

Public Health & Epi News

NO. 2, 7TH VOLUME, MAY 2021

Welcome back

What a wonderful day! Today is the 6th of May 2021, and it is the day where we are welcoming back all PhD students into campus after a very long lockdown.

The lockdown period has been different for all of us, and you can get acquainted with four PhD students and hear how the pandemic has impacted their lives as researchers in this newsletter.

Some have found it challenging, others have found it flexible and efficient. But I think we can all agree that great research is not a one man or woman business. It grows out of scientific collaboration and a socially fun, trusting and supporting environment. So, this is the time to reinvest in our common working environment and our colleagues.

Academic life is constantly changing and we have also learned new ways of working and new ways of adapting to changes. Hopefully, this will end up helping you in your future career.

If you would like to talk to someone about the situation, please remember that we offer both coaching sessions and career counselling. Please see details at the end of the newsletter.



Naja Hulvej Rod
Professor, Head of the
Graduate Program in
Public Health &
Epidemiology

Editorial info

Public Health & Epi News is distributed to PhD students and supervisors affiliated with the graduate program in Public Health and Epidemiology.

The newsletter is published twice a year (around May and November) and is meant to be a dynamic platform for exchanging information within the graduate program. Any inputs on events, new books, international courses, writing groups etc. are very welcome. Please send your input in an e-mail to Lisbeth Lyng Hansen, llh@sund.ku.dk.

Editors: Naja Hulvej Rod, nahuro@sund.ku.dk and Lisbeth Lyng Hansen, llh@sund.ku.dk

Deadline for next issue of Public Health & Epi News is **22nd of October, 2021**.

Previous editions to be found at: <http://phd-pubhealthepi.ku.dk/>

Conference calendar

Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) annual meeting

22-25 June, 2021, Virtuel

<https://epiresearch.org/annual-meeting/2021-meeting/>

10th annual SLLS International Conference

Rescheduled to 20-22 September, 2021, Virtuel

<https://www.slls.org.uk/>

World Congress of Epidemiology

2021, 3-6 September, Virtuel

<https://wce2020.org/>

NorDoc Summer School 2021 Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Career Development

16-21 August, 2021

The annual NorDoc Summer School brings together PhD students from the Nordic countries for a week of interaction and discussions. The summer School is open to PhD students, faculty and administrators.

[Sign up](#)

GRASPH Summer School 2022

17-18 May 2022 at Comwell, Klarskovgaard, more info coming in next issue

PhDs of the Month

Sofie Olsgaard Bergien, MSc Public Health,

The Danish Multiple Sclerosis Society, Department of Public Health,

Center for Healthy Aging (CEHA)

Aging with Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) has traditionally been perceived as a “young disease” and support offered to people with MS focus on themes relevant for a young target group such as family planning and working life. Because of medical advances and the general aging of the population, the demographics of people living with MS is, however, changing with a quickly growing number of elderly. Nonetheless, little remains known about elderly with MS and the kind of support they need. With my PhD I wish to contribute to this scarce area of research by investigating which challenges and resources that shape how elderly with MS manage their disease in their everyday life. Further, the project will deploy a co-creation methodology and investigate how it can contribute to designing and developing relevant support offerings to the group in the future. The project is designed with inspiration from participatory research and draws on methods that seek to empower and involve the participants. The project is conducted as a Mixed Method study, including photovoice, interview, workshop, and survey-based data.

Being a PhD student under COVID-19

I enrolled in the PhD-program in October 2020 and thus have not experienced pre-pandemic, pre-lockdown PhD life. While it has not had major

