In Denmark, the field of geriatric oncology is still moving forward.

1. Activities and meetings

I’m happy to say, there seems to be an increasing interest in geriatric oncology wherever I go.

The specialty specific courses for oncology fellows focus increasingly on the senior population. Further, oncology courses for fellows in other specialties (internal medicine and geriatrics) include lectures on the subject. Several courses and meetings for physicians and nurses take place each year now.

In November 2016, the Academy of Geriatric Cancer Research (AgeCare) has been selected to host The Danish Cancer Society Symposium 2016. The symposium will cover six central topics in geriatric oncology, and each topic has been allocated a session. Junior and senior researchers will have the possibility to present their work and attendees will have the opportunity to discuss the topics, and interaction between participants and international experts will be enhanced.

2. Achievements

I have described AgeCare in previous NR reports. Professor Jørn Herrstedt and the workpackage leaders are doing a fantastic job, and many studies and trials are now running. We had a special issue in the National Journal “Best Practice Oncology”, featuring articles regarding surgical, medical, and radiation oncology as well as rehabilitation of elderly cancer patients. Further, we have a special issue “Caring and Aging” in the international peer reviewed journal Acta Oncologica. Publications and information on the research center can be viewed on www.agecare.org.

We have also created an “onco-geriatric interest group”, a group of oncologists and geriatricians (junior and seniors) who meet twice a year, discussing ideas and ongoing research.

There has been increasing focus on the growing elderly population in Denmark, not least in the field of oncology. To improve outcome for Danish cancer patients, national integrated cancer pathways have been developed, focusing on “the journey of the patient through the
health care system”. These pathways now also focus specifically on diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of elderly cancer patients.

Overall, focus on geriatric oncology is still increasing.