

# Public Health & Epi News

NO. 2, 5<sup>TH</sup> VOLUME, JUNE 2019

## People and ideas

We financially support a number of research stays abroad every year. In this newsletter you can read Maria Hach's reflections on her research stay at McGill University in Canada. She starts her reflection with these questions: 'Which kind of competencies related to my PhD project would I like to develop, what kind of person do I prefer to work with and where do I want to go?' I think these questions nicely summarize the many aspects that feed into a successful stay abroad. First and foremost, you need to find a nice and engaged person to work with, and I think this is much more important than being in a high-prestige environment.

Finding the right people to work with will also be important in your future career. Creativity and new ideas often arise between people who like, respect and trust each other. Thus, building relations in your home environment and abroad may be the first step in developing groundbreaking research ideas.

So, you could consider using the summer to sip coffee with some of the people you like and that you would like to work with. I am sure that new ideas will arise as part of the endeavor.

Finally, I want to welcome the many new students, who have just enrolled and congratulate those who have graduated. I wish you all a lovely summer and hope you see many of you at our epidemiological seminar series in the Fall.



### Naja Hulvej Rod

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

## Conference calendar

**2019 SLLS International Conference**  
25-27 September, 2019, Germany  
<https://www.slls.org.uk/2019-conference>

**11<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Epidemiology & Public Health**, 26-27 September, 2019, Copenhagen, Denmark  
<https://epidemiology.expertconferences.org/>

**12<sup>th</sup> EPH Conference**  
20-23 November, Marseille, France  
<https://ephconference.eu/>

**World Congress of Epidemiology 2020**, 13-17 September, Melbourne, Australia  
[https://www.iipc-se.org/documents/2020\\_IEA\\_WCE\\_AU\\_STRALIA\\_announcement.pdf](https://www.iipc-se.org/documents/2020_IEA_WCE_AU_STRALIA_announcement.pdf)

**GRASPH Summer School 2020**  
26-27 May, 2020 at Comwell Klarskovgaard, organized by AAU  
Registration will open around December 2019

### 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 three times a year (around June, November and February) 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](mailto:llh@sund.ku.dk).

**Editors:** Naja Hulvej Rod, [nahuro@sund.ku.dk](mailto:nahuro@sund.ku.dk) and Lisbeth Lyng Hansen, [llh@sund.ku.dk](mailto:llh@sund.ku.dk)

Deadline for next issue of Public Health & Epi News is 21<sup>st</sup> of October, 2019.

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

## PhD of the Month

**Julie Elbæk Pedersen, MSc Public Health**

Danish Cancer Society Research Center



*An exploration of high-risk industries and specific workplace factors that influence the risk of breast cancer in Danish women*

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women and previous studies have suggested that specific industries and occupational factors (e.g. organic solvents, endocrine disruptive compounds (EDC) and indoor work (lack of vitamin D)) increase the risk of breast cancer. However, several limitations exist in former studies, including lack of inclusion of potential confounders such as at least reproductive history and detailed lifetime job histories.

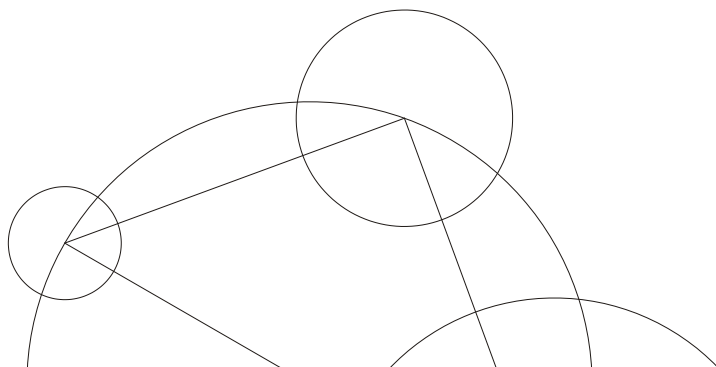
To advance in the understanding of occupational risk factors for breast cancer, I will explore the risk by industrial employment and after occupational exposure to organic solvents, EDC and indoor work.

