



Annual Report UCPH LOM 2014-2015

Work Programme 2015-2016



November 2015

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN'S STRATEGIC PLATFORM FOR LIFESTYLE, OBESITY AND METABOLIC RESEARCH

Annual report 2014-2015 and Work Programme 2015-2016

Executive board

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Professor Niels-Henrik von Holstein-Rathlou (head of KU LOM until July 2015)

Professor Thue W. Schwartz (Since September 2015)

Professor Arne Astrup

Associate Professor Astrid Pernille Jespersen

Professor Erik Richter

Associate Professor Johanne Stubbe Teglbjærg

Professor Karsten Vrangbæk

Professor Mette Hartlev

Editing

UCPH LOM research support office

Panum Institute, room 12.5.52

Nørre Allé 20

2200 Copenhagen N

Front page image

Audience participation during the UCPH LOM 2015 conference

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Preface

The societal challenge of unhealthy lifestyle, 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 has become a significant part of the University of Copenhagen's research. The university mergers in 2007 and 2012, the process of the thematic work packages (2007-2008), the establishment of the August Krogh Center, and the Excellence Programme for Interdisciplinary Research have all contributed to the elevation of these research fields to the top of the university's research agenda. Significant external funding has been acquired, including a DKK 120 million grant for UNIK 'Food, Fitness & Pharma', a DKK 885 million grant for the Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research, and several grants from the Danish research councils as well as from private foundations.

The University of Copenhagen's strategic platform for Lifestyle, Obesity and Metabolic research (UCPH LOM) was established in September 2014 with the aim to continue the success from the UNIK 'Food, Fitness & Pharma'-initiative, and to strengthen internal collaboration and shared identity within the research areas. The UCPH LOM research support unit is 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. UCPH LOM explores new paths in a genuinely interdisciplinary and cross-organisational approach. Learning as we go, we shall, as first movers, communicate and seize opportunities for collaboration, synergy and optimisation, and develop tools for ourselves and our colleagues.

In its first year, the UCPH LOM steering committee and research support unit outlined the first work programme and decided on the staffing of the research support unit. UCPH LOM has been promoted via the website www.lom.ku.dk, newsletters and presentations across UCPH. Two large conferences and many meetings for young investigators have brought together researchers across disciplines and environments at UCPH. The UCPH LOM research support unit has contributed to 38 grant applications from all faculties, and to obtaining DKK 17,5 million for individual researchers and DKK 700.000 for a Science Theatre-project to disseminate knowledge on health and lifestyle to upper secondary students.

The second year is foreseen to include a stronger engagement and promotion of the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) disciplines and a higher degree of network, collaboration and joint grant applications across UCPH. Internal communication will be upgraded to motivate and inspire networks between researchers, and to showcase the services offered by the research support unit.

On behalf of the LOM steering committee

Professor Bente Stallknecht

Head of UCPH LOM

October 2015

Introduction

As defined by the memorandum for UCPH LOM, annual Work Programs will outline the research support unit's objectives and success criteria for the year concerned, and the results will be presented in an annual report.

The memorandum defines the key topics¹ 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.

This first annual report for UCPH LOM covers the period from 1 September 2014 until the end of August 2015, and presents the results in each of the UCPH LOM key topics and tasks as outlined in the first Work Programme ([Work Programme for 2014-2015](#)). These key topics and tasks are expected to remain the same throughout the lifetime of UCPH LOM, and we will report on the progress on an annual basis.

However, learning from the experiences from the first year, we have re-phrased and re-organised the descriptions of the tasks defined under each topic to better describe the services provided by the research support unit. We have done so in order to engage with the users of our services, i.e. the researchers, managers and research support staff, and to ensure that our aims and reporting will remain focused on the value we create for our users (i.e. on what we do), rather than on how we do it. A few tasks from the original Work Programme have been completed or found not to be relevant for the UCPH LOM, as described in the present report, and these will be omitted from the future work programmes.

Changes in the staffing of the UCPH LOM research support unit have necessitated a re-evaluation of the team's priorities and objectives. However, the competence profile of the current team allows

¹ Previously referred to as key areas

for a highly qualified support of the interdisciplinary field of lifestyle, obesity and metabolism in the years to come.

For each of the five key topics listed above, this annual report and work programme presents:

- An introduction and a brief description of the tasks.
- A report of the activities, events and results for 2014-2015.
- Prioritized areas for 2015-2016.
- A conclusion on the first year, pointing to overall visions for the coming year.

In the work programme for 2015-2016, the steering committee has identified a number of specific tasks and objectives on which we expect to show significant results. Some of these tasks are specifications of the tasks defined in the former version of the work programme, whereas others are novel tasks and objectives.

Both the annual report for 2014-2015 and the work programme for 2015-2016 must be approved by the deans of each faculty at the University of Copenhagen, and will subsequently be published on the UCPH LOM website, www.lom.ku.dk. The UCPH LOM newsletter will promote the report and work programme, highlighting both the general services and features of UCPH LOM and the specific priorities for the period 2015-2016.

