

# Josefin Fernebro: Pioneering Research for Personalized Ovarian Cancer Treatment

**Josefin Fernebro is a dedicated physician and researcher with a long-standing commitment to gynecological cancer research. Her journey in medical science began early, with a budding interest in research during her high school years. An internship at a research lab focused on cancer, supported by summer scholarships, laid the foundation for her future career. This early interest led her to specialize in ovarian cancer, a field she has continued to explore throughout her career as an oncologist and gynecologist.**

Josefin Fernebro discovered her calling in ovarian cancer when she started her specialist training. This cancer type, often called the "silent tumor of the abdomen" due to its difficult detection, presents many challenges for both patients and healthcare providers. The disease often affects women in midlife, with a grim prognosis that has driven Fernebro to focus her research on improving treatment options for those affected. With a strong sense of responsibility and a drive to create meaningful change, she has approached this complex research area with determination and passion.

One of Fernebro's current research projects focuses on the use of PARP inhibitors, a type of cancer treatment, and predictive biomarkers to determine which patients are most likely to benefit from the treatment. As modern cancer treatment moves towards more personalized approaches, Fernebro is exploring how genetic changes in tumors and blood can help tailor treatments for each individual patient. By using a PET scan to visualize the uptake of PARP enzyme in the body, she aims to predict treatment responses and optimize the use of PARP inhibitors.

This is of significant importance since PARP inhibitor treatment is both costly and associated with considerable side effects. Fernebro's goal is to reduce unnecessary treatment by only administering it to patients who are likely to respond positively. This would not only alleviate patient suffering but also save healthcare resources.

## **The significance of research and future hopes**

Fernebro emphasizes that financial support, such as research grants, is crucial for carrying out her projects. With expensive investigations and a team that needs funding, these grants are directly linked to research progress. She hopes that the results of her work will contribute to a future where treatments can be tailored to each patient based on their unique genetic and biological profile. This would ensure that the right patient receives the right treatment at the right time, potentially revolutionizing the care of ovarian cancer.

Currently, four patients are participating in Fernebro's study, and an additional four are needed to make an initial evaluation. The research process is time-consuming, but Fernebro

remains optimistic about the future and anticipates having some results by the end of the year. She also looks forward to collaborating with colleagues to expedite the research process and recruit more patients.

In summary, Josefin Fernebro is a researcher who, with great passion and dedication, works to improve the lives of women affected by ovarian cancer. Her research, driven by a combination of scientific curiosity and deep care for her patients, is a shining example of how modern medical research can lead to more effective and personalized treatment methods. Her work carries high hopes that the future will offer better and more tailored care for all those affected.

*Interview conducted and text written by Matilda Norlen & Louise Österberg*