

## **Keynote speakers – alphabetical order**

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### **Pekka Aho**

Overlege, Associate Professor

Helsinki universitetssykehus og Universitetet i Helsinki, Finland

Biography: Adjunct professor Aho is Head of the Department at Helsinki University Hospital, Finland. He finished his thesis on the Endovascular Aortic Repair in 2005 and became Adjunct Professor in Vascular Surgery in 2011. His post-doctoral visit was at Westmead Hospital, Sydney. He has altogether about 100 publications. His main research topics are radiation safety and the results of hybrid procedures, as well as long-term results of EVAR procedures, simulation training of occlusion balloon in ruptured AAA and REVAR-procedures. He also does national audits on radiation safety in Finland. Dr Aho was treasurer of the Finnish Society for Vascular Surgery between 2004 and 2008 and Secretary of the Society for Angiology in 2000-2004. He is a member of the European Society for Vascular Surgery.

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### **Cengiz Akgül**

Avdelingssef (ledende overlæge)

Odense Universitetssykehus, Danmark

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### **Per Espen Akselsen**

Overlege, tidligere redaktør

Nasjonal faglig retningslinje for antibiotika i sykehus - Antibiotika.no

Biography: He served as Lead Consultant at the National Centre for Antibiotic Use in Hospitals (NSAS) until 2025. Born in 1956, he earned his M.D. from the University of Bergen in 1983 and is a specialist in infectious diseases, internal medicine, and geriatric medicine. He has over 20 years of clinical experience across infectious diseases, internal medicine, general practice, geriatric medicine, rheumatology, and microbiology. Since 1991, he has been employed at Haukeland University Hospital. Between 2007 and 2010, he worked full-time in infection control, and from 2010 to 2024, he served as Lead Consultant at NSAS while working part-time in infection control. His current main research interests include antibiotics, focusing on antibiotic use, dosing, stewardship, prescription behavior, and the implementation of guidelines. He has participated in the national breakpoint committee AFA-group, contributed to national quality indicators in healthcare-associated infections and antibiotic use, and served on editorial guideline committees for antibiotic use in hospitals and primary care. Additionally, he is an editor of the national guideline on antibiotic use in hospitals and of a textbook on infection control. In 2021, he received an honorary award from The Norwegian Society for Infectious Diseases.

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**Christian-Alexander Behrendt**

Associate Professor, MD, FESVS

Chief and Head of the Department of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Asklepios Clinic Wandsbek, Asklepios Medical School, Hamburg, Germany

Biography: Dr. Christian-Alexander Behrendt is a distinguished vascular and endovascular surgeon specializing in the treatment of peripheral artery disease (PAD), particularly in the lower extremities. He currently serves as the Chief and Head of the Department of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at Asklepios Clinic Wandsbek in Hamburg, Germany. Dr. Behrendt completed his medical degree at the University of Hamburg-Eppendorf and underwent specialized training in vascular surgery. He has held various academic and clinical positions, including roles at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf and the Agaplesion Diakonie Clinic Hamburg. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed articles, with more than 60 as first or last author in top-tier surgical journals. His research focuses on clinical outcomes in vascular surgery, particularly in PAD, and he was the Co-Chair of the recent published ESVS guidelines on asymptomatic lower limb peripheral arterial disease and intermittent claudication. He is Co-Chair of International Consortium of Vascular Registries (ICVR)

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**Jos C van den Berg**

Associate Professor

Clinica Luganese Moncucco, Lugano, og Universitetet i Bern, Sveits

Biography: Jos C. van den Berg graduated from the Medical School of Leiden University in 1986 and completed radiology residencies at the Military Hospital in Utrecht and St. Radboud University Hospital in Nijmegen. He developed interests in interventional radiology and musculoskeletal ultrasound and served as president of the Dutch Radiological Resident Association. After finishing his residency in 1994, he worked as an interventional radiologist at St. Antonius Hospital, becoming head of Radiology in 2001. In 2004, he became head of Interventional Radiology at Ospedale Regionale di Lugano, Switzerland.

He holds associate professorships at the Universities of Pisa and Bern, with research focused on vascular and interventional radiology. He has authored over 240 peer-reviewed publications and serves on numerous editorial boards and as a reviewer for major journals in radiology and vascular surgery. He is involved in professional societies including CIRSE, the Dutch Society of Radiology, and the CLI Global Society, and contributes to European vascular surgery guidelines.