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

Introduction

UCPH LOM facilitates internal collaboration and promotes shared identity and external collaboration in close alignment with the focus areas in the UCPH 2016 strategy². By establishing an overview of researchers in the field of lifestyle, obesity and metabolism, and by strengthening the synergy across the university, UCPH LOM enables managers, researchers and research support staff to promote the research field and cross-disciplinary approaches both nationally and internationally. Furthermore, the LOM research support unit provides best-practice approaches to research support, career promotion, fundraising, and communication in collaboration with research support staff across the UCPH.

The primary tasks for this topic are to:

- 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, and to contribute to best practices in support of interdisciplinary research initiatives.

Activities and results for 2014-2015

Cross-disciplinary research conferences to bring together researchers from across the University of Copenhagen

For the first year, the platform had set out to host a kick-off event in the autumn of 2014 and a conference in the spring of 2015. As outlined in the work programme, it was expected that some 150 scientists would attend, and that all faculties would be well represented. With an attendance of more than 250 guests, counting scientists from all faculties as well as collaborators and

² This key topic has so far been referred to as “General support for the researchers and the research field”.

stakeholders, both conferences were highly successful, and have provided new insight into the broad spectrum of the research field across UCPH and the potentials for networking, knowledge-sharing and collaboration.

The [UCPH LOM kick-off conference](#) was held on 2 October 2014 at the Faculty of Science. Invited international speakers and UCPH scientists gave a series of presentations that exemplified the cross-disciplinary dimensions within the research areas of lifestyle, obesity and metabolism.



The kick-off conference was followed by a gala-dinner to allow for networking across research disciplines and faculties.

The first annual LOM conference bore the title “[Exercise and physical activity in relation to lifestyle, obesity and metabolic disease](#)”, and took place in May 2015. The scientific scope of the conference was outlined by a cross-faculty organising committee in collaboration with the UCPH LOM research support unit, which took care of all the practical aspects of organising, announcing and hosting the conference. The conference programme included 64 oral presentations in plenum sessions, and four parallel tracks and 15 poster presentations by young scientists. Senior scientists organised and chaired the parallel sessions and presented their research fields, while junior scientists gave brief presentations of their research projects. The three non-UCPH speakers spoke about interdisciplinary approaches, and represented the SSH area, the biomedical area and the industry, respectively.



The UCPH LOM 2015 conference closed with a panel debate among the keynote speakers, Director Ole Kjeldsen (Microsoft Denmark), Professor Claude Bouchard (Pennington Biomedical Research Center) and Assistant Professor Tamar Sharon (Maastricht University).

Despite the high level of attendance at the two conferences, only few researchers from LAW, HUM and SOCIAL SCIENCE participated. Therefore, a higher engagement and visibility of these disciplines will be a key aim for future conference and events. The Faculty of Humanities (HUM) has generously offered to host the annual conference for UCPH LOM in May 2016. The overall theme of the conference will be lifestyle, and the form and programme will be outlined to appeal to the broad range of disciplines across UCPH. In relation to the conference, the LOM research support unit will produce a UCPH profile magazine on lifestyle in relation to obesity and metabolism aimed at external collaborators and stakeholders as well as UCPH researchers.

Did you know that...

the staff in the UCPH LOM research support unit represents a broad range of academic backgrounds; Public Health Science, Human Biology, English/Film & Media Science?

Scientific seminars and matchmaking

UCPH LOM supports scientific seminars and meetings. Typically, the research support unit gets involved in the organisation of these activities upon requests from UCPH researchers. In 2015, UCPH LOM organised two seminars based on suggestions from SCIENCE:

- [The impact of early nutrition and growth on later obesity - evolutionary perspectives \(March 2015\)](#)
- [Graphical Markov Models - describing complex interrelationships in human nutrition research \(June 2015\)](#)

The UCPH LOM research support unit also supports meetings and seminars organised by young researchers. See more in Topic 2: 'Network and career paths for young researchers'. The proactive approaches of the LOM research support unit is expected to increase the number of seminars in the coming year. In addition LOM will co-finance the August Krogh Center Seminars in 2015-2016 to further strengthen the network across the biomedical environments.

Did you know that...

UCPH LOM has a designated budget to host seminars and meetings for researchers at UCPH? If you have an idea for a seminar or workshop for researchers from different disciplines or departments, or you know of an international researcher coming to visit, the LOM research support unit can help you organise a seminar and provide financial support for hosting a networking lunch or reception and for reimbursing the international speakers.

The research support unit has also contributed to arranging individual meetings between scientists. In 2014-15, 10 scientists have contacted UCPH LOM for matchmaking with fellow researchers based on research area, methodologies or impact. These first examples, together with our internal overview of existing research activities, facilities and interests across UCPH, now paves the way for providing UCPH scientists with searchable overviews for identifying potential collaborators, building on the structures already available at UCPH such as 'The Research 'Portal' and 'Find a Researcher'.

