

News from CMSS

25th anniversary



In the autumn of 2017, the Centre of Maritime Health and Society (CMSS) can celebrate its 25th anniversary. The research center became a reality in 1992 as a result of a governmental decision and was named Institute of Maritime Medicine. Since then, the name of the Centre has changed a few times. In 2007, the research unit turned into CMSS and became an integral part of the Department of Public Health and the Faculty of Health Science at the University of Southern Denmark.

During the 25 years, the overall goal and focus of the Centre has not changed noticeably. In close collaboration with the needs, wishes and expectations of the maritime industry and other stakeholders within the Blue Denmark, CMSS continues to provide research and documentation that will help optimize working environment and occupational health and safety in relation to the Blue Denmark. In addition to external funding, CMSS receives an annual funding from the Danish state, administrated by the Danish Maritime Authority.

An official celebration of the Centre will take place at SDU, Esbjerg on **November 8, 2017**. So, please mark the date in your calendars already. Further information about the event will follow later.

Jørgen Møller Christiansen on retirement

At the end of 2016, occupational psychologist and senior researcher at CMSS Jørgen Møller Christiansen retired.

Since 2012, Jørgen has been employed by CMSS as a part-time senior researcher. This has led to strengthened relations between CMSS and other research communities in especially Denmark and the Nordic countries.

During his time at CMSS, Jørgen's main focus has always been the fishermen and their mental and physical working environment, including prevention of occupational accidents. He has written several reports on the topics such as 'Omvæltninger og det psykiske arbejdsmiljø i fiskeriet – i ord og tal', 'Fiskerne, der forsvandt', 'Prevention of accidents at work in Nordic fisheries' and 'Arbejdsulykker i dansk fiskeri gennem 20 år 1997-2016'. Jørgen has also contributed to several scientific articles.



With his knowledge and experience, Jørgen has served as a motivator and mentor for the younger researchers in CMSS. We would like to thank Jørgen for a good, constructive and profitable collaboration throughout the years, and we wish him all the best in the future.

Two new projects

PolSEA



In collaboration with the Departments of Law at Aalborg University, Aarhus University and SDU, and the Department of Political Science, SDU, the Center of Maritime Health and Society participates in the PolSEA (Policing at the Sea) project, which deals with the "comprehensiveness" of the Law of the Sea (LoS) in connection with police tasks: Does the Law of the Sea provide a policing regime that meets the challenges of a dynamic world?

CMSS's part in the project deals with safety at sea in the Arctic. In two case studies of shipwreck of tourist vessels and oil spills, CMSS will focus on the legislation and on how the different operators prevent accidents.

In the beginning of August, Hanna B. Rasmussen, together with project manager and associate professor Birgit Feldtmann from the Department of Law, AAU and professor Kim Østergaard from the Department of Law, SDU, will be heading for Nuuk, Greenland to perform field work and collect data.

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

Maritime medical practitioners' training needs and follow-up on patients

In cooperation with The Danish Maritime Authority, and the Research Unit of General Practice, the Centre of Maritime Health and Society is conducting a survey on maritime medical practitioners' and general practitioners' service profiles. The survey is conducted electronically and anonymously.

The purpose is to identify the doctors' potential training needs and gain insight into the follow-up practices on seafarers with chronic diseases or emerging diseases for prevention. The outcome of this survey may pave the way for the provision of relevant maritime training at national level in cooperation with international partners.



According to ILO/IMO guidelines, seafarers' pre-employment health examinations are crucial when it comes to being fit for work. Unhealthy seafarers cause losses to the shipping industry due to possible ship deviations and/or evacuations. For seafarers themselves, ill-health leads to unemployment and thus lost income. The maritime medical practitioners have a fundamental role to play in this context, including the performance of these examinations, the completion of certificates, communication with authorities and the follow-up practices. In addition, seafarers may also consult their regular general practitioner (GP) for other

health concerns.

According to the Maritime Labour Convention (2006), which came into force in Denmark and internationally in 2013, competent authorities should have in place specific guidance with regards to seafarers' examinations and needs.

The project is co-financed by The Danish Maritime Fund and runs from January – August 2017.

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

Two new reports

ViFaFiN

A new report 'Prevention of accidents at work in Nordic fisheries' from the Nordic cooperation project [ViFaFiN](#) concludes that prevention of accidents in Nordic fisheries does work. The ViFaFiN project, funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers, has studied what has been done and what has worked in prevention of accidents at work.

The report describes the evolution of the number of occupational accidents in the fisheries over the last 15 to 20 years for each of the Nordic countries, and at the same time the report also highlights the actions taken over the years in order to prevent the previous many occupational accidents. A general feature of the different countries is that it is primarily legislation, technical safety measures and significant changes in safety standards in fisheries which are the main reasons for the decline in occupational accidents in Nordic fisheries.

