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# Final Report UCPH LOM 2017-2018

Last annual report and executive summary

December 2018

**UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN'S STRATEGIC PLATFORM FOR LIFESTYLE, OBESITY AND METABOLIC RESEARCH (UCPH LOM)**

**Annual report 2017-2018 and executive summary**

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# Preface

With this final report, we proudly close the door on a unique chapter in the history of the University of Copenhagen (UCPH). From 2014 to 2018, the UCPH's strategic platform for Lifestyle, Obesity and Metabolic research (UCPH LOM) has supported collaboration and helped develop a shared identity across a fast-growing and highly diverse university. We have supported networks and helped young researchers find a career path, and we have helped the university attract external funding by providing bespoke services at every step of the value chain. The office has had a hand in everything from input to Horizon 2020 topics and Horizon Europe missions to the last frantic changes in a grant proposal in the closing seconds before deadline. The UCPH LOM support office has had the great privilege to be able to roam freely, and to provide whatever assistance was called for throughout the organisation, and to serve as a supplement to the other research support offices at departmental, faculty and university levels. We have been allowed to develop and test new methods and tools, and to learn from our mistakes, and have tried to share ours and others' best practices across the university.

On behalf of the LOM executive board

Professor Bente Stallknecht

Head of UCPH LOM

December 2018

# **Executive Summary: The UCPH LOM Initiative – Four years of supporting internal collaboration and shared identity**

The University of Copenhagen's Strategic Platform for Lifestyle, Obesity and Metabolic Research (UCPH LOM) has supported networks across and within the biomedical and natural sciences, and social sciences and humanities (SSH) areas.

The UCPH LOM research support office has been a first mover in taking research support out of the academic silos and faculties to address a specific societal challenge by promoting and facilitating networks and collaborations, nurturing the next generation of researchers, and attracting external funding.

The strategic focus and the resources dedicated to supporting interdisciplinary collaboration in the LOM area have helped and motivated researchers, and the activities of the support office have been guided by the interests of, and requests from, the researchers within the LOM area.

## **Background for the initiation of UCPH LOM**

UCPH LOM was established in September 2014 to build on the success from the UNIK 'Food, Fitness & Pharma'-initiative, and to strengthen internal collaboration and shared identity within the research areas across the UCPH.

The societal challenge of unhealthy lifestyles, obesity and metabolic diseases is complex and multifaceted, and calls for interdisciplinary approaches in research and innovation. In the past decade, obesity, lifestyle and metabolic research have become a significant part of the research at the UCPH. The university mergers in 2007 and 2012, the process of the thematic work packages (2007-2008), the establishment of the August Krogh Club and the Excellence Programme for Interdisciplinary Research have all contributed to leveraging these research fields to the top of the university's research agenda. Significant external funding has been obtained, including a DKK 120 Million grant for UNIK 'Food, Fitness & Pharma', two grants of DKK 885 Million (2010) and DKK 700 Million (2018) for

the Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research (NNF CBMR), and several grants from the Danish research councils as well as from private foundations.

### **UCPH LOM's mission**

As defined by the memorandum for UCPH LOM<sup>1</sup>, annual Work Programmes have outlined the research support office's objectives and success criteria, and the results have subsequently been presented in annual reports of which this is the fourth and final.

The memorandum defines the key topics for UCPH LOM as:

- General support for researchers and the research field, i.e. strengthening the scientific environments, collaborations, and shared identity
- Network and career paths for young researchers
- Fundraising and lobby
- Communication and outreach
- Ad hoc strategic actions

LOM was originally planned to close at the end of August 2018. The budget allowed for extension of the initiative until the end of 2018, which has afforded more time to identify opportunities to leverage and build on the experiences and results of the strategic platform.

### **Key focus and achievements for each of the four years**

In the first year of UCPH LOM, the steering committee was formed, the work programme was formulated, and the website [www.lom.ku.dk](http://www.lom.ku.dk) was established as a platform for dissemination of newsletters, for providing an overview of LOM activities and funding opportunities, and for presenting the services offered by the UCPH LOM research support office. Two large conferences (October 2014 and May 2015) and meetings for young investigators served to bring researchers together across disciplines and environments. In the first year, the research support office contributed to 38 grant applications from all faculties, and to obtaining DKK 17.5 Million for individual

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<sup>1</sup> Memorandum for UCPH LOM (May 2013) [http://www.lom.ku.dk/about\\_ucph\\_lom/background/memorandum/](http://www.lom.ku.dk/about_ucph_lom/background/memorandum/)

researchers and DKK 700.000 for a Science Theatre-project to disseminate knowledge on health and lifestyle to upper secondary students.

In the second year, one key priority was to facilitate a stronger engagement and promotion of the SSH disciplines and a higher degree of network, collaboration and joint grant applications across UCPH. The annual conference was held at the Faculty of Humanities in May 2016. The conference was called ‘Lifestyles and kinds of living: opportunities, conditions and biology’, a title chosen to appeal to researchers from all faculties. In the second year, the UCPH LOM research support office contributed to raising a total of DKK 29.6 Million for individual researchers and provided input to 40 submitted grant applications. Five of the submitted applications concerned interdisciplinary collaborative projects, none of which were successful, unfortunately. The young investigators were in focus: A career day was held in March 2016 in collaboration with the Center for Healthy Ageing, and the first day of the annual UCPH LOM conference was devoted to young researchers. Finally, the LOM website was re-designed to better present the services and activities of UCPH LOM to the users. From the second year onwards, the UCPH LOM office contributed to ensuring that key research priorities of researchers across UCPH were promoted to Horizon 2020, FORSK2025, Horizon Europe etc.

In the third year of UCPH LOM, we introduced a number of new focus areas, including identification and promotion of the next generation of research leaders (i.e. young associate professors) in the area of Lifestyle, Obesity and Metabolism at UCPH, and the concept of *LOM Invited Meetings*. These new initiatives were successfully implemented and continued into the fourth year. In the third year, the support office made a special effort to support the UCPH researchers’ engagement in EU applications and in building strong relations between LOM’s researchers/staff and the Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen (SDCC). In relation to young investigators (YI: PhD and postdocs), the YI-network for Muscle, Fitness and Metabolism held two very successful meetings, while the YI-networks on Metabolomics and Microbiota were considering their strategy for moving on. The UCPH LOM research support office offered help with Marie Skłodowska Curie grant applications in close collaboration with other research support units. In the third year, the UCPH LOM research support office contributed to raising a total of DKK 33.3 Million for individual younger researchers, and provided input to some 70 submitted grant applications.

