Research report 2025

AARHUS UNIVERSITET

Regionshospitalet Gødstrup

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Prologue

As we look back on 2025, it is with both pride and gratitude that we reflect on an extraordinary year for research in our department.
The first half of the year concluded in true ENT spirit: on July 1st, we sent our research team off for summer holidays with non-alcoholic grapefruit beer, generous amounts of brunsviger kindly donated by Niels the day after submitting his PhD thesis, and plenty of well-earned smiles. It was the perfect pause after an exceptionally active and productive spring.
During the first six months alone, our researchers participated in numerous national and international conferences. We were proudly represented with strong posters and presentations at DSOHH, and at the Nordic ENT Meeting (NOLF) in Tromsø, where we were reminded that scientific enlightenment sometimes comes with literal midnight sun. Most recently, a strong delegation from Gødstrup returned from ERS 2025 in Budapest, inspired and intellectually enriched. One recurring topic — particularly among rhinologists — was work ergonomics and musculoskeletal strain. It is, apparently, internationally acknowledged that ENT surgeons are among the most physically challenged specialists. A timely reminder to all of us: mind your posture.
One of the year's major milestones was the establishment of the Sleep Academy, made possible through Benjamin's tremendous efforts. The initiative has already proven to be a remarkable success, and we look forward to welcoming the next cohort. We firmly believe this initiative will not only strengthen clinical competencies but also generate high-quality research for years to come.
We were delighted to welcome new colleagues to our research environment. Anne Sofie Møller joined as a research year student, exploring AI-based quantification of eosinophils in nasal polyps. Furthermore, we were honored to appoint Professor An Boudewyns from Antwerp as adjunct professor. She now co-supervises Mascha's PhD project on pediatric DISE, strengthening our international collaboration in sleep medicine.
Throughout the year, our research activities spanned a wide and impressive spectrum: from pediatric vestibular testing and Turner syndrome studies, to taste bud biopsies, acute otitis media, and several national registry analyses. Our PhD students delivered outstanding performances — including Niels' excellent defense on Eustachian tube dysfunction and balloon dilation — and several successfully completed international research stays in UK, the Netherlands, and Belgium, strengthening our academic networks across Europe.
The Second Strupp Seminar in November brought together leading international experts — "The Three Vestibular Tenors" — alongside our own PhD students, who presented their work with confidence and quality. It was a testament to the academic maturity our research environment has achieved.
A particularly important milestone this year was the successful evaluation and renewal of our status as a University Clinic for another five years. The evaluation highlighted not only our scientific productivity — reflected in numerous high-quality publications and presentations — but also our strategic vision, collaborative strength, and capacity for innovation. In alignment with our future research strategy, new research team leaders (Kasra and Ali) have been appointed in rhinology and head & neck surgery, further strengthening our structure and long-term development.

Financially, 2025 reminded us that persistence is essential. While major grants remain highly competitive, our researchers have secured several important smaller grants, and new strategic collaborations — including with Novo Nordisk in relation to the Sleep Academy and the upcoming AMAZE 3 project — mark promising steps toward sustainable research funding.
Looking ahead to 2026, we anticipate new PhD defenses, new projects, and continued international collaboration. The momentum is strong.
Most importantly, however, this year has once again demonstrated that research is not built by individuals alone. It is built by teams — by curiosity, generosity, mentorship, resilience, and shared ambition.
To all of you: thank you for your remarkable dedication, your persistence, and your willingness to push the boundaries of our field. It is both a privilege and a joy to work alongside you and to witness your development as researchers and clinicians.

We are proud.

On the following pages, you will find more details about our research teams, staff, research focuses, and key bibliographies. Happy reading!
Therese Ovesen

Who are we?
Each of us belong to one or more of six research teams corresponding to the clinical teams at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology: Oto-Audiology; Rhinology; Head and Neck; Flavour; Balance, and Sleep. All senior researchers and PhD students are equally distributed throughout the six teams (Fig. 1). We are not only connected by our research interests but also by personal values and goals. Hence, we all worship curiosity, creativity, wisdom, propriety, and honesty. Our group aim for being a sound community with great potential and social inclusiveness. And humor - a good laugh is usually a great relief!

