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Press release

Fredrik Persson receives the Assar Gabrielsson award for dissertation on genomic imbalances in tumors

Today, May 11, Medical Doctor Fredrik Persson received the Assar Gabrielsson award for his dissertation at the University of Gothenburg on the treatment of genomic imbalances in tumors. The award included a prize of SEK 50,000 with the potential to receive a research grant of SEK 100,000 in autumn 2010.

Fredrik Persson works at the Department of Oncology at Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg. He received the award for his dissertation on “Studies of Fusion Oncogenes and Genomic Imbalances in Human Tumors.”

In his dissertation, Fredrik Persson studied genomic imbalances in tumors. He specifically studied changes related to oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes, whose impact on cells can cause them to begin to grow and divide in an unlimited manner unlike that of a normal cell.

The dissertation focuses on various types of salivary gland tumors and malignant adipose tissue tumors. The study was conducted on tumor tissue from patients and on tumor cell lines in cultures. The entire genetic material of the cells was studied using highly modern molecular biology and cell biological methods, which proved suitable for this type of research. Fredrik Persson identified fusion genes that were previously unknown in these tumor types, and their origins. The results also show that malignant salivary gland tumors have more genomic imbalances than benign salivary gland tumors, and that certain genomic imbalances appear to be related to malignant transformation of benign tumors.

Assar Gabrielsson was one of the founders of Volvo. In accordance with his wishes, a fund for the clinical research of cancers was established.

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For further information, please contact Professor Eva Forssell-Aronsson, Executive Member of the Assar Gabrielsson fund, Tel: +46 (0)31-342 23 49 or +46 (0)703-72 26 26.

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