In the fourth year, LOM continued the successful approaches, particularly by developing and strengthening collaboration and knowledge sharing with research supporters around the university,

but also by hosting four invited meetings, co-hosting a seminar on science documentaries with the EU-DK Support Network and the Danish Film Institute, support of two YIN Muscle, Fitness and Metabolism seminars, and especially the final annual conference. The office submitted input to forthcoming Horizon 2020-topics and proposed two missions to Horizon Europe, which were favourably received in Brussels. In the fourth year, the UCPH LOM research support office contributed to raising a total of DKK 78 Million, and to some 30+ (at the time of writing) grant proposals for a total sum of some DKK 140 Million that are still awaiting evaluation. In the four years of its existence, UCPH LOM has, so far, contributed to attracting DKK 158 Million, which is in line with the original ambition of DKK 75-150 Million as outlined in the final UNIK 'Food, Fitness & Pharma' report.

The skills, experience and mind-set of LOM have been passed on to other research environments at the UCPH as staff has pursued new opportunities elsewhere; Center for Healthy Ageing (Nynne A. Reeckmann), Copenhagen Health Innovation (CHI) (Peter Børker Nielsen), and the NNF CBMR (Camilla Verdich). Martha Dall, who took over from Nynne in late 2017 on a one-year contract, moved to Odense, and is looking to use her experience and network gained from her year at UCPH LOM in a new position there. Nicolai Paulsen's future is uncertain at the time of writing, but attempts are being made to ensure that the knowledge and experience developed by the LOM support office will be available as a resource for the UCPH even after the strategic platform ceases operations.

## Introduction

This final report of UCPH LOM covers the activities and results for each key topic for the period from September 2017 to December 2018 as defined in the memorandum as well as by the prioritized areas outlined in the Work Programme 2017-2018<sup>2</sup>. The present report describes the activities and results in which UCPH LOM has been directly involved, and is therefore not a complete overview of all activities at UCPH within the area of lifestyle, obesity and metabolic research.

**For each of the five key topics, this annual report includes:**

- An introduction and a brief description of the tasks
- A report of the activities, events and results for 2017-2018
- A conclusion on the overall achievements of UCPH LOM within the given topic.

This fourth annual report will be submitted for approval to the deans of each faculty at UCPH and will subsequently be published on the UCPH LOM website ([www.lom.ku.dk](http://www.lom.ku.dk)). This website will, however, no longer be updated after 31 December 2018.

## Topic 1: Strengthening the scientific environments, collaborations, and shared identity

### Introduction

UCPH LOM has facilitated internal networks that allowed and encouraged researchers to connect and initiate collaboration. UCPH LOM has promoted and supported shared identity and cross-faculty collaboration in close alignment with the UCPH 2016 strategy<sup>3</sup>. By strengthening the synergy across the university, UCPH LOM has enabled managers, researchers and research support staff to promote the research fields and cross-disciplinary approaches, both nationally and internationally.

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<sup>2</sup> Cf. Annual Report UCPH LOM 2015-2016 and the Work Programme 2016-2017

[http://www.lom.ku.dk/about\\_ucph\\_lom/work\\_programs/](http://www.lom.ku.dk/about_ucph_lom/work_programs/)

<sup>3</sup> This key topic has so far been referred to as “General support for the researchers and the research field”.

Furthermore, the LOM research support office has shared best practice approaches to research support, career promotion, fundraising, and communication with research support staff across UCPH.

### **Primary tasks of the UCPH LOM research support office**

- Host annual conferences for junior and senior scientists across UCPH.
- Set up seminars, workshops and meetings based on suggestions from the scientists.
- Facilitate matchmaking between individual scientists and groups.
- Present overviews of researchers, research activities and facilities across UCPH.
- Establish strong ties with existing Danish and European associations, networks and alliances.
- Engage with research support staff across the university.
- Contribute to best practices in support of interdisciplinary research initiatives.

### **Specific priorities 2017-2018**

- Hosting the final LOM conference 6-7 June 2018.
- Continue to host seminars and Invited Meetings.
- Welcome guests from the Integrated Research and Treatment Center (IFB) in Leipzig and encourage LOM researchers to attend the IFB LIMIOR conferences in 2018.
- Provide experience and tools to support several elements of the UCPH strategy 2023 ‘Talent and collaboration’<sup>4</sup>.

### **Activities and results for 2017-2018**

#### **The LOM conference in June 2018 – bringing researchers together across UCPH**

The annual LOM conference, this year titled “*Trends in Excellent and Interdisciplinary Lifestyle, Obesity and Metabolic Research*”, took place on 6-7 June 2018<sup>5</sup>. The cross-faculty organising committee comprised of four members from the LOM Executive Board, two postdocs and Professor Thorkild IA Sørensen, who also organised the symposium “Obesity Theories” as described below.

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<sup>4</sup> UCPH strategy 2023 ‘Talent and collaboration’ <http://introduction.ku.dk/strategy2023/>

<sup>5</sup> Information about the conference available here: [https://www.lom.ku.dk/previous\\_events/2018-ny/lom-conference\\_2018/](https://www.lom.ku.dk/previous_events/2018-ny/lom-conference_2018/)

The organising committee outlined the scientific scope of the conference and identified the relevant keynote speakers, supported by the LOM research support office. Some 200 scientists attended the conference.

The first half day of the conference was dedicated to young researchers. This part of the conference took place in the Niels K. Jerne auditorium and was attended by some 100 scientists, who heard presentations from 10 young investigators and a talk by Bente Vinge Pedersen, Head of Exhibition at The Medical Museion. BV Pedersen presented the LOM-related work at the museum, including the “Mind the Gut”-exhibition. In the afternoon, Professor Bente Stallknecht opened the conference for all the participants, and the rest of the day was devoted to the symposium “Obesity Theories” featuring four highly esteemed international experts, two of whom gave presentations and held Q&A sessions via live video feed from abroad. The symposium demonstrated that obesity can only be understood and addressed by combining several approaches and theories. This included evolutionary theories and theories about foetal programming, theories of the role of individual diet and food environment in the development of obesity and theories of obesity as a response to uncertainty.

The second day was devoted to two plenum sessions and a series of parallel sessions. The two plenum sessions on the complexity of obesity were titled: “Health enhancing physical activity – from policy to mechanistic perspective” and “Causes and modifiability of obesity - from genes to society perspective”, respectively. In each session, a biomedical view was presented by one speaker and an SSH view was presented by another speaker. Both speakers had prepared their talks to meet the broad research areas and interdisciplinary approaches represented by the audience.

The six parallel sessions addressed the three themes ‘life course with focus on elderly and children’, ‘physical activity’ and ‘obesity with focus on lifestyle interventions and the relationship to co-morbidities’. These parallel sessions allowed researchers from different disciplines to highlight their research fields for each other and to network across disciplines. As in 2017, several SDCC researchers attended the conference, and the parallel session on ‘Obesity and diabetes - a complex relationship’ was co-hosted by SDCC, providing opportunities for collaborations between UCPH and SDCC.

The annual LOM conference is highly appreciated by the attendants, and several have reported that the conference provides both a deeper understanding of their own field, but also a sense of community with other researchers from across the UCPH.