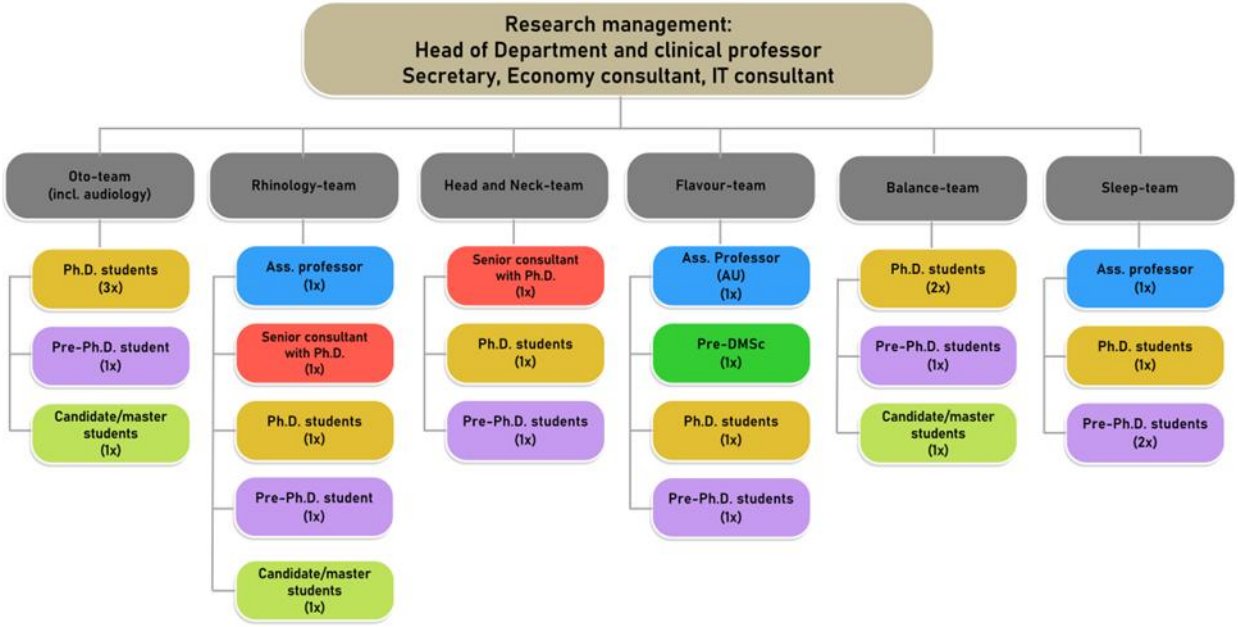

Fig. 1. Organization diagram of the current research management at the Department of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, Gødstrup Hospital.

Research staff

By the end of December, the University Clinic counts nine PhD students and one post doc besides a clinical professor, an adjunct professor, three associated professors; a project nurse, a laboratory technician, and a secretary (Fig. 2). For details, see below.

On the following pages, we present the members of the research staff; status of ongoing projects; fundraising, including a list of applications and grants; and, of course a list of publications.

Fig. 2. Photograph of almost all members of the six research teams.

Therese Ovesen, Professor, senior consultant, DMSc.

As Head of Research at the Department, I aim to inspire, motivate, and foster inclusivity. Our research environment is open to all staff members, ensuring that everyone feels welcome to contribute at any time. I am committed to representing the Department positively when engaging with external partners and stakeholders. I highly value academic freedom, transparency, and openness regarding our ideas, projects, and outcomes. Above all, our research must be conducted with the utmost integrity and honesty.

Over the past 30 years, my research has primarily focused on infectious diseases and sensory disorders. Key areas of interest have included middle ear and pharyngeal infections, as well as sensory impairments such as loss of smell and taste, hearing loss, and vertigo. More recently, I have ventured into the field of sleep-related research. My methodologies encompass both clinical and pre-clinical studies, with extensive experience in animal models and in vitro/cell culture systems. Additionally, I devote significant

time to epidemiological and register-based research, particularly in areas such as tonsil surgery, traumatic brain injury, vestibular schwannomas, and acute otitis media.

In collaboration with my talented colleagues, I co-founded the Flavour Institute in 2015 and the Flavour Clinic in 2016.

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H-index (Scopus): 29

Michael Strupp, Adjunct professor, professor, DMSc. Department of Neurology and Medical Faculty of the Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany.

I have more than 30 years of experience within the field of vestibular research and more than 450 publications, books, and book chapters. Since 2010, I have been Editor-in-chief of Frontiers in Neuro-otology, and since 2021, joint Chief Editor of the Journal of Neurology. And, I have more than 30 years of experience with teaching primarily neurology and neurophysiology at the Medical Faculty of the Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany.

