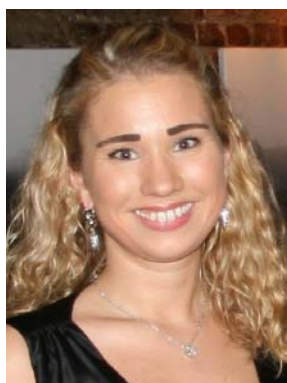


Sara Bremer Successfully Completed her PhD Thesis!



Sara Bremer is a Pharmacist working at the Department of Medical Biochemistry, Oslo University Hospital, Norway. In October 2009, she obtained a PhD in Pharmacology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo. The work was performed at the Department of Medical Biochemistry, Oslo University Hospital, under the supervision of Helge Rootwelt, MD, and Professor Stein Bergan.

The objective of her PhD thesis, entitled *Inosine Monophosphate Dehydrogenase: The Molecular Target of Mycophenolate*, was to characterize the regulation of two closely related inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH) isoenzymes during exposure to mycophenolate. The initial work involved the development and validation of a gene expression assay. A study in renal transplant patients demonstrated a significant association between pre-transplant *IMPDH2* expression and the risk of rejection early post-transplant. Furthermore, investigations in renal transplant patients and healthy individuals revealed complex regulation of both *IMPDH* isoforms, which seemed to be influenced by the present immunosuppression and immune activation status. Altogether, the results contribute to a better understanding of IMPDH regulation, which is important considering the potential for individualization of mycophenolate dosing based on IMPDH measurements.

After completing her PhD, Sara received a permanent position at the Department of Medical Biochemistry, Oslo University Hospital. She is now involved in pharmacogenetic routine analyses, particularly in method development and validation. Furthermore, she is a part of Stein Bergan's research group at the Centre for Immunopharmacology in Transplantation (www.imup.uio.no). Her research interests are pharmacogenetics and gene expression markers in relation to the optimization of immunosuppressive therapy.

Congratulations to Dr Sara Bremer on her achievements and we wish you a successful career!