As with the previous LOM conferences, relatively few researchers from the Faculties of Theology, Law, Humanities and Social Sciences had signed up for the conference, despite the fact that we had designed the parallel sessions to include sessions relevant for both biomedical and SSH researchers. An annual gathering of researchers in the LOM area will, however, still take place, as the NNF CBMR will organize a “Metabolism Day”, which will take place on 21 March 2019 in the Maersk Tower. All researchers at UCPH who work with metabolic research are welcome, and this event may draw many of the same participants as the LOM conferences. Current plans for this event include eight international keynote speakers to present on metabolic diseases and energy control, and for several poster sessions. In a sense, therefore, the core concept of the annual LOM conference has been adopted by another unit in the organisation, and adapted to their needs and target audience.

### **LOM Invited Meetings**

In 2016, the executive board decided that the LOM research support office could establish a series of *LOM Invited Meetings*, i.e. meetings on topics of particular interest for LOM researchers at UCPH. The LOM office has organised the following Invited Meetings:

**#1 How to influence the upcoming Work Programme in Horizon 2020**, with speakers Torben Høøck and Cecilie Ydemann from the UCPH EU Office and Lasse Holm Grønning, EU consultant at CreoDK. (November 2016)

**#2 EIT Health**, with presentations by Trine Winterø, Vice-Dean for Innovation and External relations at the Faculty of Health, EIT Health Office Liaison Lykke Ricard, Professor Mads Nielsen, Faculty of Science. (January 2017)

**#3 Toxic Stress**, with presentations by Professor Stanley Ulijaszek, associate professor Mette Væver and post doc Kia Ditlevsen, Lars Kjeldsen, Head of Clinic, Rigshospitalet. (April 2017)

**#4 Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen (SDCC)**, with several speakers including Allan Flyvbjerg, CEO of SDCC. (May 2017)

**#5 Network meeting for associate professors in LOM research**, speakers included Camilla Trab Damsgaard, Tenna Jensen and Dennis Sandris. (May 2017)

**#6 TrygFonden**, with presentations by grant holder Mette Skovgaard Væver (Social Sciences) and Merete Konnerup (TrygFonden). (September 2017)

**#7 Danish Diabetes Academy** with presentation by Tore Christiansen, Managing Director, Danish Diabetes Academy and two former PhD students from the Academy. (May 2018)

**#8 Arla Food for Health** with a brief introduction and presentation by Trine Winterø, Vice-Dean for Innovation and External Relations at the Faculty of Health, followed by three presentations by Anne-Louise Mørkbak, Director of Arla Food for Health, Henrik Jørgen Andersen, Senior Executive R&D Advisor, Research and Development, Arla Foods Ingredients and Peter Wejse, Senior Research Scientist, Arla Foods a.m.b.a. (June 2018)

The meetings all had a specific purpose and were advertised on the LOM website and in the newsletter, and were organised to ensure that key researchers with an interest in the given topic were able to attend. Although very different in scope, target audience and relative success, each meeting resulted in powerful and useful opportunities for learning – not least for the LOM office. Among the key learnings have been that bigger is not always better, when the size of the audience is in question. For some meetings, e.g. no. 5 above, an audience 15-20 people is ideal to facilitate dialogue between participants, whereas meeting no. 4 attracted a larger audience, who all came to hear CEO Allan Flyvbjerg and had (relatively) little interest in networking with colleagues during that meeting. Common for all the meetings is that the theme has emerged through a dialogue with certain key people, and that we have tried to choose dates and venues to suit these key parties before inviting everyone else. That has turned out to be a more or less certain recipe for success.

### **Other scientific seminars, meetings and matchmaking**

Since September 2017, the LOM office has helped organise several well-attended seminars and symposia including the following:

- Seminar by Professor Dr. Peter Kovacs (IFB, Leipzig): **Genetic modulators of fat distribution and circulating adipokine levels** (November 2017). The seminar was arranged in connection to a visit by a group of researchers from IFB, Leipzig. The visit was established in order for the group of researchers to meet UCPH researchers in the LOM network. This visit is described in a section below.

- Symposium on **Physical Activity in the Urban Environment – a panacea for public health** (December 2017). The symposium on Physical Activity in the Urban Environment was organized in collaboration with Postdoc Mads Rosenkilde Larsen and the research initiative Governing Obesity.
- **Theories of Childhood Obesity** (May 2018) hosted by Head of section for Systematic Theology Johanne S.T. Kristensen. Speakers were Professor Lauren Lissner, head of the Public Health Epidemiology Unit and coordinator of the EpiLife center at Gothenburg University, and Professor Berit Heitmann, head of the Research Unit for Dietary Studies at The Parker Institute.
- Two symposia addressing the perspectives of **Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)** and other ‘omics‘ in neonatal screening and early prevention (August 2018). These two symposia were organized in collaboration with Professor Thorkild IA Sørensen, and supported by the Graduate Programme for Basic Metabolic Research (led by Professor Torben Hansen), Graduate School of Health and Medical Sciences, UCPH.
- **CPH:SCIENCE**, originally intended as an Invited Meeting for LOM-related research supporters across the UCPH, the target audience grew to include all research supporters in Denmark, and the organisation and hosting was turned over to the Danish Film Institute and the Ministry’s ‘EU-DK support network’. Speakers included deputy director of CPH: DOX Katrine Kiilgaard, Ene Kathrine Rasmussen from Creative Europe, producer Malene Flindt Petersen and film director Phie Ambo as well as UCPH’s Christoffer Clemmensen from the NNF Center for Basic Metabolic Research. (October 2018)

### **Strengthening the ties with European and Danish initiatives, networks and alliances**

In the final year, we have continued to nurture our relations with national and international networks and alliances.

#### HEPA Europe

As described under Topic 3, CPH EU office and UCPH LOM planned and hosted a roundtable meeting on ‘Active living for health enhancement, prevention, treatment and wellbeing’, which was

attended by Willem van Mechelen, former chair of HEPA Europe.<sup>6</sup> Also attending was Professor Sonja Kahlmeier, one of the keynote speakers at the 2018 LOM conference and member of the HEPA Europe steering committee, who was involved in establishing the WHO Collaborating Centre for Physical Activity and Health at the University of Zurich<sup>7</sup>, which will support the implementation of the Physical Activity-strategy for the WHO European Region 2016–2025. As such, Professor Kahlmeier is an important figure and the UCPH should keep her in mind for future collaboration.

#### Integrated Research and Treatment Center Adiposity Diseases

In November 2017, five researchers from the ‘IFB Adiposity Diseases’ initiative in Leipzig visited the UCPH together with the head of the IFB administration. Two of the researchers in the area of Psychology met with researchers from Science (IFRO) and Social Sciences (PSYK) who work with eating disorders, obesity and gastric bypass. The three other researches met with researchers in the NNF CBMR, Section for Metabolic Genetics, and as mentioned above, Professor Peter Kovacs gave a talk for some 35-40 UCPH researchers.

