

JUNE 2021 | ISSUE 22

# IVP NEWS

The biannually e-newsletter for the In Vivo Pharmacology Graduate Programme



## PhD Planner...

**As of 20 May 2021, all PhD students and their principal supervisors have to manage their PhD programme in PhD Planner. Tasks in PhD Planner includes:**

- 1. Regular assessments, nominating and assessment committee and submission of thesis**
- 2. Applications regarding long-term illness, maternity/ paternity leave, change in the group of supervisors, extension of enrolment, part-time studies, discontinuation and leave of absence**
- 3. Registration of external courses and change of research environment**
- 4. Find information regarding your enrolment, thesis, defence or assessment**

### **How to get help?**

**You are always welcome to contact the Graduate School:  
Call them at (+45) 35 32 65 70 - Lines are open Monday to Thursday 12.30-15.00 and Friday 12-14.  
Email them at [graduateschool@sund.ku.dk](mailto:graduateschool@sund.ku.dk) - remember to state your full name and a phone number.  
They will then redirect you to one of the PhD Planner supporters.**

**Also in the June issue:**

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# Since last...

Dear All,

Welcome back to yet another newsletter in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope that we are on the backside of the whole thing and things are slowly starting to resume to normal.

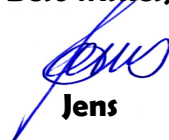
The IVP course in June will be online again this year but after the summer holidays, we are looking into a fall where we can hopefully meet again – and some of you for the first time in person! Thus, the student organized Fourth IVP Animal Models Workshop on the 27th of August is being planned as a physical event with interesting talks and food afterwards – mark your calendars! Also, the IVP Annual Meeting October 7-8th will – if God and corona permits – be its usual self with interesting talks with official opponents, ‘Posters & Beers’, Gala Dinner, Open bar and students only session on day 2 – this year on ‘How to write amazing scientific papers and avoid pitfalls in science’. This year’s keynote lecture will be given by Professor Hanno Würbel from University of Bern, who will discuss the reproducibility crisis in animal experimentation!

As some of you may have seen, we have fought a long time to secure compensation for those PhD students that have been delayed by the COVID-19 situation. This pressure seems finally to have paid off as more money is being allocated to this particular purpose. Watch out for news on how to apply.

On the administrative level, the new PhD-planner has been launched. So far, it looks like a clear improvement but time will show. It is nice that all activities are together in one online app so we do not need all the paperwork and signatures in the future.

Finally, I want to encourage both new and older members to join all our activities when we start up again! Several of you are new in the program and we have not yet had a chance to meet in person. Remember that the program offers a unique opportunity for you to establish a network within this rather narrow field of research, which will no doubt be a benefit for you in your future career – I speak from experience! I wish you all a happy summer!

Best wishes,



Jens



Jens Lykkesfeldt



...we have fought a long time to secure compensation for those PhD students that have been delayed by the COVID-19 situation. This pressure seems finally to have paid off as more money is being allocated to this particular purpose. Watch out for news on how to apply.

# News from the Student Representatives...

Dear fellow members of the IVP Graduate Programme,

We hope that you are slowly returning to your pre-corona work/social lives, and enjoying some much needed summer weather.

We have been planning our fourth animal models workshop, taking place August 27th at the Mærsk tower. The workshop will feature talks on Animal Models in Vaccine Development with Allan Randrup Thomsen and Mie Linder Hübbe, Animal Behaviour Studies with Jared Cregg and Anna Klawonn, and Animal Models in Allergy and Autoimmune Diseases with Katrine Lindholm Bøgh and Line Sidsel Fisker Zachariassen. We hope to see as many of you there in person as this will, hopefully, be the first in-person event since the IVP annual meeting almost 1,5 years ago.



Josephine and speaker, Assistant Professor Johan Ulrik Lind, at Animal Models Workshop in 2019



Fun and games from last year's IVP Annual Meeting

We have rescheduled the IVP annual meeting in Helsingør for October 7-8th. Those of you who are presenting your work at this year's event will be notified in due course. You will get the chance to listen to our keynote speaker Prof. Dr. Hanno Würbel from the Animal Welfare Division at the University of Bern, and many interesting talks from your fellow students. Finally yet importantly, we are planning to have Prof. Christian Torp Petersen give a talk on writing scientific papers – overall, an event that you should not miss.

As Josephine will be going on maternity leave, Penille Jensen will be taking over as your new student representative together with Chelsea.