As adjunct professor, I engage myself into the vestibular research at the University Clinic for Flavour, Balance, and Sleep by constructive sparring with professor Therese Ovesen, and I participate in supervision of the PhD and master students. Together, we will boost and expand the vestibular research activities by mutual projects and cooperation with the international network of vestibular research for the next five years.

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Michael Strupp - Google Scholar

H-index (Scopus): 74

An Boudewyns

I'm appointed as Head of the Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology Clinic at the Antwerp University Hospital and as Associate Professor at the University of Antwerp. In this role, I oversee the coordination of tertiary, multidisciplinary care for children with complex ENT conditions, including congenital hearing loss, sleep-disordered breathing associated with comorbidities, complex airway disorders, and craniofacial malformations.

My research focuses on genetic hearing loss, pediatric sleep-disordered breathing, Down syndrome, and cleft palate, carried out in close collaboration with colleagues from various pediatric subspecialties and international networks such as ERN Cranio, the European Respiratory Society, and the International Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology Group (IPOG).

I strongly promote evidence-based care and encourage medical students and residents to develop research skills in pediatric ENT, particularly in the areas of sleep-disordered breathing and congenital hearing loss. As Honorary Professor at Aarhus University (Faculty of Health, Department of Clinical Medicine), I co-supervise doctoral projects and contribute to the development of a clinical and research network for pediatric sleep-disordered breathing in Denmark. This collaboration has resulted in several peer-reviewed publications.

H-index Scopus: 37 (march 2026)

Kasra Zainali-Gill, Ass. Professor, Senior Consultant, ENT specialist, PhD, Team leader of rhinological research

I am focused on investigation and surgical treatment of obstructive sleep apnea including trans-oral robotic surgery. Prior to the introduction of specific surgical modalities at the Department, we conducted a feasibility study, and the article was published in 2022. The study addresses the possibility for novices to become familiar with evaluation of drug induced sleep endoscopy (DISE) by means of DISE videos. In 2020, we were fortunate to see that DISE was implemented in our clinical setup, Furthermore, the first sleep surgeries were performed in 2020, and robotic surgery was included in 2022. All data is stored in the DISE database and is available for further research.

Furthermore, I am deeply committed to the establishment of the future center of experimental and clinical research center in Rhinology in Gødstrup. The constant evidence-based evolution of

medical and surgical treatment in rhinology, and the integration of new technologies and treatment modalities is crucial to achieve satisfactory results in patients in Central Denmark Region.

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H-index (Scopus): 3

Alexander Wieck, Associate professor, MD, PhD.
I am a medical doctor and associate professor with special focus on smell and taste.

From 2013 to 2016 I completed my PhD in olfaction, where new methods for testing the sense of smell were developed and validated. These methods were subsequently used clinically and in novel research within the field. After the PhD, I initially worked as a postdoc and later as associate professor with specialization in olfaction and gustation. I have published more than 60 scientific publications on olfaction and gustation. I co-founded the Flavour Clinic and Flavour Institute (Olfactory and gustatory research, Aarhus University, www.flavourinstitute.dk) and collaborates with many national and international researchers.

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H-index (Scopus): 12

Ali Abood, ENT specialist, PhD, Team leader of Head & Neck research

As a surgeon in the Head & Neck Division, my clinical and academic work is dedicated to advancing the understanding and management of head and neck diseases. My primary research focus lies in thyroid and parathyroid disorders. In 2024, I successfully defended my PhD thesis entitled *"Autofluorescence-guided Thyroid Surgery – Impact on Parathyroid Preservation and Hypoparathyroidism,"* which reflects my particular interest in improving surgical precision and patient outcomes in endocrine neck surgery.

My research is primarily clinically oriented and includes both retrospective studies and prospective randomized multicenter trials. Through this work, I aim to provide meaningful evidence that

improves surgical decision-making, patient outcomes, and standards of care in head and neck surgery.

[Ali Abdul-Hussein Abood - Forskning - Aarhus Universitet (au.dk)]

Adnan Madzak, ENT specialist, PhD

My primary focus at the ENT Department is rhinology and my main research area is chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps (CRSwNP) and biological treatment.

Throughout 2023, we established a new outpatient clinic for patients with CRSwNP who meet Danish criteria for biological treatment and we are now part of two major national, multicentre studies called Global Airways and TORNADO, which aim to compare efficacy of Mepolizumab versus Dupilumab.

