Gary Macfarlane is Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Aberdeen and is Honorary Consultant (Public Health). He is Director of the Medical Research Council/Arthritis UK Centre for Musculoskeletal Health and Work, and Director of the Scottish Centre for Work and Health. He leads a research programme on arthritis and musculoskeletal health with live grants of £6 million. One area of focus is chronic pain and he is Deputy Clinical Lead for Pain in NHS Research Scotland. He will present results from the UK Advanced Pain Discovery Programme Consortium Against Pain InEquality (CAPE) on the relationship between adversity in early life and health n adulthood.

Jeffrey S. Mogil is the E.P. Taylor Professor of Pain Studies at McGill University in Montreal, and the past Director of the Alan Edwards Centre for the Study of Pain. Dr. Mogil has made seminal contributions to the field of pain genetics and is the author of many major reviews of the subject, including an edited book, The Genetics of Pain (IASP Press, 2004). He is also a recognized authority in the fields of sex differences in pain and analgesia, and pain testing methods in the laboratory mouse. Dr. Mogil is the author of over 290 journal articles and book chapters since 1992 and has given almost 450 invited lectures in that same period. His h-index is currently 104. He has trained over 30 graduate students, postdocs, and visiting scholars, over 230 undergraduate research assistants, and lectures on pain to over 300 undergraduates every year. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including: the Neal E. Miller New Investigator Award from the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research; the Patrick D. Wall Young Investigator Award from the International Association for the Study of Pain; the SGV Award from the Swiss Laboratory Animal Science Association; the Donald O. Hebb Award from the Canadian Psychological Association; the John C. Liebeskind (early career) and Frederick W.L. Kerr (lifetime achievement) awards from the American Pain Society; and Early Career, Distinguished Career, and Outstanding Mentorship awards from the Canadian Pain Society. He served as a Councilor at IASP, was the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee of the 13th World Congress on Pain, and is the founder and Director of the North American Pain School.

Krina Zondervan FRCOG FMedSci is Professor of Reproductive & Genomic Epidemiology and Head of the Nuffield Department of Women's and Reproductive Health at Oxford University. She is Co-Director of the Oxford Endometriosis CaRe Centre, integrating evidence-based clinical care with a programme of basic, clinical and translational research into endometriosis and related women's health conditions. Her research over the past 30 years has focused on using large-scale genomic and epidemiological approaches to understand the causes of common, under-recognised women's health conditions to improve diagnostic and treatment options, with a particular focus on endometriosis, pelvic pain and comorbidities. She has led a number of global collaborative research initiatives including largest-scale studies that have identified genetic variants and their role in the development of endometriosis providing new insights into pathogenesis and patient stratification directly relevant to the development of better-targeted treatments. She also co-founded the WERF Endometriosis PHenotyping and Biobanking Harmonisation ProjECT (EPHECT), a global phenome and biobanking standardisation initiative aimed at facilitating collaborative large-scale studies in endometriosis across the world, with guidelines now adopted by >60 research centres. She has published >200 peer-reviewed research papers (h-index 90) and has served as board member of numerous charities and funding committees in the field of women's health and genomics. Among her awards are honorary fellowships of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the British Academy of Medical Sciences, as well as an honorary Skou Professorship at the University of Aarhus, Denmark. https://www.wrh.ox.ac.uk/team/krina-zondervan

Christopher Sivert Nielsen is psychologist and an epidemiologist working as a senior researcher at the Department of Chronic Diseases at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. His research mainly focuses on the epidemiology of chronic pain and pain comorbidity. He specializes in the implementation of comprehensive phenotyping in large scale samples with high response rates, with emphasis on pain assessments. This includes quantitative sensory testing of more than 40,000 participants in the Tromsø Study (Norway, two waves completed), the youth study Fit futures (Norway, three waves completed), the Rotterdam Study (The Netherlands, ongoing) and at DECODE genetics (Iceland). From 2020-2025 he has coordinated the Horizon 2020 project PainFACT, which aimed to identify molecular mechanisms underlying pain and pain comorbidity through human OMICs and translational experiments. As an epidemiologist, his research has covered a broad range of topics and methodologies, including twin studies, personality psychology, genetic association studies, biomarker studies, brain imaging, psychophysics and neuropsychology.

