PAIN RESEARCH - The ‘midterm’ perspective

Wednesday 4 March 2020
At 13:00 – 15:00
Aalborg University – Auditorium 4.111
Niels Jernes Vej 14, 9220 Aalborg East
Program

Opening of the symposium

Basic pain research – The era from Prof. Wall to modern pain science
Stephen B McMahon, Sherrington Professor of Physiology, King’s College London, London, UK

Novel achievements in clinical pain science
Troels Staehelin Jensen, MD, DMSc, Professor of Neurology, Aarhus University, Denmark

Linking basic and clinical pain research by experimental pain research
Thomas Graven-Nielsen, PhD, DMSc, Professor, CNAP, Aalborg University

The Global Landscape: Pain research, management, education, and advocacy
Lars Arendt-Nielsen, PhD, DMSc, Professor, CNAP, Aalborg University and President of The International Association for the Study of Pain

Conclusion of the symposium followed by a reception

Preamble

John Bonica (1917-1994) was an anesthesiologist highly devoted towards better pain management. Besides his impressive clinical achievements, he is also the founder of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) where he strongly advocated towards IASP being truly interdisciplinary. At an early stage, Bonica authored the first comprehensive textbook on pain treatment, *The Management of Pain*, in 1953.

Professor Patrick D. Wall (1925 – 2001) was one of the essential pioneers and highly influential on the modern basic pain research. He did seminal discoveries that today permeate much of what we currently believe about the pain system. Together with John Bonica, he was a critical figure in the growth of the field of pain research and management. Prof. Wall was the founding editor of the flagship journal PAIN and later co-editor with Prof. Melzack of the *Textbook of Pain*. Today we stand on the shoulders of such giants with an impressive legacy for the pain research.

Abstract

This seminar aims to present an historical perspective on pain research, where we are today, and what we look into in the future. Besides being the author of an impressive series of basic pain studies, *Prof. McMahon* is also one of the pioneers trained by Prof. Wall. In this seminar, *Prof. McMahon* will give his view on how the modern pain science developed from the era of Prof. Wall, and especially flavour it with his experience with Prof. Wall.

The unique value of interdisciplinary research towards better pain management was essentially crystallised by Bonica. *Prof. Troels Staehelin Jensen* has been active in basic and clinical pain research for decades as well as being the former president of IASP (The International Association for the Study of Pain). He will give his view on how the clinical pain research in particular has developed into what it is today.

Combining basic and clinical pain research calls for translational initiatives linking the two disciplines. Human experimental pain research is one way to translate basic science to clinical pain research and Aalborg University has been very active within this topic. The cornerstone of this work was formed at *Center for Sensory-Motor Interaction* established in 1993 and in 2015 the *Center for Neuroplasticity and Pain (CNAP)* was established as a centre-of-excellence by the Danish National Research Foundation. Key questions relate to basic human pain mechanisms and the translational value of going from basic to human studies.

Globally, the community of pain researchers and clinicians has been accommodated by the IASP. Internationalisation, interdisciplinarity and training are key elements in pain research/management and naturally fundamental components for IASP. As president of IASP and a pioneer within pain research, *Prof. Lars Arendt-Nielsen* will present on the importance of management, education, and advocacy to further develop the pain research field.