In 2024, we joined an international, multicentre, randomized and double-blinded study called EVEREST sponsored by Sanofi. The main aim was head-to-head comparison of Dupilumab versus Omalizumab in patients suffering from both CRSwNP and asthma. Currently, I'm engaged with establishment of the Endotyping Immune Lab together with Therese Ovesen.

Christian Mirian, Post doc, MD, PhD, MPH

My main research interests lie in tumors of the central nervous system and traumatic brain injuries (TBI), with an emphasis on the subsequent burden of somatic diseases, such as hearing loss. My interests further include epidemiology, biostatistics, bioinformatics, and large-scale data analysis more broadly. I hold a PhD in basic research (proteomics), focusing on the mass spectrometry-based quantification of the cerebrospinal fluid proteome in pediatric central nervous system malignancies. Recently, I completed a Master of Public Health with a specific focus on TBIs, their health-related consequences, and associated social inequalities in health. Within the research group, I have a specific focus on vestibular schwannoma, both using clinical data and nationwide-based registries. Additionally, I am coordinating an international collaboration focusing on lymph nodes and their clinical relevance in oral squamous cell carcinoma. Finally, I am working on establishing nationwide register-based data for research on tonsil-related conditions and acute otitis media.

Niels Holm, ENT specialist, PhD.

As a member of the ear surgery division in the Department, my research primarily focuses on otology, including the ear, hearing, and the Eustachian tube. In September 2025, I defended my PhD thesis named “From Symptoms to Solutions: Clinical Assessment, Imaging-Based Mechanisms, and Balloon Eustachian Tuboplasty in Adults with Eustachian Tube Dysfunction”. The aim of the project was to enhance understanding of why some individuals develop pathology in the Eustachian tube and of the effects of treatment. The PhD study also involved the fusion of Cone Beam-CT with 3 T MRI data. In addition, I participate in research studies on the association between chronic rhinosinusitis and Eustachian tube dysfunction, external otitis, and Eustachian tube dilation in children, the latter of which will be part of an upcoming PhD project.

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Christophe Duez, ENT specialist, PhD, post doc

My focus is on sleep medicine, obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), snoring, nasal obstruction, and how upper-airway function affects sleep quality and daytime performance.

I work at the intersection of evidence-based sleep medicine and the psychology of lasting behavior change. I combine targeted ENT assessment and treatment with behavioral methods (e.g., CBT-I–based insomnia management, evidence-based habit formation, and practical well-being tools) to make long-term change as simple and effective as possible in real life.

My current academic focus is workplace sleep. I study how subjective sleep quality relates to well-being and emotional regulation, and I develop low-burden screening and measurement tools that capture downstream outcomes—emotional regulation, empathy, decision quality, and overall performance.

The goal is to quantify improvements in sleep and recovery and link them to better emotional regulation, decision quality and overall performance, with minimal friction — and ultimately translate findings into actionable clinical, personal, and organizational recommendations.

Kirstine Guld Frederiksen, Clinical dietitian, PhD-student

I am head of clinical dietitians in the Department of Nutrition at Gødstrup Hospital. Currently, I am a PhD student in the ENT Department.

My project, "Early Nutritional Intervention to prevent malnutrition in patients with Cancer receiving palliative chemotherapy in an Outpatient Setting (NICOS)" is done as a collaboration between the ENT Department, the Department of Oncology and the Department of Nutrition.

We are investigating the effect of early nutritional interventions on weight development, survival, and Quality of life in patients with cancer receiving palliative chemotherapy

As part of the project, we will test the sense of taste and smell of the patients and they will be questioned about their food preferences.

Clinicaltrials.gov: NCT06141785 - Early nutritional intervention in patients with cancer (NICOS)

https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT06141785

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Martin Mølhave, MD, PhD-student.

Martin Mølhave, MD, PhD-student.
I am a medical doctor currently in my first year of specialist training at the Department of Oto-rhino-laryngology, Gødstrup Regional Hospital.
Beyond my passion for clinical practice, my strong interest in research is
currently focused on my PhD project titled "TONSILS: Tonsillectomy
Optimization through Novel Surgical Innovations and Long-term Studies".
My PhD project aims to improve the postoperative outcomes of
tonsillectomy by comparing the new surgical instrument, BiZact,
with the conventional metal instruments (cold steel), with specific focus on decreasing the rates of post-surgical pain and bleeding.

