



Dear NorPEN community,

We left 2024 with a new logo, a new website, and 7 new member research groups in our NorPEN community, and we started 2025 with a new NorPEN executive committee, a [LinkedIn](#) page (follow us!), and a full calendar of pharmacoepidemiology-related events for us to learn and meet together.

A big thank you to *Sissel Helbæk Mogensen* (Syddansk Universitet) for using her graphic design skills to create a new logo that reflects the collaborative spirit of NorPEN. Thank you also to *Victoria Ellasofie Jeberg* (Syddansk Universitet) for her efforts in upgrading our website, and to *Morten Olesen* (Syddansk Universitet) for effortlessly maintaining our website from the beginning.

Elections for the 2025-2026 NorPEN executive committee took place in November 2024. Many of the members remained in their positions, with 3 additions: *Christine Hallgreen* (Denmark), *Freya Jónsdóttir* (Iceland), and *Huiqi Li* (Sweden). Thank you to our outgoing EC members: *Björn Pasternak* (Sweden), *Chaitra Srinivas* (Student representative), and in particular to *Lotte Rasmussen* (Denmark) who has been part of the executive committee for many years, starting as the student representative before being elected as the representative for Denmark, and then the chair of the committee.

Sadly, our community has lost two members to whom we pay tribute to in this newsletter. We invite you to reflect on their contributions to the field through their outstanding research, teaching, and mentorship.

In this newsletter, we provide a summary of our 2024 conference in Copenhagen, news about our 2025 and 2026 NorPEN conferences, and much more.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in 2025.

Carolyn Cesta & Jacqueline Cohen
Chair and co-chair, NorPEN executive committee

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2025-2026 NorPEN Executive Committee

The NorPEN executive committee for 2025-2026 consists of the following regular members (underlined) and their substitutes:

Research group representatives:

Maurizio Sessa, associate professor, University of Copenhagen, (Denmark)

Christine Hallgreen, associate professor, University of Copenhagen, (Denmark)

Carolyn Cesta (Chair), assistant professor, Karolinska Institutet (Sweden)

Huiqi Li, associate professor, University of Gothenburg (Sweden)

Jacqueline Cohen (Co-chair), senior researcher, Norwegian Institute of Public Health (Norway)

Vacant position (Norway)

Heidi Taipale, senior researcher, Niuvanniemi Hospital (Finland)

Mika Gissler, PhD, professor, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (Finland)

Freya Jónsdóttir, assistant professor, University of Iceland (Iceland)

Lárus Steinþór Guðmundsson, associate professor, University of Iceland (Iceland)

PhD student representatives:

Saad Hanif Abbasi, PhD student, University of Southern Denmark (Denmark)

Alexis Carson, PhD student, University of Oslo (Norway)

Pharmacoepidemiological societies representatives:

Vacant position

Miia Artama, professor (tenure), University of Tampere (Finland)

Register holder representatives:

Maarit Leinonen, chief physician, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (Finland)

Heini Kari, senior researcher, Social Insurance Institution of Finland (Finland)



Don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have questions or ideas for NorPEN!

Summary of the 16th Annual NorPEN meeting, Nov 18-20, 2024 Copenhagen, Denmark

The 16th annual NorPEN meeting, held from November 18-20, 2024, in Copenhagen, Denmark, focused on the theme "AI for Pharmacoepidemiology in the Nordic Countries." The event featured two pre-conference courses, a social dinner, and engaging oral presentation sessions with five keynote speakers. With over 90 registrants and more than 27 abstracts submitted, the meeting brought together participants from various countries, including Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Turkey, and Italy. Additionally, the event included a PhD students' session and a poster session, providing a valuable platform for discussing the integration of AI in pharmacoepidemiology, fostering collaboration and innovation in the field. We are grateful for the grant received from BPCT, which made this event possible. We also provided gifts to the invited speakers and winners of the best oral presentation for each session, recognizing their valuable contributions to the meeting.



News on the 17th annual NorPEN meeting, Nov 19-21, 2025 Uppsala, Sweden



The next NorPEN conference will take place in Sweden and will be hosted by Uppsala University, the oldest university in the North. The scientific committee is being led by Professor Björn Wettermark from Uppsala University and includes representatives from Karolinska Institutet, Gothenburg University, the NEPI foundation, the Swedish Medical Products Agency, and Uppsala Monitoring Centre. More information will be provided about the program and registration in the spring.

News on the 18th NorPEN 2026 to be held in collaboration with NordicEpi

NorPEN is working with the Norwegian Epidemiology Association (NOFE) to plan a joint meeting with NordicEpi 2026 in Tromsø. We will share more information on our website later in the year.

NorPEN is growing: a total of 36 NorPEN member groups!