Strengthening the ties with Danish and European networks and alliances

The Danish Association for the Study of Obesity (DSAF) has welcomed UCPH LOM as a platform for disseminating information on meetings and other activities in the association, and as a strategic collaborator in promoting obesity as a promising area for future national and European investment in research and for collaborations between biomedical and SSH researchers. In 2015, DSAF will expand their board with a researcher representing the SSH area, which could possibly be a representative from UCPH.

For the third year in a row, the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO) invited UCPH to organise and host a session at the European Congress on Obesity (ECO) to showcase transdisciplinary approaches in obesity research. The 2015 session on "[SSH perspectives on models](#)

[of obesity - Tracing obesities along and beyond the structures of research and policy](#)” was organised by obesity researchers from the UCPH together with colleagues from the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Oxford University, and included presentations from three young researchers from UCPH (The Faculty of Humanities). UCPH LOM was also present in the “EU project village” at ECO 2014, with a set of [posters and videos highlighting the interdisciplinary and strategic research initiatives](#) in the field of lifestyle, obesity and metabolism at the UCPH.

As described in Topic 3: ‘Fundraising and Positioning’, LOM researchers and research support unit are collaborating with EASO on a COST application on transdisciplinary obesity research.

UCPH researchers are well represented on the board of the Danish Diabetes Academy, and all relevant events and funding opportunities from the Academy are communicated in the LOM newsletters. Several PhD-students from UCPH have been awarded PhD- and post doc scholarships from the academy.

Collaboration across research support staff and contributing to best practices

In contributing to best practice in research support, it is essential that the UCPH LOM research support unit collaborates closely with other management and research support units across UCPH. This close contact ensures that the support provided by the LOM research support unit is coordinated and aligned with other support units. The staff of the research support unit, together with the executive board of UNIK ‘Food, Fitness & Pharma’, wrote the report “[Leading and managing interdisciplinary research initiatives](#)“, which describes the experiences from the UNIK initiative, and the approaches, activities and tools developed and tested during the programme period. UCPH LOM is currently developing a web-based toolbox to showcase experiences, models and best practices in supporting cross-disciplinary research initiatives. The toolbox will be published at the UCPH LOM webpage in the fall of 2015. It is intended to be used and expanded with other tools developed by research support staff from across UCPH and elsewhere.

Dialogue with the management at faculty and department level

The LOM research support unit and the faculty representatives of the LOM steering committee plan to meet with representatives of the faculty management at HEALTH, SCIENCE, HUM, SOCIAL SCIENCE and THEO to discuss how LOM can assist in meeting the visions and strategic aims of each faculty. In collaboration with local R&I support units, the LOM research support unit will also

meet with local sections, departments and forums for researchers in order to raise the awareness of LOM, and to obtain input from the researchers regarding their wishes and expectations for LOM. So far, such meetings have been held at HUM, SOCIAL SCIENCE and SCIENCE.

Work Programme 2015-2016

We will continue to work on the described tasks and build on the activities and knowledge obtained in the first year of LOM. The specific work of the LOM research support unit will, to some degree, depend on the interests of, and requests from, the researchers. We aim to focus on:

- Stronger inclusion, involvement and promotion of SSH research in all the activities and services of LOM. This is expected to include:
 - High SSH engagement in, and attendance at, the annual UCPH LOM conference and the smaller meetings and seminars.
 - Assuring a closer contact between UCPH LOM and the researchers, leaders and research support staff at HUM, SOCIAL SCIENCE, LAW and THEO and SSH areas at HEALTH and SCIENCE.
 - Strengthened ability and readiness for UCPH to meet national and international interests in collaboration with UCPH within the LOM areas in relation to [InnoLife KIC](#) on 'Healthy Living and Active Aging', Horizon 2020, and the area of research technologies and innovation.

Conclusion

UCPH LOM brought together researchers from a broad range of disciplines and environments across the UCPH for the kick-off conference in 2014 and the first annual conference in 2015, and has hereby boosted the shared identity across UCPH within the fields of lifestyle, obesity and metabolism. Engagement and promotion of the diverse spectrum of SSH disciplines is a point of attention for the annual conference and for the activities of UCPH LOM in general. UCPH LOM will continue to provide inspiration and encouragement for scientists to set up small meetings on common and complementing research questions and approaches across UCPH, and to identify each other as relevant collaborators. UCPH LOM will also serve as a key entrance for external collaborations on research and innovation in the area of LOM.

Topic 2: Supporting networks and career paths for young researchers

Introduction

The next generation of talented researchers is a key priority for UCPH LOM. The young generation is essential in creating and promoting the new cultures in collaboration across disciplines, and they represent the future in ground-breaking research and innovative solutions. Recruitment, networking, education and career promotion are thus key priorities in the UCPH strategy, supported by the UCPH LOM.

The primary tasks for this topic are to:

- Strengthen recruitment and training of talented young researchers.
- Inspire students to write their Bachelor's or Master's theses within this research area.
- Establish and service 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.