This will be explored through case-control studies using information from an already established large-scale registry-based dataset, with valuable reproductive history (e.g. parity and age at first full term birth). Cases were initially identified in the Danish Cancer Registry and five controls were chosen for each case at random from the Danish Civil Registration System but matched on age at year of diagnosis. Further, information on

subtypes of breast cancer in cases have been retrieved from the Danish Breast Cancer Cooperative Group (DBCG). Individual lifetime employment history was retrieved from the Supplementary Pension Fund Register (ATP) and individual employment records will be linked to existing and validated job-exposure-matrices (JEMs) to assess occupational exposures. Results from this Ph.D. project will hopefully support efforts aiming at preventing work-related cancer.

My background: I obtained my master's degree in Public Health Science from the University of Copenhagen, 2015. During my time as a student, I worked at the Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Bispebjerg Hospital, and this is where my interest in occupational health research originates from. Since graduating from UCPH, I have been working at the Danish Cancer Society Research Center as a scientific assistant and later as a Ph.D. student.

Contact: [juliep@cancer.dk](mailto:juliep@cancer.dk)



## International PhD of the Month

**Maria Hach, MPH**

*Reflections from my research stay at McGill, Montreal, Canada*

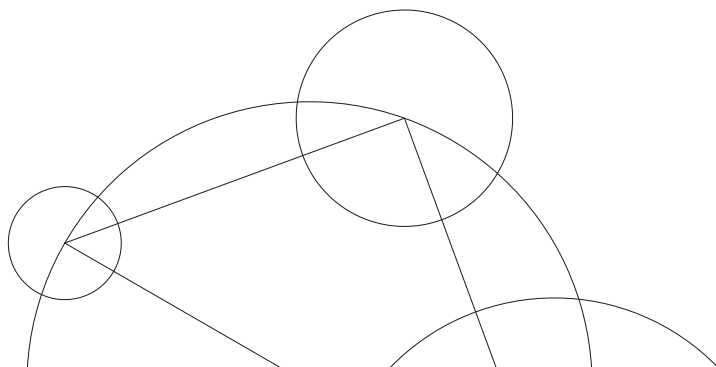
Which kind of competencies related to my PhD project would I like to develop, what kind of person do I prefer to work with and where do I want to go? These were some of the questions, I asked myself before I started to plan my research stay. I knew I preferred to work with a competent person with a calm personality and experience in mediation analysis, and to be in a place with easy access to outdoor activities, like hiking. I met Sam Harper at Ingelise Andersen's PhD-course Advanced Social Epidemiology, and he was just the kind of person I wanted to work with. In addition Sam worked at McGill University in Montreal, with the most fantastic outdoor possibilities just outside my door. It was the correct choice and a great experience. I used about 8 months to plan my 3½ months stay.

In Canada there is a 120 day research exemption work permit, which allows researchers to work in Canada without a working permit for 120 days. That made the planning a lot easier for me. Montreal is not a very expensive place to stay, and luckily I could fund my stay with a grant from the Research Program of Public Health, and with a grant from the PhD School.



I had very good learning opportunities in Sam's group, every other week I had a supervision meeting with Sam, who gave a lot of good feedback, and lots of new papers and books to read. Every other week, we had research meetings with all faculty and PhD students from the Epidemiology and Biostatistics department. These meetings were interesting and inspiring. But the daily social life was very different from what I am used to. At the department of Social Medicine here in Copenhagen, we often have social time, like daily lunch, Tuesday cake or Friday breakfast. This type of social time is not common at McGill. After a few weeks I accepted that changing research environment also means a lot of time alone. However, I had a good work flow. I spent my weekends either working or doing outdoor stuff. I used meetup.com to find people to go hike, or see other cities in Canada. My advice to you, if you are starting to think about your research stay, think about how you learn and what you want to learn before choosing where to go.