The IFB hosted the meeting: **Genetics of Adiposity Leipzig**, ‘GOAL’,<sup>8</sup> which took place between 28 Sept. and 1 Oct 2018. Associate professor Tuomas Kilpeläinen (Faculty of Health) was invited speaker. The UCPH LOM office offered a travel grant to encourage young researchers to attend this meeting, and two promising young researchers, Theresia M. Schnurr and German D. Carrasquilla, both from the NNF CBMR, were awarded the grant. Both submitted abstracts that were selected for oral presentation during the “Translation to Medicine” plenary session, which allowed them to share and discuss their research and to expand their network among some of the leading figures in the field. Furthermore, UCPH LOM has promoted the IFB MS PRO internships to students at the Faculty of Health.

#### Danish Association for the Study of Obesity

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<sup>6</sup> European network for the promotion of health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA Europe)

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/physical-activity/activities/hepa-europe>

<sup>7</sup> [New WHO Collaborating Centre for Physical Activity and Health](#) (19-06-2017)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ifb-adipositas.de/en/goal>

As always, the LOM research support office has advertised and shared information about meetings and other activities of the Danish Association for the Study of Obesity (DSAF) on the LOM website and newsletter.

#### Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen

LOM has contributed to nurturing the UCPH's relation to the SDCC and aimed to facilitate collaborations between UCPH basic and translational researchers and the clinical research environments towards shared research projects and grants in the area of translational and clinical research, health promotion and prevention. SDCC researchers were once again represented at the annual LOM conference.

#### Danish Diabetes Academy

In May 2018, LOM hosted an Invited Meeting with the Danish Diabetes Academy (DDA) at The Faculty of Health, and we have advertised the different DDA activities on the LOM website and in the newsletter. At the DDA's Annual Day in November, a member of the YIN MFM Steering Committee, PhD-student Dorte E. Steenberg, won the Best Poster award, and another member of the steering committee (and former winner of the Best Poster award), Naja Zenius Jespersen from the Centre for Physical Activity Research (CFAS) gave a presentation.

#### **Collaboration with research support staff and contributions to best practices**

The UCPH LOM research support office has continuously collaborated with management and research support units across the UCPH to ensure that the support provided is coordinated and not overlapping. Since January 2017, Nicolai Paulsen has had a part-time secondment at the Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of Anthropology). The results of this secondment have been quite remarkable, and include contribution to a number of successful grant applications and to several that are still under review.

## UCPH strategy towards 2023

The establishment of LOM was strongly inspired by the UCPH 2016 strategy<sup>9</sup>, which had a strong focus on strengthening internal collaboration and shared identity, and on strengthening external collaborations. LOM followed and provided input during the development of the *UCPH strategy towards 2023* and has seized every opportunity to promote and advertise the value and successes of the LOM initiative in relation to the overarching strategic goals of interdisciplinary research, networks and knowledge sharing across the UCPH.

## Conclusion

The ambition of LOM has been to strengthen the scientific environments and the shared identity by focused effort in the breadth of the research area of lifestyle, obesity and metabolism. The annual LOM conferences have, together with the LOM newsletters described in Topic 4, been key elements for achieving this goal. Furthermore, the LOM Invited Meetings have proven useful to bring researchers together and to discover shared interests. One important lesson learned is that the key to bring researchers together is to ensure the likelihood of a tangible outcome, such as participation in a joint grant application, shared teaching initiatives or some other form of collaboration. However, to get to that point, the organisers have to successfully identify specific topics or tasks that interests the researchers, which calls for a certain level of familiarity and a continuous dialogue with a large number of researchers, so that the organisers can detect expressions of similar interests across different groups of researchers.

The UCPH LOM initiative has nurtured and broadened the interdisciplinary culture and approaches at UCPH within the field of LOM research, an area where UCPH was already a frontrunner, not least thanks to the UNIK 'Food, Fitness & Pharma' grant and other large-scale initiatives that built on strong research. Researchers from all faculties are, partly due to the continued support of the LOM platform, ready and able to contribute to the ambitious aims in the UCPH 2023 strategy, to the UN's 17 goals for sustainable development, and to the mission-oriented approaches of Horizon Europe. The LOM research support office has documented and shared approaches and best practice in the toolbox at the LOM website, and the LOM staff members represent a wealth of knowledge and

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<sup>9</sup> 2016 - Strategy for the University of Copenhagen <http://research.ku.dk/introduction/strategy/>

experience concerning facilitation and support of interdisciplinary networks and collaborations in close collaboration with other UCPH research support offices.

As mentioned above, the strategic focus on, and the resources dedicated to, support of interdisciplinary collaboration in LOM research at the UCPH has led to both enthusiasm and engagement from the researchers. Furthermore, the time and resources that researchers can commit to interdisciplinary activities fluctuate over time, which means that timing is critically important for establishing new collaborations. Among the main tasks of the LOM platform has been to bring the right people together at the right time, and to provide a setting for them to learn about each other's research areas. Subsequently, the LOM office has attempted to ensure a measure of progress and finally to oversee that activities cease if and when the researchers lose interest or commitment to the idea or project.

## **Topic 2: Supporting networks and career paths for young researchers**

### **Introduction**

Attracting, developing and retaining the next generation of talented researchers was a key priority for UCPH LOM, a topic that is also echoed in UCPH's Strategy 2023. The young generation is essential for creating and promoting a culture of collaboration across disciplines, and they represent the future in groundbreaking research and innovative solutions.

### **Primary tasks**

- Strengthen recruitment and training of talented young researchers
- Inspire students to write their Bachelor's or Master's theses within the LOM research area
- Establish and help organise theme-based young investigator networks (YIN)
- Provide workshops and training events for all young researchers in the LOM areas
- Offer an overview of relevant PhD-courses, defences and events

### **Specific priorities 2017-2018**

- To encourage younger associate professors to organise network conferences and meetings and to provide them with targeted information on networking and funding opportunities.
- To make sure that the 'Muscle, Fitness and Metabolism'-network continued and to attempt to revive the dormant networks on Microbiota and Metabolomics.

### **Activities and results for 2017-2018**

#### **The 'growth layer' of young talented associate professors**

In 2016-2017, we created a dynamic list of the sixty young talented associate professors at UCPH within the field of LOM research. This allowed us to make a dedicated effort to involve this 'growth layer' in relevant meetings, new collaborative projects and joint applications, and in defining key future research priorities and influencing national and international funding priorities. We have kept these associate professors up to date on relevant funding opportunities, and have shared the early drafts of coming Horizon 2020 work programmes to help them use these drafts as a starting point for

identification of international colleagues, who might invite them to join an application. As described in section 3, young associate professors have won a significant share of the grants that the LOM research support office has contributed to attracting.

Finally, and as mentioned above, we supported two young investigators' journey to the GOAL conference at IFB in September with the aim to further strengthen their career opportunities and ties with the international research community and with the faculty and staff of the IFB.