Activities and results for 2014-2015

Engaging and inspiring students and recruiting young researchers

UCPH LOM strengthens 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, and by inspiring students to write their theses in these fields. In the coming year, we will expand the current effort, which has so far primarily been aimed at medical students, to cover more educations across the university. Students also attend meetings in the young investigator networks, and seven graduate students submitted abstracts and presented their research at the LOM conference in May 2015.

In the fall of 2014, scientists from the Governing Obesity initiative held the master course "Governing Obesity" (10 ECTS). Based on this course, the summer school "[Obesity in a cross-disciplinary perspective](#)" was held in August 2015. 30 students, several of them international, attended the summer school.

LOM provides an overview of relevant PhD-courses, defenses and events via the website and newsletters to provide both graduate- and PhD-students with an overview of relevant activities at UCPH, and an opportunity to get acquainted with the range of the research fields and the diversity of the research environments and approaches.

Young Investigators' Networks: First movers in knowledge exchange and collaborations

We are very proud of the Young Investigators' (YI) networks, which represent a considerable and very active segment of the UCPH LOM network. The aim is that these networks will lead to new collaborations, exchange or co-supervision of young scientists, collaborative grant proposals, and possibly even lasting scientific associations.

Currently, there are three active and one maturing YI-networks, the latter of which is expected to get off the ground in the coming year. The key element of these networks is regular seminars with presentations from the members, invited national or international speakers, and various network activities. The UCPH LOM research support unit assists with all practicalities of organising the meetings. Once or twice a year, UCPH LOM hosts a networking dinner in relation to the meetings of the network.

The 'Muscle, Fitness and Metabolism Network' was established in relation to UNIK 'Food, Fitness & Pharma', joining the researcher environments at SCIENCE and HEALTH, including the Department of Biomedical Research (BMI), Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports (NEXS), Department of Biology and the NNF Center for Basic Metabolic Research (CBMR). The network hosted their first seminar early in 2011, and has been part of the UCPH LOM platform since September 2014. This experienced network hosted a seminar in December 2014 on "[Circadian rhythm in muscle fitness and metabolism research](#)" with invited speaker professor Stefano Schiaffino (University of Padova, Italy) and ERC grant recipient, assistant professor Zach Gerhart-Hines (UCPH). The network is well established and well-known at UCPH, as reflected in the high attendance at their meetings, counting 50-70 young investigators. The network is currently organising their next seminar on "Paradoxes in Metabolism" to be held in November 2015.

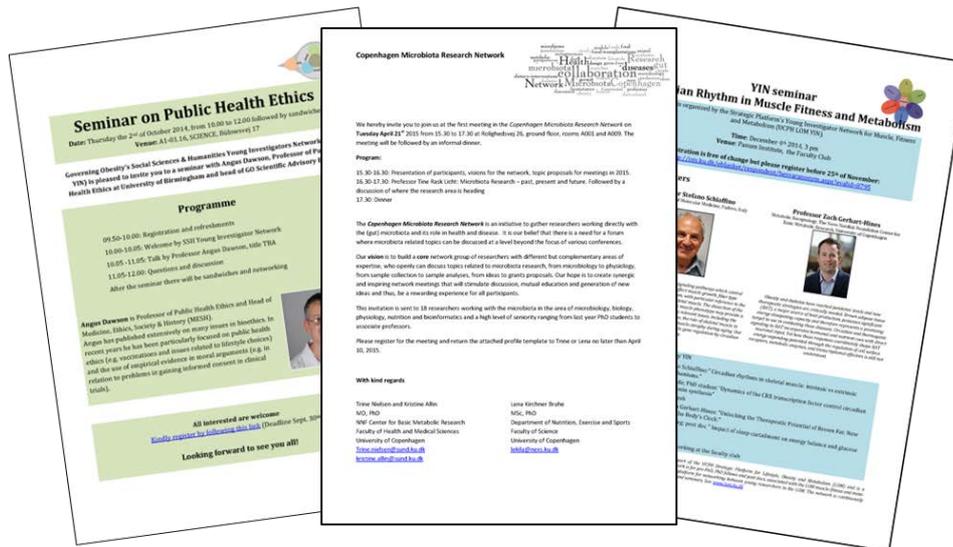
In 2014-2015, three new Young Investigators' Networks emerged, in the areas of Microbiota, Metabolomics and Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), respectively:

The 'Copenhagen Microbiota Research Network' was initiated by post docs from SCIENCE (NEXS) and HEALTH (CBMR). With a core network group of 15-20 researchers in the areas of microbiology, biology, physiology, nutrition and bioinformatics, ranging from last-year PhD students to associate professors, the network aims for mutual education, knowledge-sharing and discussions beyond the scope of various conferences. The first meeting was held in April 2015, and the group is currently planning the next meeting to be held in September 2015.

The 'Metabolomics Young Investigators' Network' was initiated by a group of post docs from SCIENCE (NEXS and FOOD), gathering young researchers working with metabolomics methods and -techniques, primarily in the areas of diet, food, plants and crop, obesity, diabetes, microbiota, and clinical research. The introductory meeting held in May 2015 attracted some 25-30 members. The network allows the young researchers to get insight into each other's work and methodologies and to exchange knowledge and explore potentials for collaborations. The coming meetings are expected to be devoted to the analytical approaches, data pre-processing and data analyses.