To further improve the quality of the procedure, the validity of the Danish Tonsil Database, a clinical database containing data from tonsil surgeries, will also be evaluated.
Of other research areas I have previously touched and currently work on are long COVID patients, tinnitus patients, and systematic reviews of various areas of the medical literature.

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Signe Fiil Bønløkke, MD, Ph.D. student.

My research interests involve balance and vestibular dysfunction with particular focus on children.

In 2021 I did my Master thesis about bilateral vestibulopathy, which has been published in a peer-reviewed journal.

My PhD is about pediatric vestibulogy. The overall aim of the study is to establish evidence-based diagnostic work-up for children with vestibular dysfunction, in order to search for optimal rehabilitation options in the future. The PhD is comprised of four studies: “Retrospective evaluation of an unselected group of children with dizziness/balance problems”, “Normative data of vestibular and postural function in Danish children”, “Vestibular and postural function in an unselected group of children with sensorineural hearing loss” and “Vestibular and postural function in children suspected of balance disorders”.

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Patrick Rønde Møller, ENT Specialist, PhD-student

The main area of my research is gustation and altercations of gustation (dysgeusia) due to either underlying disease such as diabetes type 1 or Sjögren Syndrome, or treatment of another disease such as oropharyngeal cancer.
My current investigations focus on the normal amount of taste buds and the threshold of activation of said taste buds in normal conditions. At the same time, I investigate the cellular mechanisms that may lead to a decrease in either taste bud density or

activation. The last part of my PhD project is focused on rehabilitation of gustation in patients with dysgeusia, in order to potentially improve quality of life of aforementioned patient groups. This will be in cooperation with leading experts of the food industry.

My PhD process begun at the beginning of December 2023, and is expected to end in November of 2026
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Rasmus Dreyer Christensen, ENT specialist, PhD student

I completed my specialization in Otorhinolaryngology in May 2023 and enrolled as a PhD student on June 1st, 2024. In addition to my research, I perform clinical work in the Department of Otorhinolaryngology.
My research focuses on Acute Otitis Media in children, and its development in relation to vaccines and the middle ear microbiome in Denmark. I also examine the economic consequences of acute otitis media at the societal level. Much of my research is register-based, drawing on the unique, well-established national registries in Denmark, as well as cooperating with private stakeholders to gather novel data on patient microbiome. The goal of the research is to contribute to the understanding and approach to Acute Otitis Media in Denmark and beyond.

Signe Bergliot Nielsen,ENT-specialist, PhD

As a Consultant ENT surgeon, my clinical work spans both head and neck surgery and sleep surgery for obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). My research background is rooted in head and neck oncology, with a particular focus on cancer of unknown primary (HNSCCUP). My PhD encompassed studies on diagnostic strategies, risk stratification, and treatment outcomes in this patient group, including a phase IV evaluation of the national guideline in real-world practice. This work contributed to the implementation of a revised national guideline, and I continue to collaborate with DAHANCA in advancing evidence-based head and neck cancer care.

My current research focuses on optimizing diagnostic pathways, surgical decision-making, and treatment outcomes for patients with OSA. A key intersection between my oncologic and sleep-related work lies in transoral robotic surgery (TORS), including base-of-tongue mucosectomy, where I investigate complications, functional consequences, and clinical effectiveness. More broadly, I aim to refine diagnostic work-up and evaluate treatment outcomes across both cancer and OSA populations, guided by the principle that improved diagnostics reduce overtreatment and enable more individualized and proportionate care. I also explore targeted assessment strategies, including screening considerations in pregnancy and the potential role of diagnostic tools, such as biomarkers, in selected pediatric populations at risk of OSA.

Laura Marie Aalkjær Danielsen, MD-PhD student

My research focuses on the nasal microbiome and its importance in various ENT diseases as well as the interplay between the microbiome and the nasal immunology.
A pioneering part of the project is to follow the influence of biological treatment in patients suffering from chronic rhinosinusitis. The treatment has only recently been allowed for this group of patients, and the outcome is intensively followed by the "Medicinrådet".
Looking at the explosion of interest in the gut microbiome, and in personalized medicine in general, we foresee a huge potential for both general and individual prevention and treatments starting with a deeper understanding of the nasal microbiome and immunology.

