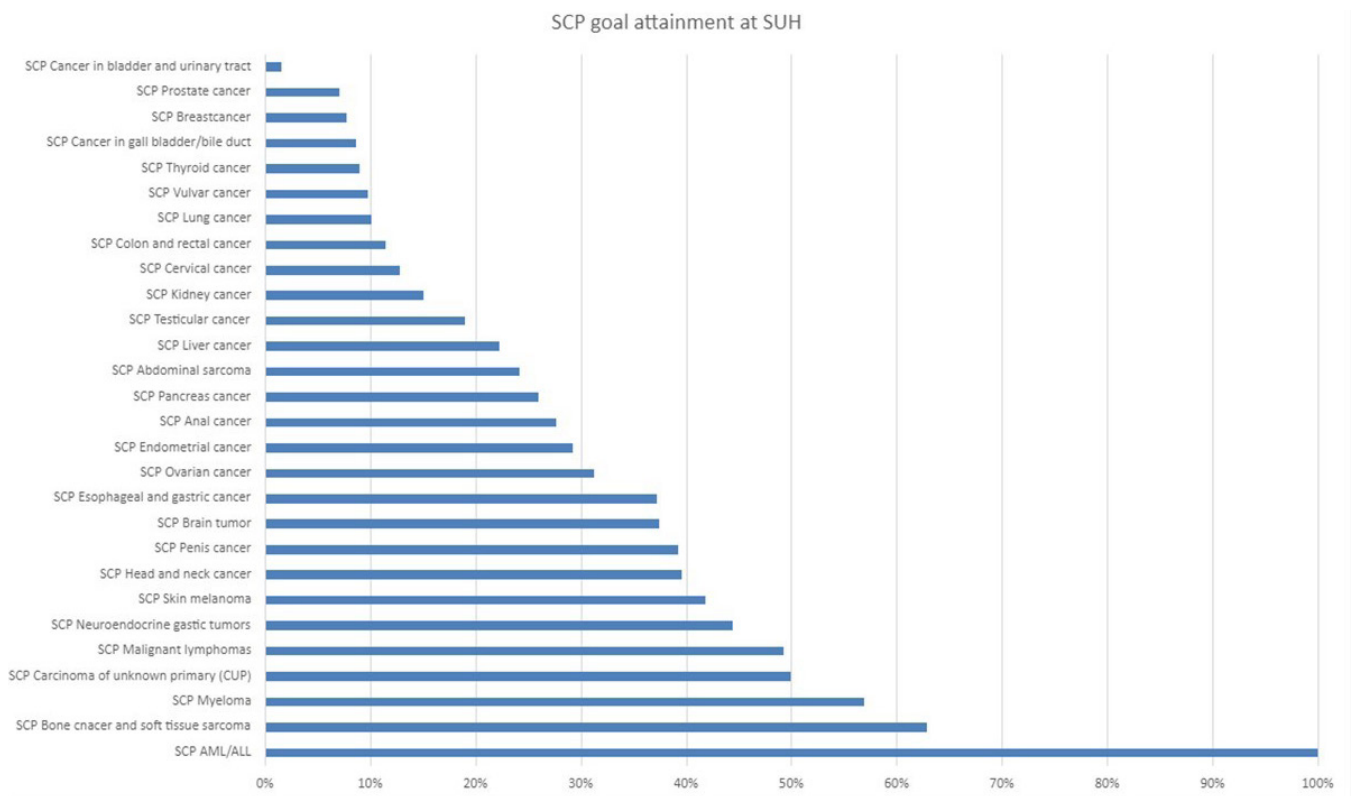
Relative five-year survival rates for patients diagnosed in the Southern healthcare region.

Standardised care pathways

Standardised care pathways (SCPs) are a national approach that aims to guarantee patients comparable and equal investigation and treatment when cancer is suspected, regardless of where they seek care. The aim of SCPs is to reduce unnecessary waiting and uncertainty for patients. SCPs begin when there is a well-founded reason to suspect cancer and ends when treatment is initiated. The diagnosis-specific national care programmes specify how patients should be assessed and the lead times required for assessment and initiation of treatment. A new care pathway, SCP myeloproliferative diseases, was implemented in September 2022. This means that 32 standardised care pathways have now been implemented at SUHCCC.

One focus area in 2022 was to achieve the national target of including at least 70 per cent of patients in SCPs. This was indeed achieved. 76 per cent of patients in Region Skåne have been included in SCPs in 2022. SCP data needs to be reliable to make it possible to plan, monitor and take action within the cancer processes so that high levels of accessibility and quality of cancer care can be achieved. As a result, SCP coordinators at SUHCCC have been regularly offered training and guidance during the year on how to perform regular quality reviews of SCP flows. Ongoing efforts on quality assurance of SCP data are planned to continue in 2023.

