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Invitation for PhD defense

by Peter Ascanius Jacobsen



COPD patients' vulnerability to detach- ment from the workforce and their em- ployment status' association with mor- tality and treatable traits

Friday 18. March, 2022

Time: 13.00 in the auditorium B,

Place: Forskningsens hus, Aalborg Universitetshospital

The defense can also be followed via zoom:

<https://aaudk.zoom.us/j/61882548649>



About the PhD thesis

The existing literature on COPD patients workforce connection indicate that COPD patients have more absence from work, higher unemployment and higher early retirement rates compared to healthy individuals and individuals with other chronic diseases. Limited studies have explored how workforce connection impacts clinical prognosis and early detection of patients at risk of detachment from the workforce. This Ph.D. thesis includes four studies that explore these subjects aimed at identifying subgroups of patients vulnerable to negative health- and work outcomes.

To explore these endpoints we use Danish national registry data with information on all admissions and all public social support. In the first study we find that COPD patients outside the workforce have higher readmission and mortality rates. In the second study we find that this is also the case for individuals who voluntarily leaves the workforce depending on when patients chooses to leave the workforce. The third study identifies COPD patients who are older, have more comorbidity, living alone or receive higher treatment step as more likely to leave the workforce due to early retirement.

The fourth study explores treatable traits in patients with COPD without paid work, compared to those with paid work. COPD patients without paid work are found to have more treatable traits like lower exercise capacity, more dyspnea, higher exacerbation frequency, and lower daily activity.

The Ph.D. thesis hereby identify workforce connection as a socioeconomic marker of poor prognosis, identifying vulnerable patients and suggesting potential areas of intervention for the vulnerable subgroups. Future studies should explore if intervention may improve the vulnerable patients' clinical prognosis either through improved workforce connection or by improving treatable traits.

Invitation for PhD defense

The Department of Clinical Medicine, Aalborg University and Aalborg University Hospital are pleased to invite to PhD defense by *Dr, Peter Ascanius Jacobsen*, who will defend the thesis entitled:

COPD patients' vulnerability to detachment from the workforce and their employment status' association with mortality and treatable traits

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After the defense there will be held a reception. All are welcome.