

**ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUGS IN PREGNANCY AND RISK FOR MOTHER AND CHILD,
May 19 & 20 2021, Oslo, Norway**

Information about the speakers at the webinar

Therese Jahre, board member of the Norwegian Epilepsy Association, Norway



Therese is active in the Norwegian Epilepsy Association, where she has been a board member for several years. Therese herself has epilepsy and contributes a lot with her knowledge of living with epilepsy.

Sissel Karin Haavaag, General Secretary of the Norwegian Epilepsy Association, Norway



Sissel Haavaag has extensive professional experience both from Oslo University Hospital and from the municipal health service. The Epilepsy Association's most important tasks are to spread information about epilepsy and living with the diagnosis.

Sonia Hernandez-Diaz, Professor of Epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health



Her area of interest is drug safety evaluation from real world data, with a special emphasis on the design, conduct, and analysis of studies in pregnant women and their infants.

Hernandez-Diaz has published more than 200 articles in respected clinical and epidemiological journals. She is Past-President of both the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology and the Society for Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology Research; and serves as a Special Government Employee for the FDA Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee, as a member of the NICHD Pregnancy & Neonatology Study Section, and as member of the Teratogenic Information Services (TERIS) Advisory Board.

Jakob Christensen, Consultant Neurologist, Department of Neurology, Aarhus University Hospital and the National Centre for Register-based Research, Aarhus University, Denmark



Dr. Jakob Christensen is a Consultant Neurologist and the Danish primary investigator in the SCAN-AED group. Jakob Christensen's current work focuses on consequences of prenatal exposure to drugs and psychiatric co-morbidity in persons with epilepsy.

Patrick A. Forcelli, Assistant Professor in Pharmacology, Georgetown University, USA



Dr. Forcelli received his Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Georgetown University in 2011, where he is now an Associate Professor and Vice-Chair of the Dept of Pharmacology & Physiology. His research program focuses on the impact of anti-seizure medications and seizures on brain development, the neural circuitry controlling seizure propagation, and the neural circuitry controlling behavior. His laboratory has described, in rodent models, a variety of sequelae of early-life exposure to anti-seizure medications, including cell death, lasting disruptions in synaptic development, and long-term alterations in behavior.

Sophie Kervyn, Non-clinical Safety Lead, UCB Biopharma Srl, Belgium



Sophie Kervyn is a biologist and toxicologist by training and have over 25 years of experience in Drug Development, from early candidate selection through to registration and post-marketing, with experience in several Therapeutic Areas including neurology.

She is Non-clinical lead on multi-disciplinary, multi-site, international Project Teams, responsible for non-clinical testing strategies to support NCEs and NBEs. She also serve as departmental liaison for the reprotoxicity studies, reviewing strategy, protocols, reports, answers to questions from authorities.

Prior to joining UCB in 2007, she worked at Eli Lilly

Jacqueline Cohen, researcher at Department of Chronic Diseases and Ageing and Centre for Fertility and Health at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo, Norway



Dr. Jacqueline Cohen is a researcher at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. She has a PhD in Epidemiology and was a postdoctoral fellow and trainee of the Harvard Program on Perinatal and Pediatric Pharmacoepidemiology before coming to Norway in 2018.

Her current research is mainly focused on the safety of prescribed medicines during pregnancy based on observational studies in Nordic population-based health registers

Julie Werenberg Dreier, PhD; Senior Researcher, The National Centre for Register-based Research, Aarhus University, Denmark & Bergen Epilepsy Research Group, University of Bergen, Norway



Julie W Dreier is a senior researcher in the SCAN-AED group and epidemiologist with expertise in register-based studies within developmental epidemiology, focusing on neurological disorders, psychiatric disorders and general cognitive development in children.

Marte-Helene Bjørk, Consultant Neurologist, Haukeland University Hospital and Associate Professor, Department of Clinical Medicine, Bergen University, Norway



Marte-Helene Bjørk works half of her time as a clinical neurologist at Haukeland University Hospital. She frequently follows women with epilepsy clinically during their pregnancies and postpartum period. The rest of her time, Marte works as an Associate professor at University of Bergen. Her current research is mainly focused on observational studies using Nordic health registries. She is the chair of Bergen Epilepsy Research Group and a member of the European Academy of Neurology Epilepsy Panel.

