Dear ProNova Friends,

we would like to give you some news from the ProNova Centre.

• PREPARATIONS FOR STAGE 2 OF THE PRONOVA CENTRE

The Centre Management is currently in the final stage of preparing the documents required for starting Stage 2 of the ProNova Centre:

- Main Agreement
- Operational Plan, including Centre Budget and Research Programme

The official contact person of your company will soon be contacted and presented with this material. We hope that all legal documents will be completed and signed by the Centre parties in good time before the end of June, so we can keep the official starting date of April 1st, 2009, for Stage 2 of the Centre! The industrial partners in Stage 2 will be Affibody AB, AstraZeneca AB, Atlas Antibodies AB, BioInvent International AB, Biovitrum AB, GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences AB, Gyros AB, Mabtech AB, Novozymes A/S, Olink AB, Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics Uppsala AB and Phadia AB.

• RESEARCH PROGRAMME OF STAGE 2

After project discussions during the winter/spring involving representatives from the partner companies and the project leaders at KTH, the Board has decided on running the following Programme Areas and Subprojects during Stage 2 of the Centre. We are now looking forward to an exciting second stage of research in the Centre!

1. AFFINITY TOOLS (Programme Director: Sophia Hober)

Industrial partners: Affibody AB, Atlas Antibodies AB, BioInvent International AB, GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences AB, Gyros AB, Mabtech AB, Olink AB and Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics Uppsala AB.

A. Exploitation of immunoglobulin-binding domains for antibody labelling (PI: Sophia Hober)
B. Development of conjugation chemistries for DNA labelling of antibodies (PI: Amelie Eriksson Karlström)
C. DNA-based barcode probes for multiplexed immunoassays (PI: Afshin Ahmadian)
D. Development of immunoglobulin-binding domains with new specificities (PI: Per-Åke Nygren)

2. EPITOPE TECHNOLOGIES (Programme Director: Stefan Ståhl)

Industrial partners: Affibody AB, AstraZeneca AB, Atlas Antibodies AB and GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences AB.

A. Further refinement of a KTH-based bacterial surface display system (PI: Stefan Ståhl)
B. Generation of large-scale cell-displayed peptide library for epitope mapping and cross reactivity studies (PI: Mathias Uhlén)
C. Identification and analysis of epitopes on protein targets with known 3-D structure (PI: Mathias Uhlén)

3. PLASMA ANALYSIS FOR BIOMARKER DISCOVERY (Programme Director: Peter Nilsson)


A. Development of antibody arrays for parallel analysis of thousands of protein targets (PI: Peter Nilsson)
B. Development of high-throughput analysis of serum/plasma based on suspension bead arrays (PI: Jochen Schwenk)
C. Analysis of disease sample cohorts (PI: Jochen Schwenk)
D. Development of large PrEST-arrays for analysis of autoimmunity (PI: Peter Nilsson)
E. Bioinformatic analysis of the human secretome (PI: Lisa Berglund)

4. MICROFLUIDICS AND NANOBIO TECHNOLOGY (Programme Director: Helene Andersson Svahn)

Industrial partners: GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences AB, Novozymes A/S and Phadia AB.
A. Development of "in-house" microdroplet fluidics (PI: Helene Andersson Svahn)
B. Development of lateral flow microarray platforms for on-site diagnosis (PI: Helene Andersson Svahn)

• PRONova ANNUAL CENTRE DAY

On Friday, September 18th, 2009, we plan to arrange the second ProNova Annual Centre Day in Stockholm. Please mark your calendars already today for this important event! On the Annual Centre Day the project leaders will give presentations of the ongoing Centre projects. There will also be an official General Meeting for all partner companies, with the election of a new Centre Board. More information on the program and how to register for the meeting will be sent out after the start of Stage 2.

• STAGE 1 REPORT TO VINNOVA

Before closing the books on Stage 1 of the Centre, we need to send a report to VINNOVA covering the activities of the first two years of the Centre. To help us with this report, we will need some information from the industrial partners that were active participants in the ProNova projects during Stage 1. Since a financial report was submitted after the first 15 months of activities, all that is needed is an update of this report to cover the entire stage. The active partners will receive instructions for the reporting in a separate e-mail.

Looking forward to the start of Stage 2 of the Centre,

Amelie Eriksson Karlström, Centre Director
Per-Åke Nygren, Vice Centre Director
Mathias Uhlén, Programme Director