

Aarhus Comprehensive Cancer Centre Scientific Advisory Board Terms of Reference

Purpose and scope	The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the Comprehensive Cancer Centre (CCC) at Aarhus University Hospital is established to provide independent expert advice to support the CCC mission as a leading national and international centre for excellence in cancer care, research, and education. The SAB will guide the CCC in enhancing quality, innovation, and impact across all research areas of cancer-related activity.
Mandate and responsibility	<p>The SAB is tasked with advising the CCC Research Committee on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Direction: Provide critical input on the CCC cancer research strategy and its alignment with national research priorities, European cancer missions, and global oncology trends.• Research Excellence: Evaluate and support the CCC cancer research strategy, including basic, translational, clinical, and population-based research. The SAB will advise on strategic priorities, emerging scientific opportunities, and international competitiveness.• High-Quality Cancer Care: Review and advise on how research can form the basis for state-of-the-art, evidence-based, and patient-centred cancer care. The SAB will assess research initiatives related to innovation in diagnostics, treatment pathways, personalized medicine, and survivorship.• Talent Development- and Recruitment: Support the development of research career pathways and academic training to ensure a strong pipeline of cancer research professionals and clinician-scientists through talent development and strategic recruitment.• Innovation and Collaboration: Promote strategic partnerships with universities, hospitals, research institutions, industry, and patient organizations in Denmark and abroad. The SAB will advise on how the CCC can accelerate innovation and translation of research into clinical practice.• Organizational Development: Offer recommendations on the CCC research structure, governance, and processes to ensure optimal integration across disciplines and units as well as success with grant proposals in international competition.

- **Evaluation and Impact:** Provide external reviews of CCC scientific performance, using qualitative and/or quantitative indicators, and suggest ways to increase the societal and scientific impact of CCC research.

Composition

The SAB consists of 7 internationally respected experts in cancer research. Members are selected based on their academic and professional distinction, strategic insight, and understanding of cancer research organizations.

Terms and meetings

Members are appointed for a four-year term, in principle renewable once. Once per second year, 1/3 of the members are renewed. In terms of the first SAB, an exception is made, and it is recommended that approximately half of the original SAB have a 6 year term. The SAB will meet twice per year:

- One in-person meeting at CCC, Aarhus University Hospital, and
- One virtual meeting.

Additional consultations may occur on an ad hoc basis. Members of the SAB will be reimbursed for reasonable expenses related to travel, accommodation, and other logistical arrangements related to meetings, in accordance with policies of Aarhus University Hospital and the Central Denmark Region.

Reporting and confidentiality

The SAB will report to the chair and vice chair of the CCC Research Committee. The SAB will appoint a spokesperson of the SAB. The spokesperson speaks on behalf of the SAB and clears agendas and minutes of meeting with the secretariat. The agenda will be sent two weeks prior to each meeting. SAB-members are expected to adhere to strict confidentiality regarding all deliberations, documents, and institutional information.

Support and administration

The SAB will be supported by a dedicated secretariat at CCC, which will handle coordination, logistics, and preparation of materials. This is the first version of the terms of reference for the Scientific Advisory Board. The terms of reference will be revised in the second half of 2026.

Developed

November 2025 by Aarhus CCC Research Council

Approved by

Chair of CCC Research Council, Signe Borgquist