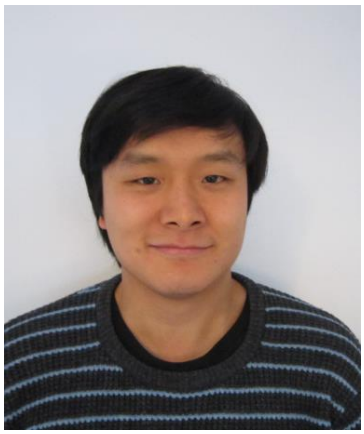
Anna Saxne Jöud, Associate professor of epidemiology Lund University, Sweden. She leads the group Applied epidemiology and her research focus on important public health concerns including pain, lifestyle and environmental contaminants as well as methods for modeling resource allocations during pandemics. Dr Saxne Jöud also serve as head of HTA south, the Swedish Southern health care region Health Technology assessment department. Her research is clinically relevant and target both the scientific community and decision makers in health care. In Ronney, a small municipality in Southern Sweden, where the population was exposed to extremely high levels of PFAS she has run projects analyzing immunological outcomes including pain in the population

Jamila Andoh is a neuroscientist and senior researcher in MRI-guided neuromodulation at the Central Institute of Mental Health, Medical Faculty Mannheim, Heidelberg University, Germany. She specializes in MRI-guided neuromodulation, leading innovative brain stimulation and neuroimaging studies that target maladaptive plasticity in pain and affective disorders. She holds a PhD in MR physics and has extensive expertise in advanced functional and structural MRI, real-time fMRI neurofeedback, TMS, and tDCS, which she combines to map and modulate large-scale brain networks involved in nociception, emotion regulation, and body perception. Her research has demonstrated how non-invasive brain stimulation reshapes interhemispheric connectivity, clarified cortical networks underlying successful voluntary control of pain, and contributed to novel neuromodulatory approaches in chronic pain, fibromyalgia and depression.

Carsten Dahl Mørch is a Professor at Aalborg University and a leading researcher in human pain neurophysiology, specializing in small fiber function and sensory dysfunction arising from diabetes and chemotherapy. He heads the focus area on chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy at The Clinical Cancer Research Center at Aalborg University Hospital, where his work bridges mechanistic research with clinical challenges faced by breast cancer survivors. His research also encompasses diabetic neuropathy and metabolic related alterations in peripheral nerve excitability, integrating advanced psychophysical tools such as Perception Threshold Tracking to characterize early small fiber impairment. Mørch collaborates extensively with clinical and international partners to advance precise, translational assessment of sensory function, and he communicates pain science broadly through public lectures, and educational outreach.

Hege M.K. Christensen is a trained nurse and an experienced patient representative with extensive expertise in chronic pain and long-term disability. She has over 13 years of lived experience with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), which has informed her work at the intersection of clinical practice, patient advocacy, and health policy. She currently serves as a patient representative within Helse Vest and holds multiple national advisory and governance roles. She is the co-founder of CRPS-fellesskap, the only patient organization for individuals living with CRPS in Norway. Through this work, she has co-developed and co-organized structured patient education and coping programs for patients with CRPS and their relatives. She is a member of the advisory board of NorPAIN, represents the patient community in REK Vest, and serves as a patient representative in NorCRIN. She is also a user representative in a national project aimed at reducing overdose-related deaths associated with prescription medications. Her primary areas of interest include health literacy, patient education and training programs for individuals with long-term illness, coping mechanisms, and the prevention of secondary suffering.

Dr. Burkhard Gustorff is head of the Department of Anaesthesia, Intensive Care and Pain Medicine of Klinik Ottakring, Vienna, and professor of Interdisciplinary Pain Medicine at Sigmund Freund Private University, Vienna. He is director of the annual masterclass in interdisciplinary pain medicine in Vienna (ISMAC), and sits on the board of Austrian Society of Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine. Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Dr. Gustorff has been strongly involved in the advancement of pain treatment and research in Lviv. He has initiated and organized the Ukrainian-Austrian School of Pain Management at Lviv Medical University. He is a collaborator on pain medicine and serves on the independent medical board of Superhumans Center, Lviv, Ukraine. He is principal investigator on the project “Computer-assisted-limb-assessment” (CALA), which aims to provide extensive pain assessment of large cohort of amputees at the Superhumans Center.



Dr. Xiang Yi Kong is a molecular biologist and researcher at the Research Institute of Internal Medicine, Oslo University Hospital, and has been part of the research group “Immune Regulation in Atherosclerosis and Other Cardiometabolic Diseases” since 2015. He obtained his PhD from the University of Oslo, where he investigated the role of lysosomal membrane proteins in metabolic homeostasis and chronic liver disease. His current research uses advanced preclinical mouse models to elucidate mechanisms of immune dysregulation in atherosclerosis, related cardiometabolic disorders, and other comorbid conditions. These models are closely integrated with clinical studies and state-of-the-art cellular and molecular methodologies to bridge experimental findings with human disease.