impact on my research, as I have managed

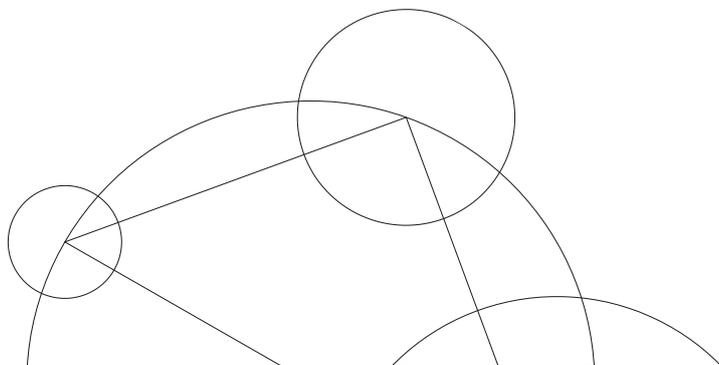
to adjust my time schedule and data collection, I long for more social and networking activities. Particularly as I normally get a lot of my inspiration from the people around me. I therefore look forward to getting to know my coworkers as well as the participant in my project without the ubiquitous Teams meetings and constantly having all social interactions filtered by a screen.

About me

I have a background in public health and MS research. I obtained my master's degree in public health from the University of Copenhagen in 2018 and have worked with MS research at the Danish MS Society since 2017. In my research, I focus on the perspective of the people living with MS trying to capture and understand their everyday life. I am passionate about how we give life to research results outside of the academic world, both when it comes to dissemination of results to a broader audience, but also transforming knowledge into practice.

Contact: sob@scleroseforeningen.dk





Rikke Wiingreen, MD

Børne- og ungeafdelingen, Nordsjællands Hospital, Hillerød

I obtained my master's degree in medicine from the University of Copenhagen in 2018. After finishing my KBU, I was employed at the Department of Pediatrics at Nordsjællands Hospital, Hillerød. During my time at the university, I became interested in the long-term outcome of preterm infants and wrote both my bachelor's and master's theses within the field of neonatology.

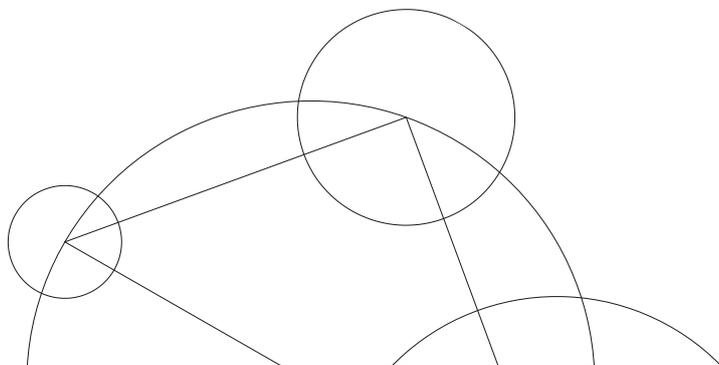
Preterm infants have an increased risk of developing cognitive, motor and psychiatric difficulties later in life – all factors that increase the risk of learning difficulties in childhood and adolescence. The earlier the child is born, the more immature organs, which in turn increases such risks. Throughout the last 50 years the survival rates of preterm infants have steadily increased, thanks to continued progress in perinatal care. Thus, more and smaller preterm infants now survive into adulthood. The focus of my Ph.D. is to investigate school difficulties among preterm infants. In the first study, we investigated the relationship between gestational age and school difficulties, and found a clear dose-effect relationship, with increased risk of both “not completing compulsory school” and “receiving comprehensive support in compulsory school” with decreasing gestational age. With the subsequent studies, we want to examine how major neonatal morbidities and neurodevelopmental psychiatric disorders interact with the increased risk of school difficulties. Furthermore, we want to investigate the predictive value of an IQ- and a motor function test

at 5 years of age, among extremely preterm born children, in order to evaluate targets for intervention, focus hospital follow-up and determining which endpoints to choose when evaluating the quality of neonatal hospital care.



My Ph.D. is carried out as a register-based study, using data from both a previously conducted national cohort study of extremely preterm and/or low-birth-weighted children along with data from Statistics Denmark. Thus, all data is already collected and can be accessed from everywhere. When COVID-19 in March 2020 forced everyone to work from home, my Ph.D. was therefore neither affected nor delayed. Only my day-to-day interactions with colleagues were missing, however, a culture of online meetings and ‘coffee breaks’ was swiftly established and for once it was easy to fit the whole research-team in the same ‘room’. After all, that wouldn't have happened pre COVID-19.