Both of the two latter networks also include researchers from outside UCPH, including DTU, Steno Diabetes Center, the Capital Region and relevant SMEs.

The initial steps towards establishing a SSH Young Investigators' Network was taken in October 2014, when a group of young researchers from the Governing Obesity project in collaboration with the LOM research support unit hosted a seminar in relation to a visit from professor of Public Health Ethics, Angus Dawson. The core group included representatives from LAW, HUM, HEALTH and SCIENCE, reflecting the diversity of the SSH research field. Fifteen young researchers attended the seminar, all of whom are affiliated with major interdisciplinary research initiatives at UCPH. The diversity of the SSH research may be a challenge for the establishment of a sustainable young investigators' network. The future activities of the network will be designed to reflect common interests and represent the entire scope of these research fields, while staying relevant for all young researchers addressing health, lifestyle or obesity from an SSH angle. With the experience from the first meeting, the LOM research support unit aims to create a fruitful SSH Young Investigators' Network by including representatives from other research groups including young investigators from SOCIAL SCIENCE.



The Young Investigators' Networks bring researchers together across faculties to share knowledge and methodologies, and to develop future collaborations.

Transferable skills and career development

The networks for young investigators and the dedicated support to the individual young researchers when they apply for external funding are two key elements in maintenance of young talented researchers. The LOM research support unit is preparing a series of afternoon training seminars for young researchers. The first seminars, to be held in the autumn of 2015, are 'English in the afternoon' and 'Applying for research funding: How to write good applications and identify all relevant foundations'. A joint career day is in preparation in collaboration with the Center for Healthy Aging. Preliminary plans call for a day in March 2016 with a tightly packed programme aimed at young researchers and YI-networks from a number of LOM-relevant fields. Budget permitting, the day will end with a chance to network over a light dinner.

Did you know that...

anyone can suggest a topic for a meeting for young investigators or even for establishing a network for young investigators? The only prerequisite is that the topic must be related to lifestyle, obesity or metabolism and is of interest to young researchers within as well as outside your own research group and department. The LOM research support unit will gladly help you organise and communicate the meeting, and can help cover the cost of refreshments.

Work Programme 2015-2016

We will continue to work on the described tasks and build on the activities and knowledge obtained in the first year of LOM. The specific work of the LOM research support unit will, to some degree, depend on the interests of, and requests from, the researchers. We aim to focus on:

- Strengthening and mobilising the SSH network for young investigators
- Courses and workshops in English communication, fundraising, presentation technique, career development and other transferrable skills
- Inspiring Master and Bachelor students across UCPH to write their theses in the field of LOM, and to attend the LOM meetings and conferences
- Disseminating the opportunity for research internships for biomedical graduate students at the 'Integrated Research and Treatment Center (IFB) Adiposity Diseases' in Leipzig. This will contribute to engaging students in the research area and possibly to recruitment of PhD students and strengthening the collaboration with the IFB

Conclusion

The young researchers are agents of the collaborative mind-set, and welcome interactions across faculties and departments that boost their knowledge and network, and thus their career prospects. In the first year of UCPH LOM, three new young investigators networks emerged within specific research approaches or themes. A series of generic training and career events will bring together young researchers across research areas and disciplines, allowing for new relations and networks to emerge. Students show a remarkable interest in the research areas of UCPH LOM, and in the coming year more students will get acquainted with and engaged in the UCPH LOM research and network.

Topic 3: Fundraising and lobby

Introduction

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

The primary tasks for this topic are to:

- 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, metabolic diseases and obesity, 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 career- and fundraising- 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.

Activities and results for 2014-2015

Positioning lifestyle, metabolism and obesity as important areas for research investments

Since 2011, staff from the LOM research support unit and researchers at UCPH have worked closely with CreoDK to place obesity on the European research agenda by highlighting the complexity of this societal challenge and showcasing the significance of the interdisciplinary and SSH-driven research approaches. The national and European workshops, activities and reports³ have paved the way for continuous input to the European Commission via CreoDK, and for providing input to drafts of the Strategic Programmes and Work Programmes in Horizon 2020. The

³ For an overview, please refer to <http://foodfitnesspharma.ku.dk/obesity-2020/>

drafts of the Work Programme 2016-17 for the Health and Food areas (Societal Challenge 1-2) include several topics of relevance for the research into lifestyle, obesity and metabolism. The UCPH LOM research support unit approaches both individual researchers and research groups to identify their interests and to motivate them to apply for EU grants, and to ensure an optimal level of support in close alignment with the department-, faculty- and central research support units.