We look forward to seeing all new and old faces at the Animal Models Workshop, and until then we wish you a well-deserved summer holiday.

Best regards  
Chelsea, Josephine and Penille

# Those who defended since last...

Victoria Svop Jensen defended her thesis on Friday 5 March 2021. The title: Diet-induced dyslipidemia and NAFLD in the Syrian hamster: Effects of hyperglycemia and insulin therapy.

# Important Dates

21-25 June 2021 - IVP Course

24 August 2021 - IVP Course: Poster Session

25 August 2021 - IVP Course: Oral Exam

27 August 2021 - IVP Animal Models Workshop

7-8 October 2021 - IVP Annual Meeting

December 2021 - Christmas Gathering



Dinner at the IVP Annual Meeting in 2020

# New Faces...

**Lin Yang** from Dept. of Veterinary and Animal Sciences. Title of project: Effects of antibiotic duration and timing on gut microbiome and functions in preterm new-borns. Principal supervisor: Per Torp Sangild. Project initiated 1 December 2020.

**Jenny Paola Berrio Sanchez** from Dept. of Experimental Medicine. Title of project: Testing the tests. Systematic review and meta-analysis of behavioural tests used to assess emotional traits in rodent models of chronic-stress-induced depression and anxiety. Principal supervisor: Jann Hau. Project initiated 1 December 2020.

**Mia Trein Andersen** from Dept. of Veterinary and Animal Sciences. Title of project: The consequences of using aseptic or non-aseptic techniques for experimental surgery in rodents. Principal supervisor: Dorte Bratbo Sørensen. Project initiated 15 December 2020.

**Penille Jensen** from Dept. of Veterinary and Animal Sciences. Title of project: Mechanisms behind gut-liver-fat crosstalk in a humanized mouse model for diet induced metabolic disorders. Principal supervisor: Camilla Hartmann Friis Hansen. Project initiated 31 December 2020.

**Chen He** from Dept. of Neuroscience. Title of project: Regulation of brain microvessels in health and ischemic stroke. Principal supervisor: Martin Lauritzen. Project initiated 1 January 2021.

**Augusta Ndungwa Kivunzya** from Dept. of Experimental Medicine. Title of project: Health Monitoring, Disease Management and Characterization of Cutaneous Microbiota in the Naked Mole Rat under Laboratory Conditions. Principal supervisor: Klas Abelson. Project initiated 1 February 2021.

**Ariadna Carol Illa** from Dept. of Veterinary and Animal Sciences. Title of project: Translational model of Vascular Occlusive Crisis in anesthetized mice with Sick Cell Disease. Principal supervisor: Søren Skov. Project

initiated 15 April 2021.

**Simone Margaard Offersen** from Dept. of Veterinary and Animal Sciences. Title of project: The mechanism of fecal filtrate transfer to prevent necrotizing enterocolitis in preterm neonates. Principal supervisor: Thomas Thymann. Project initiated 1 June 2021.

**Line Christiansen** from Dept. of Veterinary and Animal Sciences. Title of project: Brain development in early life and effects of nutritional and pharmacological interventions with bioactive components. Principal supervisor: Stine Brandt Bering. Project initiated 1 June 2021.

## A warm welcome to everyone

# New Publications...

[Identification of compounds responsible for the anthelmintic effects of chicory \(\*Cichorium intybus\*\) by molecular networking and bio-guided fractionation.](#) Valente, Angela Hørdum, de Roode, M., Ernst, M., Peña-Espinoza, M., Bornancin, L., Bonde, Charlotte Smith, Martínez-Valladares, M., Ramünke, S., Krücken, J., Simonsen, H. T., Thamsborg, Stig Milan & Williams, Andrew Richard, 2021, In: International Journal for Parasitology: Drugs and Drug Resistance. 15, s. 105-114.

[Dairy-derived emulsifiers in infant formula show marginal effects on the plasma lipid profile and brain structure in preterm piglets relative to soy lecithin.](#) Henriksen, Nicole Lind, Aasmul-Olsen, Karoline, Ramakrishnan, Venkatasubramanian, Nygaard, M. K. E., Sprenger, R. R., Heckmann, A. B., Ostenfeld, M. S., Ejning, C. S., Eskildsen, S. F., Mullertz, Anette, Sangild, Per Torp, Bering, Stine Brandt & Thymann, Thomas, 2021, In: Nutrients. 13, 3, p. 1-18.

