

Press release

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Basic information

Name: Marie Weinreich Petersen

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Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Per Fink

Title of dissertation: Functional somatic symptoms and syndromes in the Danish population

Date for defence: 16.08.2019 at (time of day): 14:00 Place: The Lakeside Theatres, Bartholin Allé 3, Aarhus University, build. 1252/room 310.

Press release (Danish)

Funktionelle lidelser i den Danske befolkning

Et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health, undersøger hyppighed og karakteristika af funktionelle somatiske symptomer og syndromer i den danske befolkning. Projektet er gennemført af Marie Weinreich Petersen, der forsvare afhandlingen d. 16. august 2019.

Funktionelle lidelser er karakteriserede ved vedvarende fysiske symptomer, der ikke kan tilskrives anden kendt fysisk eller psykisk sygdom. Funktionelle lidelser kan være yderst invaliderende og kan medføre store sundhedsrelaterede omkostninger for samfundet. Rapporteret hyppighed af disse lidelser i almene populationer varierer meget, og der har vist sig at være et stort overlap mellem de forskellige syndromer. Befolkningsstudier inkluderende flere forskellige funktionelle lidelser er dog sparsomme.

Dette ph.d.-projekt har undersøgt hyppighed og karakteristika af en række funktionelle lidelser, og det inkluderer data fra et af verdens største studier om funktionelle lidelser, Danish Study of Functional Disorders (DanFunD) baseline kohorten (n=9656).

Studiet fandt, at funktionelle lidelser er hyppige i den voksne danske befolkning, og de kan være meget invaliderende. Et stort overlap mellem de funktionelle syndromer blev set, og i fremtiden er det, både i forskningen i klinikken, vigtigt at anerkende, at de funktionelle lidelser kan præsentere sig som både enkelt-syndromer og som multiple syndromer.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 16/08 kl. 14:00 i Søauditorierne, bygning 1252/lokale 310, Aarhus Universitet, Bartholin Allé, Aarhus C.

Titlen på projektet er "Functional somatic symptoms and syndromes in the Danish population".

Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Marie Weinreich Petersen, e-mail: mawept@rm.dk, tlf. 5173 9954.

Bedømmelsesudvalg: Professor Kaj Sparle Christensen, Aarhus Universitet, Professor Emeritus Francis Creed, Manchester University, Professor Emeritus Peter White, Barts and The London Queen Mary University of London.

Press release (English)

Functional somatic symptoms and syndromes in the Danish population

A new PhD project from Aarhus University, Health, investigates frequency and characteristics of functional somatic symptoms and syndromes in the Danish population. The project was carried out by Marie Weinreich Petersen who is defending the PhD dissertation on the 16th of August 2019.

Functional somatic disorders are characterized by persistent physical symptoms for which no current clinical or paraclinical tests can be used to establish a diagnosis. They can cause great impairment and disability in patients and induce high health care costs. Reported frequency in the general population varies, and a pronounced overlap between the various syndromes has been suggested. Population-based studies including a range of disorders are, however, sparse.

This PhD study aimed to study the frequency and characteristics of various functional somatic disorders and included data from one of the world's largest population-based studies, the Danish Study of Functional Disorders (DanFunD) baseline cohort (n=9,656).

The PhD study revealed that functional somatic disorders are frequent in the adult Danish population, and they may be highly bothersome and impairing, especially in those with symptoms from multiple organ systems. A great overlap between the syndromes was seen, and it is important in the future, both in research and clinical settings, to acknowledge that functional somatic disorders can appear in both mono and multi-syndromatic forms.

The defence is public and takes place on 16/08 at 14:00 in the Lakeside Theatres building 1252/room 310, at Aarhus University, Bartholin Allé 3, Aarhus C.

The title of the project is Functional somatic symptoms and syndromes in the Danish population.

For more information, please contact PhD student Marie Weinreich Petersen, email: mawept@rm.dk, Phone: +45 5173 9954.

Assessment committee: Professor Kaj Sparle Christensen, Aarhus University, Professor Emeritus Francis Creed, Manchester University, Professor Emeritus Peter White, Barts and The London Queen Mary University of London.

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