

## News from CMSS

### 25th anniversary

On November 8, CMSS celebrated its 25th anniversary. The event took place in the auditorium at SDU, Esbjerg. More than 70 guests, colleagues, stakeholders and business partners, attended the event to celebrate the anniversary of the Center.

An exciting and versatile program had been put together for the day consisting of academic contributions, musical features and community singing.



Opening address by Head of Unit Kimmo Herttua

Head of Unit and Senior Researcher Kimmo Herttua opened the anniversary event with his welcome speech. Professor Kaare Christensen, SDU talked about the topic “Men: Good Health and High Mortality”, and Fabienne Knudsen, Anthropologist and former Senior Researcher at CMSS, talked about her experiences of fieldwork among seamen and fishermen. The newly elected Mayor of Esbjerg Jesper Frost Rasmussen spoke about the subject “Esbjerg as a study city and growth center” and Special Adviser Philippe Bauchy from the Danish Maritime Authority spoke of the long-standing, good cooperation between the Danish Maritime Authority and CMSS as well as of a future development of the cooperation in interaction with the industry.

The program also featured excellent musical entertainment by vocalist Signe Juhl and pianist Martin Schack, who partly accompanied the community singing, which consisted of old sailor songs, and partly gave a jazzy and swinging concert halfway through the program. The event ended with a festive reception consisting of an appetizing tapas course and small homemade marzipan cakes for the sweet tooth.



For the event, a special CMSS anniversary book had been published with contributions and statements from a number of our important collaborators, historical retrospect, information about current activities and projects, as well as thoughts on future research. The anniversary book can be read online on the [CMSS website](#). It can also be obtained by contacting [Unit Secretary Susanne E. Frank](#). The book is only available in

# Centre of Maritime Health and Society

Danish.

For years to come, CMSS will look back on this memorable day with pride and joy. Thank you to all our guests who attended the celebration of our Center and contributed to making this day into something special.



From the left: Unit Secretary Susanne E. Frank, PhD Student Solveig B. Dohrmann, Postdoc Lulu Hjarnø, Postdoc Hanna B. Rasmussen, Head of Unit and Senior Researcher Kimmo Herttua and Senior Researcher Despena Andrioti

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## PhD defense

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On 14 August this year Solveig Dohrmann submitted her PhD for assessment at the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The aim of the PhD project was to investigate the importance of the psychosocial work environment for perceived fatigue among employees in ferry shipping. The psychosocial working environment was examined with the main focus on four factors; the degree of experienced demands and control at work, which is understood as quantitative demands, such as time pressure in relation to the degree of influence and development that the individual employee experiences in his or her work. Furthermore, the degree of experienced conflict between work and family life and support from the nearest superior was investigated. The study was conducted in cooperation with two ferry companies and competently supervised by especially Professor Anja Leppin (main supervisor) and Senior Researcher Kimmo Herttua (co-supervisor).

The assessment committee, Professor Mike Barnett, Southampton Solent University, UK, Professor Helge Søndergaard Hvid, Roskilde University, DK and Clinical Associate Professor Jesper Bælum, University of Southern Denmark, DK (Chairman of the Committee), has reviewed Solveig's PhD and has recommended it for oral defense. The oral defense will take place on 25 January in room 113 on Niels Bohrs Vej 10, Esbjerg.

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## Field work in Greenland – project PolSEA

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In connection with the PolSEA project, Hanna B. Rasmussen, CMSS, Project Manager and Associate Professor Birgit Feldtmann from the Department of Law, AAU and Professor Kim Østergaard from the Department of Law, SDU have been on a field trip to Greenland. The field work took place from 29 July - 5 August 2017 and included interviews with authorities such as the Danish Maritime Authority, companies such as Royal Arctic Line and Greenland Pilot Service, Greenland Maritime Center and the hospital. In addition to interviews, the researchers also visited passenger ships, work ships and cruise ships. The trip was very inspiring and gave insight into opportunities and challenges in relation to existing legislation and its possibilities for navigating safely in Greenland waters.



