

Is distance a hindrance for good scientific collaboration?

YES IT IS !

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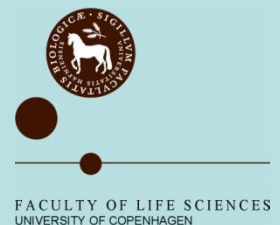
The project:



Molecular tools for personalized treatment of breast cancer

**Funded by The Danish National Research
Foundation and National Science Foundation
of China**

Start 01.02.2009

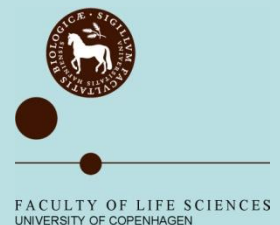


1. Partners
2. The project
3. Scientific collaboration
4. Cultural differences
5. Exchange of scientists
6. Other activities

Partners



- **Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI) (Shenzhen)**
- **Faculty of Life Sciences – University of Copenhagen**
- **Faculty of Natural Sciences – University of Copenhagen**
- **University of Southern Denmark**
- **Danish Breast Cancer Cooperative Group (DBCG)**
- **Aarhus University**
- **Technical University of Denmark (DTU)**
- **Rigshospitalet**



Shenzhen and Denmark



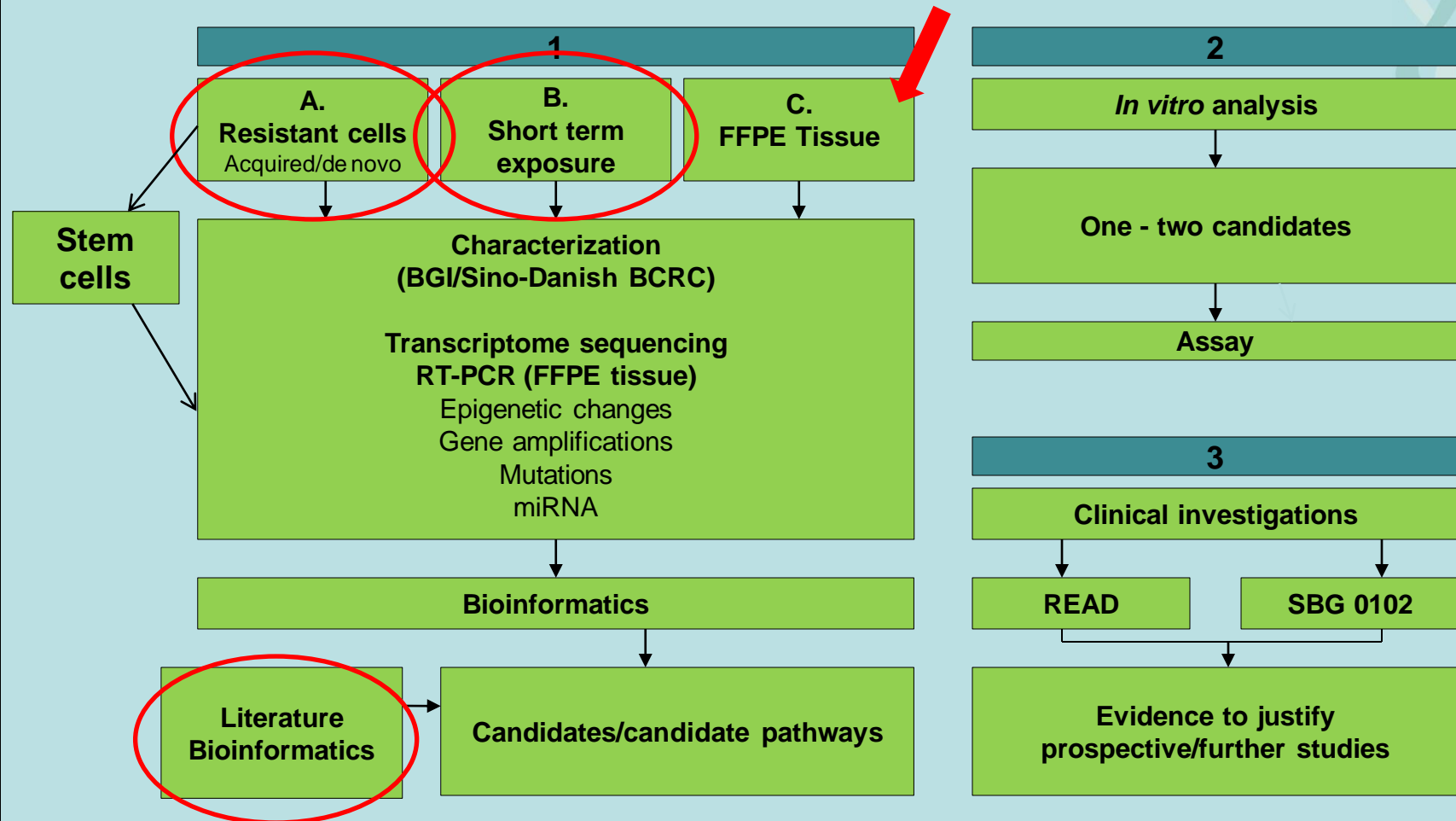
Aim:

To identify, evaluate and clinically validate biomarkers for prediction of treatment response in breast cancer

Hypothesis:

Drug sensitivity/resistance in cancer is based on genetic alterations in the cancer cells

Outline of the project structure



Scientific collaboration:

- Communication (go for No. 1)
- Language
- Scientific meetings (expensive) but important to create network
- Contracts
- Agreements
- Publications
- IPR

Cultural differences:

- Different views
- Time consuming
- Have to learn
- Sharing of equipment, agreements etc
- Both scientific and private
- Cultural Symposium in Copenhagen
February 2011

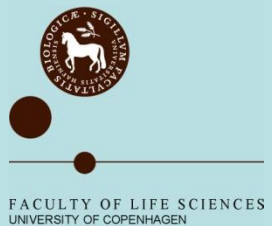
Exchange of scientists:

- Young Chinese scientists very willing to take a PhD in Denmark. Problems with host institution (dual ?)
- Problems with visa and immigration
- Young Danish scientists un-willing to work in China. Problems with visa

Other activities in the Centre



- PhD courses (one in China in 2011)
How do we get Danish PhD students to participate ?
- Scientific symposias
- Cultural symposium
- Communication to the public

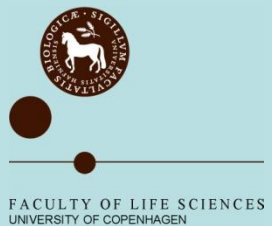


Other activities in the Centre



PhD courses (one in China in 2011).

We are in collaboration with Sino-Danish Centre for Education and Research working on a common PhD course to be held in China in 2011.

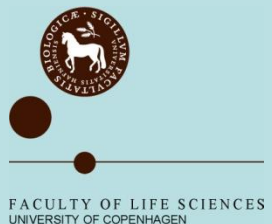


Other activities in the Centre



Cultural symposium

February 9th, 2011 there will be a symposium in Copenhagen where we will focus on advantages and disadvantages when performing scientific collaboration between China and Denmark



What has been most difficult ?

Long distance
Cultural differences
Language
Exchange of scientists
Short project time
Relatively limited budget

But it is a lot of fun and and we really feel the synergy between China (technology) and Denmark (biology), scientific quality in focus

and we have got new friends !