Contact: [maria.hach@sund.ku.dk](mailto:maria.hach@sund.ku.dk)



## *Report from GRASPH Summer School 2019*

Abirami Srivarathan, MSc Public Health  
Section of Social Medicine, Department of Public Health

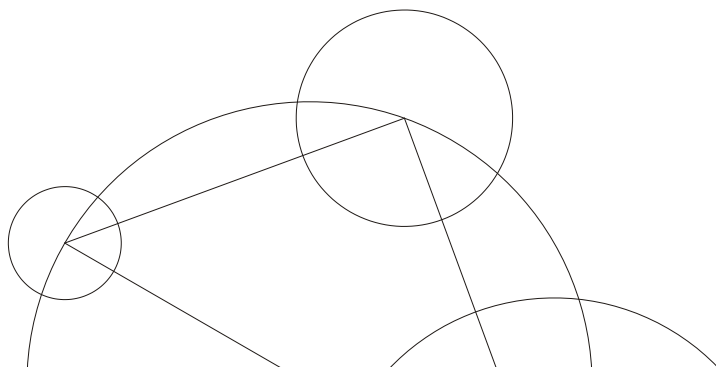


Based on my supervisors' recommendations I decided that the GRASPH Summer School had to be must-do course, when I was enrolled in January 2019. So with "only" four months of PhD experience I signed up for the course. However, I was curious about the profits I could gain as a new PhD student. It turned out that being in the start-up phase with a limited amount of empirical data was a great advantage for my further working process.

As a regular part of the course program, each PhD student present their research followed by an discussion based on two problems identified by the student herself. From my point of view these group sessions are the cornerstone of the GRASPH Summer School, as they provide us new perspectives on our own research, but also remind us of the great diversity of research conducted in the field of public health. I was placed in the mixed-methods group session, and during the session a common concern related to be consolidation of different methodologies appeared. This opened up for a most welcome discussion on strengths and weaknesses working with mixed methods. As with many other academic discussions, it seemed that the talk lead to even further questions than answering those already existing. Two supervisors are assigned to each group session, and my advice is that the future matching of supervisors and students should be better considered in terms of research experience.

An important aspect of the GRASPH Summer School is the social networking with other students and supervisors. It is a great opportunity to get out of the city and meet enthusiastic and dedicated researchers in beautiful surroundings.

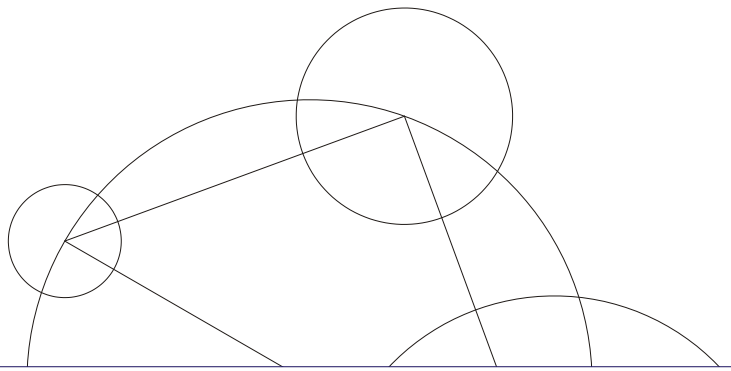




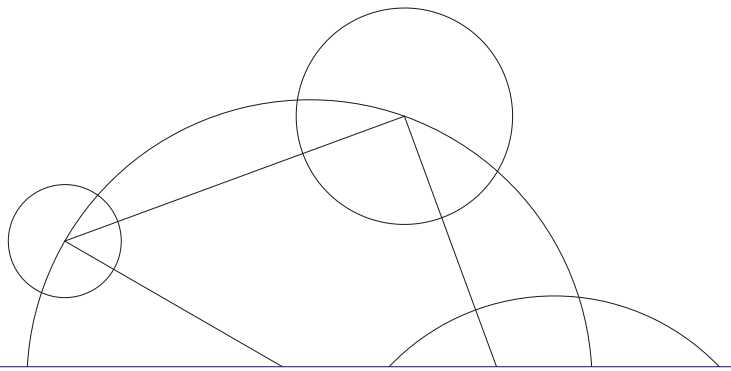
## Welcome to the new PhD students

*21 new PhD students have been enrolled between 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2018 and 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2019*

