Inflammatory responses of gingival fibroblasts in the interaction with the periodontal pathogen *Porphyromonas gingivalis*

ELEONOR PALM

Medical Science with a specialisation in Biomedicine

ELEONOR PALM studied at Örebro University and received a Biomedical Scientist Degree in 2009 and a Master’s Degree with a major in Biomedical Laboratory Science in 2010. In October 2010, she initiated her Ph.D. studies at the School of Health and Medical Sciences at Örebro University, Sweden. She has combined her studies with teaching at the School of Medicine.

Periodontitis is a common, chronic inflammation associated with destruction of tooth-supporting tissues. It is caused by a complex polymicrobial infection where disruption of the homeostasis between subgingival biofilm and host defence leads to pathological alterations. The degenerative process is a consequence of both host response and microbial infection. *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, which is considered as a major etiological agent in periodontitis, has evolved elaborated mechanisms to evade and manipulate host responses. The gingival fibroblast has recently been identified as a major contributor to the excessive immune response in periodontitis. The aim of this thesis was to clarify how gingival fibroblasts interact with *P. gingivalis.*