Alex de Leon was born in 1978 in Brazil. He began his medical studies in Spain at the age of 17, and completed them in Brazil. He started his training in anesthesiology in 2005 at Örebro University Hospital. The research for this doctoral thesis was done in Professor Magnus Wattwil’s research group at Örebro University Hospital.

The prevalence of obesity has increased dramatically in recent decades. The gastrointestinal changes associated with obesity have clinical significance for the anesthesiologist. This doctoral thesis explores specific effects of anesthesia, different body positions and different respiratory maneuvers on the esophagus and the esophageal sphincters in obese individuals. Based on experimental studies in volunteers and clinical studies in patients, new knowledge is provided in this field.