Name	Project	Supervisor
Anders Sønderskov Jürs	Establishing and assessing the use of mobile applications in monitoring age-related macular degeneration (The eAMD-study)	Torben Lykke Sørensen
Lærke Mygind Grønfeldt	Promoting childrens socio-emotional development through contact with nature in kindergartens	Trine Flensburg-Madsen
Michaela Tinggaard	Carriage of pneumococcus and meningococcus and vaccination.	Thomas Lars Vibe Benfield
Anne Christine Nordholm	Tuberculosis risk factors and transmission dynamics analyzed by nationwide register data and whole genome sequencing	Flemming Konradsen
Line Hjøllund Pedersen	Inequality in treatment and survival of children with cancer: A multidisciplinary study	Susanne Oksbjerg Dalton
Pernille Friis Rønne	Family nursing for patients with chronic nonmalignant pain: A mixed methods study	Bente Appel Esbensen
Pernille Brok Nielsen	Early Warning Score: Systematic observation and risk assessment of patients with complex disease is more than just a number	Kasper Karmark Iversen
Anne Mette Skov Sørensen	Tramadol: Rational Use and SafeTy (TRUST)	Espen Victor Jimenez Solem
Mie Balling	Metabolomic lipoprotein profiling for better risk prediction of ischemic heart disease	Børge Grønne Nordestgaard
Mirketa Marku	Epilepsy and primary brain cancer - "Epigioma"	Christoffer Johansen
Pernille Lindsø Andersen	The genetics of fungal and human papillomavirus infections	Ole V. Pedersen
Anders Mikkelsen	Pregnancy Loss and Future Health Risks	Øjvind Lidegaard
Johanna Balslev Andersen	Pregnancy and the use of Disease Modifying Therapies in patients with multiple sclerosis	Melinda Magyari
Abirami Srivarathan	The Future Taastrupgaard: A multi-methods study exploring the impact of changing housing conditions on health, wellbeing and social relations	Rikke Lund
Catrine Bakkedal	Improving pharmacological treatment in patients with severe mental illness	Niels de Fine Olivarius
Mia Muusfeldt Nørgaard	Ciprofloxacin in pregnancy, fetal side effects and placental transfer	Jón Þór Trærup Andersen
Ida Vittrup Nielsen	Consequences of pediatric atopic dermatitis	Jacob P. Thyssen
Pablo Villanueva Holm-Nielsen	Challenges, Consequences and Opportunities of Cash-based Interventions in Emergencies in Eastern Africa	Peter Furu
Neda E. Bruun-Rasmussen	Health profiles and all cause mortality	Elsebeth Lyng



Christina Sadolin Damhus	Harms and benefits of the diagnostic pathway for non-specific symptoms that can be cancer	John Brodersen
Janet Janbek	The role of infections in dementia	Gunhild Waldemar



## Epidemiological seminar series

### Program for the rest of 2019

**10<sup>th</sup> of October: Social inequalities in children's mental health: novel methodological approaches**

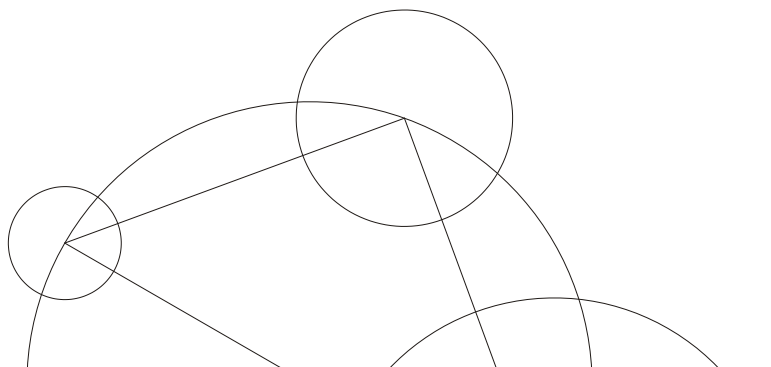
Professor Maria Melchior, INSERM, France

**14<sup>th</sup> of November: to be announced**

**12<sup>th</sup> of December: Methodological issues related to sibling and twin designs in epidemiology**

Professor Thorkild IA Sørensen, Section of Epidemiology and Associate Professor Theis Lange, Section of Biostatistics, University of Copenhagen

These seminars are organized in collaboration between the Graduate Program in Public Health & Epidemiology and the Section of Epidemiology at the Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen. Please **sign up** to the mailing list with updates about location and titles for the upcoming seminars by sending an e-mail to Kathe Jensen ([kje@sund.ku.dk](mailto:kje@sund.ku.dk)).



