

RESEARCH SEMINAR IN EVIDENCE-BASED PSYCHIATRY

'Active Placebo'

Date: August 31th, 2026



Venue: Meeting Room 3.26, Building 3, 4th floor, Central and Western Zealand Hospital, Fælledvej 6, 4200 Slagelse

A growing emphasis on high-quality, evidence-based treatment in psychiatry was reflected in a 2015 report by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry for Children, Gender Equality, Integration and Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Higher Education and Science. In response, Region Zealand established the Center for Evidence-Based Psychiatry (CEBP) in 2018. The centre's primary objective is to support and promote evidence-based practice in psychiatry through randomised clinical trials, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses. In randomised trials, participants and healthcare personnel are often blinded by comparing the experimental drug with a placebo that matches its appearance. However, if the drug has perceptible adverse effects, participants may be able to guess which intervention group they have been allocated to. Active placebo controls may help prevent this so-called unblinding by mimicking the adverse effects of the drug.

In this seminar, MD and PhD student David Laursen, Cochrane Denmark and Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine Odense (CEBMO), University of Southern Denmark, will introduce active placebo controls and discuss challenges related to their potential impact, development, and terminology.

Professor in Psychiatry and Pharmacology Gesche Jürgens, from the Research Unit for Clinical Psychopharmacology, will give a presentation on placebo effects in medicine.

Please register your participation no later than August 17th by contacting:
psykforsk@regionsjaelland.dk.

Chair: Professor Ole Jakob Storebø

PROGRAM

10:00 – 10:20 Short introduction to the Methylphenidate versus Active Placebo for ADHD in Children and Adolescents (MAPACA) project by Ole Jakob Storebø

10:20 – 11:20 Trials, unblinding, and active placebo controls by David Laursen

11:20– 11:35 Short break

11:35 – 12:05 About the placebo effects in medicine by Gesche Jürgens

12:05 – 12:15 Closing comments by Ole Jakob Storebø

It is possible to participate via zoom link:

<https://syddanskuni.zoom.us/j/65371037416?pwd=6LEKv2i3VH8PD9yugR36C764aWI4zf.1>

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