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Anne Katrine Graudal Levinsen, MSc public health

Department of Survivorship and Inequality in Cancer, Danish Cancer Society Research Center

At one of my first lectures at the University of Copenhagen, Finn Didericksen presented his model on mechanism of social inequality and health. At this point, I knew that one of my main academic interest would be social inequality in health. Luckily, I got the opportunity to focus on this topic in my work as I got the opportunity to start a PhD project researching social inequality in late effects after cancer.

It is well known that there exists social inequality in cancer survival in Denmark. This is partly explained by social differences in stage at diagnosis, received treatment and comorbidity. One thing we do not know is whether there exists social inequality in late health consequences after cancer or if such inequality might contribute to the existing social inequality in survival. I will investigate social inequality in late effects after cancer and cancer treatment among survivors of 7 common cancers: lung, prostate, breast, colorectal, head and neck cancer, non-Hodgkin lymphoma and melanoma. I will include both registry and questionnaire data.

From the registries, I will receive detailed information about stage at diagnosis, treatment, comorbidities, hospital admissions and socioeconomic factors such as income and education for 1-20 year survivors in Denmark of the 7 cancers. The questionnaire will investigate symptoms like fatigue, sexual health, quality of life, anxiety, depression and more symptoms which might be associated with either having had cancer or treatments such as chemotherapy. All 1-10 years survivors of the 7 cancers in Denmark will be invited to participate. Using data from the questionnaire, I will assess the social inequality in late effects that are not necessarily diagnosed or treated but still affects quality of life and functioning levels.

In my first study, I will use registry data to look at how socioeconomic position is associated with utilization of health care services among survivors and a cancer-free comparison group. Furthermore, I will investigate if lower

social position among cancer survivors lead to more contacts with different health care services and longer admissions compared to survivors with a higher social position.

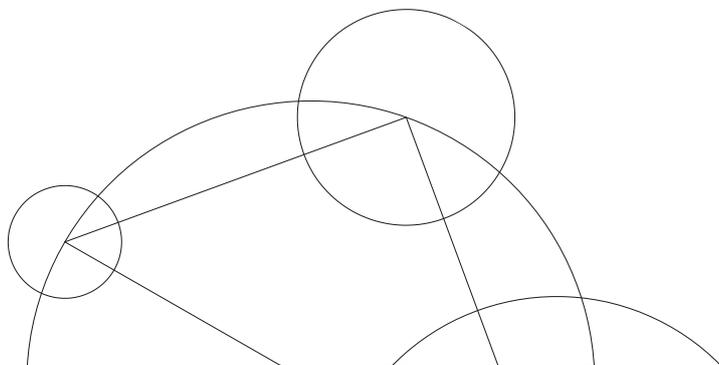
In my second and third study, I will include both registry data and patient reported outcomes from the questionnaire study. I will investigate if lower socioeconomic position is associated with more self-reported symptoms and worse quality of life among cancer survivors. I will also look more at the specific late effects from the registries and the self-reported late effects.

I hope that I by mapping patterns of late effects and symptoms after cancer by social position I will be able to pinpoint groups of patients at higher risk of developing late effects and debilitating symptoms. Thus, I hope my PhD will enable the development and testing of targeted interventions to improve cancer care and rehabilitation in both the primary and secondary health care system - through early and late survivorship phases - to ensure best possible quality of life and level of functioning for all cancer survivors.

The pandemic has not had a direct effect on my work, except that the time to process applications for data from the Danish Health Data Authority has prolonged due to the prioritization of covid-19 research projects. As such, I have had to start my project differently than planned, while I wait for data. It has also been more difficult to work from home as interactions with coworkers have been reduced, so I am very much looking forward to start being more at the office soon as everything slowly opens again.

