



Broegelmann Research Laboratory
<http://www.uib.no/Broegelmann/>
The Gade Institute



"The 15th Broegelmann Lecture"

by

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New insights into the etiology of rheumatoid arthritis – is prevention possible?

Friday, May 20th, at 13:00 - 14:00
Main Auditorium,
Haukeland University Hospital

About the lecture:

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a prototype of a complex genetic disease, where autoimmunity has been assumed to play a role but where the role of genes environment and specific autoimmune reactions has long remained elusive. This lecture will describe how genetic epidemiology can provide leads to unravel specific and potentially pathogenic immune reactions in distinct subsets of RA. The following issues will be discussed: (1) Genome-wide scans, with detailed analysis of the MHC region have disclosed fundamentally different genetic risk profiles for subsets of RA defined by presence/absence of antibodies against citrullinated proteins (ACPA:s); metanalysis of identified genes will be presented; (2) Gene-gene and gene-environment interactions using the GWAS data have revealed a series of previously unknown genetic variations that contribute to the risk for RA in the context of specific HLA-DR alleles and smoking respectively; (3) Detailed analysis of specific autoimmune reactions against different citrullinated self proteins and peptides have revealed new genetic associations with these autoreactivities. Some of these autoreactivities have been shown to mediate arthritis in rodent models. Taken together these studies provide the basis for a formulation and testing of specific hypotheses for several different etiologies of arthritis within the criterion-based diagnosis RA.

Arranged by The Research Group Autoimmunity and Mucosal Immunobiology,
NSI Bergen and The Bergen Research School in Inflammation