

To Alltid Litt Sterkere,

My heartfelt thanks for the continued support from Alltid Litt Sterkere. I often reflect what a privilege it was to meet Pål, and thinking of all people affected by ALS gives me the motivation to continue working towards making a difference in their lives.

Do you have a potential date for an open day in the Spring? I am starting to fill up my calendar and would wish to prioritise coming up for the meeting.

Our current focus is to further test our 2 therapeutic principles - using DNA origami constructs to target dysfunctional microglia, and using adoptive transfer of Amniotic Epithelial Cells (AECs) to inhibit the neurodegenerative process.

For the DNA origami we are developing a battery of different constructs targeting different molecules. These will first be tested in in vitro microglia cell stimulation assays, and then in our ALS mouse models.

For the AECs we are already testing them in the ALS mouse models (these are not fast) and we are starting to plan for a clinical trial in Cluj, Romania in ALS patients. We have a collaboration at the university there and their ALS patients currently receive no treatment at all. The few Swedish patients are all booked up with trials that Caroline Ingre is involved in.

We have a new study completed that we are submitting to Nature Cell Biology that describes a very interesting vulnerability of motor neurons in the dorsal horn of the spinal cord that increases with age. We will focus on analysis of ALS mice in this region to see if something similar happens there.

Finally, we are setting up a new mouse model of an animal (actually a gerbil) that has remarkable self-healing properties. We will study the myeloid cells of these animals and see what makes them so extremely competent at healing. If we can harness that mechanism, then we can apply it to ALS mice.

So next year will be a critical year when we get the results.

Hope all is well with you all, and my best wishes to everyone for the holiday season.

Bob

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