Obesity continues to be a focus area for CreoDK's work in Brussels, and in the spring of 2015 a workshop was held on obesity as a strategic focus area for EU-lobbying and funding with focus on "[Obesity prevention and health promotion in Europe](#)", where Camilla Verdich gave a presentation on "Obesity as a strategic focus area – previous processes, outcome and perspectives". In addition, an advisory committee was established with representatives from all CreoDK partners. The UCPH is represented by Associate Professor Astrid Jespersen and Professor Bente Stallknecht, thereby reinforcing the connection between LOM and CreoDK. The close collaboration between CreoDK and the LOM research support unit continues. The LOM staff helps plan the seminars and meetings of the advisory committee, and responds to the interests and initiatives from the UCPH scientists.

Supporting researchers in the application process

The LOM newsletter and website provide a customised overview of the funding landscape and opportunities in the form of a collection of coming funding calls, courses and workshops. The research support unit will, in some cases, provide individual notifications of deadlines for researchers that we expect to have a particular interest in a given funding instrument. The unit has provided career- and fundraising-coaching to some 20 groups and individual scientists at all of the UCPH's faculties. Camilla Verdich has produced the booklet "[Applying for research funding](#)" in both Danish and English, and has given presentations on fundraising to various research environments at UCPH. The UCPH LOM research support unit continuously improves and develops processes, tools and templates to support fundraising and networking across the entire UCPH.

Did you know that...

the UCPH LOM website has customised an overview of funding deadlines, events and news specifically for researchers working with lifestyle, obesity and metabolism – so you only have to look in one place? And did you know that updates on funding opportunities are provided in our newsletter every other week?

In 2014-15, the UCPH LOM research support unit was involved in successful applications attracting a total of DKK 17,5 million for researchers at UCPH. The LOM research support unit provided assistance for 38 research proposals from all faculties, ranging from applications for PhD grants and minor grants from private foundations to ERC, Marie Skłodowska-Curie and the major public and private national foundations. Several of these are still under review. The assistance provided by the LOM support office is complementary to the services provided by the Research and Innovation offices at the faculties and the central EU office based on the deep understanding of the research fields in LOM and on the interdisciplinary perspective of LOM. The majority of applicants were young scientists. The unit has assisted with five ERC starting grant applications, of which one was granted to [Zach Gerhart-Hines](#) (HEALTH), two ERC advanced grant applications submitted in June 2015, and one Marie Skłodowska-Curie application, which was unfortunately not successful, but will be re-submitted. The LOM research support unit provided assistance for three NNF Excellence Grant applications in the spring 2015, and one resulted in a DKK 5 million grant to [Thomas Elbenhardt Jensen](#) (SCIENCE).



Thomas Elbenhardt Jensen received the DKK 5 million Excellence Grant from the Novo Nordisk Foundation in the spring of 2015. Thomas was one of the 38 individual researchers who asked the LOM research support unit for assistance with a grant application.

As to major cross-disciplinary applications, the unit provided assistance with two applications to the Danish Research Council for Strategic Research in the spring of 2014, but unfortunately none of these made it through to the second round. LOM has not yet been involved in any applications to Innovation Fund Denmark (InnovationsFonden) or to the private foundations that support large

cross-disciplinary research initiatives. The LOM research support unit has raised DKK 700.000 for a Science Theatre project designed to disseminate knowledge about health and lifestyle to 16-20-year-olds in upper secondary school by combining theatre and lectures from UCPH researchers (see also Topic: 4: 'Communication and Outreach'). The LOM research support unit continues to meet and coordinate with the other fundraiser- and research support units to ensure a constructive synergy between the various levels of support.

Did you know that...

you can contact the UCPH LOM research support unit for advice on identifying relevant sources of funding, and for input to your application throughout the writing process? The earlier you contact the research support unit, the more support you are likely to get – and the unit can assist with every step of the application procedure.

SSH in front in a COST application on trans-disciplinary obesity research

Associate Professor Astrid Pernille Jespersen is heading the production of a COST application for a collaborative and trans-disciplinary pan-European obesity research network. The application will be submitted for the spring 2016 deadline. SSH is the cornerstone of the proposed network, which will be coordinated from the UCPH. By mapping and profiling the SSH obesity researchers and research communities in Europe, the purpose is to enhance the shared identity and showcase excellent SSH research to create a stronger SSH position in obesity research, and thereby to secure a sound starting point for SSH for future collaborations with the biomedical research environment and key stakeholders, and a strong platform for high-impact transdisciplinary obesity research.

Work Programme 2015-2016

We will continue to work on the described tasks and build on the activities and knowledge obtained in the first year of LOM. The specific work of the LOM research support unit will, to some degree, depend on the interests of, and requests from, the researchers. We aim to focus on:

- The COST application on trans-disciplinary obesity research.
- Large interdisciplinary applications that involve researchers across faculties and research disciplines. This could in part build on the collaborations in the University of Copenhagen's Excellence Programme for Interdisciplinary Research ('the 2016 grants'), and could include

applications to Innovation Fund Denmark, private foundations in Denmark, Horizon 2020 Societal Challenges and [InnoLife KIC](#) on 'Healthy Living and Active Aging'.