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Louise Hill-Madsen, ENT specialist, PhD student

My clinical and academic focus is vestibulology, with particular emphasis on disorders of balance and inner ear function. Alongside my clinical work in otorhinolaryngology, I am enrolled as a PhD student at Aarhus University (since 1 July 2024), investigating mechanisms underlying inner ear dysfunction in Turner syndrome.

A central component of my research examines the hypothesis that hearing loss in Turner syndrome reflects an accelerated age-related degenerative process of the inner ear. The project integrates advanced imaging of inner ear morphology with molecular profiling and

comprehensive audiovestibular phenotyping. By characterising structural and functional changes across age, the aim is to clarify whether early-onset hearing decline in this population represents premature biological ageing of the auditory system.

This work seeks to improve mechanistic understanding of progressive hearing loss and to inform earlier identification and targeted management strategies. In the longer term, such insights may contribute to delaying functional decline and reducing reliance on conventional hearing rehabilitation.

In addition, I am actively engaged in the clinical and research application of the department's computerized dynamic platform. The system is used for detailed assessment of balance function and forms part of both routine diagnostics and research protocols.

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Sophie Mikkelsen, ENT specialist, PhD student

My clinical subspecialty within the Department of Otorhinolaryngology is Audiology. Since August 2024, I have been a PhD candidate at Aarhus University, conducting the project "Longitudinal Investigation of Vestibular Schwannomas: Growth, Complications, and Costs." The study examines whether longitudinal audiological measures—such as changes in pure-tone thresholds or speech discrimination—can serve as reliable markers of tumour stability or progression, potentially reducing the need for repeated MRI surveillance without compromising patient safety.

The overall aim is to optimise follow-up strategies by identifying clinically valid audiological indicators that may streamline workflows, reduce patient burden, and allow reallocation of healthcare resources toward targeted rehabilitation addressing hearing and vestibular dysfunction.

In addition, I have contributed to data collection for a European multicentre study on newborn hearing screening. I also aim to contribute to the development of a PhD protocol focusing on systematic hearing screening in patients with traumatic brain injury, where auditory dysfunction may be under-recognised and insufficiently addressed.

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Mascha Eva Hildebrandt, MD, pre-Ph.D.-student

I am senior resident in Otorhinolaryngology, and an active member of the sleep research team in our department.

My research focuses on addressing key challenges in the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), a condition that affects children's sleep, development, and overall health. While surgery, such as removing enlarged tonsils and adenoids, is often the first-line treatment, it doesn't work for all children, leaving a significant number with persistent symptoms.

I'm particularly interested in how we might be able to improve diagnostic precision by using Drug-Induced Sleep Endoscopy (DISE), a technique that allows us to see exactly where airway obstructions occur during sleep. By combining DISE with other tools, like caregiver-reported questionnaires, polysomnography and long-term follow-up evaluations, my work aims to help tailor treatments to the specific needs of each child.

Ultimately, I hope this research will lead to better-targeted interventions, fewer treatment failures, and improved long-term outcomes for children with OSA.

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Dorthe Rasmussen, Laboratory Technician.

Mainly, I participate in Research Year studies and PhD projects at the ENT Department as well as in our laboratory facilities, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University. My research competences include all kinds of lab techniques, such as cell cultures, biochemical analyzes and immunohistochemistry. I produce the taste drop test, which is developed by Alexander Fjældstad, and conduct all smell and taste tests among both adults and children. Currently, I perform smell and taste tests in children with diabetes. I am also involved in COVID-19-related projects as we test smell and taste in patients referred from the post-COVID-clinics in Skejby and Herning.

Maria Justesen, Research Secretary.

I am Therese Ovesen's research secretary. In close cooperation with Therese, I coordinate meetings and agreements. I also take care of administrative assistance for Therese. It means that I provide updates on the research homepage including all ongoing projects, list of publications, and funding. Together with Therese, I prepare the annual reports. Furthermore, I ensure communication with the Department of Clinical Medicine at Aarhus University; I have knowledge of PURE; the financial management program Indfak; and AURUS (travel settlement at Aarhus University), hereunder travel arrangement for PhD assessors, guests from abroad, and conferences participation. I also assist researchers at the Department with regard to application formulas, synopses, and protocol schemes. I coordinate the journal clubs and research workshops at the Department, and I link to various partners and colleagues. Finally, I constantly upgrade my qualifications by participation in relevant courses/fora, e.g. at the Department of Clinical Medicine.

