

The BCPT Young Researcher Nordic Prize 2022 goes to Associate Professor Tore Bjerregaard Stage



Tore Bjerregaard Stage has been awarded the BCPT Young Researcher Nordic Prize for 2022 in Basic and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Tore Bjerregaard Stage was born in 1987, Odense, Denmark, and studied pharmacy at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU), from 2007-12. After graduation, he completed his PhD in clinical pharmacology at SDU from 2012-15, and the title of the thesis was: "Pharmacogenetics and Drug Interactions in Relation to Treatment with Metformin". Hereafter, he held a position as a postdoc at the Department of Bioengineering and Therapeutic Sciences, University of California, San Francisco, from 2016-17. After his return to Denmark, he was assistant professor at Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacy, Department of Public Health, SDU, from 2017-19. Since 2019, he has been associate professor at the same department.

The focus of Tore Bjerregaard Stage's research is translational pharmacology. In his research, he combines cell-based studies with clinical pharmacokinetic and population-based studies to understand drug response and toxicity. During 2019-20, he obtained DKK 17 million in external funding and with that he has built up a group of 5 PhD students, 1 international postdoc and 1 laboratory technician. Besides, he has supervised >20 BSc, MSc or MD theses. Despite his young age, he is already a very professional and well-educated research leader. Thus, he has developed a research management program including updated milestone plans, personal development and both short- and long-term goals for himself and the researchers of his group. This has led him to obtain the position as Head of Research for Clinical Pharmacology, Pharmacy and Environmental Medicine from 1 January 2023 where he will lead the approximately 50 people in the research unit.

His research always has a clear clinical perspective, and the patients' needs are always in the focus. He is a true translational researcher who masters laboratory, clinical and pharmacoepidemiological research methodologies and hence he is capable of conducting ground-breaking translational research. Among his most important scientific discoveries are that the antibiotic dicloxacillin is an effective inducer of several cytochrome P450 enzymes and that co-medication with inhibitors of p-glycoprotein increases the risk of developing peripheral neuropathy during paclitaxel treatment. Both are clinically very important drug-drug interactions that should be taken into account when planning pharmacotherapy.

He has previously received 9 national and international honours and prizes, and at the age of 31 years, he organized the First Nordic conference on personalized medicine in Nyborg, Denmark, for 100 participants from 15 countries and with more than 20 international speakers. The second Nordic conference on personalized medicine will take place in Turku, Finland, June 2023, where Tore Bjerregaard Stage will also be on the scientific committee.

He has been reviewer of >30 papers for international journals: Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Pharmacogenomics Journal, Diabetologia, Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism, Basic and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology and Acta Oncologica. He has recently finished his tenure as Editor-in-Training of Clinical and Translational Science where he now has joined the editorial board of CTS. In 2021, he was a guest editor for a special issue on Translational Pharmacology in Basic and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology.

He has published approximately 50 scientific papers in international journals with peer review, and he is the first author on 14, second author on 8, and last author on 5 of these.

Tore Bjerregaard Stage has completed a lecturer training program ("universitetspædagogikum") for university teachers, and in 2014 he authored the textbook "Practical Pharmacology" together with Anton Pottegård. He is an experienced teacher of pharmacology for pharmacy, medical, biomedical and chiropractor students. He is the vice-chair of the pharmacy program at SDU.

Tore Bjerregaard Stage holds one patent: WO2021043673A1 (sole inventor): P-gp inducers as protectors against chemotherapy-induced side effects, such as peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) and hair loss.

Despite his young age, he is not only a rising star in Nordic pharmacology; in fact, he is a star already and hence a very worthy recipient of the BCPT Young Researcher Nordic Prize 2022 in Basic & Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology.

Thomas Kongstad Petersen

Jesper Bo Nielsen

Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of Nordic Association for the Publication of BCPT