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**Lena Leren**

Førsteamanuensi

Universitetet i Sør-Norge

Biografi: Lena Leren er ansatt som førsteamanuensis ved Institutt for sykepleie- og helsevitenskap. Hun er tilknyttet Senter for helse og teknologi, under ekspertområde kommunikasjon og digital helse. Hun er programansvarlig for master i klinisk helsearbeid hvor hun også underviser og veileder studenter. I sitt doktorgradsarbeid forsket hun på smerter hos personer med kroniske legg- og fotsår ved hjelp av kvantitativ metode. Leren er for tiden engasjert i forskning- og utviklingsprosjekter innen innovasjon i og digitalisering av helsetjenesten, oppgaveglidning (task-shifting) og utdanning

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**Øystein Rognerud**

Overlege

Nasjonal behandlingstjeneste for rekonstruktiv dyp venekirurgi (NOVI), Oslo  
universitetssykehus, Sykehuset i Vestfold

Biography: Øystein Rognerud is a Consultant Vascular Surgeon at Oslo University Hospital, where he is also involved with NOVI. He divides his consulting work with Sykehuset i Vestfold. He is a past president of the Norwegian Society for Vascular Surgery. Currently, he is pursuing a PhD focusing on innovative methods for diagnosing deep venous pathology.

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**Kristian Smidfelt**

Overlege, MD, PhD

Sahlgrenska universitetssykehus, Sverige

Biography: Kristian Smidfelt is a Swedish vascular surgeon and researcher affiliated with Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg, Sweden. He holds a Medical Doctor (MD) degree and a PhD, and his clinical and research interests focus on vascular diseases, endovascular surgery, aortic diseases, and vascular medicine. Dr. Smidfelt has co-authored numerous publications, including studies on abdominal aortic aneurysms, misdiagnosis of ruptured aneurysms, and the impact of COVID-19 on vascular procedures. He is also involved in national initiatives to establish diagnostic reference levels for endovascular procedures in Sweden.

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**Karl Sörelius**

Overlege, førsteamanuensis,

Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen University Hospital, Danmark

Biography: Karl Sörelius, MD, PhD, is a Consultant Vascular Surgeon at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen and an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen. He specializes in vascular surgery, with particular expertise in aortic diseases, endovascular techniques, and the management of vascular graft infections. Dr. Sörelius has contributed to numerous international consensus documents and clinical guidelines, especially concerning the diagnosis and treatment of infective native aortic aneurysms. He has authored over 60 peer-reviewed publications and is actively involved in both clinical practice and academic research.

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**Maarit Venermo**

Professor, Head of Department

Helsinki universitetssykehus, Finland

Biography: Maarit Venermo is professor of vascular surgery and head of the department in Helsinki University Hospital and University of Helsinki in Finland. She is the Secretary General of the European Society for Vascular Surgery. Since 2014, she has been the holding the only chair of full professor in vascular surgery in Finland. She has altogether 300 original publications, review papers and book chapters. She had supervised 14 completed PhD thesis and has 7 ongoing PhD students. Her group from Helsinki is in the VASCUL-AID project. Her main areas of

interest in research work have been chronic limb threatening ischemia, evaluation of perfusion and angiosome concept in chronic limb ischemia, hybrid room radiation safety, population based AAA studies as well as treatment of ruptured aneurysm. She has been active in VASCUNET collaboration and ICVR. She has also been active in different societies and served as president of Finnish Society for Vascular Surgery during 2004-2008, and the board of Finnish Society of Angiology 2019-ongoing. She has also been very active in different national and international guidelines and participated writing groups of several guidelines and is now ESVS chair in the updating project for Global Guidelines for the Treatment of CLTI.

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**Anne Verhoef**

(Ingen stilling oppgitt)  
Chronic CareNet, Nederland

Biography: Anne Verhoef is affiliated with Chronic CareNet, a nationwide network in the Netherlands dedicated to providing supervised exercise therapy and lifestyle interventions for patients with chronic conditions associated with lifestyle. Chronic CareNet aims to enhance patient outcomes by promoting structured exercise programs and lifestyle modifications, particularly for individuals with peripheral arterial disease. The network collaborates with healthcare professionals to ensure the delivery of evidence-based care across the country.

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**Kak Khee Yeung**

Professor  
Amsterdam UMC, Nederland

Biography: Dr. Kak Khee Yeung is a Full Professor of Vascular Surgery and Principal Investigator at Amsterdam University Medical Centers (Amsterdam UMC), affiliated with both the Vrije Universiteit (VU) and the Academic Medical Center (AMC) in the Netherlands. She specializes in complex endovascular aortic surgery and leads translational research focused on personalized therapies for vascular diseases. Her research encompasses the pathophysiology, genetics, and imaging of aortic aneurysms, as well as the development of innovative treatments for aortic occlusive diseases. Dr. Yeung has established a national biobank containing over 700 vascular tissue samples and live patient-derived cells, facilitating the creation of 3D vascular models to study disease progression and identify potential therapeutic targets. In addition to her clinical and research roles, Dr. Yeung is the Research Director in Vascular Surgery at Amsterdam UMC and serves as the Chief Editor of the Journal of Endovascular Therapy. She is also the project leader of VASCUL-AID, a Horizon Europe initiative aimed at utilizing artificial intelligence to predict cardiovascular disease progression in patients with abdominal aortic aneurysms and peripheral arterial diseases. Dr. Yeung's contributions to vascular medicine have been recognized with multiple awards, including the KNAW Early Career Award in 2024.

