

Attention
WFHSS
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Dear Executive Committee of WFHSS

I am writing to express my interest in a seat on the Executive Committee of the World Federation for Hospital Sterilization Sciences, WFHSS.

My name is Karin Bundgaard, and I am employed as a research nurse in a joint position between Aalborg University Hospital and Aalborg University, Denmark. I am a board member of the Professional Association for Sterilization Centers in Denmark (FSSD) and a member of the Danish Society for Infection Prevention (DSIF).

I have extensive experience with board work, including 12 years as a member of the board of the Danish Society for Nursing Research, where I have worked on developing and organizing courses and conferences both nationally and internationally. For example, the Nordic Conference on Nursing Research (2020, 2023 and 2024) in collaboration with Norway, Sweden, and Iceland.

For the past eight years, I have been dedicated to research in the reprocessing of surgical instruments and am the initiator and leader of the research program Sterile Science. Our research has focused on ensuring the highest possible level of cleanliness and value retention of sterilizable surgical instruments. The clinical outcomes of our research significantly contribute to reducing the risk of postoperative infections and reducing costs associated with purchasing and producing new surgical instruments.

Research within Sterile Science is a new area, and we are currently the only research group in Denmark, the Nordic countries, and, to our knowledge, in Europe working scientifically on the reprocessing of surgical instruments. Additionally, the reprocessing of surgical equipment is an often-overlooked research area. National and international recommendations are largely based on relevant requirements set out in regulations, standards, guidelines, and consensus about "best practice." However, evidence-based knowledge supporting these recommendations remains limited.

Our recent projects have focused on investigating how transportation and storage environments before reprocessing affect the cleanliness and quality of instruments, and how instrument tray optimization reduces errors and increases patient safety. Our research has garnered significant interest and has been published in scientific journals such as the Journal of Hospital Infection. Furthermore, we have presented our research nationally at DSIF's annual meetings (2018 and 2022) and FSSD's annual meetings (2018 and 2022), as well as internationally at the Healthcare Infection Society Conference (2018) and WFHSS conferences (2019, 2021, 2023, and the upcoming 2024).

Over the past year, we have been engaged in a research project where our previously published study on the transportation and storage environment has now been taken out of the laboratory and tested

in clinical practice. This project is a collaboration with Dr. Gerhard Kirmse and Silke Haibt-Winandi at the Aesculap Competence Center in Germany. We are collecting data at Aarhus University Hospital, and this is the project I will be presenting at WFHSS 2024 in Santiago, Chile.

With my extensive background in research and active involvement in both national and international professional organizations, I am confident that I can contribute valuable insights and perspectives to the WFHSS Executive Committee. I am committed to advancing the field of sterile science and believe that my participation on the Executive Committee will help promote evidence-based practices and enhance patient safety globally.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the important work of the WFHSS.

Yours sincerely

Karin Bundgaard
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