Contact: akgl@cancer.dk





Shuo Liu, MPH

*Section of Environmental Health,
Department of Public Health*

I obtained my master's degree in Public Health from Peking University in July 2018, and then started my PhD at KU in January 2019 under supervision from Prof Zorana Jovanovic Andersen. My major of PhD is environmental epidemiology, focusing on the health effect of long-term exposure to low-level air pollution on asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in Denmark and other European areas. KU provides an excellent academic environment for me to collaborate with researchers and experts from other universities, making it possible to run my PhD program smoothly.

The effect of air pollution on human health has been a hot topic worldwide during the last several decades. Through numerous studies, chronic exposure to air pollution is recognized as a risk factor for overall and cardiovascular morbidity and mortality and lung cancer, while the effect on chronic respiratory diseases is more unclear. The overall aim of my PhD research is to examine whether long-term exposure to air pollution is associated with increased risk of asthma and COPD in adults. The specific aims are: 1) to examine the associations at low-level exposures, below the current EU air quality limit values and WHO guidelines; 2) to identify most relevant air pollutants for asthma and COPD development; 3) to characterize the concentration-response function between air pollution exposure and asthma and COPD.

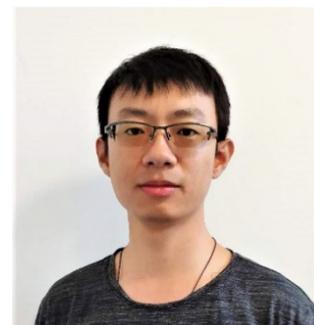
My research is based on two large cohort studies in European population and Danish population, including the ELAPSE project (Effects of Low-Level Air Pollution: A Study in Europe) and the Danish Nurse Cohort (DNC). These two cohorts collected demographic and health data from local registers, including detailed individual-level and area-level confounder information, and fine spatial scale exposures. Furthermore, the DNC also has data on road traffic noise, which is an important environmental stressor leading to adverse health effect. With the help from Zorana

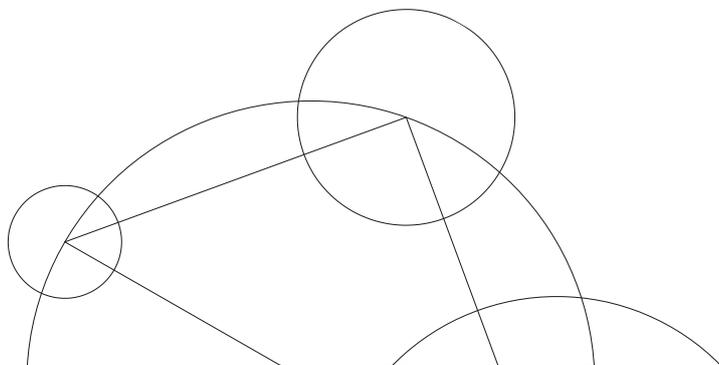
and collaborators, I have managed to publish several papers, and of your interest, you can get detailed information in relation to the exposure assessment methods, population characteristics, and statistical analysis methods.

The next study plan is to investigate the relationship between air pollution exposure and pneumonia mortality based on these two cohorts. Pneumonia is a common respiratory infection disease that can be life-threatening. Emerging concerns on the link between long-term air pollution exposure and mortality due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection, which may develop into severe or fatal pneumonia, especially among the elderly and people with comorbidities, raising renewed interest and demand for more data on air pollution and all respiratory infections. This part of study is treated as an extra supplement for my PhD program.

Things went well in the first year of my PhD and I had the opportunity to join research meeting abroad, with the experience of academic communication with other researchers and local traveling together. Now we can only join meeting through Zoom online and lack a lot of interactions due to the influence of pandemic. It also became a little bit difficult during the fully lockdown because of COVID-19 in 2020, as working from home is a big challenge for me to maintain high efficiency in study. Everything is getting better and better with the help of Zorana and the outbreak situation being contained in Denmark. I can regularly come back to office following the test requirement rules and all things are getting back on track gradually. I look forward to completing my last PhD year at KU with my colleagues working together.