Seven new research groups joined us in 2024, including:

- Team Real-World Evidence, School of Pharmacy, University of Eastern Finland, Finland
- Pharmacoepidemiology Research Group, Faculty of Pharmacy, Uppsala University, Sweden
- Department of Epidemiology Research, Statens Serum Institut, Denmark
- AI & Pharmacology, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Bispebjerg and Frederiksberg Hospital, Denmark
- The Research Group of Geriatric Pharmacoepidemiology at Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
- School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- Copenhagen Centre for Regulatory Science, Department of Pharmacy, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

	No.
Research groups	
Denmark	6
Finland	7
Iceland	1
Norway	4
Sweden	10
Register holders	5
Pharmacoepi Societies	3

For a complete list of NorPEN member groups, please visit our website:

<https://norpen.org/membership/>

Update from the EduGroup

The NorPEN EduGroup has initiated and conducted multiple scientific initiatives in the past few years to enhance educational growth of PhD students, junior and senior researchers in the field of pharmacoepidemiology. This includes:

- a **NorPEN Seminar Series** with topics in 2024 spanning from polypharmacy in psychiatric pharmacoepidemiology, to causal forests for heterogeneous treatment effects, immortal time bias, and the Meta-learners method (recordings of selected seminars can be found here: <https://norpen.org/seminars/>).
- a summary of opportunities for **funding and students/research exchanges** in the Nordics (found here: <https://norpen.org/education/>).
- Promotion of relevant education events open to the NorPEN community through **our email list** (to register visit: <https://norpen.org/education/>).

In 2025, the NorPEN EduGroup plans to make available on the NorPEN website key educational resources for achieving fundamental knowledge in pharmacoepidemiology.

NorPEN Common Data Model Survey

Thank you to all the research groups who completed the NorPEN Common Data Model survey. Results are being compiled and will be shared both in a publication authored by members of the NorPEN executive committee, and a report on the NorPEN website. The survey indicated that there is interest in having a NorPEN subcommittee focused on collecting and sharing information about Common Data Models, so this will be initiated by the executive committee this year.

In Memoriam – Helle Kieler (1956-2024)



Photo Credit: Creo Media Group

Helle Kieler, Professor emeritus and scientific leader of the Centre for Pharmacoepidemiology at Karolinska Institutet (KI) in Sweden for 17 years, died on 1 September 2024 at the age of 68 years.

Professor Kieler was a co-founder of NorPEN, served as chair of the executive committee until 2016, and was dedicated to creating sustainable Nordic and international collaboration in the field of pharmacoepidemiology. She is remembered fondly and deeply missed by colleagues and friends throughout the Nordics and around the world.

A full In Memoriam published in Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety can be found [here](#)

In Memoriam – Angela Lupattelli (1979-2025)

Angela Lupattelli, Professor in the Department of Pharmacy and member of the PharmaSafe research group at the University of Oslo, died suddenly on 21 January 2025 at the age of 45 years.

Professor Lupattelli was an integral member of the Norwegian pharmacoepidemiology community. She was the leader of the Norwegian Pharmacoepidemiology Association, member of the NorPEN executive committee and the NorPEN EduGroup, and was committed to enhancing educational opportunities in pharmacoepidemiology for both new and experienced colleagues.

Angela will be remembered as a talented researcher and as an exceptionally warm and welcoming colleague and mentor. She will be deeply missed by her colleagues and friends both in Norway and internationally. Her legacy of improving women's health will continue in all whom she mentored, supervised, and collaborated with as she is deeply woven into those that had the honor of knowing her.



Event Calendar 2025

February 26 Online event: Danish Society of Pharmacoepidemiology Course: [Transparency and Re-producibility in Pharmacoepidemiology 2025](#)

March 25 14.00-15.00 Online event: NorPEN Seminar Series: Krista Huybrechts, M.S., Ph.D, epidemiologist in the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics at the Brigham and Women's Hospital

May 14-15 [International Society of Pharmacovigilance](#) (ISoP) mid-year symposium Uppsala, Sweden

July 1-4 [European Drug Utilization Conference 2025](#) (EuroDURG) Uppsala, Sweden

August 22-26 The 41st annual conference of the [International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology](#), Washington DC, USA

November 19-21 The 17th Annual NorPEN conference, Uppsala, Sweden

POSTPONED Hybrid event: Norwegian Society for Pharmacoepidemiology Course: Harnessing Nordic registry data on filled prescriptions: construct of treatment episodes and the PRE2DUP method

****Stay tuned for information about additional upcoming NorPEN online Seminars****

Recent publications from the NorPEN member groups

On our webpage (www.norpen.org) we have collected a list of published papers by NorPEN members which include data from more than 1 Nordic country. If you want to have your recently published paper on our NorPEN website, please email the title, author names, and PMID to info@norpen.org

2024

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