**Presentation title**

General Practice and Primary Health Care in Denmark: History, Status and Future

**Presentation outline**

General practice is the corner stone of the Danish primary health care. General practice is characterized by the following key components: a list system; the GP as gatekeeper and first-line provider in the sense that a referral from a GP is required for most office-based specialists and always for in- and outpatient hospital treatment; a mixed capitation and fee-for-service system; and GPs are self-employed, working on contract for the public, funder based on a national agreement that details not only services and reimbursement, but also opening hours and required postgraduate education. General practice is embedded in a universal tax-funded health care system in which GPs’ and hospital services are free at the point of use.

The system has shown an ability to adapt flexibly to new challenges. Practice units are fully computerized with computer-based patient records and submission of prescriptions digitally to pharmacies, electronic communication with hospitals, municipalities etc. The specialization of GPs and hospital specialists corresponds as regards hospital specialists with regards to length, demands, research training etc. The GPs and the danish regions finance a fund, which finance post graduate education the GPs, quality assurance initiatives and the research units for General Practice. Studies have shown a very high degree of patient satisfaction and it has been decided that the GPs are responsible for treating the vast majority of patients with chronic diseases as the hospital physicians are consultants for the GPs. The GPs deliver high degree quality and both patients, hospital staff and General Practices are satisfied with the GPs’ strengthened role. Although GPs have a very good reputation in Denmark and a good income, there are also certain challenges that should be addressed: High workload, the new managerial roles, research as a more integrate part of GP work etc.

**Learning outcomes**

1. Key features of a strong general practice
2. The political history behind developing a strong general practice
3. Threats and opportunities for future General Practice

**How will delegates be involved throughout this presentation?**

The presentation will include the opportunity to ask and answer questions i.e., how the GPs can support the process of strengthening General practice.