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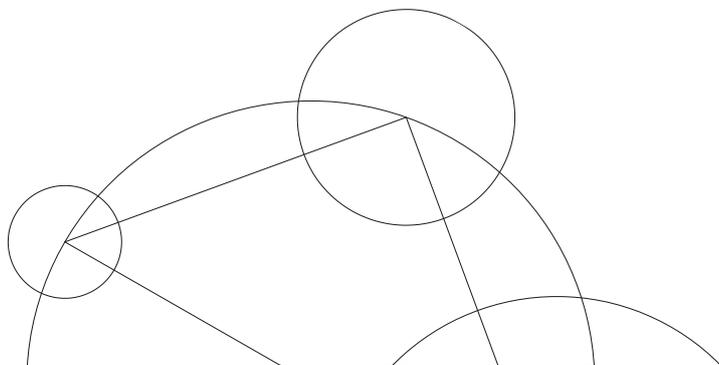




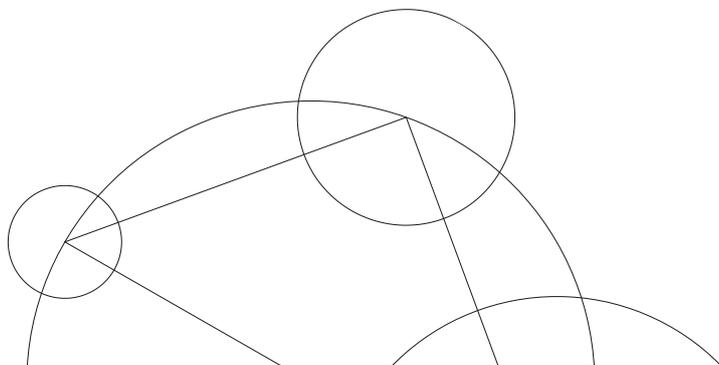
Welcome to the new PhD students

21 new PhD students have been enrolled between 1st of October 2020 and 1st of March 2021

Name	PhD Project	Supervisor
Andreas Moses Appel	Vaccines and dementia	Gunhild Waldemar
Anna Sofie Inger Lindquist	Non-cervical anogenital precancer and cancer in women with prior cervical HPV-related diseases	Susanne Krüger Kjær
Anna Vera Jørring Pallesen	Uncovering health disparities: An in-depth exploration of social inequality patterns in morbidity, life after morbidity onset and length of life.	Laust Hvas Mortensen
Anne Dsane Andersen	FitBaby: Impact of maternal exercise during pregnancy on physical activity, psychomotor development and growth of offspring	Bente Merete Stallknecht
Birgitte Romme Nielsen	Vitreoretinal Surgery in Denmark - A Nationwide Epidemiological Study	Morten Dornonville de la Cour
Carl Thomas Anthon	Platelet Transfusions and Thrombocytopenia in the Intensive Care Unit	-
Charlotte Näslund Koch	Comorbidities and risk factors in individuals with psoriasis	Lone Skov
Clarissa Lima Brown Frandsen	Risk of breast-, endometrial- and ovarian cancer in women with polycystic ovarian syndrome	Pernille Fog Svendsen
Fahd Shahrestani	Lymphomas in salivary glands: Epidemiology, association with Sjogren's syndrome and gene expression profiling	Preben Homøe
Frederik Gybel Jensen	NemPRO-2: A patient-reported outcome (PRO) questionnaire tailored for use in stroke survivors with cognitive and communicative impairment. Development, validation and evaluation.	Helle Klingenberg Iversen
Hanne Helleskov Nygaard	Frailty - a clinical tool to predict adverse outcomes in acutely admitted older patients	Charlotte Arneboe Suetta
Henriette Laugesen	Cross-sectoral Service Provision to improve refugee mental health in Denmark - Exploring the patients' perspectives	Jessica Carlsson Lohmann
Jeppe Karl Sørensen	Short-term sickness absence among young people: a register based study of the effect of psychosocial work environment	Karl Bang Christensen
Katrine Tranberg Jensen	A formative process evaluation of the SOFIA Pilot Study - implementing a patient-centered intervention for patients suffering from severe mental illness in general practice	Anne Møller
Linea Landgrebe Ring	Human papillomavirus in renal transplant recipients - A large clinical study of prevalence, incidence and risk factors	Susanne Krüger Kjær
Luse Holberg Lindgren	Targeted self-management intervention. A study from the TASEMA projekt	Bente Appel Espensen
Maja Pedersen	Symptom Identification and Management in Patients with Hematological Malignancy during follow-up Care: SIMPLY-CARE	Mary Ellen Jarden
Marie Skov Kristensen	Public subsidy for dental care services and implications for employment status among socially vulnerable people	Esben Boeskov Øzhayat