At least 80 per cent of patients who get started on SCPs should be assessed and commence their treatment within the timeframe specified in the national care programmes. SUH still has long waiting times for a number of care pathways. Many diagnoses of the most serious cancers require complex investigations, which include multidisciplinary conferences (MDCs), complementary radiology such as PET/MR scans and additional diagnostic steps and treatments, such as adjuvant chemotherapy after surgery, that need to be synchronised. The number of people living with a cancer diagnosis is increasing, which is leading to new treatment methods and the need for monitoring. Efforts on measures must be intensified still further within each care process, at both administrative and region-wide level.



Goal attainment of standardised care pathways.

Min vårdplan cancer

Min vårdplan (“My Care Plan”, MVP) is a tool that aims to provide personalised support and facilitate patient participation and influence throughout the care pathway. Min vårdplan is provided by RCC via the 1177 national healthcare service, and its aim is for everyone diagnosed with cancer to be offered an MVP. MVP was launched for 963 SUHCCC patients in 2022. Contact nurses at SUH provide information and launch MVP for patients. SUH has more than a hundred contact nurses, and 80 per cent of patients at SUH are assigned a contact nurse.

Ongoing development work at SUHCCC

SUHCCC has eleven working groups comprising participants from all parties involved. The respective assignments of the working groups are based on the SUHCCC improvement plan that was developed in connection with the accreditation, and the work these groups do makes a direct contribution to the fulfilment of SUHCCC's overall mission.

Governance and management

This working group's job is to propose development of the management system on the basis of SUHCCC's objectives and develop tools for managing, planning, controlling, monitoring and evaluating activities. A strategic plan has been prepared for the 2022–2027 period, and SUHCCC is planning and running its activities on the basis of this. This plan identifies six current development areas: joint management and governance, research and innovation/development, training, quality, person-centred care and attractive workplace.

Research and innovation

The group is working to improve interaction between SUHCCC member organisations and hence conditions for research so that SUHCCC can achieve the OECI objectives. The group has devised a scorecard that is in harmony with the improvement plan and is constantly working in line with it.

Pain

This group's job is to ensure that cancer centre staff receive regular training on pain management. The current training programmes will be developed and new pain training programmes will be prepared according to current needs. The group will also be developing methods to evaluate the initiatives and ensure that the training programmes enhance staff skills.

Palliative care

This group's job is to identify an optimal screening method to allow healthcare professionals to assess patients' palliative care needs. They will also be creating a structured approach and developing tools as needed to facilitate patient referral, assessment and screening.

Training for patients and their families

This working group's job is to review training needs among patients and their relatives, as well as looking at what forms of training are currently available and what ongoing training programmes are available at SUHCCC. Based on the results, this group is aiming to develop a basic structure for training programmes, as well as policies and guidelines.

Nurses' responsibility for nursing areas and internal communication

This working group is working to develop a structure for how units should organise nurses' tasks and responsibilities for various nursing areas, such as nutrition and pain. The working group will also be developing a structure for communication between nurses and staff working in palliative care and rehabilitation, as well as relevant managers.

Cancer drugs

This working group is responsible for reviewing the validation process in current and future systems for the prescription, preparation and administration of cancer drugs. This includes overseeing the planning and implementation of Skåne's digital healthcare system (SDV), so that SDV is implemented with validated processes from prescription to administration, thereby increasing patient safety and optimising the pharmaceutical process.

Multidisciplinary conferences

This group's mission is to create a common structure for multidisciplinary conferences (MDCs). The structure should include a requirement for an active position in respect of inclusion in a clinical study. Continuous quality work is also ongoing within the various diagnostic teams to ensure that patients are aware of developments taking place in cancer care and treatment. This work is evaluated annually within the team, and feedback is provided to the cancer process owner group.

Survivorship Care Plan

This group's job is to prepare common guidelines on how to provide patients with what they need for the best possible quality of life during and after cancer treatment through an individualised plan known as a Survivorship Care Plan. This group is working on the basis of the ongoing introduction of "Min vårdplan" via 1177 and a definition of the concept of a Survivorship Care Plan.

Patient information

This group's job is to develop a general guideline on how patients should be informed about diagnosis, treatment and planned follow-up by the medical doctor in charge.

Information and communication technology

This working group reviews which of the current IT systems will be included in the future SDV and is working to enable synchronisation of the various systems.



*Find out more about
what is happening at
SUHCCC*

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sakkunniggrupper/cancer-centre/](http://vardgivare.skane.se/kompetens-utveckling/sakkunniggrupper/cancer-centre/)