

**DOCTORAL CANDIDATE:** Nagham Theres Asp, MSc.  
**DEGREE:** Philosophiae Doctor.  
**FACULTY:** Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.  
**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Biosciences.  
**AREA OF EXPERTISE:** Molecular cell biology  
**SUPERVISORS:** Professor Kirsten Sandvig, Postdoc. Sascha Pust.  
**DATE OF DISPUTATION:** 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2014.  
**DISSERTATION TITLE:** *Regulation of ErbB2 and ErbB3 growth factor receptors in human breast cancer.*

ErbB proteins control cell growth and survival under normal physiological conditions. Overexpression and dysregulation of the ErbB family members ErbB2 and ErbB3 proteins are frequently observed in human breast cancer, a cancer type that accounts for up to one fourth of all new female cancer cases worldwide. There are several ErbB targeting compounds that have been developed and are in clinical use, but many cancer patients do not respond to these agents or develop drug-resistant cancers. In order to identify other proteins that are involved in breast cancer pathology, Asp and colleagues investigated the role of certain protein families (flotillins and ERM proteins) in the regulation of ErbB2 and ErbB3 proteins in human breast cancer.

Asp presents in her doctoral thesis data that reveal a new link between flotillins or ERM proteins and the key regulators of cancerous signaling ErbB2 and ErbB3 proteins. The data highlight flotillins and ERM proteins as potential targets for breast cancer therapy.

Nagham Theres Asp will in September 2014 defend her thesis entitled "*Regulation of ErbB2 and ErbB3 growth factor receptors in human breast cancer*", carried out in the research group of professor Kirsten Sandvig at the Institute for Cancer Research, The Norwegian Radium Hospital in Oslo.