**Decreased expression of the GLP-1 receptor after segmental artery injury in mice.**

**Bjørnholm, Katrine Dahl, Povlsen, G. K., Ougaard, M. E., Pyke, C., Rakipovski, G., Tveden-Nyborg, Pernille, Lykkesfeldt, Jens & Skovsted, Gry Freja, 2021, In: The Journal of endocrinology. 248, 3, p. 289-301.**

**Hepatic Stellate Cell Activation and Inactivation in NASH-Fibrosis-Roles as Putative Treatment Targets?**

**Zisser, Alexandra, Ipsen, David Højland & Tveden-Nyborg, Pernille, 2021, In: Biomedicines. 9, 4, 365.**

**Hyperinsulinaemic hypoglycaemia in non-anaesthetized Göttingen minipigs induces a counter-regulatory endocrine response and electrocardiographic changes.**

**Lyhne, Mille Kronborg, Vegge, A., Povlsen, G. K., Slaaby, R., Kildegaard, J., Pedersen-Bjergaard, Ulrik & Olsen, Lisbeth Høier, 2021, In: Scientific Reports. 11, 11 p., 5983.**

**Insulin treatment improves liver histopathology and decreases expression of inflammatory and fibrogenic genes in a hyperglycemic, dyslipidemic hamster model of NAFLD.**

**Jensen, Victoria Svop, Fledelius, C., Zachodnik, C., Damgaard, J., Nygaard, H., Tornqvist, K. S., Kirk, R. K., Viuff, B. M., Wulff, E. M., Lykkesfeldt, Jens & Hvid, H., 2021, In: Journal of Translational Medicine. 19, 1, 80.**

**Liraglutide treatment improves endothelial function in the Ldlr-/- mouse model of atherosclerosis, and affects genes involved in vascular remodelling and inflammation.**

**Bjørnholm, Katrine Dahl, Skovsted, Gry Freja, Mitgaard-Thomsen, A., Rakipovski, G., Tveden-Nyborg, Pernille, Lykkesfeldt, Jens & Povlsen, G. K., 2021, In: Basic & Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology. 128, 1, p. 103-114.**

**Modulation of nociception by amitriptyline hydrochloride in the Speke's hinge-back tortoise (Kiniskys spekii).**

**Musembi Makau, Christopher, Towett, P. K., Abelson, Klas & Kanui, T. I., 2021, In: Veterinary Medicine and Science.**

**Non-immunogenic Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells, a Promising Way Forward for Allogenic**

**Transplantations for Neurological Disorders.**

**Frederiksen, Henriette Reventlow S, Doehn, U., Tveden-Nyborg, Pernille & Freude, Kristine, 2021, In: Frontiers in Genome Editing. 2, 623717.**

**Sex-Specific Survival, Growth, Immunity and Organ Development in Preterm Pigs as Models for Immature Newborns.**

**Bæk, Ole, Cilieborg, Malene Skovsted, Nguyen, Duc Ninh, Bering, Stine Brandt, Thymann, Thomas & Sangild, Per Torp, 2021, In: Frontiers in Pediatrics. 9, 12 p., 626101.**

**Temporal development of dyslipidemia and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (Nafld) in syrian hamsters fed a high-fat, high-fructose, high-cholesterol diet.**

**Jensen, Victoria Svop, Fledelius, C., Wulff, E. M., Lykkesfeldt, Jens & Hvid, H., 2021, In: Nutrients. 13, 2, p. 1-18 18 p., 604.**

**The development of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis is subjected to breeder dependent variation in guinea pigs.**

**Ipsen, David Højland, Agerskov, R. H., Klæbel, Julie Hviid, Lykkesfeldt, Jens & Tveden-Nyborg, Pernille, 2021, In: Scientific Reports. 11, 2955.**

**The effect of acetylsalicylic acid and pentoxifylline in guinea pigs with non-alcoholic steatohepatitis.**

**Ipsen, David Højland, Skat-Rørdam, Josephine, Svenningsen, M., Andersen, Mia Trein, Latta, M., Buelund, Lene Elisabeth, Lintrup, K., Skaarup, R., Lykkesfeldt, Jens & Tveden-Nyborg, Pernille, 2021, (Accepted/In press) In: Basic and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology.**

**Check out  
publications at  
the Graduate  
Programme website**

# Meet the new Student Representative...

Penille Jensen is the newest Student Representative in the IVP Advisory Board. She has a BSc in Biology and MSc in Immunology and Inflammation from the University of Copenhagen. Her MSc thesis project was conducted at the Section of Parasitology and Aquatic Pathology, where she investigated how dietary fibres modulates type-2 induced intestinal inflammation in C57BL/6 mice. During her studies, she has worked with science communication as a tour guide at the Medical Museion and she has worked within T cell-research in the industry.

