

## News from CMSS

### International researchers to CMSS

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Despina Andrioti started as senior researcher at CMSS. Despina holds a PhD in public health with a background in health economics. She has been working as a researcher and visiting professor in the respective fields for more than 10 years. During 2001-2005 she served as national seconded expert with the World Health Organization (WHO), Copenhagen in health policy analysis, health systems financing and health workforce development.



Despina's scientific interests are health profiles, health systems responsiveness to seafarers' health and seagoing workforce planning and management. Despina likes living in Esbjerg and enjoys having the sea close by. She comes from a Greek seafarer's family herself, and she is devoted to the research of seafarers' health improvement as well as to further strengthen CMSS' participation in strategic partnerships in the international arena.

Kimmo Herttua started as senior researcher at CMSS on September 1<sup>st</sup>. In Finland, Kimmo has been working in the Population Research Unit at University of Helsinki. His previous workplaces also include the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health. Kimmo holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Helsinki. His research is based on registers and longitudinal data and has focused on public health issues, such as the effects of policy changes on various indicators of health.



Kimmo finds the research field provided by CMSS fascinating because of its broad challenges and possibilities. His main contribution to CMSS will be research on issues related to maritime health based on register data. Kimmo and his family have moved from Helsinki to Esbjerg where they have settled down well.



Zhiwei Zhao is one of the main forces in the international cooperation project MARTHA on seafarer's fatigue. So far, Zhiwei has mainly been affiliated to Dalian Maritime University, China, but from the turn of the year and two years ahead she will be placed at CMSS in Esbjerg.

Zhiwei has a background in social sciences. In 2011, she graduated with a PhD degree from Seafarers International Research Centre at School of Social Sciences, Cardiff

University, UK.

In the MARTHA project, Zhiwei designs and conducts interviews and surveys with seafarers and managers, in order to compare the attitudes to Fatigue Risk Management Systems between selected European and Chinese shipping companies. After the fieldwork, she will also be in charge of analysing the data and disseminating results.

You can read more about project MARTHA [here](#).

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## Launching of a new CMSS project

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Colourbox

CMSS has received a grant from the Danish Maritime Fund for a new project which will investigate if seafarers in need receive the right assistance. When vessels in Danish waters experience diseases, accidents or emergencies where medical assistance is needed, an acute emergency force from Radio Medical Denmark (RMD) in Esbjerg is ready to offer advice and help the seafarers in distress.

One main focus of this project is to study the quality of these tele-medical services rendered. Furthermore, the project will also investigate whether the crew members, who have received assistance from RMD, including the approximately 60 yearly evacuations, have survived or have had long term sickness leave.

The project is a collaboration between CMSS, RMD and the Centre for Maritime Health Service at Fanø and runs until November 2017. Head of department at the Institute of Public Health Jesper Bo Nielsen is the project leader, and from CMSS, senior researcher Kimmo Herttua and postdoc Lulu Hjarnø will be working on the project.

Read more about the project [here](#).

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## New report about safety in the Danish fishing industry

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Recently, CMSS has completed a project about safety in the fishing industry. The project showed that the number of reported work-related injuries in the fishing industry has decreased in the period from 1998 till 2012. One of the main findings was that more than half of the injuries occur within the first year of a fisherman's employment on the vessel.

Among other things, the qualitative part of the project showed that a number of structural changes in the industry have influenced the safety work on board positively. In order to help ease the talk about safety among the fishermen, a game about safety culture was developed. The game proved useful in regard to starting discussions about safety among the fishermen.

Read more about the project or download the report in full [here](#) (you will find the link to the report at the bottom of the page).

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## Teaching and communication – an important part in the education of researchers

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### CMSS teaches in Saudi Arabia

In 2013, the University of Southern Denmark (SDU) sold two complete bachelor programs in Public Health Sciences to Princess Noura Bint Abdul Rahman University (PNU) in Riyadh. Together with colleagues from the Unit for Health Promotion Research, postdoc Lulu Hjarnø and PhD student Solveig Dohrmann have been in Saudi Arabia to teach the courses health determinants, health behavior and project work.

At the university, teaching plays a very important role in the education of future researchers. Qualifying for becoming good communicators is an important task for a researcher. At CMSS, we regularly teach and give presentations at the maritime educations in Denmark, in cultural sociology and public health at SDU. And now, we can also add the university in Saudi Arabia to our teaching CV.