Read the full report [here](#).

MARTHA

In the beginning of the year, the final MARTHA report was published. The three-year international fatigue project, funded by TK Foundation, has gathered a large database of new information from 1,000 seafarers, and carried out a field study of over 100 seafarers working at sea worldwide. The study has collected data on their fatigue levels, sleep patterns and psychological wellbeing.

Some of the key findings from the study show that captains suffer from fatigue and stress more than their crews; fatigue can result in long term physical and mental health issues; motivation decreases over the length of the voyage and night watch keepers get significantly less total sleep than others on board.

Download and read the report in full [here](#). You can also see [a short video](#) with extracts of the MARTHA findings.

Statement from a thesis student at CMSS

By Mads Faurby



In the autumn of 2016, CMSS looked for a thesis student to do a project on the costs of repatriation of sick seafarers. Since I wanted to get better at the health economics methods, it was obvious for me to write a master's thesis about this topic, and I have not regretted it for one second. As a thesis student at CMSS, high expectations were placed on me, but at the same time I also got the opportunity to work with some highly competent and committed people. Writing a thesis is a long process and not 'a bed of roses', but from day one I met a lot of enthusiasm, and my supervisors were helpful far beyond what could be expected, which I have enjoyed as a student. I can highly recommend other students to write their master's theses in collaboration with CMSS research unit.

Mads was awarded the top grade 12 for his efforts on the thesis. You can download and read his thesis in full [here](#).

A selection of other CMSS activities

CMSS was strongly represented at the 14th ISMH conference

The 14th International Symposium on Maritime Health (ISMH) took place in Manila, Philippines, on March the 21st – 24th. The theme of the symposium was Maritime Health and Shipping: A Dynamic Partnership. CMSS attended the conference with numerous presentations. For instance, Despena Andrioti demonstrated a model in order to estimate the cost of seafarers' repatriations and a gap analysis of the maritime doctors' service profile compared to that of general practitioners. Olaf C. Jensen presented, among others, a project entitled 'The global sea ehealth Horizon 2020 project'. Lulu Hjarnø contributed to the scientific programme by showing results from the project 'Optimizing tele-medical assistance service in Denmark'.

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

- **Rasmussen HB**, Larsen EL. Improving safety through changes in workplace culture: a study from the oil and gas industry in Denmark. *Safety Science Monitor* 2017;20(1): 1-12.
- Lützen M, Mikkelsen LL, Jensen S, **Rasmussen HB**. Energy Efficiency of Working Vessels: A Framework. *Journal of Cleaner Production* 2017;143: 90-99. [Doi: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2016.12.146](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2016.12.146).
- Hansen C, **Andrioti D**. Co-payments for general practitioners in Denmark : an analysis using two policy models. *BMC Health Services Research* 2017;17(9). [Doi: 10.1186/s12913-016-1951-z](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-016-1951-z).

- **Andrioti D**, Skitsou A, Eklund Karlsson L, Pandouris C, Krassias A, Charalambous G. Job satisfaction of nurses in various clinical practices. *International Journal of Caring Sciences* 2017;10(1): 76-87.
- **Andrioti D, Jensen, OC**. Maritime Doctors and General Partitioners Service Profiles: a research protocol. *Health Science Journal*, 2017;11(2).
- Baygi F, **Jensen OC**, Mohammadi-Nasrabadi F, Qorbani M, Mansourian M, Mirkazemi R, Farshad A, Salehi SA, Haghighian Roudsari A, Shidfar F. Factors affecting health-promoting lifestyle profile in Iranian male seafarers working on tankers. *International Maritime Health* 2017;68(1): 1-6.
- Skovgaard M, Encinas SR, **Jensen OC**; Andersen JH, Condarco G, Jørs E. Pesticide Residues in Commercial Lettuce, Onion, and Potato Samples From Bolivia—A Threat to Public Health? *Environmental Health Insights* 2017; 11: 1-8. [Doi: 10.1177/1178630217704194](https://doi.org/10.1177/1178630217704194) .
- Skitsou A, Bekos C, Charalambous G, **Andrioti D**. Human Rights and Health Services: Results from a Case Study of Cyprus. *International Journal of Caring Sciences* 2016;9(3): 991-996.
- Tu, M, **Jepsen JR**. Hypertension in Danish seafarers. *International Maritime Health* 2016;67(4): 196-204.
- Al-Aklabi N, Al-Dowsari W, **Andrioti D**. Investigating the Correlation between Food Prices and University Students Awareness of the Effects of Fast Food Consumption on their Health. *International Journal of Community & Family Medicine* 2016;1(1): 114-118.

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

CMSS wishes you all a nice summer

