

Cover legend: **Annette K. Larsen;** a member of The Editorial Academy of  
The International Journal of Oncology



Dr Annette K. Larsen began her career at the Royal Danish Veterinary University in Copenhagen. She then attended the University of California, Davis as a Fulbright Scholar followed by graduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the laboratory of Dr Robert Langer. After obtaining a PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology at MIT, she did her first post-doctoral training at Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston in the laboratory of Dr Judah Folkman working on strategies to block tumor angiogenesis. This was followed by a second post-doctoral position in Villejuif, France in the laboratory of Drs Claude Paoletti and Jean-Bernard Le Pecq in the area of anticancer drug development.

Dr Larsen is currently Research Director at the Saint-Antoine Research Center in Paris affiliated with INSERM (Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale) and the Pierre and Marie Curie University where she is directing the

program in Cancer Biology and Therapeutics providing a continuum between fundamental, translational and clinical research. The fundamental research program aims to clarify the link between tumor invasion and drug sensitivity with emphasis on the epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT), stemness and angiogenic signaling pathways. The translational program is focusing on the development of novel anticancer agents and drug combinations with emphasis on digestive cancer and is carried out in close collaboration with medical oncologists and pharmaceutical companies. The research findings have been selected for the cover page of leading journals, have resulted in patents and, in the case of the bevacizumab-erlotinib combination, provided the rational basis for the International GERCOR phase III clinical trial, DREAM, in patients with advanced colorectal cancer.

Dr Larsen has been invited as speaker at the plenary session of numerous international conferences including the Molecular Target meetings organized by EORTC, AACR and NCI and the Annual Meetings of the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) and was chairperson for the 2000 Gordon Research Conference on Chemotherapy of Experimental and Clinical Cancer. She is coordinating different research networks involving a highly successful research cooperation between France and Brazil with Dr João Henriques. In 2012, she was invited by MIT to give the prestigious Gerald Wogan lecture, an annual price awarded for outstanding contribution to fundamental and applied cancer research. (Photo courtesy of Eve Freitas).