

# Keynote Speakers



## Karin Jensen



In 2009 *Karin Jensen* was awarded a PhD in clinical neuroscience from Karolinska Institutet with a thesis on pain and human brain function. Upon her graduation she joined the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. Jensen has developed a research line within the field of pain and placebo studies, first as Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School, and later as Associate Professor at Karolinska Institutet.

Jensen is the leader of the Pain Neuroimaging Lab at Karolinska Institutet, a research group focusing on brain mechanisms involved in the experience of pain and placebo effects. Her work has challenged existing models of the pla-

cebo effect and contributed novel scientific data demonstrating that placebos work outside of conscious awareness, and how placebo effects are shaped by subtle social cues between a patient and health-care provider.

Jensen is currently a board member of the Society for Interdisciplinary Placebo Studies. Her scientific works are published in highly ranked scientific journals such as *Science Advances*, *Neurology*, *Pain*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)* and *Molecular Psychiatry*.

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# Keynote Abstracts



## Sharing pain and relief – Understanding the brain during patient-clinician interactions

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The interaction between a patient and a health-care provider affects treatment outcomes but has long been seen as an intangible “art of medicine” that may not be studied scientifically. Recent advances in neuroscience has started to unravel the brain mechanisms underlying social cognition and this has paved the way for a new understanding of the patient-clinician relationship. In a series of studies, we turned the tables on current brain imaging studies by studying the clinician’s brain, and not the patient, during delivery of pain treatment. The findings from this new research avenue have improved our understanding of the patient-clinician relationship in pain management and has the potential to improve treatment outcomes in the future.

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