

Press release

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Basic information

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Department of: Public Health

Main supervisor: Christian Wejse

Title of dissertation: Nutritional Challenges in Tuberculosis Care in Guinea-Bissau

Date for defence: 18.09.24 at (time of day): 13:00 Place: Samfundsmedicinsk Auditorium

Press release (Danish)

Samspillet mellem underernæring og tuberkulose i Guinea-Bissau

Den komplekse sammenhæng mellem underernæring og tuberkulose i Guinea-Bissau, Vestafrika, belyses i et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health. Projektet er gennemført af Cecilie Blenstrup Patsche, der forsvaret det d. 18/09.

Tuberkulose er en infektionssygdom, der især er udbredt i lavindkomstlande, hvor fattigdom og befolkningstæthed bidrager til smittespredning. Tuberkulose kan kureres med antibiotika, men på trods af tilgængelig behandling, vurderes det, at over 10 millioner mennesker udvikler tuberkulose, og over 1 million mennesker dør af tuberkulose årligt, verden over.

En af de velkendte risikofaktorer for at udvikle tuberkulose er underernæring. Underernæring i form af manglende energi, protein og næringsstoffer, fører til et svækket immunforsvar, som øger risikoen for at udvikle tuberkulose. Underernæring kan blandt andet være forårsaget af en høj grad af fødevarerensikkerhed i lavindkomstlande. Derudover bevirker sygdommen tuberkulose til underernæring via forskellige sygdomsmekanismer i kroppen. Derfor er det ofte vanskeligt at vurdere, om det er underernæring eller tuberkulose, der først opstår og forværrer den anden tilstand.

Det vestafrikanske land Guinea-Bissau, er et af de fattigste lande i verden. Landet har en høj grad af fødevarerensikkerhed og en høj forekomst af tuberkulose. I ph.d. projektet belyses forholdet mellem underernæring og tuberkulose i Guinea-Bissau, og det undersøges om en kombineret behandling af underernæring og tuberkulose har en gavnlig effekt på patienternes helbred.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 18/09 kl. 13 i Samfundsmedicinsk auditorium (bygning 1262), Aarhus Universitet, Bartholins Allé 4, 8000 Aarhus C. Titlen på projektet er "Nutritional Challenges in Tuberculosis Care in Guinea-Bissau". For yderligere oplysninger eller hvis du ønsker at deltage i forsvaret online via ZOOM, venligst kontakt Ph.d.-studerende Cecilie Blenstrup Patsche, e-mail: patsche@ph.au.dk, tlf. 28737792.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Christina C. Dahm, Assoc. Professor, Institut for Folkesundhed, Aarhus Universitet, Danmark
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Press release (English)

The interaction between malnutrition and tuberculosis in Guinea-Bissau

The complex relationship between malnutrition and tuberculosis in Guinea-Bissau, West Africa, is explored in a new Ph.d. project at Aarhus University, Health. The project was carried out by Cecilie Blenstrup Patsche, who is defending her dissertation on 18/09.

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease that is especially prevalent in low-income countries, where poverty and crowded living conditions contribute to disease transmission. Although tuberculosis can be cured with antibiotics, it is estimated that over 10 million people develop tuberculosis, and over 1 million people die from tuberculosis every year worldwide.

Malnutrition, especially undernutrition, is a well-known risk factor for developing tuberculosis. An insufficient intake of energy, protein, and micronutrients, weakens the immune system and thereby increases the risk of developing tuberculosis. Malnutrition may be a result of food insecurity in low-income countries. Furthermore, tuberculosis disease causes malnutrition through various disease-specific effects on the body. It is often difficult to ascertain which comes first - malnutrition or tuberculosis - and which makes the other worse.

The West African country Guinea-Bissau is one of the poorest countries in the world. It has a high prevalence of both food insecurity and tuberculosis. The Ph.d. project explores the relationships between malnutrition and tuberculosis in Guinea-Bissau, and examines if a combined treatment of both malnutrition and tuberculosis is beneficial to patients.

The defence is public and takes place on 18/09 at 1 pm in Samfundsmedicinsk Auditorium (building 1262), Aarhus University, Bartholins Allé 4, 8000 Aarhus C. The title of the project is "Nutritional Challenges in Tuberculosis Care in Guinea-Bissau". For more information and if you want to attend the defence virtually through ZOOM, please contact PhD student Cecilie Blenstrup Patsche, email: patsche@ph.au.dk, Phone +45 28737792.

Assessment committee:

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