

## **Leprosy and cancer: The story of a dead end research project**

Does leprosy protect against cancer? This was the starting point for a research project started by the Norwegian district physician Peter Munch Sjøgaard in 1910. Over the following years, the project grew from a local curiosity to a collaborated effort with several institutions involved. It ended with Sjøgaard vowing never to return to leprosy research.

The paper will follow the research project from a passing remark in a US medical journal, via patient records and discussions at the medical association in Bergen, to publications in Germany, France and the UK, followed by investigations at leprosy institutions in several other countries. The paper will show how international research collaboration in regarding leprosy was organized before the First World War; how associations, journals, as well as international organizations were interlinked; and how discussions on the epistemological status of past medical knowledge could play out.

### Keywords:

History of leprosy, history of medicine, transnational history, knowledge circulation, epistemology

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### AV-requirements:

PowerPoint presentation, microphone. No video/sound