Bodysymptoms.org: PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTSHIP PROJECT DESCRIPTION

## Project Description

Bodysymptoms.org is part of an international PhD project concerned with widening access to psycho-somatic patient education for members of the public looking to understand multi-system functional symptoms.

The aim of the bodysymptoms project is to develop an innovative online resource containing an interactive model explaining up to date knowledge about how functional symptoms come about, become persistent and how these processes can be reversed. [bodysymptoms.org](http://www.bodysymptoms.org) will be launched in English in September 2023 and in 5 further European languages in December 2023.

During the bodysymptoms project, PhD candidate Chloe Saunders has been working with participant design methodology to bring into dialogue perspectives from research, healthcare-professionals, web developers and designers and people with direct experience of living with symptoms from multiple European countries. You can read more about the project at: <https://osf.io/tncbu/?view_only=5caa9a61418f4265a2101fbd5233fc77>

## Your role

**We welcome applications from any students with interest in**

-Health communication or Patient Education

-Participatory Design (OR Public and Patient Involvement in research)

-Evaluation of complex interventions

-Getting hands on experience with qualitative interviews and analysis

-Psychosomatic approaches to health, or functional disorders

Your role will be primarily to assist with the evaluation of the project. Tasks can be flexible depending on your interests and skillset. However we envisage that tasks will include qualitative interviews with members of the public using the website, transcription, coding and analysis of qualitative data. Students will have opportunities to apply methods in complex interventions evaluation learnt during the course. Authorship on a scientific publication related to the evaluation of this project is encouraged and will be supported.

As this is an international project, involving communication with members of the public, good communication skills are essential. Applicants fluent in several languages will be preferred.

## Practical details

The internship will be based at the research clinic for Functional Disorders and Psychosomatic Medicine at Aarhus University Hospital. Functional Disorders is a department with approx. 40 employees that conducts research at a high international level and receives patients for examination and treatment. It has a special interest in developing and testing internet-based treatments. This means that you will have the opportunity to become part of a research environment with many different types of projects, where you can put your methodological skills to the test while getting close to a to a rapidly developing area of public health.

You can read more about the department here <www.funktionellelidelser.dk>

The internship is unpaid. Office space is available, and you may also work remotely (or a combination).

Your day to day supervisor will be PhD Candidate Dr Chloe Saunders, and main supervisor will be Professor Lisbeth Frostholm.

## who is organising this project and How is this project funded

The current project is part of the PhD of Dr Chloe Saunders, who is part of the innovative training network ETUDE (Encompassing Training in fUnctional Disorders across Europe; <https://etude-itn.eu/>), ultimately aiming to improve the understanding of mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment and stigmatization of Functional Disorders. This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 956673.

If you have any questions, please contact Chloe: chloe.saunders@clin.au.dk