

Awards ceremony

27th September, 2019
Summer School Spetses, Greece





Poster award for Joana Pinto



Poster award for Eda Aydindogan and Joana Pinto

PSA essay award HENRIKSEN VESTERMAN Tenna

PSA-testing in the nationwide screening setting

Since the introduction of the Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA)-test for prostate cancer detection, the number of diagnosed prostate cancers have increased dramatically. In many cases, the PSA-test allows earlier detection of a prostate cancer, which theoretically provides an opportunity for treatment to prevent metastatic cancer and subsequent death. PSA has therefore been a candidate for a nationwide screening biomarker. Yet, the benefit of PSA-screening on mortality or the number of treated metastatic cancers is greatly disputed. It is commonly recognized that elevated PSA is not by itself equivalent to a prostate cancer diagnosis. However, limiting the use of the PSA-test to a guideline for prostate cancer diagnosis still leads to an increase in the number of people being subjected to unnecessary diagnostic biopsies. Studies have shown that over a thousand people has to be screened and tens of people have to be subjected to (possibly harmful) biopsies for one extra prostate cancer patient to be identified. Many of these patients will have slow-growing cancers and would have never experienced symptoms or had adverse effects of the disease. These patients are put at risk from diagnostic biopsies and cancer treatment where none was needed. In addition, some people with non-specific elevated PSA are alarmed with a possible cancer diagnosis. Further, the PSA-test can cause a false sense of security, due to limited sensitivity. A false negative PSA-test could lead patients to avoid seeking help, even if they experience cancer symptoms. Based on this, the consequences of implementing a test with limited specificity and sensitivity for a slow-growing cancer seem to outweigh the possible benefits of early detection. **The PSA-test should therefore not be implemented in a nationwide clinical screening setting.**

PSA award for Tenna Henriksen Vestermann





Tenna Henriksen Verstermann receives the PSA essay award

The Charge of the Light Brigade

dedicated to the biomarkers that did not make it through the valley of death of analytical validation

**“Forward, the Light Brigade!”
Was there a man dismayed?
Not though the soldier knew
Someone had blundered.
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die.
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.**

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

The Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred, Lord Tennyson