### **Initiative to attract Marie Skłodowska Curie Action (MSCA) fellows to UCPH**

In early 2017, the LOM research support office offered to assist LOM researchers with disseminating specific opportunities for MSCA-projects at the UCPH, and subsequently to ensure that suitable candidates would be invited to Copenhagen to participate in the faculties' MSCA writing workshops and to visit the potential host department. Only one researcher responded to this offer, so we decided not to move ahead as principal instigators for this particular call. In 2018, however, the LOM office has contributed to MSCA workshops at the faculties of Health, Social Sciences and (particularly) Theology, both by teaching at workshops but also by providing input to a number of specific applications. The Faculty of Theology, lacking their own research support, requested assistance from the central administration's Research Support Office, who in turn applied to the LOM office for assistance. Since these applications were not exactly LOM-related, it was agreed that the Faculty of Theology should purchase the assistance of Nicolai Paulsen for one full week. Some of the applicants subsequently sent letters of gratitude to the Dean of Theology and others involved in the process, so even though the outcome of these applications is not expected until January 2019, the collaboration with the Research Support Office was certainly a huge success.

### **Engaging and inspiring students and recruiting young researchers**

UCPH LOM has supported the connection between research and education by bringing the research areas of lifestyle, obesity and metabolism and the cross-disciplinary approaches closer to graduate students by advertising the LOM-conference and the meetings in the young investigator networks to graduate and post-graduate students across the UCPH. In addition, medical students have been encouraged to write their theses in these fields. LOM has announced relevant PhD-defences and other events via the website and newsletters to provide both graduate- and PhD-students insight into

relevant activities at UCPH. As in 2017, Nicolai Paulsen was once again invited to give a basic introduction to the application process for students at the Department of Anthropology who, as part of their Master's Degree, have to obtain funding for mandatory fieldwork. Accordingly, Nicolai Paulsen organised a presentation of the absolute basics; how to identify potential funding sources, how to prepare an application (including choice of words) and how to produce a budget. The presentation was followed by an open Q&A session, which lasted as long as the presentation and showed the thirty-odd students' profound interest in all aspects of the funding process.

In collaboration with the International Relations Office at the Faculty of Health, the LOM research support office has announced the internships for biomedical graduate students at the IFB in Leipzig for students of medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacology, human biology and public health science<sup>10</sup>.

### **Young Investigators' Networks**

The 'Muscle, Fitness and Metabolism'-network ('YIN MFM') is still going strong. The network hosted a seminar in September 2017 titled "Limits to exercise: physiological, behavioural, and drug-related" with the speakers Clinical Professor Carsten Lundby and PhD-student Mette Yun Johansen (Centre for Physical Activity Research) and Associate Professor Steen Larsen (Faculty of Health). Some 50 young investigators attended.

Another seminar was held in June 2018 with the title: "New players involved in exercise-induced beneficial effects on metabolic health". Associate professor Kristine Williams, Professor Erik Richter and Professor Karsten Kristiansen were invited as speakers, and some 50 young investigators attended.

A third seminar, "Career paths outside the university" was held in October 2018, with former PhD's from the UCPH as speakers: Michael Nyberg, Mattias Salling Dahllöf, Tobias Harlang and Ulf Birkedal, who all have successful careers outside the university, gave brief presentations to some 40

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<sup>10</sup> Research internship at the Integrated Research and Treatment Center (IFB) Adiposity Diseases in Leipzig, Germany  
<http://www.lom.ku.dk/young-investigators/ifb-internship/>

participants. This was followed by a very informal ‘meet the speakers’ where participants could mingle and drift from table to table and speak with the speakers in small groups.

These seminars have been very well attended by young researchers. Several of the former members of the organising committee for this network have taken up positions in the industry and have underlined that their networking activities across disciplines and departments have helped them become attractive candidates for jobs in industry and elsewhere. After the LOM office closes down, the YIN MFM network will be hosted by the CAG ‘imPAct’<sup>11</sup>, which is headed by Professor Michael Kjær. A number of senior researchers in the CAG have spoken at YIN MFM seminars, and Professor Kjær has expressed a keen interest in continuing and building on the YIN MFM network to promote and support young researchers.

Young investigator networks are only viable when there is a genuine purpose to, and interest in, the network activities, a strong organising committee and a core group of young researchers that attend most meetings. Otherwise, networks tend to fade away, and this has been the case for the Microbiota and Metabolomics networks.

### **PhD Course in relation to the UCPH LOM conference 2018**

Associate professor Thomas Elbenhardt Jensen (NEXS, Faculty of Science) organised a PhD course “Lifestyle-related Skeletal Muscle Diseases - from Mechanism to Drug” that coincided with and was an integrated part of the UCPH LOM conference 2018. The course integrated and expanded on the “obesity” and “molecular mechanisms”-foci of the UCPH LOM conference, provided a state-of-the-art overview of the consequences of obesity and physical inactivity to peripheral tissue function, focusing on the impact on skeletal muscle. Sixteen young researchers were enrolled at this course, all of whom were active participants at the conference as well.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://gchsp.dk/cag/fysisk-aktivitet-sport-klinisk-medicin/>

## **Transferable skills**

As others across the UCPH, LOM has offered training seminars in English writing and fundraising upon request from researchers and staff. Nicolai Paulsen has organised and taught at a number of funding and writing courses and workshops for young researchers at the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Health, and even once for DTU Compute together with assistant professor at ICMM, Claus Desler Madsen. In total, some 200 young investigators have attended Nicolai Paulsen's presentations and workshops in 2018.

## **Conclusion**

The young researchers are important agents of the collaborative and interdisciplinary mind-set and forms the next generation of senior researchers at the UCPH. The LOM research support office's focus on attracting, training and retaining the young talented researchers, and allowing them to establish network with researchers from other disciplines and departments, is in line with both the original aims for the strategic platform and the UCPH 2023 strategy.

It is important to recognize the potentials of joint applications, collaborative projects and the strategic efforts to influence the future research agenda and funding landscape. Via the LOM research support office's attempts to engage with young and future researchers, we provide the next generation of talents opportunities to promote their research fields and interests, as well as the necessary knowledge and competencies to successfully navigate the labour market they will face. Thus, they become less dependent on their senior colleagues for the necessary transferable skills and knowledge of the labour market situation.

The networks for young investigators have been instrumental in introducing Master and PhD students as well as postdocs to the UCPH's multifaceted and broad research activities and approaches in the area of lifestyle, obesity and metabolic research. However, these networks are highly dependent on a critical mass of young researchers who take an active part in the meetings and of a continued need and benefit from the meetings. Therefore, these networks may come and go as the situation changes.

## **Topic 3: Fundraising and lobby**

### **Introduction**

The over-arching goal of UCPH LOM was to help researchers attract external funding by working to inject the research topics and interdisciplinary approaches into both national and international funding agendas, i.e. through lobbying, by identification of targets and topics for large-scale collaborative applications, and by providing strategic and practical support in the application process for both individual and collaborative grants.