Just recently, princess Marie visited PNU, which is the largest female university in the world with room for approx. 200,000 students. Among other things, she attended a lecture in health behavior given by two SDU researchers from Unit of Health Promotion Research and CMSS respectively.

Since 2009, H.R.H. princess Marie has collaborated with the University of Southern Denmark (SDU) with the aim to broaden the knowledge of educations, research and other activities at SDU.

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## A selection of other CMSS activities

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### CMSS presented at international safety conference in Scotland

From September 30<sup>th</sup> till October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014, the 7<sup>th</sup> international conference of Workingonsafety.net took place in Scotland, UK. Over 140 health and safety researchers, academics, policy makers and practitioners came together from 27 different countries to share ideas, successes, and good practice with a focus on how to learn from the past to shape a safer future.

CMSS was represented by two researchers. Hanna Barbara Rasmussen gave a presentation about improving safety through learning - a follow-up study from the oil and gas industry in Denmark. Thomas Rødgaard Poulsen gave a presentation about the characteristics of reported injuries in the Danish fishing industry aiming to identify areas that need attention to reduce further the number of occupational injuries among Danish fishermen.

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### **International Maritime Health Association and Norsk Yrkeshygiejnisk Forening**

At the end of October, associate professor Jørgen Riis Jepsen was invited to present a paper on Danish administrative structures, services and research at the annual meeting in Norsk Yrkeshygiejnisk Forening that took place in Ålesund, Norway. A few weeks earlier, he also participated in a workshop in Barcelona on maritime health and safety research arranged by the International Maritime Health Association.

### **SHIPSAN – CMSS represents Denmark in a European Joint Action project**

SHIPSAN ACT (2013-2016) is a European Joint Action project. It deals with the impact on maritime transport of health threats due to biological, chemical and radiological agents, including communicable diseases and supports the implementation of the current International Health Regulations. The general objective is to strengthen the competencies of authorities' staff and industry of the European Union Member States for safeguarding the health of travellers and crew of passenger, cargo ships and fishing vessels and preventing the cross-border spread of diseases, improving citizens' health security.

CMSS is a collaborating partner representing Denmark in the joint action. Despena Andrioti is the focal point. The role of CMSS will mainly be in the development of a risk assessment tool for occupational and public health risks per cargo ship type. In particular, this tool will help the small and medium size enterprises to proactively address health issues of their employees.

### **A review of articles on work-related injuries in the Oil- and Gas Offshore Industry**

Olaf C. Jensen has together with international colleagues published a review of epidemiological injury studies in the oil- and gas Industry.

The results from the included articles published from January 1st and earlier, showed that the fatal injury incidence rates in the American offshore industry are significantly higher than for all other industries in the US. The findings also showed that the incidence rates of lost time injuries in different countries have been reduced over the last decennia, which is probably due to the implemented preventive programs. Finally, it was shown that the prevalence of musculoskeletal disorders among offshore workers is similar to that of the general working populations.

The review concluded that the few existing studies do not allow for firm conclusions and call for further research. The fatal occupational injury risk in the oil- and gas platforms calls for more attention.

### **Recently published scientific articles from CMSS (names of CMSS employees marked in bold)**

- A review of epidemiological injury studies in the oil- and gas offshore industry, **Jensen O.C.** & Laursen L.H.
- A review of fatal accident incidence rate trends in fishing international, **Jensen, O.C.**, Pétursdóttir G., Abrahamsen A. & Lincoln J.
- A review of fatigue in fishermen: a complicated and underprioritised area of research. / Abrahamsen, A., **Jensen O.C.**, Holmen I. & Pétursdóttir G.
- Exposures and health effects at sea: report on the NIVA course: Maritime Occupational Medicine, Carter, T., & **Jepsen, J. R.**



- Occupational accidents in the Danish merchant fleet and the nationality of seafarers, **Ádám, B., Rasmussen H.B., Nørgaard R.F.P., Jepsen, J.R.**
- Prevalence of health risk factors among fishermen – a review, Frantzeskou, E., **Jensen, O.C.**, Linos, A.

You can find more CMSS publications and bibliographic details by clicking [here](#).

CMSS wishes you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year