## Up-coming PhD courses

### **Public Health courses at HEALTH-UCPH (SUND)**

#### **Advanced Social Epidemiology: A focus on Concepts, Context, Life-course and Policy**

[3127-19-00-00](#)

Start: 19 August 2019

#### **Quantitative Bias Analysis for Epidemiologic Research**

[3649-19-00-00](#)

Start: 19 August 2019

#### **Patient-reported outcomes in clinical health research**

[3410-19-00-00](#)

Start: 5 November 2019

#### **How to design and conduct your Mixed Method Study**

[3763-20-00-00](#)

Start: 25 March 2020

### **Statistics courses at HEALTH-UCPH (SUND)**

#### **Introduction to medical statistics using SPSS**

[3307-19-00-01](#)

Start: 19.11.2019

#### **Programming and statistical modelling in R**

[3329-19-00-01](#)

Start: 05.11.2019

#### **Statistical analysis of survival data**

[3300-19-00-01](#)

Start: 03.09.2019

#### **Advanced statistical analysis of epidemiological studies**

[3306-19-00-00](#)

Start: 25.10.2019

#### **Use of SAS statistical software**

[3301-19-00-01](#)

Start: 31.10.2019

#### **Use of the statistical software R**

[3314-19-00-01](#)

Start: 04.11.2019

#### **Advanced Statistical Topics in Health Research A**

[3330-19-00-00](#)

Start: 04.11.2019

#### **Introduction to SPSS**

[3303-19-00-01](#)

Start: 01.11.2019

#### **Multiple imputation techniques for working with missing data**

[3336-19-00-00](#)

Start: 16.09.2019

#### **Statistical analysis of correlated and repeated measurements - Course A (SAS Statistical Software)**

[3319-19-00-00](#)

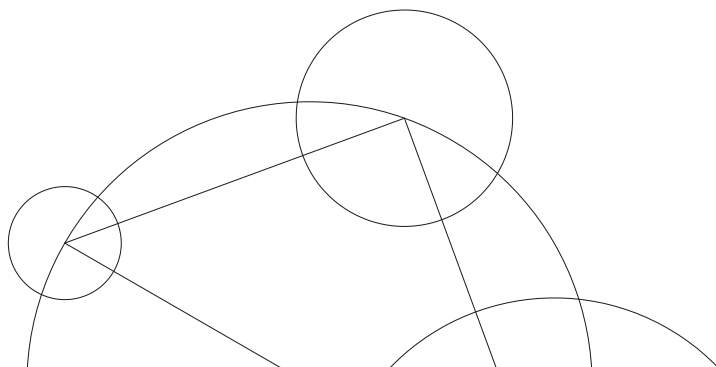
Start: 19.11.2019

#### **Statistical analysis of correlated and repeated measurements - Course B (R Statistical Software)**

[3319-19-00-01](#)

Start: 19.11.2019





## PhD defenses

28 June 2019: **Anders Husby**

Nationwide Cohort Studies on Reproductive History and Cancer Incidence

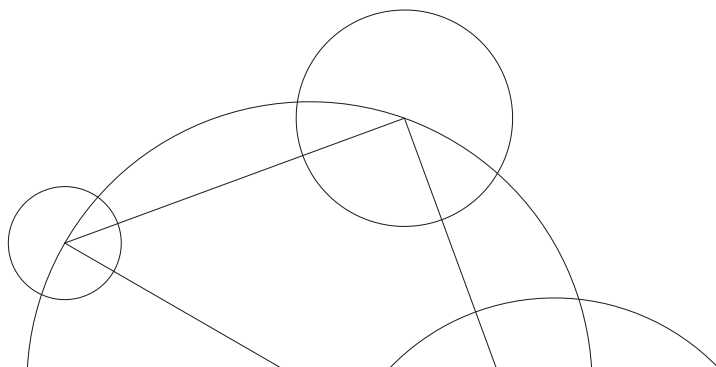
[Read more](#)