### **Primary tasks**

- Attract external funding by combining the strengths of excellent science, interdisciplinary collaboration, strong infrastructures and collaboration with partners and stakeholders
- Lobby for future research investments in lifestyle, obesity and metabolic health, and for cross-disciplinary approaches to research and innovation
- Provide overviews of funding opportunities, courses and workshops, including tailored information to individual researchers or research groups
- Provide fundraising support and career- coaching and planning
- Assistance with concrete grant applications
- Host workshops on writing applications for specific interdisciplinary calls and instruments
- Establish ad hoc internal review boards for large interdisciplinary applications

### **Specific priorities 2017-2018**

- Grant applications to private foundations, including the Novo Nordisk Foundation and TrygFonden. We planned to support several interdisciplinary collaborative applications. As described in Topic 1, we aimed to host dedicated information meetings on funding for invited LOM scientists.
- If the Lundbeck Foundation Thematic Call and NNF Challenge themes were to fall within the LOM area, we would identify researchers relevant for the call and provide the necessary grant writing support.
- We planned to advertise our support for PhD and postdoc grant applications.

- We planned to maintain the current level of funding support for researchers who apply for excellence grants, and to focus on supporting funding strategies for those researchers who cannot compete for these types of grants.
- We planned to continue to promote the interdisciplinary approaches and the areas lifestyle, obesity, diabetes, health-enhancing effects of physical activity and healthy diets throughout life etc. in relation to Horizon Europe.
- We would offer to arrange workshops for grant writing in relation to EU or national calls.
- We planned to explore the possibilities for promoting key opportunities for strengthening external, public and private, collaborations in the LOM area.

## **Activities and results for 2017-2018**

### **Supporting researchers in the application process**

The LOM newsletter and website has continued to provide a customised overview of the funding landscape and open funding calls and served as a collection of tools for all stages of the funding process. The research support office has provided courses, workshops and support for funding strategies for groups of researchers and individual researchers as well as individual notifications of deadlines for researchers with a particular interest in a given call. As described in Section 1, LOM hosted Invited Meetings about the funding opportunities available from TrygFonden, DDA and Arla Food for Health.

In the fourth year, researchers from all faculties (except the Faculty of Law), have discussed fundraising and career strategies with the research support office. The LOM research support office strives to keep the Research and Innovation offices at the faculties and the central administration's Office for Research Support informed and involved in the work, recognising that the assistance provided by the LOM support office is complementary to their services.

Since September 2017, the UCPH LOM research support office has been involved in successful applications attracting more than DKK 78 Million for researchers at UCPH. The LOM research support office has provided assistance for 66 applications from the faculties of Science, Social Sciences, Humanities, Theology and Health, ranging from individual applications for PhD and postdoc grants to major collaborative European Research Council (ERC) and excellence grants. At

the time of writing, we are still awaiting the results of applications for a total sum of at least DKK 140 Million.

In terms of support to interdisciplinary projects across the UCPH, the research support office was involved in one ERC Advanced Grant (successfully made it to Step 2, result expected in April 2019) and one application for the NNF challenge grant (result expected in December 2018) and one for the successful NNF Tandem Grant to Thomas Jespersen (Faculty of Health) in January 2018. The LOM research support office provided grant writing assistance to the FitMum project headed by Bente Stallknecht (Faculty of Health) and involving researchers from the faculties of Health and Humanities as well as a national and international external collaboration. The LOM research support office was heavily involved in the successful application to the Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD) Grand Solutions call by Professor Anne Løkke in September 2018 (Faculties of Humanities, Sscience and external partners). The Lundbeck Foundation Thematic Call in early 2018 did not match the LOM area.

In terms of support to excellence grants, the office assisted with one ERC starting grant application which was however not successful and to Lykke Sylow (Faculty Of Science) in her successful application for an NNF Excellence Grant (winter 2018). We have provided support to some 10 PhD- and post doc applications submitted to the Independent Research Fund Denmark (IRFD), Copenhagen Center for Health Technology, Lundbeck foundation, Velux foundation etc. These include two successful postdoc applications to the IRFD international postdoc grants to Emilija Zabaliute (Faculty of Social Sciences) and Simon Vedfald, a Lundbeck Postdoc grant to Rune Ehrenreich Kuhre, and a CACHET PhD grant to Caroline Borup Roland (all from the Faculty of Health).

Since September 2017, the LOM research support office has assisted with fifteen Project 1 and 2 applications to IRFD of which at least two have been successful; one by Bente Halkier (Faculty of Social Sciences) and Lotte Holm (Faculty of Science) and one by Bente Stallknecht for the FitMum project. We have supported applications for project grants to a number of other foundations, including the NNF, Arla Food for Health, Helsefonden, TrygFonden, Danida FFU, ERC StG, Velux, Carlsberg and the Danish National Research Foundation. This has resulted in a Danida FFU grant to Head of Department Helle Samuelsen (Faculty of Social Sciences), an Arla Food for Health grant to Professor Christian Mølgaard (Faculty of Science) and two successful NNF project grants in Bioscience and

Basic Biomedicine to Clare Hawkins and Thomas Mandrup-Poulsen (Faculty of Health), to name a few successes.

### **Focusing the funding support**

It has been a key priority to assist both researchers and research leaders in evaluating whether the applicant and the project are a good match and strong enough to be competitive for the given funding instrument. We have aimed to encourage and support submission of well-crafted applications to the most realistic calls and instruments to counter the tendency to submit hastily prepared and copy-pasted applications to many funding bodies. The LOM research support office has encouraged younger associate professors to get involved as collaborators in larger projects as a step towards taking the lead in larger projects.

### **Positioning lifestyle, obesity and metabolic health as important areas for research investments**

Since 2011, obesity has been a strategic focus for the Copenhagen EU Office (formerly known as CreoDK), and the staff of the LOM research support office and researchers at UCPH have been centrally involved in various activities to place the complex challenge of obesity on the European research agenda, and to showcase interdisciplinary and SSH-driven research approaches. The results include the interdisciplinary topic on Childhood Obesity in 2017 (described below), input to Horizon 2020 work programs and Horizon Europe missions, efforts to increase awareness of the EU funding system among the researchers, and attempts to influence the national funding agenda including Forsk2025 (see below).