She is currently employed at Section of Experimental Animal Models, Department of Veterinary Animal Sciences, under expert guidance from Associate Professor Camilla Hartmann Friis Hansen. Her research group (Laboratory Animal Science and Welfare (LAS)) have successfully created a triple knockout (KO) mouse model for mouse-specific innate immune signalling molecules



**Being a student representative, I aim to speak on the behalf of the students of the programme on how we can improve and implement ideas to the programme.**

called toll-like receptors (TLR) 11, 12 and 13. Her PhD

project aims to test the sensitivity of 'humanized' TLR11-13 KO mice to high-fat diet-induced obesity and metabolic disorders and whether 'humanization' of the innate immune system also will improve colonization of a human gut microbiota in mice.



Penille Jensen

**Why is your project important and fascinating?**

"An exciting part of my project is to investigate the role of TLR11-13 in the gut-liver-fat tissue axis and gut microbiota. Moreover, it is exciting and important to improve the high-fat diet-fed mouse model with more severe and late manifestations of metabolic syndrome, insulin resistance, and late complications that are usually absent in obese mice. If we succeed with the TLR11-13 KO mouse model, we will have a novel mouse model for pre-clinical drug testing in metabolic diseases."

**What is the motivation for your PhD?**

"I have always been very

passionate about mucosal immunology and gut microbiota research, which will be a key part of my project. It is motivating for me to hopefully expand our knowledge on the gut barrier and how discrepancy in the immune system between mice and human might influence disease models. The triple TLR11-13 KO model is novel and I am excited to see what the first round of data will tell us."

**Why did you become a student representative in the IVP Advisory Board?**

"Being a new PhD student at IVP graduate programme, I found it interesting to be more engaged in the activities of the programme and expand my professional network. Moreover, I enjoy taking on new challenges and planning events, so I thought being a student representative would be a great addition to my PhD."

**What type of impact do you hope to have as an IVP board member?**

"Being a student representative, I aim to speak on the behalf of the students of the programme on how we can improve and implement ideas to the programme."

# Meet the board...

In the upcoming newsletters, we will focus on the IVP Advisory Board. In this issue, you can meet Charlotte Harmsen, PhD, Project Manager, GDD Innovation at Novo Nordisk and Associate Professor Anne-Marie Heegaard, Translational Pharmacology, Dept. of Drug Design and Pharmacology, SUNDT, UCPH.

Charlotte has been a member of the board since autumn 2020, where she replaced former Novo Nordisk member Rasmus Nielsen.

Charlotte is a molecular biologist from Aarhus University and has done her PhD at Centre of Medical Parasitology at University of Copenhagen. She has always been inspired of entering new fields of knowledge; and so far, she has been experimenting in labs of enzymology, DNA topology, microfluidics, lab on a chip devices, vaccine development, malaria biology, and antibody mining.

She currently manages the programs for academic collaborations, most of these being funding mechanisms for collaborative scientific projects between Novo and academia, allowing their scientists to engage outside Novo and tap into front line academic research while keeping an eye on NN's strategic aims.



Charlotte Harmsen

## Who has influenced you the most?

"My high school biology teacher was not the most inspirational, but he sent me off with words, that today inspires me to be brave and trust my competencies. I had produced this

elaborate assignment on RNAi, gotten 13, and perhaps some cheap points among the teachers for going into an area of really new and high-end science. Being thankful for having ditched my initial idea of writing about deer's in the forests of Denmark, my biology teacher looked at me and said: "I would have loved to hear your take on the deer's", aka "It's not the RNAi – it's you"."



I am very proud to have the opportunity to sit at the other side of the table for once...

## What do you think are your most significant accomplishments?

"Once I discovered a bunch of antibodies which suggested that what we believe as impossible, perhaps is not totally impossible anymore – in regard to preventing malaria disease specifically. I named the antibodies Jan, Anker, and Otto. I also produced two baby girls and named them Esther and Else. My mother tells me, the last is a very generic "Woman-in-her-thirties" thing to count as an accomplishment. Still, I quite think they rule out Jan, Anker, and Otto any day. Ask me again when I'm 40."