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

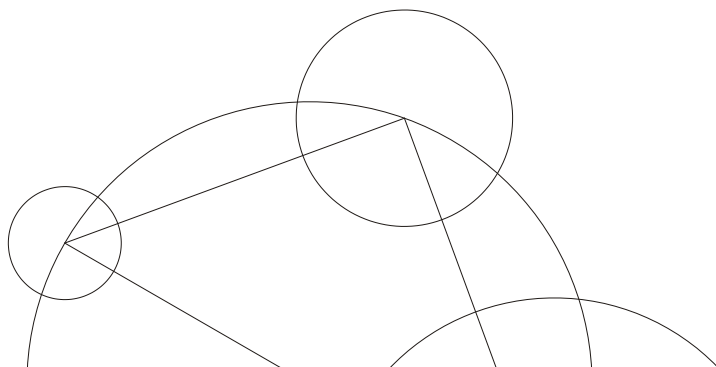
## PhD degrees

*Congratulations to the 26 PhD students who have been awarded their PhD degree between 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 and 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 within the graduate program 'Public Health & Epidemiology'.*

Name	Project	Supervisor
Kamma Sundgaard Lund	Acupuncture for menopausal symptoms: Development and validation of a patient reported outcome measure, and the efficacy of acupuncture for bothersome menopausal symptoms	Frans Henrik Boch Waldorff
Tora Grauers Willadsen	Multimorbidity: presentation, mortality, and structured personal care	Niels De Fine Olivarius
Kajsa Kirstine Ugelvig Petersen	Adverse occupational health effects in firefighters: mortality, cancer and infertility	Jens Peter Ellekilde Bonde
Anna Carina Klara Magdalena Bebe	Register-based studies on the importance of comorbidity and economic assets in outcomes of Danish patients with dementia	Frans Henrik Boch Waldorff
Helena Breth Nielsen	Working hour arrangements and risk of injury - Effects of night work, evening work and quick returns on risk of injury among healthcare workers	Åse Marie Hansen
Johan Høy Jensen	Organizational Change at Work, Employee Turnover, and Health - a longitudinal study among employees in the Capital Region of Denmark	Jens Peter Ellekilde Bonde
Nanna Maaløe	Assisting Birth Attendants in Providing Acceptable Care under Unacceptable Clinical Realities. The PartoMa Intervention Study at Zanzibar's Tertiary Hospital	Ib Christian Bygbjerg
Eik Dybboe Bjerre	Physical Activity, Exercise and Football in Men with Prostate Cancer	Julie Midtgaard Klausen
Lonny Merete Stokholm	Obstetric use of synthetic oxytocin and possible consequences for neurodevelopmental disorders	Katrine Strandberg-Larsen
Tanja Gram Petersen	Risk factors for cerebral palsy in children born in Denmark and Norway; Exploring maternal thyroid disorder, use of analgesics, and ethnicity in association with the risk of cerebral palsy	Katrine Strandberg-Larsen
Amélie Cléo Keller	Vitamins A and D during gestation and offspring metabolic health	Berit Heitmann
Paula Edeusa Cristina Hammer	Night work during pregnancy and maternal health	Jens Peter Ellekilde Bonde



Terese Sara Høj Jørgensen	Social conditions and the course of physical function in old age	Charlotte Juul Nilsson
Laura Trolle Saust	Antibiotic stewardship in general practice - development and application of quality indicators	Lars Bjerrum
Gitte Lindved Petersen	Socioeconomic position across the life course and physical capability in late-middle age	Rikke Lund
Ditte Mølgaard-Nielsen	Real-world evidence on the safety and effectiveness of drugs and vaccines in pregnancy	Mads Melbye
Hanne Birke	Chronic non-cancer pain and opioid use: Population-based studies	Per Sjøgren
Lars Jørgensen	Benefits and harms of the HPV vaccines	Peter C. Gøtzsche
Line Lund Kårhus	Screening for celiac disease in a general adult population	Allan René Linneberg
Line Due Christensen	Drug use among older adults - an understanding of drug prescribing to older adults	Ove Andersen
Frederik Taylor Pitter	Epidemiology, morbidity and mortality in Adult Spinal Deformity surgery: a nationwide study	Poul Martin Gehrchen
Michaela Høj	Implementing, adjusting and practicing the educational model RENEW-DK in two Danish public sector services - A critical investigation of facilitation of practice change in support of young people with mental health difficulties in a mental health center and an employment center	Sidse Marie Hemmingsen Arnfred
Andreas Stribolt Rigas	Iron deficiency - causes and consequences	Henrik Ullum
Gunn Ammitzbøll	LYCA The effect of progressive resistance training after breast cancer surgery with axillary lymph node dissection	Christoffer Johansen
Filippa Nyboe Norsker	Late effects in survivors of neuroblastoma and soft-tissue sarcomas - Studies within the Adult Life after Childhood Cancer in Scandinavia (ALiCCS) research program	Nils Aage Brüner
Rikke Langballe	Contralateral Breast Cancer Preventive Therapy and Survival	Nils Aage Brüner
Andreas Søndergaard Heltberg	Social disparity in type 2 diabetes: Diagnosis, attainment of treatment goals, prognosis, and effects of structured personal care	John Sahl Andersen
Agnete Skovlund Dissing	Social Relations, Smartphone Interactions and Well-being in Young Adults	Rikke Lund
Sasmita Kusumastuti	Prognostication in Old Age	Rudolf Westendorp
Betina Nørsgaard	Injury risk and prevention among male workers in Denmark The public health approach to framing two nationwide follow-up studies of hospital-treated injuries and a workplace safety intervention study	Ulla Christensen
Lærke Priskorn	Semen quality in young Danish men - prenatal factors and adult lifestyle	Katharina Maria Main
Carsten Robert Hamann	Atopic dermatitis and parental disease - Epidemiologic studies	Jacob Pontoppidan Thyssen
Lene Munch	Risk stratification of a population with type 2 diabetes and shared care management of patients with intermediate risk across the primary and secondary health care sectors	Tina Vilsbøll Lauritsen