Mads Werner is a clinical anesthesiologist and pain physician, affiliated with the Department of Anesthesia, Pain and Respiratory Support, Neuroscience Center, Copenhagen University Hospital–Rigshospitalet, Denmark. Mads Werner’s team has provided data on the pathophysiology and management of persistent high-impact postsurgical pain, the transition from acute to persistent pain, and the pharmacology of long-acting local anesthetics. MW has more than 150 research publications in peer-reviewed journals, 60 book chapters in medical textbooks, and received NIH funding from 2014-2020. The H-index/i10-index are 42/99, with a total of 8,200 citations. Editor of several medical textbooks in anesthesiology and pain management published in Sweden and Denmark. Since 2019, Editor-in-Chief of the Scandinavian Journal of Pain.

Laura-Adela Harsan is a neuroscientist and Associate Professor of Biophysics and NeuroImaging at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Strasbourg, where she leads the Integrative Multimodal Imaging in Healthcare (IMIS) team at ICube Lab. Her research focuses on multimodal MRI to investigate how large-scale brain networks reorganize in neurological and psychiatric disorders. Her current research focuses on characterizing structural and functional connectome alterations associated with chronic pain, depression, and their frequent comorbidity in preclinical models. Her work has highlighted maladaptive plasticity within cortico-limbic circuits involved in emotion regulation, cognitive control, and pain processing, demonstrating how network-level dysfunction contributes to affective and cognitive symptoms. Through national and international collaborative projects, she develops connectome-based biomarkers for better mechanistic insight, to refine diagnosis and stratification, and to guide targeted therapeutic interventions.

Audun Stubhaug is professor of Anaestesiology and Pain Medicine at Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo and Consultant at Department of Pain Management and Research at Oslo University Hospital. Among several elected professional duties he has had board positions and other assignments in SASP, EFIC, IASP, Pain, Scandinavian Journal of Pain together with national positions of trust related to the pain field. As researcher he has > 200 scientific articles, an H-index of 67 and he has supervised >20 PhD-students in the field of pain. His research interests cover both experimental pain, clinical pain, pharmacological and non-pharmacological pain therapies and pain epidemiology.

Eija Kalso, MD, DMedSci, is professor of pain medicine (emerita) and PI in the research programme SleepWell, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki and Dept. of Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care and Pain Medicine. She is the founding president of The Finnish Association for the Study of Pain, former president of both The Scandinavian and International Association for the Study of Pain. She has served in the editorial boards of The European Journal of Pain, PAIN, and The Scandinavian Journal of Pain of which she is a founding member. The current research interests of Eija Kalso include basic and clinical pharmacology of pain, multidisciplinary pain medicine, and the role of sleep in pain. She started her research in postoperative pain and has now returned to this field with a broader focus. Her passion is to understand the individual patient who has disappeared in the means and medians of evidence-based medicine.

Sigríður Gunnarsdóttir is a Professor of Oncology Nursing at the University of Iceland and Landspitali University Hospital and the director of the Icelandic Cancer Registry. Her research focuses on needs of oncology patients and their family members throughout the cancer continuum, quality of life, symptoms and symptom management, including pain, psychosocial effects of cancer and patient education. She currently heads a large population-based study in Iceland on cancer survivorship, the SURV-ICE cohort, which focuses on survivorship; long term- and late effects of cancer, health related quality of life, health literacy and healthcare needs. Sigríður serves as the president of SASP.

Bijar Ghafouri is a professor of biochemistry of chronic pain with a focus on proteomics at the Department of Health, Medicine and Caring Sciences, Linköping University, and Head of the PAINOMICS® Research Group. She has co-authored more than 100 publications on clinical biomarkers in chronic pain using targeted and untargeted omics approaches. Her main research interest is investigating molecular "signature" of nociception and severity of pain. Her group is affiliated with the Pain and Rehabilitation clinic at Linköping University Hospital, where patients are enrolled in SQRP (Swedish Quality Registry for Pain Rehabilitation) and pain biobank. Her experience with molecular profiling of chronic pain subgroups using multivariate pattern recognition provides a strong methodological bridge between clinical domain knowledge and data-driven approaches.

Nikolai Olavi Czajkowski is Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Oslo and researcher at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. He heads the Methodological Development group at the PROMENTA Research Center and is a member of the leadership group at INTED, the University of Oslo's Center for Interdisciplinary Education. His work lies at the intersection of psychological science, large-scale registry data, genetics, and statistical modeling. Trained in both clinical psychology and computer science, Czajkowski studies how complex longitudinal and genetically informed data can be used to clarify mental health, personality, and health-related outcomes across the life course. He has published extensively on twin modeling, structural equation modeling, and causal inference, and has led large collaborative projects funded by the Research Council of Norway. His work includes methodological contributions to behavioral genetics, longitudinal modeling, and machine learning applications in mental health research. In addition to his longstanding work in behavioral genetics and methodology, Czajkowski has been actively engaged in the academic and public discourse on artificial intelligence in research and healthcare. He has led the Faculty of Social Sciences' working group on AI in research at the University of Oslo and contributed to institutional initiatives, media discussions, and invited lectures on the responsible use of large language models.