Photo: Colourbox

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

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## A selection of CMSS's activities in the autumn of 2017

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### MSSM 2017

The theme of this year's MSSM conference in Nyborg was "Performing in a rapidly changing world". CMSS was represented by Lulu Hjarnø, who contributed a presentation in the session "Well-being creates winners" focusing on the maritime health system as a factor for safety and well-being at sea. You can download her presentation [here](#).

### XI International Hispano Francófono Congres in Maritime Medicine, Panama

From 20 - 22 September, Olaf C. Jensen and Despina Andrioti from CMSS participated, with presentations and as members of the Scientific Committee, in the **XI International Hispano Francófono Congres in Maritime Medicine** "Science, Technology and Ethics, Pillars of Maritime Health in the 21st Century". The conference took place in Panama and was organized by the Spanish Society of Maritime Medicine (SEMM) and the French Society of Maritime Medicine (SFMM). The conference dealt with multinational exchange of experiences in certification, prevention and treatment of seafarers' health. More than 100 participants from various countries attended the conference. Morocco is responsible for organizing the event for next year.



At the conference, Olaf presented “Deficiencies in Scientific Research in Maritime Medicine in Latin America”, and he also contributed the posters “Health-promoting lifestyle in seafarers” and “Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Seafarers”. Despena presented the results of the surveys: a) The cost of evacuating ill seafarers b) Compliance with MLC 2006: the Maritime Doctors are Ready to Embrace Innovative Training. Furthermore, she had two poster presentations on the short training course that was organized in cooperation with SHIPSAN and WHO - with the support of the regional office of the Danish Patient Safety Authority in Southern Denmark - on ship inspections and issuance of ship sanitation certificates and its evaluation.

On the first day of the conference, the participants had the opportunity to visit the Panama Canal, and its museum. Three years ago, the Canal celebrated its 100 years anniversary with the motto “Connecting ships, seas, and people”. During the tour, the participants learnt more about the history of this extremely impressive construction. The Panama Canal is 80 km long and manages five percent of worldwide shipments. It takes almost 8 hours for a ship to cross it, and it saves the shipping companies a lot of money.



### **International safety conference in Prague**

The 9th international Working on Safety conference (WOS) took place in Prague, The Czech Republic from 3 – 6 October. The WOS conference deals with prevention of occupational accidents in various industries. The topic of this year's conference was “Safety Management Complexity in Changing Society” (for program and details of the conference please visit: <http://www.wos2017.net/>). At the conference, CMSS was represented by Hanna B. Rasmussen who presented preliminary results from the PolSEA project concerning safe navigation and accident prevention in Greenland waters.

### **Autumn meeting of the Danish Society on Maritime Medicine at the Maritime Museum of Denmark**

On 17 November, the Danish Society on Maritime Medicine (DSMM) held their autumn meeting in the wonderful surroundings of the Maritime Museum of Denmark situated in Helsingør. The program was composed of maritime academic presentations held by the CMSS researchers Despena Andrioti and Lulu Hjarnø. Despena reported on her study about the maritime medical practitioners’ competence needs. Lulu Hjarnø reported on the TMAS project and the content and potentials of Radio Medical’s database. In addition to the two presentations, museum director





Ulla Tofte gave an exciting tour of the museum, and the meeting ended with a profitable discussion of the society's future activities among the nearly 20 attending participants. Amongst other things, it was agreed to bring the results of Despena's study into focus on the upcoming spring meeting in DSMM.



### **The 10<sup>th</sup> European Public Health Conference, Stockholm**

The 10th European Public Health Conference (EPH) took place in Stockholm, Sweden, on 1 – 4 November. The theme of the conference was "Sustaining resilient and healthy communities". Resilience here refers to the long-term capacity of a system to deal with change and continue to develop which is particularly relevant in these times of dramatic climate change, long-lasting political conflicts and migration. The EPH conference is the most important public health conference in Europe, and it is huge of its size. There were approximately 2000 researchers, practitioners and policymakers from more than 80 countries in Stockholm, and CMSS was represented by Kimmo Herttua.