Line Klingen Gjærde	Childhood body size and growth: associations with early cardiometabolic health and later stroke	Jennifer Lyn Baker
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## Allocation of grants from the graduate program, Spring 2019

### Research stays abroad:

Anders Mikkelsen, 10,000 DKK to stay at Tromsø University, Norway

Mette Skaaning, 10,000 DKK to stay at Deakin University, Australia

### One week writing retreats:

Emilie Just-Østergaard og Maria Stjerne Grønkjær

Rikke Schultz

Maria Hach, Ditte Vassard og Sabrina Islamoska

Jessica Malmqvist og Anne Beiter Arreskov

## Funding opportunities for research stays abroad in 2019/2020

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 2019 or 2020 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](mailto: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.

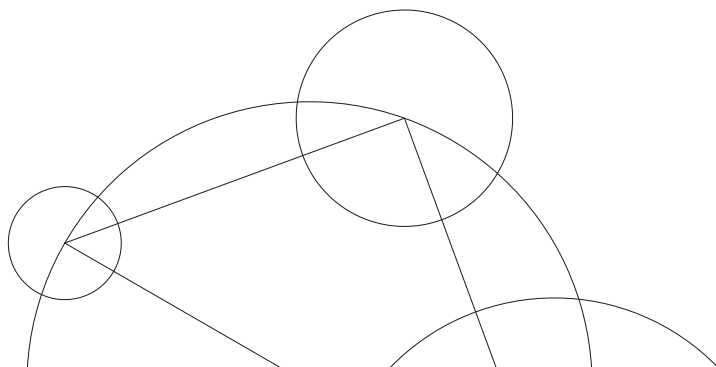
Please be aware that these funds are in addition to the funds you can apply for through the PhD School:

<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](mailto:nahuro@sund.ku.dk) or Lisbeth Lyng Hansen, [LLH@sund.ku.dk](mailto: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 now use Skjalm Hvide Hotel close to Slangerup in Nordsjælland. Please send a short motivated application to Lisbeth, [LLH@sund.ku.dk](mailto:LLH@sund.ku.dk).



## Coaching sessions

We offer coaching sessions to PhD students that experience challenges in their projects. We have contact to three 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, [lh@sund.ku.dk](mailto:lh@sund.ku.dk). She can mediate the contact to the coaches. All requests will be handled confidentially.

## Courses on supervision for PhD supervisors

### **Supervision of PhD students**

Department of Science Education, University of Copenhagen

This course aims to provide participants with the practical and theoretical basis supervising PhD students - both as principal or supplementary supervisor. The course is designed for new as well as experienced supervisors. For course dates, see [http://www.ind.ku.dk/english/course\\_overview/teacher\\_training/phd\\_supervision/](http://www.ind.ku.dk/english/course_overview/teacher_training/phd_supervision/)