- Fundraising for young researcher's careers including regular, international and industrial PhDs and post docs.
- Funding support for researchers who are expected to apply for excellence grants (ERC, Sapere Aude, NNF Excellence, Lundbeck Foundation group leader grants etc.). For the younger talents, this could include a complete plan for career boosting, including courses and expertise in leadership, teaching and supervision, stronger international and independent research profile etc. Such plans would be outlined and implemented in close collaboration with the local management and research support staff.
- Continued lobbying to place obesity (and in particular obesity prevention) and cross-disciplinary approaches on the research agenda for Horizon 2020 in close collaboration with CreoDK.

Conclusion

In its first year, the UCPH LOM research support unit has been directly involved in 38 grant applications, contributed to obtaining 17.5 million DKK to individual researchers, and have provided novel tools for the application process. Collaborative and cross-disciplinary applications will be a priority for the coming year. An overview of the research field will engender novel projects ideas, refined research questions and collaborative research groups. The research areas of UCPH LOM and the cross-disciplinary approaches are well reflected in the Societal Challenges of Horizon 2020. In collaboration with CreoDK, we will work to maintain the central position of these areas in Horizon 2020 and the cross-disciplinary and SSH-driven approaches, as reflected by the upcoming COST application.

Topic 4: Communication and outreach

Introduction

The UCPH LOM research support unit's primary tasks for the first year were to make UCPH LOM visible, to present a clear profile, and to communicate the services and available resources to researchers. Additionally, UCPH LOM is working to brand the UCPH as an international leading capacity in the area of lifestyle, obesity and metabolic research, and as a frontrunner in interdisciplinary approaches in research and innovation towards tackling the complex societal challenge of obesity and lifestyle related diseases. The ambition is to contribute to comprehensive and inspiring dissemination of research results and to the debate at political and public levels.

The primary tasks for this topic are to:

- Communicate the existence and content of the platform, both locally at UCPH, nationally and internationally.
- Maintain a website and calendar of events, and to publish a newsletter.
- Contributing to bringing the researchers and the research out to the society.
- Provide a collection of pitches and emerging results to present for journalists, communication departments etc.
- Contribute to the on-going processes related to stakeholder-mapping and collaboration.

Activities and results for 2014-2015

Internal communication via newsletters and website

The website www.lom.ku.dk was established in the summer and autumn of 2014. The initial aim was to communicate the existence and the background of UCPH LOM, and to establish a calendar of events, a news section and an overview of relevant open funding calls. In the summer of 2015, a new web strategy was designed to make the LOM website the natural go-to service portal for researchers who need the services that the LOM research support unit provides, or who are looking to join or establish networks across research disciplines and university structures. This strategy calls for a partial redesign of the website, commencing in September 2015.

The UCPH LOM newsletter was launched on 12 September 2014, and has since then disseminated news, events and funding opportunities to more than 500 researchers at UCPH every other week.

The newsletter is one key element in promoting shared identity across the university. The LOM research support unit has presented UCPH LOM at several department and section meetings at SOCIAL SCIENCE, HUM and SCIENCE, and will continue this activity, which often leads to concrete tasks for the unit in terms of network activities or assistance with grant applications.

Did you know that...

your meeting, seminar or research story can be shared with more than 500 colleagues in the research area of lifestyle, obesity and metabolism via the LOM newsletter?

Science communication and bridging to upper secondary school

In the winter of 2014/15, Bente Stallknecht and the LOM research support unit initiated a close collaboration with The Science Theatre, and have successfully attracted external funding (DKK 700.000) to produce the show 'Live life in style' ('Lev livet med stil'), which combines theatre, music, gamification and research in communicating health and lifestyle research to young people in upper secondary school. Some ten UCPH-scientists from various disciplines and faculties are expected to present their research in the form of small lectures integrated in the play when it tours Denmark in the spring of 2016.



Performing Science – picture from the production 'Obesity and Diabetes – theatrical interpretation of being obese'
The Science Theatre, GO and UCPH LOM are collaborating on the new production 'Live life in style'.

In the summer of 2015, UCPH LOM was contacted by [Akademiet for Talentfulde Unge](#) (the Academy for Talented Youth), and have, at their request, organised a seminar on obesity in the autumn of 2015. UCPH LOM expects to host future thematic seminars for the Academy.

In addition to increasing the understanding and awareness of obesity, health and lifestyle, both of the above-mentioned initiatives aim to stimulate interest in studying at the university as well as the understanding of interdisciplinary approaches in addressing the large societal challenges.

Branding of UCPH at the European Congress on Obesity

The LOM initiative was represented at the European Conference on Obesity 2015 with the session “SSH perspectives on models of obesity - Tracing Obesities along and beyond the structures of research and policy”. The session included presentations from three young researchers from SAXO and the Governing Obesity-initiative. The researchers presented “Historical models: Normal weight, BMI and Obesity” (post doc Anne Katrine Kleberg) and “Research models: Models and figures in Collaborative Obesity Research” (post doc Line Hillersdal & PhD student Jonas Winther).