Monica Lauridsen Kujabi	Improving clinical decision-making during prolonged labour by safe and appropriate use of augmentation with oxytocin, instrumental vaginal birth and caesarean section in five urban mega-maternity units in Tanzania.	Flemming Konradsen
Nathalie Bille	Evaluation of an electronic medical record (EMR) system for individuals with type 1 diabetes in Rwanda - can quality of care be increased?	Dirk Lund Christensen
Rashid Saleh Khamis	Locally tailored clinical guidelines and reoccurring training aimed to improve care at birth in Tanzania: Effects on perceptions, motivation, knowledge and skills among birth attendants and health students.	Dan Wolf Meyrowitsch



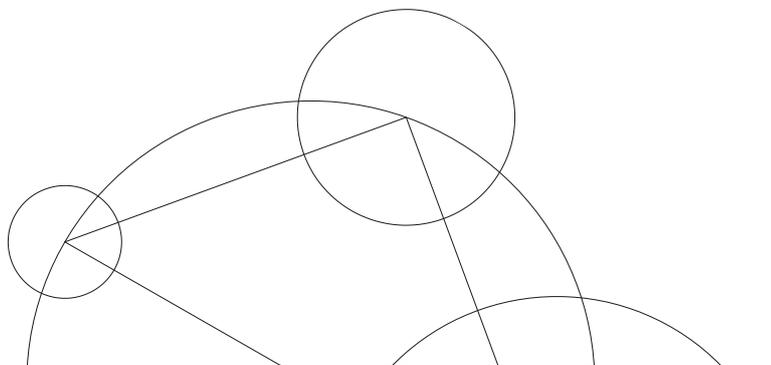
Up-coming PhD courses

Public health courses at SUND	Start date
Why, when and how: Theory in Qualitative Empirical Studies (Online) 3917-21-00-00	01.06.2021, at: 09:00
Practical Course in Systematic Review Technique in Clinical Research (SRT) (NorDoc Summer School 2021) 3702-21-00-00	16.08.2021, at: 08:30
Quantitative Bias Analysis for Epidemiologic Research (Online) 3649-21-00-00	16.08.2021, at: 14:00
Practical Course in Systematic Review Technique in Clinical Research (SRT) (Online) 3702-21-00-03	24.08.2021, at: 08:00
Obesity: courses and consequences - the complex interplay between behaviour society, genes and the environment 3257-21-00-00	13.09.2021, at: 09:00
Pregnancy and programming and later risk of obesity related disease 3213-21-00-00	20.09.2021, at: 09:00
Advanced Social Epidemiology: A focus on Concepts, Context, Life-course and Policy 3127-21-00-00	11.10.2021, at: 09:15
Fundamentals of register-based pharmacoepidemiology: evidence synthesis, data sources, and study design 3480-21-00-00	01.11.2021, at: 08:00

Statistics courses at SUND	Start date
Introduction to scale validation (HyFlex format) 3308-21-00-00	25.05.2021, at: 10:00
Modern scale validation using IRT and Rasch models 3323-21-00-00	11.06.2021, at: 10:00
Use of the statistical software R (NorDoc Summer School 2021) 3314-21-00-00	16.08.2021, at: 08:00

Find the full **PhD course catalogue** [here](#)

[National PhD course database](#)
[NorDoc courses](#)



PhD defenses

7 May 2021, 14:00-17:00

[Amani Meaidi](#)

