

## Press release

Please fill in this form and return it to [graduateschoolhealth@au.dk](mailto:graduateschoolhealth@au.dk) in Word format no later than three weeks prior to your defence.

### Basic information

Name: Lilja Kristín Dagsdóttir

Email: lkd@dent.au.dk Phone: 26340216

Department of: Dentistry

Main supervisor:

Peter Svensson, DDS, PhD, Dr.Odont.

Professor and head

Section for Orofacial Pain and Jaw Function,  
Department of Dentistry and Oral Health

Faculty of Health  
Aarhus University  
Denmark

Title of dissertation: "Multisensory Modulation of Pain and Perceptual Distortion in the Orofacial Region"

Date for defence: Friday 23 November 2018 at (time of day): 1-3 pm Place: Auditorium 1, Building 1612, room 018E, Vennelyst Boulevard 9, Department of Dentistry and Oral Health, Aarhus University.

Press release (Danish)

Smerter og manipulation af sansefunktionen i ansigtet spiller en afgørende rolle for hvordan vi oplever vores eget ansigt.

Kroniske smerter er en svær samfundsmæssig udfordring. Den økonomiske belastning for vores samfund overstiger omkostningerne for henholdsvis cancer, kardiovaskulære sygdomme og diabetes. Trods dette vægtes kroniske smerter ikke lige så højt som andre kroniske lidelser. Hvor forskningen har givet os en bred viden om de mange patofysiologiske mekanismer, har der været meget lidt fokus på visse typer af ansigtssmerter samt forstyrrelser i den kropslige opfattelse, og i særdeleshed forstyrrelser i ansigtsoptfattelsen også betegnet som "perceptual distortion".

Et Ph.D.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health har belyst nye aspekter af ansigtssmerter og betydningen af hvordan flere samtidige påvirkninger integreres med vores opfattelse af vores eget ansigt. Dette vil kunne åbne for nye behandlingsmuligheder af f.eks. patienter med nerveskader på ansigtsnerves, hvor mulighederne for konventionelle behandlinger er sparsomme og ofte uden målbar effekt. Resultaterne fra projektet har klart dokumenteret, at smerte samt manipulation af sansefunktionen i ansigtet spiller en afgørende rolle for, hvordan vi oplever vores eget ansigt. Det er således muligt, at nye behandlingsformer i større omfang bør inddrage metoder til at bearbejde forvrængningen af ansigtet som et vigtigt skridt i forbedringen af kroniske ansigtssmerter.

Projektet er gennemført af Lilja Kristín Dagsdóttir, der forsvarer det d. 23 november 2018.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted fredag den 23 november 2018, kl.13:00-15:00 i Auditorium 1, 018E , Bygning 1612, Vennelyst Boulevard 9, Institut for Odontologi og Oral Sundhed, Health, Aarhus Universitet, Vennelyst Boulevard 9, Aarhus C. Titlen på projektet er "Multisensory Modulation of Pain and Perceptual Distortion in the Orofacial Region". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Lilja Kristín Dagsdóttir, e-mail: lkd@dent.au.dk.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Annika Rosén, DDS, PhD

Professor

Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department of Clinical Dentistry  
University of Bergen

Norway

Eva Wolf, DDS, PhD  
Docent  
Department of Endodontics  
Faculty of Odontology  
Malmö University  
Sweden

Formand for bedømmelsesudvalget  
Sven Erik Nørholt, DDS, PhD  
Clinical professor  
Section for Maxillofacial Surgery and Oral Pathology Department of Dentistry and Oral Health  
Faculty of Health  
Aarhus University  
Denmark

Press release (English)

Pain in the orofacial region and modulation of sensory function shapes the way we perceive our own face.

Chronic pain is a severe healthcare challenge. The economic burden for society is greater than other chronic diseases, for example heart disease, cancer and diabetes. However, chronic pain is yet to be recognised at an equal level with other chronic conditions. While a wealth of knowledge has emerged from research into the pathophysiological mechanisms regarding the neuropathic type of pain, limited focus has been directed towards certain aspects of orofacial pain and corporeal awareness. In particular, perceptual distortion.

A Ph.D.-project from Aarhus University, Health, has focused on new aspects of orofacial pain and multisensory integration in the perception of our own face. Importantly, this may provide a foundation for treating a subgroup of orofacial patients with neuropathic pain, where conventional management sources are limited and often ineffective.

The project has identified that the modulation of pain and sensory function, in the orofacial region contributes a vital role for experiences regarding how we perceive our own face. Therefore, making it possible to translate the findings into innovative management strategies, that focus on perceptual distortion with a goal to improve the quality of life for patients living with chronic orofacial pain.

The project was carried out by Lilja Kristín Dagsdóttir, who is defending her dissertation on Friday 23 of November 2018.

The defence is public and takes place on Friday 23 November 2018 at Auditorium 1, Building 1612, room 018E, Department of Dentistry and Oral Health, Aarhus University, Vennelyst Boulevard 9, Aarhus C. The title of the project is "Multisensory Modulation of Pain and Perceptual Distortion in the Orofacial Region". For more information, please contact PhD student Lilja Kristín Dagsdóttir, email:lkd@dent.au.dk.

Assessment Committee  
Annika Rosén, DDS, PhD  
Professor  
Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery  
Department of Clinical Dentistry University of Bergen  
Norway

Eva Wolf, DDS, PhD  
Docent  
Department of Endodontics  
Faculty of Odontology  
Malmö University

Sweden

Chairman of the committee and moderator of the public defence  
Sven Erik Nørholt, DDS, PhD  
Clinical professor Section for Maxillofacial Surgery and Oral Pathology  
Department of Dentistry and Oral Health  
Faculty of Health  
Aarhus University  
Denmark

### **Permission**

By sending in this form:

- I hereby grant permission to publish the above Danish and English press releases.
- I confirm that I have been informed that any applicable inventions shall be treated confidentially and shall under no circumstances whatsoever be published, presented or mentioned prior to submission of a patent application, and that I have an obligation to inform my head of department and the university's Patents Committee if I believe I have made an invention in connection with my work. I also confirm that I am not aware that publication violates any other possible holders of a copyright.