ECO 2015: Session on “SSH perspectives on models of obesity”, panel debate. From left: Professor Geof Rayner, Line Hillersdal, PhD, Amy Mclennan, PhD, Jonas Winther, PhD student, and Anne Katrine Kleeberg, PhD.

Work Programme 2015-2016

We will continue to work on the described tasks and build on the activities and knowledge obtained in the first year of LOM. The specific work of the LOM research support unit will, to some degree, depend on the interests of, and requests from, the researchers. We aim to focus on:

- Optimise the website and newsletters to promote the UCPH LOM services and tools, including features that allow researchers to identify contacts and collaborators.
- Prepare and launch a UCPH profile magazine on lifestyle in relation to obesity and metabolism targeting external collaborators and stakeholders as well as UCPH researchers.
- Collaborate with The Science Theatre on the production ‘Live life in style’, including attracting funding and identifying relevant UCPH researchers to take part in the performances.
- Collaborate with EASO on outlining and hosting a session at ECO2016 to showcase Danish and European transdisciplinary approaches to obesity.

Conclusion

September 2014 marked the launch of UCPH LOM, the newsletter and the website. In its second year, internal communication will motivate and inspire networks between researchers, and showcase the services offered by the LOM research support unit. UCPH LOM wishes to promote and increase the visibility of the lifestyle, obesity and metabolism research fields, and to support the UCPH researchers in the public debate and media.

Topic 5: Ad hoc strategic actions

Introduction

With the competence profile in the team, the UCPH LOM research support unit is designed to take on ad hoc tasks and actions to seize opportunities that may arise across the UCPH in the research areas of lifestyle, obesity and metabolism.

Activities and results for 2014-2015

Outlining of the work programme and completing the reports and evaluations of UNIK 'Food, Fitness & Pharma' were the major ad hoc activities in the first year of UCPH LOM.

In addition, the first year has included changes in the leadership of LOM and staffing of the LOM research support unit. The former head of LOM, Professor Niels-Henrik von Holstein-Rathlou, was recruited for a position as Head of Open Competition Grants at the Novo Nordisk Foundation. From 1 August 2015, Professor Bente Stallknecht has taken over the position as head of LOM and head of the steering committee. Bente was already a member of the steering committee as leader of Governing Obesity, and is now acting head of Department of Biomedical Sciences. From August 2015, Professor Thue W. Schwartz was appointed to the steering committee to represent HEALTH. In addition, former staff member of the LOM research support unit Peter Børker Nielsen was recruited for another position at HEALTH in March 2015. Nicolai Paulsen was recruited for the vacant position by June 2015.

1 September 2014 marked the formal end of UNIK 'Food, Fitness & Pharma' and the start of UCPH LOM. However, UCPH LOM had been under way since October 2013. In the course of six meetings, the LOM steering committee had outlined a work program, decided on the establishment of the website www.lom.ku.dk, and prepared for the UCPH LOM kick-off conference in October 2014. The tasks related to the final reporting and evaluation of UNIK was undertaken by the LOM research support unit in the first year of LOM, as an ad hoc activity that contributed much valuable input to the activities and approaches of UCPH LOM.

The organisational structure supporting UCPH LOM

The organisation behind the strategic platform consists of an Executive Board with representatives from the University faculties and the leaders of the two Excellence Programme Research Initiatives involved in UCPH LOM. The faculty representatives have been appointed by the deans of each faculty. The head of UCPH LOM is Professor Bente Stallknecht, and the daily administrative and strategic tasks are managed by the research support unit located at the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences.

UCPH LOM steering committee 2014-2015



Bente Stallknecht
Head of UCPH LOM (since August 2015)
Professor, head of department and scientific leader of Governing Obesity (GO)
Department of Biomedical Sciences
Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences



Niels-Henrik von Holstein-Rathlou
Professor and former head of KU LOM
Department of Biomedical Sciences
Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences
(until August 2015)



Arne Astrup
Professor and head of department
Department of Nutrition Exercise and Sports
Faculty of Science



Johanne Stubbe Teglbjærg
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 Richter
Professor and head of Copenhagen
Women Study (CWS)
Faculty of Science



Mette Hartlev
Professor and head of WELMA
WELMA research centre
Faculty of Law



Thue W. Schwartz
Professor, Novo Nordisk Foundation
Center for Basic Metabolic Research,
Department of Neuroscience and
Pharmacology
Faculty of Health and Medical
Sciences
(Since September 2015)

UCPH LOM research support unit



Camilla Verdich
Ph.D. in obesity and human physiology
Master of Human Biology
Head of LOM research support unit
cave@sund.ku.dk



Nicolai Paulsen
Master of English, Bachelor in Film and
Media Science
Senior Consultant
nicolai.paulsen@sund.ku.dk
(Since June 2015)



Nynne Reeckmann
Master of Public Health Science
Academic officer
nynne.reeckmann@sund.ku.dk



Peter Børker Nielsen
Master of political communication and
management
Research coordinator
(Until April 2015)