## Why did you become a member of the IVP Advisory Board?

"I manage the novo-side of the LIFEPHARM program and inherited the membership with my position."

## What type of impact do you hope to have as a member of the board?

"I am very proud to have the opportunity to sit at the other side of the table for once, and hope to provide the support and inspiration to the PhD students and postdocs of IVP, that I could have used during my time as a PhD student."

The article continues on the next page

Anne-Marie has been a member of the board since 2014. She replaced previous member Ole Bjerrum, who became Prof Emeritus at the Faculty.

She holds an MD and PhD from the University of Copenhagen. She has mostly worked in research at private and public institutions including Nordic Bioscience in Denmark and the National Institutes of Health, USA.

She has been in her current position at the University of Copenhagen since 2003. Her research group does translational research in bone pain from malignant and non-malignant bone diseases. They conduct *in vivo* studies to identify disease mechanisms and new treatments and clinical studies of bone diseases to characterize pain phenotypes.



Anne-Marie Heegaard

#### Who has influenced you the most?

"My late husband Niels Heegaard, who was also in research. He believed in me more than I do myself."

#### What do you think are your most significant research accomplishments?

"Bone pain is a serious symptom of many diseases including metastatic bone disease. I am proud of our research contributions to this field and to have facilitated research in bone pain by organizing and getting funding for European innovative training networks."

#### Why did you become a member of the IVP Advisory Board? What type of impact do you hope to have as a member of the board?

"*In vivo* research is an important element in both basic research and drug discovery and I would like to contribute to strengthening the education of young researchers within this subject."

## Information concerning COVID-19

As a PhD student enrolled at the Graduate School, you must always follow the COVID-19 guidelines issued from

- the Danish authorities
- your workplace (e.g. Capital Region of Denmark and Region Zealand)
- the University of Copenhagen guidelines (for employees with a login to KUNet)

The Graduate School has made guidelines under the current COVID-19 situation. These guidelines will be regularly updated. Find guidelines regarding the following subjects:

#### PhD Defence

- Digital PhD defence
- Digital defence with partly physical presence
- Physical PhD defence
- IT guidance for digital PhD defence
- Preparation of PhD certificates

#### PhD Courses

- Information about PhD courses
- Approval of online courses during lockdown
- Where to look for online courses (non-exhaustive list) a modelling

#### Extension and Delay

- What can I do as a PhD student if my project has been delayed due to COVID-19?
- Extension of the PhD programme, leave of absence and part-time study

Read the guidelines [here](#).



# Where are they now...

Since the initiation of the IVP Graduate Programme, more than 70 students have graduated from the programme. In the upcoming newsletters, we will run a series of articles focusing on former students in the graduate programme. Where are they now? Moreover, what are their plans for the future?

One of those students is Kåre Kryger Vøls. He is a veterinarian with a specialty in biomedicine. Kåre did his PhD at Section of Experimental Animal Models, Department of Veterinary Animal Sciences and graduated from the programme in 2019. His PhD project dealt with 'Understanding the pathogenesis of a chronic debilitating joint disease called haemophilic arthropathy, by establishing in vivo imaging methodology in haemophilic animal models.



**Kåre receiving the price of 5000 DKK for best oral presentation at the IVP Annual Meeting in 2019**

Kåre is currently employed in 'Stem Cell Imaging and Pharmacology' at Novo Nordisk, where he started in 2019. He is part of the in vivo pharmacology team and the imaging team where he is the main responsible for in vivo imaging across stem cell research. Kåre's research entails in vivo stem cell pharmacology studies in which they can use in vivo imaging to test dose control, monitor graft loss and cell proliferation, and track the biodistribution of the transplanted cells.