Goals and scopes

Our ultimate goal is to deliver high-quality, evidence-based research that benefits ENT patients both nationally and globally.

Currently, the Oto-audiology team is focusing on the Eustachian tube through clinical and translational studies, alongside genetic and sensory research in Turner syndrome and advanced imaging using Cone Beam CT and photon-counting CT of the temporal bone.

The Rhinology team is exploring biological treatments for chronic rhinosinusitis and investigating the microbiome across various disease and treatment contexts.

In the Head and Neck team, research on thyroidectomies continues, building on Ali Abood's PhD work. The team is also examining PSMA incidentalomas and the resource demands associated with fast-track cancer programs.

The Flavour team has made groundbreaking discoveries, identifying key factors influencing children's eating behavior and disturbances. They have also successfully identified the olfactory epithelium and taste buds in biopsies from diverse patient groups, paving the way for future molecular and stem cell-related studies.

For the first time in Danish ENT history, the Balance team is including children in studies of normal balance and vestibular disturbances. Additionally, their collaboration with the national police on motion sickness in electric cars has become a critical project, aiming to uncover underlying mechanisms and develop solutions for transportation-related sickness using a computerized dynamic platform.

The Sleep team is heavily involved in studies on tonsil surgery, including transoral robotic surgery (TORS). Exciting new initiatives include drug-induced sleep endoscopy (DISE) in children and the Sleep Academy. Lastly, the Sleep team has initiated collaboration with Novo Nordisk about Amycretin in a sponsor initiated large scale RCT to be launched in May 2026.

Collaborations

Most of our research activities are collaborative; hence, all PhD students have co-supervisors from abroad. As we have several interdisciplinary projects, we also collaborate with other specialties in order to achieve the highest possible expertise and high-quality outcomes.

Professor of Otorhinolaryngology Thomas Hummel, Dresden Technische Universität, Germany (Flavour)

Professor of Neuroscience Morten Kringelbach, Oxford University, UK (Flavour)

Professor of Neurology Michael Strupp, Medical Faculty of the Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany. (Balance)

Professor of Otorhinolaryngology An Boudewyns, Antwerp University, Antwerp, Belgium (Sleep)

Ass. Professor of Audiology Leen Maes, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium (Balance)

Professor of Otorhinolaryngology Alkis Psaltis, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia (Rhinology, Flavour)
Ass. Professor of Otorhinolaryngology Saku Sinkonen, Helsinki University Hospital, Finland (Otology)
Professor of Surgery Frederic Triponez, Thoracic and Endocrine University Hospital, Geneva, Switzerland (Head and Neck)
Professor of Otorhinolaryngology Shakeel Saeed, University College London, UK (Otology)
National tonsil registers, Norway and Sweden (Head and Neck, Sleep)

Senior consultant, DMSc Kurt Fuursted, Statens Serum Institute, Denmark (Rhinology, Flavour)
Professor of Endocrinology Claus Gravholt, Department of Molecular Medicine, Aarhus University Hospital (Otology, Balance)
Professor of Endocrinology Claus Bogh Juhl, University Hospital of Southern Denmark Esbjerg, Denmark (Sleep)
Departments of Pediatrics, Aarhus University Hospital and Gødstrup Hospital (Sleep)
Departments of Radiology Aarhus University Hospital, University Hospital of Southern Denmark Esbjerg, Denmark (Otology)
All Danish ENT departments (tonsils; Head and Neck; Sleep)

Production
Generally, University Clinics are evaluated by two main outcomes: publications/theses, and funding. Hence, below are listed our achievements in 2025.

Publications

In 2025, a total of 29 publications/book chapters were published, and another ten manuscripts were accepted/submitted for publication (fig. 3). The specific types of publications (peer and non-peer review; books and book chapters) including defended research year and PhD theses are depicted in table 1.

