

In memoriam Hans Jørgen Nielsen  
(29.01.49 - 26.09.2020)

## Detektion af biomarkører til prædiktion af kolorektal cancer i individer med og uden symptomer

31. december 2020



Året 2020 blev stærkt mærket af, at vi pludseligt med stor sorg (d. 26. sept.) måtte sige farvel til vores ansete, afholdte og ideoerige forskningsleder gennem snart 20 år: professor, overlæge Hans Jørgen Nielsen.

Forskningsenhedens mål og strategier blev oprindeligt initieret med Hans Jørgen Niensens ansættelse som fuldtidsforsker ved Kirurgisk Gastroenterologisk Afdeling på Hvidovre Hospital med henblik på forskning i sygdommen kolorektal cancer (tarmkræft).

Gennem årene har Hans Jørgen Nielsen udstukket enhedens forskningslinje, og forestået store, kliniske projekter – nationalt som internationalt. Herigennem har Hans Jørgen Nielsen opbygget betydelige internationale samarbejder samt en værdifuld blod-og databank, der vil indgå i enhedens fortsættelse af Hans Jørgen Niensens forskning i blodbaserede biomarkører for cancer med henblik på tidlig detektion af cancer og anden malign sygdom.

### MINDEORD FRA FORSKNINGSGRUPPENS ÅRSRAPPORT

#### PROFESSOR CLAUS ANDERSEN, MOMA, SKEJBY HOSPITAL, AARHUS:

*Hans Jørgen var et fyrtårn i dansk kolorektal cancerforskning, afholdt af patienter, sygeplejersker og kolleger for sin faglighed, redelighed, dybe omsorg og sit rolige, men insisterende væsen.*

*Hans Jørgen var en dygtig og ambitiøs forsker, som igennem flere årtier var i centrum for udviklingen af blodprøve-baserede værktøjer til diagnose og monitorering af kolorektal cancer. Hans Jørgen var utrolig initiativrig, handlekraftig og en sand iværksætter, som evnede at tiltrække store forskningsmidler, etablere, organisere og drive store kliniske studier, samt etablere brobyggende samarbejder mellem forskere med vidt forskellige baggrunde, for eksempel i grundvidenskab og klinik. Han forstod at skabe frirum for sine kollegaer og samarbejdspartnere samt at skabe gode rammer for forskning og videnskab. Mange kollegaer og unge forskere havde stor glæde af hans lyst og evne til at supervisere og agere mentor.*

*Tidligt i 00'erne, etablerede Hans Jørgen en stærk forskningsgruppe på Gastroenheden, Hvidovre Hospital. Herfra iværksatte han fra 2004 og frem til sin alt for tidlige død 2020, et bemærkelsesværdigt stort antal omfangsrige store blodprøve-baserede kliniske studier, hvoraf det største omfattede henved 100.000 blodprøver fra ca. 45.000 deltagere i det Danske Tarmkræft Screeningsprogram.*

*Hans Jørgen var i mange år medlem af det Videnskabelige udvalg i Dansk Colorektal Cancer Gruppe, og han var en af initiativtagerne til det nyligt etablerede Nationale Danske Forskningscenter for cirkulerende tumor DNA guidet kræftbehandling. I centeret var han også en af de ledende figurer indenfor centerets satsninger på forskning i screening og tidlig diagnose.*

*For Hans Jørgen var forskningen og arbejdet en passion og en livsstil, og det var en fornøjelse at arbejde sammen med ham. For mig er det næsten ubærligt, at Hans Jørgen skulle dø så tidligt, særligt nu hvor han stod overfor at høste de mange videnskabelige frugter af de store kliniske studier, han havde etableret.*

*Jeg vil savne den gode ven med humor, drive og medmenneskelighed. Min tanker går til Hans Jørgens mange nære kollegaer i Hvidovre og til hans familie.*

**Mindeord**  
*om Hans Jørgen Nielsen*

ARTIKEL: EARLY DETECTION OF LUNG CANCER USING CELL-FREE DNA FRAGMENTOMES — NATURE 2020, IN REVIEW

**BY PROFESSOR VICTOR E. VELCULESCU, JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL, BALTIMORE, USA:**

*"We would like to dedicate this manuscript to Hans Jørgen Nielsen, a co-author on this study and a pioneer in early detection studies who passed away during the course of this study."*

WEBSITE: WEO — WORLD ENDOSCOPY ORGANIZATION — OCT 2020

**BY PROFESSOR GRAEME YOUNG, FLINDERS CENTRE FOR INNOVATION IN CANCER, FLINDERS UNIVERSITY, PERTH, AUSTRALIA:**

*Dear WEO members, it is with great sadness that I advise that on Sat Sep 26, Prof. Hans Jørgen Nielsen suddenly and unexpectedly passed away. This has been a shock to the family and his close colleagues and we, the WEO community will miss him greatly. When he joined us a few years ago, he brought a refreshing, open and challenging perspective to our meetings. His energy focus and determination to undertake research that would aid the advancement of screening was very evident. His efforts to establish a major research infrastructure in Denmark were most appreciated and a number of us have gone on to work with him and his colleagues and to become friends. This occurred through his focus on combining scientific vision and perspective to practice, and on translating science in order to benefit patients. We consider that Hans' would wish that our work be continued in an innovative fashion. [www.flinders.edu.au/people/graeme.young](http://www.flinders.edu.au/people/graeme.young)*

NEWSLETTER: EDRN — EARLY DETECTION RESEARCH NETWORK / NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE (NCI) — DEC 2020

**BY DR. SUDHIR SRIVASTAVA, CHIEF, CANCER BIOMARKER RESEARCH GROUP, NCI, BETHESDA, MD, USA:**

**In memory of Dr. Hans-Jørgen Nielsen, MD**

*A message from Dr. Sudhir Srivastava as we mourn the loss of a friend and colleague*

*We mourn the death of noted scientist and physician Dr. Hans-Jørgen Nielsen, MD, Professor of Surgical Oncology, University of Copenhagen. Hans passed away Saturday, September 26. He was 71 years old, he was the Consultant, Head of Surgical Immunology Laboratory, Hvidovre Hospital and Senior Research Scientist at Department of Surgical Gastroenterology, Hvidovre Hospital. He authored 304 peer reviewed articles.*

*Hans' started his working career in the trucking business, and then went to medical school. This possibly could partly explain why Hans had focus on combining scientific vision and perspective to practice, translating science in order to benefit patients. Hans was a member of the Early Detection Research Network (EDRN) from 2015-2020. He was well known to the GI Collaborative Group and others members of the EDRN including staff in DCP's Cancer Biomarker Research Group. Hans was a delightful man who ran a tremendously successful sample banking operation in multiple hospitals in Denmark. He was a surgeon by training but had devoted himself full time to research in recent years. Hans was a man with positive energy, warm and open hearted. He was friendly and collaborative. He dedicated time and resources to EDRN, of his own motivation. He believed in EDRN's mission, personnel, and purpose.*

*He hosted a number of EDRN members at a meeting in Copenhagen in 2014. It was memorable for his generous hospitality and spirit. We will miss him. [www.edrn.nci.nih.gov/about-edrn](http://www.edrn.nci.nih.gov/about-edrn)*

*Æret Være Hans Jørgen Nielsens Minde*

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