

## **Bjarke Brandt Hansen, MD, PhD**

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Work: Department Rheumatology,  
Bispebjerg and Frederiksberg University Hospital,  
Nordre Fasanvej 57, DK - 2000

The Parker Institute  
Frederiksberg Hospital,  
Nordre Fasanvej 57, DK - 2000 Frederiksberg,  
+45 38 16 41 55, Email: dr.bjarke@gmail.com

Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine  
University of Copenhagen, The Panum Institute, (dept. IX),  
Blegdamsvej 3, DK - 2200 Copenhagen N



Home: Peter Fabers Gade 5 4 tv, DK - 2200 Copenhagen N,  
+45 26 84 60 45

### **Clinical and Academic Background**

My professional and academic interests have always been related to the musculoskeletal system. Since my degree in medicine I have worked in several hospitals in the area of Copenhagen. I have worked as an anaesthetist with special interest of pharmacological treatment of chronic pain and ultrasound-guided peripheral nerve blocking. From 2009-2011 I have worked as a junior orthopaedic surgeon and in 2016 I started my specialist training of Rheumatology.

I have an extensive pre-graduate teaching experience and have been affiliated to the Anatomical Institute Copenhagen University since I was a medical student. I am today Associate Professor of anatomy and teacher of the "Course in Head, Neck, the Locomotor System and the Peripheral Nervous System" for third semester medical students. I have also been involved in the supervision of numerous medical students and physicians, and have been a speaker at pre-graduate, PhD- and post-graduate specialist courses.

### **Research**

I have been affiliated to the Parker Institute's musculoskeletal imaging research unite, led by Professor Mikael Boesen and Professor Henning Bliddal, since 2011. May 2017 I defended my PhD thesis: "*Introducing Standing Weight-Bearing MRI in the Diagnostics of Low Back Pain and Degenerative Spinal Disorders*" [1]. My thesis included 3 papers. In my first paper I showed that a substantial risk of fainting (19%) during standing MRI could almost be eliminated by the use of an external pneumatic compression device (2%) [2]. In the second paper I showed that severe disc degeneration in the lumbar spine did not affect the lumbar lordosis angle in the standing position [3]. In the third paper I showed that radiologists' evaluation of standing MR images have a fair to substantial reliability [4].

Since my PhD I have been affiliated the Parker institute as a part-time post-doc in my spare-time to do research and supervision of medical students and physicians. My primary interest is still new diagnostic modalities for low back pain patients [5-7]. Another field of interest have been biomechanical changes in degenerative changes in the spine. I have shown that adding a lumbar pillow during conventional MRI can increase the diagnostic precision of lumbar spinal stenosis,[8] and a disc herniation change size and shape in the standing position [ahead of publication]. Non-

surgery management of low back patients based on proper imaging is essential and I will in near future present data from a large RCT on low back pain patients in physical demanding and in risk of sick leave, the *Goback trial* [9].

I have also contributed to numbers of other publications[10–14], abstracts, posters and have presented my research at national and international conferences. I am an early stage investigator with an urgent desire to build a research career within diagnostic and management of low back pain patients. Therefore, I am sincerely honoured for being awarded the “Columna Price” by Dansk Selskab for Muskuloskeletal Medicin, DSMM.

## Reference

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