



AKERSHUS UNIVERSITETSSYKEHUS

The NO-Age and NO-AD Seminar Series 006

“Cellular recycling: Role of autophagy in aging and disease”

by

Prof. MALENE HANSEN, Ph.D.

Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, USA

at

13:00-16:00 (+ 3 small talks), Tuesday 10th Nov. 2020

Room Møterom L-200, Domus Medica

Sognsvannsveien 9, 0372 Oslo

The University of Oslo, Norway



Organizers:

Evandro F. Fang, Anne Simonsen, Jon Storm-Mathisen

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Speaker: Prof. MALENE HANSEN, Ph.D.

Title: “Cellular recycling: Role of autophagy in aging and disease”

Abstract:

The cytosolic recycling process of autophagy plays an important role in many age-related diseases and has been directly linked to aging, including in the nematode *C. elegans* where autophagy appears beneficially induced in many conserved longevity models. As a critical process to ensure cellular homeostasis, autophagy is regulated at multiple levels, yet it remains a challenge in the field to understand how the regulation of autophagy is integrated at the cellular and molecular level to ensure health- and lifespan benefits. I will here discuss our progress on understanding the different molecular mechanisms employed by cells and organisms to regulate autophagy in response to stressors such as aging and disease.

Biography:

Dr. Hansen is a Professor in the Program for Development, Aging and Regeneration at the Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute (SBP), a non-profit research institute located in San Diego, CA, where she studies molecular mechanisms of aging with a focus on the cellular recycling process called autophagy. She obtained a Master of Science in biochemistry in 1998, and a doctorate in molecular biology in 2001, both from Copenhagen University, Denmark. Hansen subsequently carried out postdoctoral studies in the laboratory of Professor Cynthia Kenyon, Ph.D., at the University of California, San Francisco. She started her own lab at SBP in the fall of 2007, and currently serves as Associate Dean of Student Affairs in SBP’s graduate program, and as Faculty Advisor on postdoctoral training for SBP’s ~150 postdoctoral scholars. In recognition of her mentoring efforts, Hansen received the 2017 Mentor Award from the National Postdoctoral Association in the US.

Dr. Hansen’s research has resulted in >50 publications and she has received several awards for her research, including an Ellison Medical Foundation New Scholar in Aging Award, a Glenn Award for Research in Biological Mechanisms of Aging, and a Julie Martin Mid-Career Award in Aging Research supported by the Ellison Medical Foundation and American Association for Aging Research. Her lab is currently funded by federal grants from both the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute for General Medical Sciences. Since 2002, she has published >50 research articles, reviews, and book chapters. Hansen serves as an ad hoc reviewer for multiple scientific journals, and is currently a permanent member of the National Institute’s of Health’s Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Aging study section. Hansen has organized a number of international scientific conferences, including the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory’s meeting on Mechanisms of Aging from 2014-2018, the 2020 Keystone meeting on Aging and 2020 Gordon Research Conference on Autophagy.

Dr. Hansen currently mentors four postdoctoral fellows, three research assistants, a graduate student, and three undergraduate students. During her independent career, she has mentored >20 undergraduate students, >10 research assistants, three graduate students, and 11 postdoctoral fellows, several of which have gone on to start their own independent research labs, e.g., at Brown University and MIT. Several international Master’s students have also visited her lab to carry out their studies. She has both served and is currently serving on 19 pre-doctoral committees both nationally as well as internationally.



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