Angelique Flöter Rådestad - Summary

Born in Stockholm, Sweden, Associate Professor Angelique Flöter Rådestad went to medical school at the Karolinska Institute where she studied medicine to become a physician. After the degree, she worked at the Karolinska University Hospital, located close to the Institute itself and became a specialist in gynecology and obstetrics. After this specialization, she pursued a subspecialist program in gyneoncology to become a gynecological tumour surgeon, and for several years, performed gynecological cancer surgery.

For 2 years, she has had the position of Head of the Hereditary Department at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, in which her group does research into BRCA patients. She works there clinically with women who have the BRCA mutation, where this mutation increases the risk for breast and ovarian cancer. Other than her passion for work and research, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, the occasional ballroom and Latin American dancing, and playing golf.

Associate Prof. Flöter Rådestad has been involved in several translational projects regarding gynecological cancer, especially in BRCA patients. She has PhD students that she works with and supervises for research. She states, “the long term perspective is to detect ovarian and breast cancer earlier than we do today,” and have ongoing and performed studies to achieve this. One part of her research is for the early detection of ovarian cancer, which received funding from the Lena Wappling Foundation. She and her group look at the hormonal factors as potential cofactors in initiating cancer. She goes on to say, “We are trying out a medical prevention, an anti hormone, that could reduce the risk of getting ovarian cancer.” To put things into perspective, a woman without the BRCA mutation, the risk of getting ovarian cancer would be about 1.8%. Having either BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations, the risk can range between 10% to 50% as a lifetime risk for ovarian cancer.

She is proud of the first manuscript that looks at a medical compound as treatment for BRCA patients. They can see a good effect, thus, “that is why we have been working on it, as this could be a good prevention in the future.” With this manuscript and ongoing studies with collecting breast tissue from BRCA patients too, they have found international collaborators who have found this research interesting, which opens up research areas

for her and her team and for them internationally, as they can work together more effectively.

With the funding, experiments can be performed on the tissue collected from BRCA patients for risk reducing surgery. The experiments are expensive, and so, “the funding was very much appreciated and used to do these experiments.” Experiments to find markers for early detection of cancer is a priority for Associate Prof. Flöter Rådestad and her team, in order to see if in the future; through a blood test or cervical smear; they can find ovarian cancer early. Though she has her own research group, Associate Prof. Flöter Rådestad is also a Senior Researcher in Christina Gemzell’s research group at Karolinska Institute. As a clinical researcher, she works with Professor Gemzell at her laboratory to work on the compound they are testing.

As a final thought, Associate Prof. Flöter Rådestad concludes by saying, “I am very happy and grateful for the funding from the Lena Wappling Foundation. It has been very helpful to continue the research and to do this translation research with their support.” We wish all the best for her and her team!

Associate Professor Angelique Flöter Rådestad was interviewed by Sasha Biniwale.