Potential drug-induced thromboses in reproductive-aged women - a pharmacoepidemiologic PhD on the influence of oral tranexamic acid and concomitant use of hormonal contraception and nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs on the risk of thrombosis

11 May 2021, 13:00-16:00

[Anne Sophie Bech Mikkelsen](#)

Social relations and health among middle-aged and older people: A multimethods study of social interventions and general practitioner contact

20 May 2021, 14:30-17:30

[Nille Birk Wulff](#)

Total laryngectomy. Postoperative complications, survival, and health-related quality of life

4 June 2021, 13:00-16:00

[Jeanette Thering Jørgensen](#)

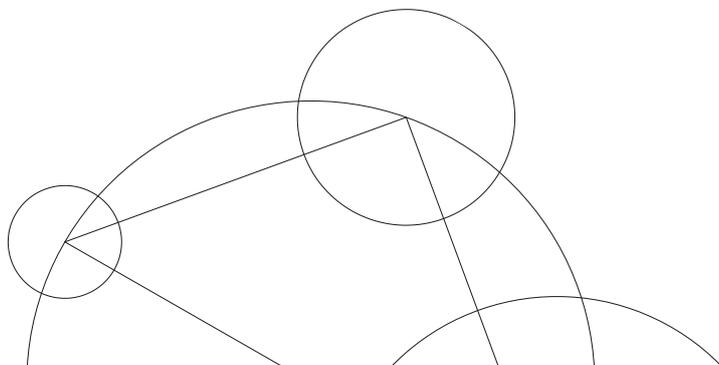
Shift work and development of neurodegenerative and psychiatric disorders. A register-based cohort study of Danish female nurses

You can always find an updated list of PhD defenses at <http://phd-pubhealthepi.ku.dk/phd-defenses/>

PhD degrees

Congratulations to the 14 PhD students who have been awarded their PhD degree between 13th of November 2020 and 25th of March 2021 within the graduate program 'Public Health & Epidemiology'

Name	Thesis	Supervisor
Annemone Prip	Communication practice in an oncology outpatient clinic	Mary Ellen Jarden
Annet Hendrina Petronella Bens	Preventive drug therapy and contralateral breast cancer	Niels Thorndahl Kroman
Camilla Marianne Hvidtfeldt	Double Uncertainty - The potentially harmful effects of prolonged waiting for an asylum decision or family reunification on resettled refugees' mental health and employment	Marie Louise Nørredam
Caroline Raun Hansen	Type 2 diabetes. Telehealth and determinants of nonadherence	Ane Mette Zander Olsen
Charlotte Lund Rasmussen	Does physically demanding work hinder an active leisure time among low socioeconomic position adults?	Kirsten Nabe-Nielsen



Hanna Kristina Bertoli	Vaginal cancer and precursor lesions: Investigating incidence, etiology and survival with a focus on the role of HPV	Susanne Krüger Kjær
Helle Johnsen	The MAMA ACT intervention: A qualitative study of the intervention's feasibility and its implementation in the national trial in Denmark	Ulla Christensen
Kim Boesen	Methodological limitations of psychiatric drug trials	Jacob Rosenberg
Kristian Asp Fuglsang	Home Parenteral Support Treatment for Short Bowel Syndrome	Palle Bekker Jeppesen
Mathias Johan Due Buron	Real-world experience with disease-modifying drugs in multiple sclerosis	Per Soelberg Sørensen
Mie Maar Andersen	Udviklingsprocesser for unge og voksne med cerebral parese gennem resiliensbaserede sociale bevægelsesindsatser	Jens Bo Nielsen
Rie Mandrup Poulsen	Evaluation of an integrated intervention in context - A novel collaboration between Danish mental health care services and Jobcenters to improve services for persons on sick leave due to common mental disorders.	Ulla Christensen
Sif Helene Arnold	Improving Management of Urinary Tract Infections in Nursing Homes: Navigating complexity	Lars Bjerrum
Thomas Bo Jensen	Treatment of inflammatory diseases with biologics and the implementation of biosimilars	Espen Victor Jimenez Solem

Funding opportunities for research stays abroad in 2021/2022

We hope that it will soon be possible to travel again!