Silje Alvestad, Consultant Neurologist, National Center for Epilepsy, Oslo University Hospital, and Postdoc, University of Bergen, Norway



Silje Alvestad is a consultant neurologist at the National Centre for Epilepsy, in Oslo, Norway. She is responsible for the care of pregnant women with epilepsy at the centre and national coordinator for the EURAP study. She is also a post doctoral fellow in the SCAN-AED project at the University of Bergen

Neda Razaz, Assistant Professor, Clinical Epidemiology Division, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden



PhD in Epidemiology from the School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia, Canada in January 2016. Moved then to Sweden for a postdoc at the Clinical Epidemiology Division, Department of Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm and became an Assistant Professor at Karolinska Institutet in January 2020. Current research program aims to understand the role of maternal and paternal chronic illness during pregnancy, and medication use on neurodevelopmental outcomes in offspring using national health databases.

Page B. Pennel, MD, Professor of Neurology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, USA



Dr. Page Pennell is a clinician investigator with a focus on maternal and fetal outcomes during pregnancy in women with epilepsy, pharmacokinetic changes of anti-seizure medications with pregnancy and exogenous hormones, and the effects of neuroactive steroids on seizure provocation. Her current work includes a multi-center clinical study across 20 sites, Maternal Outcomes and Neurodevelopmental Effects of AEDs (MONEAD), funded by the National Institutes of Health. She has authored >140 original research manuscripts in the field, review articles, invited editorials, and book chapters, and co-authored AAN guidelines. She served as President of the American Epilepsy Society in 2018-2019.

Torbjörn Tomson, Senior Professor of Neurology, Dept Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden



Dr Tomson is Senior Professor of Neurology at the at the Department of Clinical Neuroscience Karolinska Institutet, and consultant at the department of Neurology, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden. His emphasis in epilepsy research is on pharmacotherapy, epidemiology and pregnancy issues. Main contributions are in research on SUDEP and pregnancy outcomes in relation to maternal use of different antiseizure medications. He has served on several Commissions of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) and is currently chairing the Task Force on Women and Pregnancy.

Rebecca Bromley, Research Fellow, Division of Neuroscience & experimental Psychology, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, University of Manchester, UK



Dr Bromley is a Paediatric Neuropsychologist based in the UK who works both academically and clinically. She completed her PhD on the longer-term neurodevelopmental outcomes of children exposed to anti-seizure medications in the womb. She has gone on to develop a series of research studies aimed at further delineating the possible risks associated with in utero exposure to medications. She works primarily within a Paediatric Epilepsy Team at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, but she is increasingly seeing more children and young adults with Fetal Valproate Spectrum Disorder.

Håkon Magne Vegrim, MD, PhD student, Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Bergen, Norway



Vegrim is a PhD student in the Bergen Epilepsy Research Group, University of Bergen and in the SCAN-AED project. His research focuses on safety studies of folic acid supplement with respect to maternal and child cancer. Vegrim is a medical doctor with clinical experience in neurology.

MaiBritt Bjerrum, Master of Public Health-student, National Centre for Register-based Research, Aarhus University



Michael Ceulemans, Postdoctoral Researcher, PharmD, PhD, Department of Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences, KU Leuven, Belgium



Cecilie Johannessen Landmark, Professor Metropolitan University, and The National Center for Epilepsy, Oslo University Hospital, Norway



Cecilie Johannessen Landmark is Professor of Pharmacology and Head of the Pharmacology team at the National Center for Epilepsy. She has been focusing on personalized medicine in patients with epilepsy for the last 20 years through teaching, research and clinical work at OsloMet, the National center for epilepsy and the Laboratory for clinical pharmacology. She is involved in various national and international collaborations and has published a range of articles related to topics of clinical pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, therapeutic drug monitoring, and patient safety issues in vulnerable patient groups on the patient and population levels.