In December 2016, we prepared a draft topic for Horizon 2020 SC1 on “Improving health and wellbeing through active living” in collaboration with key international researchers, including representatives from HEPA Europe. The topic was submitted to key contacts in the European commission, and was well received. The input did not make it directly into the work programme for 2018-2020, but the programme appears to be at least partly inspired by the input provided by the LOM research support office. The input process formed the basis for LOM and CPH EU Office joining forces to host a roundtable meeting in Brussels titled “Active living for health enhancement, prevention, treatment and wellbeing”. One aim with this initiative was to discuss and demonstrate the

potential of promotion of life-long physical activity in contributing to the UN's SDG 3: "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages", and to promote the area in the 2020 calls of Horizon and in Horizon Europe. The roundtable was held on 13 June 2018 and resulted in a number of specific recommendations, which are presented in "Roundtable Report: Active Living for Prevention, Cure and Care"<sup>12</sup>. The participants, which comprised experts in public health, epidemiology, biomedicine, technology design and social sciences, represented universities in Denmark, the Netherlands, Scotland, Ireland, respectively, as well as the European Platform for Sport Innovation (EPSI) and the European Commission. At the meeting, it was decided that a one-page policy brief were to be drafted (by EPSI) to "contribute to move physical activity from a sub area to a stand-alone public health issue", and to push for more political commitment to rollout, scale-up and maintenance of effective interventions. At the time of writing, this policy brief is in the final stages of preparation.

In November 2017, the Copenhagen EU Office organized a roundtable discussion on interdisciplinary research and integration of social sciences and humanities in which Bente Stallknecht shared her insights based on the project 'Governing Obesity'<sup>13</sup>. The meeting comprised presentations on the framework conditions for SSH integration and of projects that successfully integrated SSH. The discussion was summarized in the following recommendations:

- New instruments should be introduced in future funding programmes, and should promote interdisciplinary research as a means to understand and address complex social and societal questions.
- A new approach should be adopted to the drafting of calls for funding proposals, one that allows for more inclusion of disciplines relevant to the problem and the specific project.
- The SSH community should create new role models and to showcase interdisciplinary experiences.

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<sup>12</sup> The report is available at [the CPH EU Office's website](#).

<sup>13</sup> Report on integration of social science and humanities, <http://go.ku.dk/news/2018/report-on-integration-of-social-science-and-humanities/>

LOM has continued to circulate the early drafts of work programmes for SC1 and SC2 to professors and associate professors in the LOM area. In early 2018, the topic ‘Towards risk-based screening strategies for non-communicable diseases’<sup>14</sup> was circulated and the LOM research support office made key LOM researchers aware of this topic and forwarded input regarding how the topic could be adjusted to match UCPH research interests even better to the Danish members of the programme committee.

In early 2018, the UCPH LOM research support office, with support from the CPH EU office, responded to the European Commission’s call for input on the new-to-Horizon Europe ‘missions’ and for the criteria for selecting and implementing these missions. In this effort, we followed the suggestions presented by Professor Mazzucato in the report ‘Mission-oriented research & innovation in the European Union’<sup>15</sup>. Professor Bente Stallknecht, as Head of LOM, submitted the response and expressed agreement with the criteria for missions put forward by the report and submitted two proposals for missions:

- The Best Start in Life – a 30% reduction in childhood obesity and significant improvement of parent-child attachment by 2030
- Reducing obesity and associated co-morbidities, including type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, at all ages

Both missions were supported by a document elaborating each call’s position relative to the five suggested criteria for selecting missions. The two missions were also submitted directly to the cabinet of Commissioner Andriukaitis who, during his visit at the Faculty of Health, had expressed an interest in receiving input on missions in the health area. Mr. Andriukaitis kindly replied that the proposed missions were “very interesting” and that health constitutes an important component Horizon Europe.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/sc1-bhc-30-2019.html>

<sup>15</sup> <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/5b2811d1-16be-11e8-9253-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

## **Applications for Horizon 2020 societal challenges**

The UCPH LOM research support office continues to approach both individual researchers and research groups to identify their interests and to motivate them to apply for EU grants. The LOM research support office assisted with one application to the EU topic on “Personalized Nutrition” with LOM researchers as partners. The application failed to acquire funding, unfortunately.

## **Conclusion**

In the fourth year, the UCPH LOM research support office has been directly involved in 63 grant applications. Our priority was to support the interdisciplinary applications, grants to younger researchers and grants from the private foundations that support the LOM area. In total, LOM has contributed to obtaining DKK 158 Million to individual researchers in the four years of its existence, with applications for at least DKK 140 still awaiting evaluation. The majority of the successful applications involve individual research grants to young investigators, and include three NNF Excellence, one ERC SG, one Lundbeck fellowship, and a number of PhD, postdoc and other project grants, but also, and importantly, a number of major interdisciplinary grants including one IFD Grand Solution, one from the Velux Foundation and one from the IRFD.

The capacity and ability to influence the national and EU research agenda has been a unique feature of the UCPH LOM research support office. Experience has shown that, to do this effectively, we need highly qualified research support staff, who are familiar with the national and international research agendas, and are alert to any opportunity to provide input, as well as a comprehensive overview of the research field and the particular interests of UCPH researchers. Most researchers are reluctant to invest much time and effort into lobbying for at least two reasons: the lack of immediate benefits and the inherent uncertainty about the outcome. Our experience, however, shows that researchers are quite willing to contribute to well-prepared drafts, particularly, or especially, when they do not have to devote time to understand the political agenda and to draft responses themselves.

The mandate and resources dedicated to support interdisciplinary applications across faculties have been another unique feature of the LOM research support office. The national funding landscape is, however, mainly aimed to support collaborations with industry or the clinical research environment, and so opportunities for attracting funding for interdisciplinary collaborations within the UCPH have been scarce. In addition, it takes time, effort and a clear vision to engage in cross-disciplinary

collaborations. The LOM research support office has supported several groups of researchers in the early stages of establishing collaborations, that may result in applications, including a large network of researchers, primarily from the faculties of Science and Social Sciences, referred to as the Stress & Obesity-network, and another network between the faculties of Science and Humanities on personalised nutrition.

## **Topic 4: Communication and outreach**

### **Introduction**

In terms of communication, the UCPH LOM research support office's primary tasks have been to advertise the existence of the UCPH LOM platform, to communicate the office's services to the UCPH's LOM-researchers, and to facilitate that the UCPH LOM researchers have come to know about each other. UCPH LOM has also aimed to brand the UCPH as a leading international capacity in the area of lifestyle, obesity and metabolic research, and as a frontrunner in interdisciplinary approaches in research and innovation aimed to address the complex societal challenge of obesity and lifestyle-related diseases.

### **Primary tasks**

- Communicate the existence and content of the platform, both locally at UCPH, nationally and internationally.
- Maintain a website and calendar of events and funding deadlines and to publish a newsletter.
- Contribute to bringing the researchers and the research out into the world.

### **Specific priorities 2017-2018**

- To explore options for transferring our website-based toolbox for supporting interdisciplinary research to 'the Researcher Portal' or another UCPH website, to allow the material to remain accessible after the LOM platform ends, and to support the implementation of the UCPH 2023 strategy.
- To continue to contribute to science communication and bridging to upper secondary school.