**Establishing in vivo imaging as a core tool across different projects; this has both refined study designs, replaced more time-consuming methodologies and reduced the number of animals needed.**

**What is innovative about your research?**

**"With stem cells, it's not possible to take a blood sample and measure exposure; therefore, we have to do things differently – which is why we are developing quantitative in vivo imaging methods for cell tracking."**

**Who has influenced you the most?**

**"Scientifically, my PhD supervisors has influenced me the most – with the risk**

**of sounding a bit weird, their voices and input are still in my head to guide me when I plan studies and engage in discussions."**



**Kåre and his co-workers**

**What do you think are your most significant accomplishments?**

**"Establishing in vivo imaging as a core tool across different projects; this has both refined study designs, replaced more time-consuming methodologies and reduced the number of animals needed."**

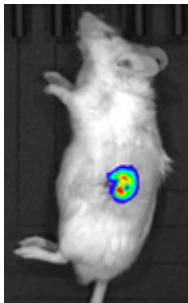
**What are the big issues in your research area?**

**"Stem cell research is a rapidly growing area in medical research that brings along new and specific challenges that have not been addressed previously. Close to my research is that it is essential that we understand where transplanted cells home, and how they migrate and survive in tissue to ensure that cell therapies are efficacious and**

safe for the patients.”

**What do you see yourself doing in ten years' time? What are your professional goals in the next 5, and ten years?**

**“Translational in vivo imaging is likely to play a central role for stem cell-based therapies going forward, and my goal is to help ensure that Novo will be at the forefront of this frontier, both with an in-house platform and through external collaborations.”**



**Mouse transplanted with luciferase-expressing stem cells under the kidney capsule**

**What is the best advice you could give to the present students in the IVP Graduate Programme?**

**“You are doing a PhD, meaning you are in a 3-year educational position. Embrace that, and focus on that every day you are becoming a better scientist, also on the days where you learn what not-to-do again. Keep your eyes on your project, but also exploit that you are in a research environment where other projects, communication and work flows that may not be directly linked to your project can still give you valuable insights into how to become a good scientist and colleague.”**

## Funding...

**SUNDs PhD school provides funding for courses offered from external providers. Up to two courses pr. PhD student. [Read the conditions.](#)**

**SUNDs PhD school also provides funding for stays abroad at another research environment. The stay should be overall 4 weeks, which means that the stay can be split into two short stays as long as they comply with 4 weeks in total. [Read more.](#)**

**The Graduate School now offers financial support for international PhD students' Danish language courses. Learn more about financial support for participation in Danish language courses [here.](#)**

**The IVP graduate programme provides funding for conferences and seminars under the condition that you have been accepted to present a poster or oral presentation. Members that are part of an industrial project are not eligible for funding. [Read more.](#)**

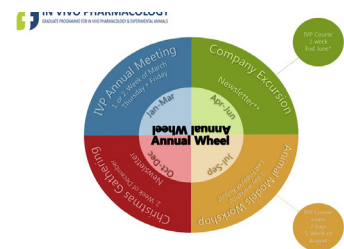


**Photographer: Søren Osgood / <http://www.osgood.nu>**

## IVP Annual Wheel...

**The IVP Advisory Board has decided to make an annual wheel for the IVP Graduate Programme. The Annual Wheel shows IVP's annual activities and what we expect our graduate members to participate in.**

**[Click here to download the annual wheel.](#)**



**Join the IVP Graduate Programme on Facebook**



**Click on the logo to learn more**

# IVP Advisory Board...



**Anne-Marie Heegaard**  
**KU-SUND**  
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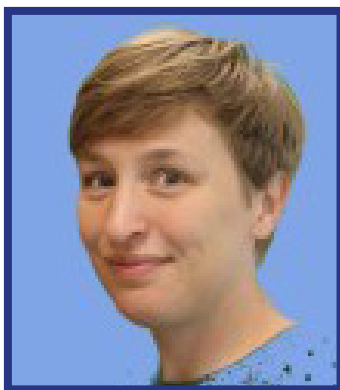
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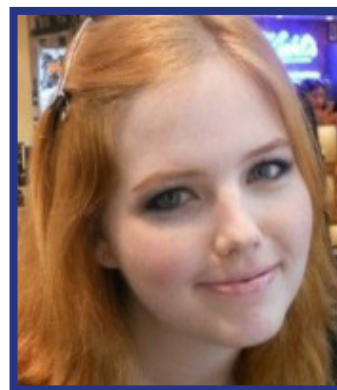
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# IVP Contact Info...

If you have issues to be discussed, things to be clarified, suggestions for the board of the PhD programme, please contact your representatives in advance of next meeting.

## Head of PhD Program

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## Contact

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READ MORE ON: [www.invivofarm.dk](http://www.invivofarm.dk)

## Further information:

For further information, questions or contributions to the newsletter please contact Camilla Elisabeth Søgaard Ebert, [camilla.ebert@sund.ku.dk](mailto:camilla.ebert@sund.ku.dk)

The next IVP Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for June 2021