The Graduate Program in Public Health and Epidemiology will provide up to 10,000 DKK in financial support to research stays abroad of *at least three months duration* in 2021/2022 in order to encourage internationalization.

Please send a brief description of your research stay abroad and a budget to Lisbeth Lyng Hansen (llh@sund.ku.dk) in order to apply for these funds. Everyone who meets the qualifications will be awarded funding up to a maximum of 10,000 DKK depending on their budget.

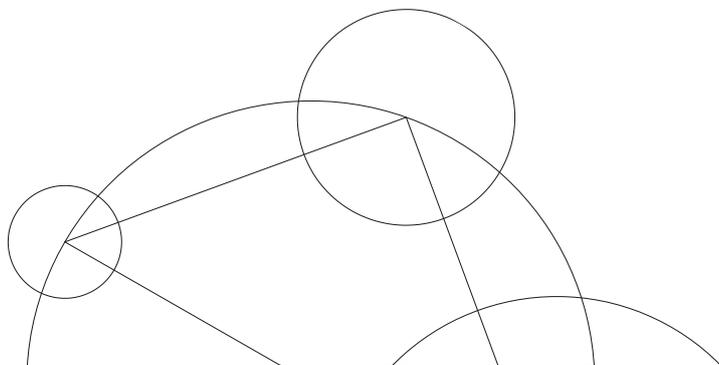
Please be aware that these funds are in addition to the funds you can apply for through the PhD School:

<http://healthsciences.ku.dk/phd/studyabroad/financial-support-for-studying-abroad/>

There is also an excellent 'PhD supervision service' for going abroad handled by International Staff Mobility (ISM) who assists PhD students with practical issues such as visa, insurance, de-registration, social security and funding. More information can be found at: <http://phd.ku.dk/english/abroad/>

Financial support for seminars

If you wish to organize a seminar, the graduate program in Public Health & Epidemiology has some means to support for instance travel and accommodation for guest lecturers. The only condition is that the seminar is open for PhD students in the program. Please contact Naja Hulvej Rod, nahuro@sund.ku.dk or Lisbeth Lyng Hansen, LLH@sund.ku.dk for more information.



Financial support for writing retreats

We offer a number of writing retreats of up to 5 days. We use Skjalm Hvide Hotel close to Slangerup in Nordsjælland. Please send a short motivated application to Lisbeth, LLH@sund.ku.dk.

Recommendation:

"Opholdet på hotellet har virkelig været godt! Personalet har været enormt søde, servicemindede og hensynsfulde.

Jeg er taknemmelig for, at jeg fik muligheden for dette – og kan varmt anbefale et skriveophold på Skjalm Hvide Hotel."

Anne Beiter Arreskov

MD, PhD student



Coaching sessions

We offer coaching sessions to PhD students that experience challenges in their projects. We have contact to two coaches with specific experience in PhD coaching.

This is an **on-going offer**, so if you feel in need of this kind of support, please contact Lisbeth Lyng Hansen, llh@sund.ku.dk. She will mediate the contact to the coaches. All requests will be handled confidentially.

Individual 1:1 career counselling for PhDs and Postdocs

UCPH now offers individual 1:1 career counselling to PhDs and Postdocs tailored to individual needs. [Mette Fog Skriver](#), who is a career consultant, will be responsible for the new initiative concerning early career development for young researchers. The initiative is meant to inspire, counsel and guide young researchers at UCPH to take charge of their own career development at an early stage.

How to book a one-hour counselling session?

See the flyer for more info via [this KU-net link](#) and book a counselling session with Mette via careercounselling@adm.ku.dk.

New at SUND: PhD supervision for academic staff

PhD supervision: advice, tools and practices is designed specifically for PhD supervisors at SUND and affiliated hospitals and research institutions.

Course dates in 2021: 11th of May and 21st of September

[Read more](#)