## **Speakers – alphabetical order**

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**Martin Altreuther, PhD**

Overlege, faglig leder  
NORKAR og St. Olavs Hospital

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**Vaar Andreassen**

Sykepleier  
Sørlandet Sykehus

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**Silje Holmesland Bentsen**

Sykepleier  
Sørlandet Sykehus

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**Daniel Bergheim Botnmark**

(Ingen stilling oppgitt)  
Sørlandet Sykehus

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**Elisabeth Bø, PhD**

Fysioterapeut  
Nasjonal Kompetansetjeneste for Trening som Medisin

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**Rune Eggum**

Overlege  
Akershus universitetssykehus

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**Katrine Fernandez**

Sykepleier  
Kristiansand Kommune

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**Jörg Geisler**

Overlege, leder Norsk Forening for Intervensjonsradiologi (NFIR)  
Sykehuset i Vestfold

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**Andreas Grimsmo**

Forsker  
Universitetet i Agder

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**Esben Gubberud**

Avdelingssjef, overlege  
Haukeland universitetssykehus

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**Elisabeth Troøyen Gundersen**

Prosjektleder  
Checkware

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**Runar Hamre**

Infeksjonsmedisin  
Sørlandet Sykehus

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**Jonny Hisdal**

Professor  
Oslo universitetssykehus

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**Bjarte Hjelmeland**

Overlege  
Haukeland universitetssykehus

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**Knut Kjørstad**

Overlege  
Universitetet i Nord-Norge

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**Lina Krogh**

Fysioterapeut  
Sørlandet Sykehus

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**Sara Sletvold Lang**

Sykepleier  
St. Olavs Hospital

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**Beate Lindberg**

Overlege  
Oslo universitetssykehus

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**Pål Dag Line**

Professor

Oslo universitetssykehus

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**Jan Rune Løvli**

Brukerrepresentant

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**Torkel Myhra**

Brukerrepresentant

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**Kaia Marie Nicolaisen**

Fysioterapeut

Oslo universitetssykehus

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**Andreas Nygaard**

Seksjonsoverlege

Sørlandet Sykehus

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**Linn Nyrønning, PhD**

Overlege, førsteamannensis, medlem av fagrådet for NORKAR, nestleder styret NKKF

St. Olavs Hospital

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**Erik Mulder Pettersen, PhD**

Overlege, medisinsk faglig rådgiver, forsker, leder fagrådet NORKAR.

Sørlandet sykehus, Senter for Innovasjon, Medisinsk Utstyr og Teknologi (SIMUT), St. Olavs Hospital.

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**Toril Rabben, PhD**

Overlege

Oslo universitetssykehus

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**Andreas Reite, PhD**

Overlege

Stavanger universitetssykehus

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**Silje Lidi Rugholm**

Sykepleier

Blatchford Ortopedi

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**Gjertrud Rønning**

Lege i spesialisering

Sykehuset i Vestfold

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**Arne Seternes**

Professor, overlege

Karavdelingen og Senter for Innovasjon, Medisinsk Utstyr og Teknologi (SIMUT), St. Olavs Hospital

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**Jorunn Skjeie**

Sykepleier

Sørlandet Sykehus

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**Anne May Moldestad Solås**

Sykepleier

Sørlandet Sykehus

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**Pål Stokkeland**

Overlege

Sørlandet Sykehus Kristiansand

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**Helene Storhei**

Sykepleier

Lyngdal Kommune

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**Birk Gustav Samson Stoveland**

PhD-stipendiat

Senter for Innovasjon, Medisinsk Utstyr og Teknologi (SIMUT), St.Olavs Hospital, NTNU

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**John Christian Mattias Sundstrøm**

Lege i spesialisering

Østfold Hospital

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**Inger-Lise Sørensen**

Fysioterapeut

Sørlandet Sykehus

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**Magne Torsteinsen**

Overlege, leder NKKF

St. Olavs Hospital

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**Morten Vetrhus**

Professor, overlege

Stavanger universitetssykehus

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**Siren Vaaler**

Fysioterapeut

Sørlandet Sykehus

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**Ida Knudsen Wennerberg**

Sykepleier

Sørlandet Sykehus

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**Camille Werner**

Sykepleier

Oslo universitetssykehus

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