## **Activities and results for 2017-2018**

### **Internal communication via newsletters and website**

The UCPH LOM newsletter has disseminated news, events and funding opportunities to more than 600 researchers at UCPH every other week throughout the lifetime of LOM. The final newsletter, no. 98, will be go out on 14 December 2018. This newsletter has been a key element in promoting and establishing a shared identity across the university, and many researchers have emphasized the importance and usefulness of the LOM newsletter. One of the key functions of the LOM website has

been to support the newsletter by advertising news, events, calls etc. and to be a natural go-to for researchers in need of the services that the LOM research support office provides.

### Transferring the LOM toolbox to the Researcher Portal on KUnet

We are still at the time of writing exploring options for transferring our toolbox for supporting interdisciplinary research to the Researcher Portal or another location at KUnet, to allow the material to remain accessible and to support the implementation of the UCPH 2023 strategy.

### Science communication and bridging to upper secondary school

In the fourth year, the LOM research support office assisted The Science Theatre, when they performed ‘Live life in style’ (‘Lev livet med stil’)<sup>16</sup> at Panum in relation to Kulturnatten 2017 (two performances) and Forskningens Døgn 2018 (4 performances).

## **Conclusion**

Internal communication motivates and inspires network between researchers, and has advertised the existence of and services offered by the LOM research support office. In addition to the LOM conference and meetings, the newsletter was a key instrument to develop and maintain a shared identity across different departments and faculties across the UCPH.

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<sup>16</sup> The performance ‘Live life in style’ combines theatre, music, gamification and research to communicate health- and lifestyle research to students in upper secondary school. The play was developed in the framework of the Governing Obesity (2016) initiative, and continues to serve as a platform for UCPH researchers to communicate their research to students in upper secondary school. See a short video (in Danish) from the <http://go.ku.dk/public-outreach/videnskabsteater/>

## Topic 5: Ad hoc strategic actions

### Introduction

The UCPH LOM research support office was designed to be able to take on ad hoc tasks and to seize opportunities across the UCPH in the research areas of lifestyle, obesity and metabolism. The executive board and the research support office agree that LOM exemplifies the added value that come from collaboration between researchers from across the UCPH, and the LOM research support office has unprecedented knowledge about supporting networks and collaborations across the six faculties.

In early 2018, Head of LOM Bente Stallknecht and other members of the LOM Executive Board (from the faculties of Theology, Humanities and Science) were invited to present the outcome of UCPH LOM and the perspectives of building on the mind-set, best practices and experiences gained from LOM to the University Management Team. The intent with this presentation was to illustrate the value of providing dedicated support for interdisciplinary research as has been done in the LOM area since the start of the UNIK 'Food, Fitness & Pharma' in the summer of 2009. The value creation opportunities of building on the experiences among the LOM research environments and the research support staff in the implementation of the UCPH 2023 strategy were to have been a key message in this presentation.

However, Bente Stallknecht's appointment as Prorector meant that this presentation became superfluous. Instead, the strategic platform now has an advocate for the value of interdisciplinary research at the highest level of the university administration.

In the past year, we have evaluated our key activities (i.e. fundraising services, annual conference, young investigators network, invited meetings etc.), both regarding the approaches, outcomes and potential pitfalls and points of awareness. We have considered which of our original aims, lessons learned and best practices we can pass on to others or carry forward ourselves into other parts of the organisation where this information would be appropriate and useful. We have worked hard to ensure that the web-based Toolbox can find a new home at KUnet (i.e. at the Researcher Portal), and have suggested to the Communication department at the Faculty of Health that it would be valuable to have a standard model for preservation of completed research projects' websites. LOM has been

responsible for updating and maintaining the UNIK Food, Fitness & Pharma (foodfitnesspharma.ku.dk) and Governing Obesity (go.ku.dk) websites, and these websites should, along with, for instance, the other '2016 project' websites, be accessible in some form for years to come, even when LOM is no longer there to support and maintain them.

UCPH LOM was established to support shared identity and collaborations across the university, and has shown and developed a large number of tools and methods to facilitate this development. The support office has been able to provide bespoke support where and when it was needed in close collaboration with research support staff and many other colleagues at all levels of the organisation, and has provided assistance with all aspects of the increasingly important task of attracting the right external funding for research and other activities. A great many UCPH researchers have, individually and in groups, benefitted from the services provided by the support office, some have moved on to positions in other universities at home and abroad, and others have gone to industry, while others remain at the UCPH to carry on the legacy of the past five years' work to promote interdisciplinarity and collaboration. We hope that we have set an example that others will want to follow.

## The organisational structure of UCPH LOM

The strategic platform was governed by an executive board with representatives from the six faculties at UCPH and the leaders of two Excellence Programme Research Initiatives. The faculty representatives were appointed by the deans of each faculty.

At first, Professor Niels-Henrik Holstein-Rathlou led the executive board, but from the summer of 2015, the head of UCPH LOM was Professor Bente Stallknecht, and the daily administrative and strategic tasks have been managed by the research support office located at the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

### UCPH LOM executive board 2017-2018



**Bente Stallknecht**  
Professor, Prorector, Head of  
Governing Obesity (GO) and Head of  
UCPH LOM  
Department of Biomedical Sciences  
Faculty of Health and Medical  
Sciences



**Thue W. Schwartz**  
Professor  
Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for  
Basic Metabolic Research and  
Department of Biomedical Sciences  
Faculty of Health and Medical  
Sciences



**Arne Astrup**  
Professor and Head of Department  
Department of Nutrition Exercise and  
Sports  
Faculty of Science



**Johanne Stubbe Teglbjærg  
Kristensen**  
Associate professor  
Department of Systematic Theology  
Faculty of Theology



**Astrid Pernille Jespersen**  
Associate professor  
SAXO-institute  
Faculty of Humanities



**Karsten Vrangbæk**  
Professor  
Department of Political Sciences and  
Department of Public Health  
Faculty of Social Sciences and  
Faculty of Health and Medical  
Sciences



**Erik A. Richter**  
Professor and Head of Copenhagen  
Women Study (CWS)  
Deputy Head of Department of  
Nutrition Exercise and Sports  
Faculty of Science



**Mette Hartlev**  
Professor and Head of WELMA  
WELMA research centre  
Faculty of Law

## UCPH LOM research support office 2014-2018



**Camilla Verdich**  
PhD in obesity and human physiology  
MSc Human Biology  
Head of LOM research support office  
[until April 2018, now at the Novo Nordisk Foundation  
Center for Basic Metabolic Research]



**Peter Børker Nielsen**  
Master of political communication and management  
Research coordinator  
[Left UCPH LOM in 2015, now at Copenhagen Health  
Innovation]



**Nynne A. Reeckmann**  
Master of Public Health Science  
Academic officer  
[Left UCPH LOM in September 2017, now at the  
Center for Healthy Ageing]



**Nicolai Paulsen**  
MA in English, BA in Film and Media Science  
Special Consultant  
[From May 2015 – 31/12 2018]



**Martha Dall**  
Master in Health Promotion and Health Strategies  
Academic officer  
[September 2017-September 2018]