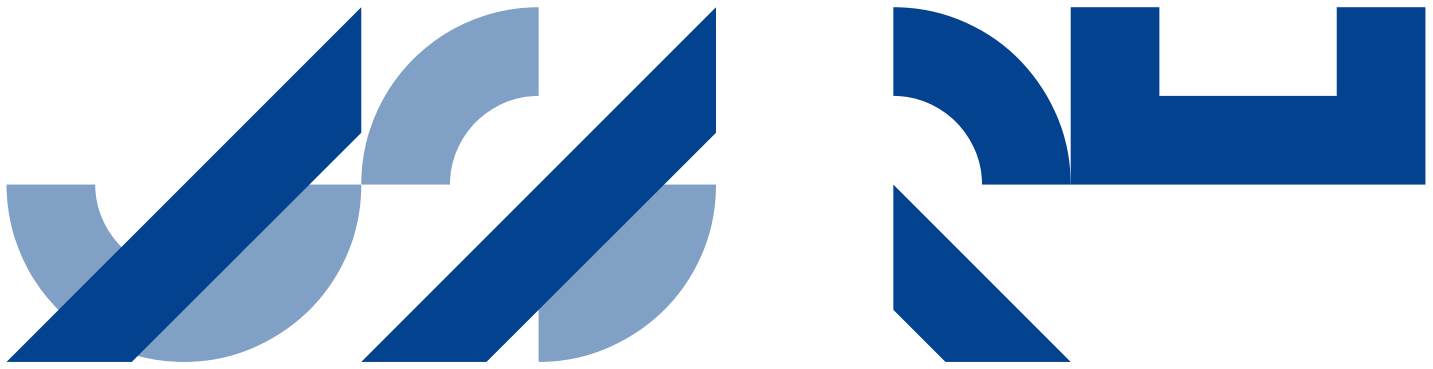




INVITATION – PHD DEFENCE

PETER ANDREAS ANDERSEN, MD

“Refining the dermatomes: Pain and sensory disturbances in radiculopathy”

Friday, November 20, 2026, at 14.00

In auditorium C116-113, Entrance J, Aarhus University Hospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 165, 8200 Aarhus N

The defence is public, in English and expected to last 2 hours.

After the defence, The Danish Pain Research Center will host a reception.



Assessment committee

- Associate Professor Niels Okkels, MD, PhD (Chair and moderator of the defence)
Department of Neurology, Aarhus University Hospital; Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University
- Professor Annina Schmid, MACP, MManipTher, PhD
Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
- Professor Carsten Bjarkam, MD, PhD, DMSc
Department of Neurosurgery, Aalborg University Hospital; Department of Clinical Medicine, Aalborg University

Supervisors

- Professor Nanna Brix Finnerup, MD, DMSc (Main Supervisor)
Danish Pain Research Center, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University
- Clinical Professor Mikkel Mylius Rasmussen, MD, PhD
Department of Neurosurgery, Aarhus University Hospital, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University
- Associate Professor Jan Rosner, MD
Hammel Neurorehabilitation Centre and University Clinic
Danish Pain Research Center, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University
- Clinical Professor Hatice Tankisi, MD, PhD
Department of Clinical Neurophysiology, Aarhus University Hospital
Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University
- Professor Michael Pedersen, MSc, PhD
Comparative Medicine Lab, Department of Clinical medicine, Aarhus University



AARHUS UNIVERSITY

HEALTH – DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL MEDICINE
Danish Pain Research Center



PRESS RELEASE

Peter Andreas Andersen, MD, from The Danish Pain Research Center, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University will defend his PhD thesis titled "Refining the dermatomes: Pain and sensory disturbances in radiculopathy" at 14.00 on November 20, 2026.

The defence is in English and will last approximately 2 hours.

Disease affecting the nerve roots, such as a herniated disc or degenerative changes, can cause pain radiating from the back into the arms or legs, as well as sensory disturbances. The distribution of pain and sensory disturbances is used to determine which nerve root is affected and can guide doctors in diagnosis and treatment. This relationship between nerve roots and areas of the body is shown in anatomy textbooks as dermatome maps, but the research on which these maps are based was mainly carried out in the 1930s and 1940s.

In his PhD project, Peter Andreas Andersen examined 112 patients with disease affecting the nerve roots and mapped pain and sensory disturbances in the arms or legs in order to refine the dermatome maps. The project shows that the areas where symptoms occur vary greatly from patient to patient, and that the areas for different nerve roots overlap considerably.

The results contribute to a better understanding of how nerve root involvement affects sensation and how the clinical examination of these patients can be improved.

The defence is public and takes place on November 20, 2026, at 14.00 in auditorium C116-113, Entrance J, Aarhus University Hospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 165, 8200 Aarhus N

The title of the project is *"Refining the dermatomes: Pain and sensory disturbances in radiculopathy"*

For more information, please contact PhD-student Peter Andreas Andersen. E-mail: pean@clin.au.dk



PRESSEMEDDELELSE

Ph.d.-forsvar: Peter Andreas Andersen, læge, fra Dansk Smerteforskningscenter, Institut for Klinisk Medicin, Aarhus Universitet, vil forsvare sin ph.d.-afhandling med titlen "Refining the dermatomes: Pain and sensory disturbances in radiculopathy" den 20. november 2026 kl. 14.00.

Forsvaret er på engelsk og vil cirka vare 2 timer.

Sygdom ved nerverødderne, såsom diskusprolaps eller slitageforandringer, kan give smerter, der udstråler fra ryggen og ud i arme eller ben, samt føleforstyrrelser. Fordelingen af smerter og føleforstyrrelser bruges til at vurdere, hvilken nerverod der er påvirket, og kan vejlede læger i diagnostik og behandling. Denne sammenhæng mellem nerverødder og områder på kroppen er gengivet i anatomibøger som dermatomkort, men forskningen, der danner grundlag for kortene, blev hovedsageligt udført i 1930'erne og 1940'erne.

I sit ph.d.-projekt har Peter Andreas Andersen undersøgt 112 patienter med sygdom, der påvirker nerverødderne, og kortlagt smerter og føleforstyrrelser i arme eller ben med henblik på at forfine dermatomkortene. Projektet viser, at der er stor variation fra patient til patient i de områder, hvor symptomerne opstår, og at områderne for forskellige nerverødder overlapper betydeligt.

Resultaterne bidrager til en bedre forståelse af, hvordan nerverodspåvirkning påvirker følesansen, og hvordan den kliniske undersøgelse af disse patienter kan forbedres.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 20. november 2026 kl. 14.00 i auditorie C116-113, indgang J, Aarhus University Hospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 165, 8200 Aarhus N

Titlen på projektet er *"Refining the dermatomes: Pain and sensory disturbances in radiculopathy"*.

For yderligere oplysninger kan ph.d.-studerende Peter Andreas Andersen kontaktes på mail: pean@clin.au.dk