

### Supervisors

Professor Stig Andersen, MD, PhD, Aalborg University Hospital  
& Ilisimatusarfik

Professor Sam Riahi, MD, PhD, Aalborg University Hospital

Professor Michael Lynge Pedersen, MD, DMSc, Ilisimatusarfik, University of  
Greenland.

### Assessment Committee

Clinical Associate Professor Karina Frahm Kirk (Chair), Aalborg University.

Associate Professor Kasper Glerup Lauridsen, Aarhus University.

Professor Kristina Hermann Haugaa, University of Oslo.

# Invitation for PhD defense

by Nadja Albertsen, MD, MSA



## Atrial Fibrillation in Greenland

### Nadja Albertsen

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AALBORG UNIVERSITETSHOSPITAL

9000 Aalborg

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of March, 2024

Time: 11:00 am (DK)

In room 11.01.032

Klinisk Institut, Selma Lagerlöfsvej 249, 9260 Gistrup  
Online in the auditorium, Ilisimatusarfik, 08:00 am (KN)



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## About the PhD thesis

This PhD-project aims to investigate the prevalence of atrial fibrillation in the Greenlandic population, which comprises approximately 57,000 people.

Over the past 70 years, living conditions in Greenland have undergone significant changes. Dietary habits have changed, the population is aging, and like elsewhere in the world, the health of the Greenlandic population is increasingly affected by lifestyle-related and chronic diseases. One of these is atrial fibrillation, a common heart rhythm disorder that can be not only uncomfortable but also increases the risk of dementia and strokes.

The thesis is structured around four studies. The first study utilizes data from the electronic medical records system, where information on patients' diseases and medications is recorded. The next study examines the prevalence of atrial fibrillation on the east coast of Greenland using a handheld device, while the third study investigates the occurrence of atrial fibrillation in Nuuk using questionnaires and heart rhythm recordings over several days. Finally, the project explores the prevalence of atrial fibrillation in patients discharged from Greenland's only hospital with a diagnosis of ischemic stroke. The results from the first three studies suggest that the prevalence of atrial fibrillation in the Greenlandic population is likely not significantly different from that in other Nordic countries. Additionally, the occurrence follows a similar pattern as elsewhere, becoming more frequent with age and primarily affecting men. However, the fourth study finds that fewer ischemic stroke patients than previously thought have atrial fibrillation. This decline may be attributed to challenges in examining and diagnosing patients, indicating that conducting prolonged examinations for atrial fibrillation may be a general challenge in Greenland.

## Invitation for PhD defense

The Department of Clinical Medicine, Aalborg University, Aalborg University Hospital and Ilisimatusarfik are pleased to invite to PhD defense by Nadja Albertsen, MD, MSA, who will defend the thesis entitled:

### **Atrial Fibrillation in Greenland**

**The PhD defense will take place**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of March, 2024

Time: 11:00 am

In room 11.01.032

Klinisk Institut, Selma Lagerlöfsvej 249, 9260 Gistrup

After the defense there will be held a reception. All are welcome.