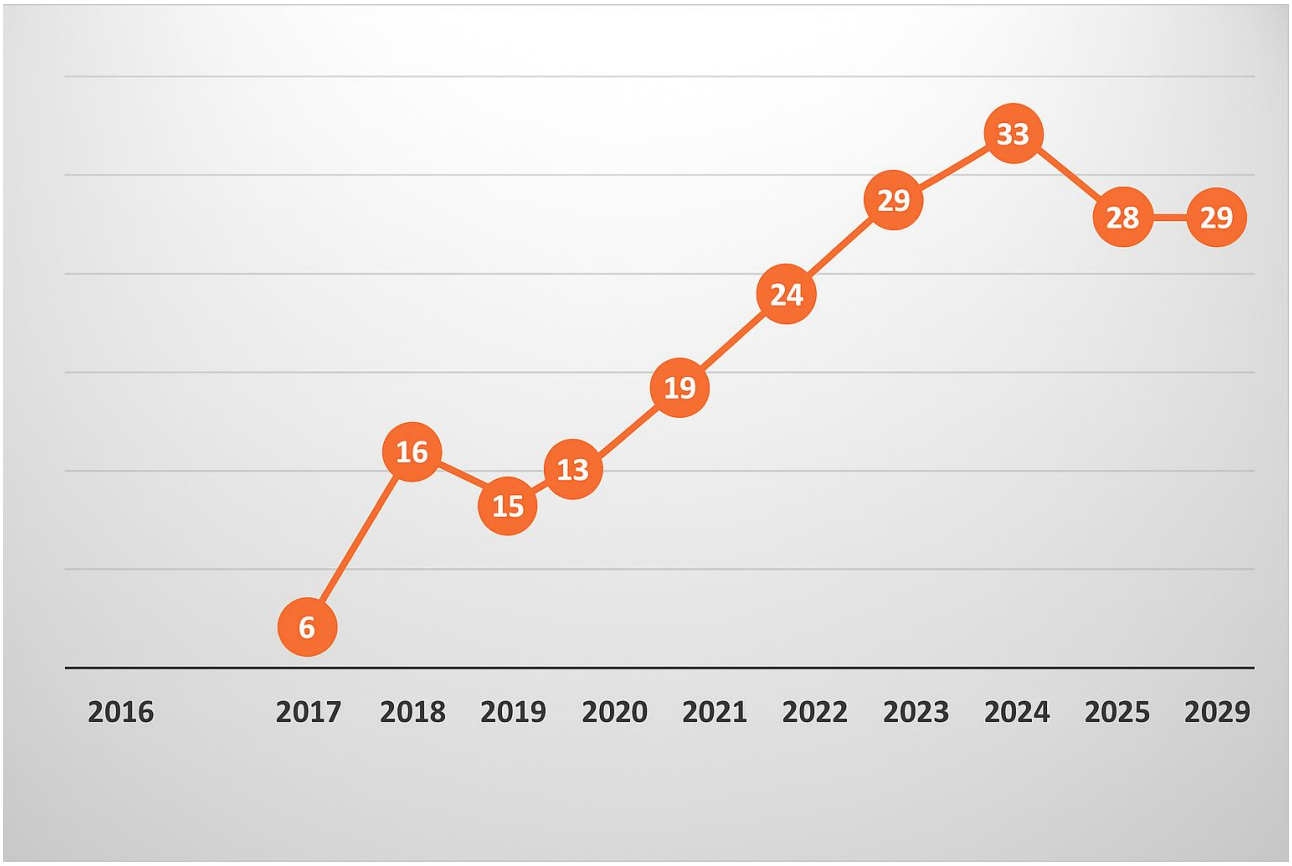

Fig. 3. Number of publications per year. For details, see list of publications.

Year	Peer review	Non-peer review	Books/book chapters	**Total**	Research year thesis + PhD thesis (defended)
2016	5	0	1	**6**	0
2017	14	2	0	**16**	0+1
2018	10	1	2	**13**	1+0
2019	15	0	4	**19**	1+1
2020	20	1	3	**24**	0
2021	25	4	0	**29**	0
2022	26	7	0	**33**	1+1
2023	22	5	1	**28**	0+1

2024	22	2	4	**28**	0+1
2025	28+10*		1	**29+10***	1+1

Table 1. Specification of all publications and theses. * accepted or submitted and re-submitted.

Funding:

A summary of the funding activities is found in fig. 4.

Year	Amount applied for (DKK)	Amount granted (DKK)	Granted/Applied (%)	Number of grants/number of applications
2020	15,181,006	5,648,691	37	16/30
2021	19,794,792	1,200,000	6	8/22
2022	10.333.652	1.784.652	17	9/14
2023	33,500,000	4,404,360*	13	10/31*
2024		2,251,52	2	9/36
2025	42,982,218	446,714**	1**	13/38**

Table 2. Annual funding activity. *Plus a fully financed AU PhD. For details, see Appendix C.
**Awaits three decisions.

Publications

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