The programme of the conference was fully-packed including, for instance, 5 plenary sessions, 3 lunch symposia, 20 poster walks, and more than 150 parallel sessions, each having typically 5 scientific presentations or 8 shorter, so-called pitch presentations. The scientific content was thereby tremendous in size but also, which is usually the case in EPH conferences, excellent in scientific quality.

As a representative of CMSS, Kimmo was particularly interested in topics which may contribute to research in CMSS. Health and illness touch similarly seafarers as well as the general population. A wide range of research topics on the health of the workforce were generally very well represented in the conference. Factors related to disability pension, sickness absence, effect of workplace interventions could be mentioned as examples. Mental health had a track of its own with 10 scientific sessions in the conference. There were lots of highly interesting talks based on research on depression, suicides, strategies for suicide prevention, etc. Finally, highly actual and innovative solutions in health service were presented about mobile-based and other digital interventions as well as eHealth solutions.

### **ISWAN seminar, Rotterdam**



At the end of November, ISWAN held a seminar in Rotterdam about ports and seafarers' welfare, where Lulu Hjarnø participated on behalf of CMSS. The program was composed of presentations from NGO and welfare organizations such as ISWAN, ITF Seafarers' Trust, Seamen's Clubs and Seafarers' Unions. The focus of the seminar was the identification of seafarers' challenges at sea and in port in relation to their well-being as well as suggestions for solutions. The seminar gave rise to a number of new network connections and project ideas for welfare and well-being at sea. In

connection with the seminar, ITF Seafarers' Trust announced their "Portable Communication Pods" (a container with Internet access) that is part of their digital welfare project aimed at maintaining seafarers'

contact with family and friends through readily accessible Wi-Fi on the harbor side in ports all over the world. It is in front of such a "Portable Communication Pod" that the common picture is taken.

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## CMSS publications

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

- **Andrioti D, Jensen OC**, Abaya AR, Canals L. A Tool for Economic Assessment of Ill Seafarers Repatriations. *International Journal of Caring Sciences* 2017;10(2): 1040-1046.
- **Jensen OC, Andrioti D**. Developing a model of an international medical e-record system with a focus on seafarers. *International Journal of Economics, Business and Management Research* 2017;1(3).
- **Andrioti D, Faurby MD, Le JV, Jensen OC**. Do Danish Maritime Doctors Value Continuous Education Initiatives? *Health Economics & Outcome Research Open Access* 2017;3(3). Doi: 10.4172/2471-268X/1000137.
- Mouchtouri VA, Verykoui E, Zamfir D, Hadjipetris C, Lewis HC, Hadjichristodoulou C, **Andrioti D**, Barbouni A, Bitsolas N, Broekhuijsen J, Davila-Cornejo M, Dirksen-Fischer M, Ferrelli RM, Gilsdorf A, Goverse I, Kairiene B, Kantonis A, Kokosharova G, Kostara E, Kourea-Kremastinou J, Kourentis L, Kunchev A, Lavruvianec A, Otorepec P, Pilipavicius RJ, Pilkova M, Rachiotis G, Tserkezou P, Martinez CV, Vözelevskaja N. Gastroenteritis outbreaks on cruise ships : Contributing factors and thresholds for early outbreak detection. *Eurosurveillance* 2017;22(45).  
<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/eurosurveillance/22/45>
- **Herttua K**, Ostergren O, Lundberg O, Martikainen P. Influence of affordability of alcohol on educational disparities in alcohol-related mortality in Finland and Sweden: a time series analysis. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* 2017; 71(12): 1168-1176. Doi: 10.1136/jech-2017-209636.
- Baygi F, **Jensen OC**, Qorbani M, Farshad A, Salehi SA, Mohammadi F, Asayesh H, Shidfar F. Pattern of some risk factors of cardiovascular diseases and liver enzymes among Iranian seafarers. *Medical Journal of the Islamic Republic of Iran* 2017;31(1): 130-135. Doi.org/10.18869/mjiri.31.23.
- Andersen PT, Holst Algren M, **Heiberg RF**, Joshi R, Kronborg Bak C. Social Network resources and self-rated health in a deprived Danish neighborhood. *Health Promotion International* 2017. Doi: 10.1093/heapro/dax051.

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