



Annual Report UCPH LOM 2016-2017

Work Programme 2017-2018

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

Annual report 2016-2017 and Work Programme 2017-2018

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Table of contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
INTRODUCTION	7
TOPIC 1: STRENGTHENING THE SCIENTIFIC ENVIRONMENTS, COLLABORATIONS, AND SHARED IDENTITY.....	9
Introduction	9
Activities and results for 2016-2017 and plans for the coming year.....	10
The LOM conference in June 2017 – bringing researchers together across UCPH.....	10
LOM Invited Meetings	11
Other scientific seminars, meetings and matchmaking	11
Strengthening the ties with European and Danish initiatives, networks and alliances.....	12
Collaboration with research support staff and contributions to best practices	14
UCPH strategy towards 2023.....	15
Work Programme 2017-2018.....	16
Conclusion	16
TOPIC 2: SUPPORTING NETWORKS AND CAREER PATHS FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS	17
Introduction	17
Activities and results for 2016-2017 and plans for the coming year.....	17
The ‘growth layer’ of young talented associate professors	17
Initiative to attract Marie Skłodowska Curie Action (MSCA) fellows to UCPH	19
Engaging and inspiring students and recruiting young researchers	19
Young Investigators’ Networks	20
Transferable skills.....	21
Work Programme 2017-2018.....	21
Conclusion	21
TOPIC 3: FUNDRAISING AND LOBBY.....	22
Introduction	22

Activities and results for 2016-2017 and plans for the coming year	23
Supporting researchers in the application process	23
Focusing the funding support.....	26
Positioning lifestyle, obesity and metabolic health as important areas for research investments	26
Applications for Horizon 2020 societal challenges and InnoLife KIC	28
Work Programme 2017-2018	29
Conclusion	29
TOPIC 4: COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH	30
Introduction	30
Activities and results for 2016-2017	30
Internal communication via newsletters and website.....	30
Science communication and bridging to upper secondary school.....	31
Work Programme 2017-2018	31
Conclusion	32
TOPIC 5: AD HOC STRATEGIC ACTIONS	33
Introduction	33
THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE SUPPORTING UCPH LOM	34
UCPH LOM executive board 2016-2017	34
UCPH LOM research support unit	35

Executive summary

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

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 in the area of Lifestyle, Obesity and Metabolism at UCPH, and the concept of *LOM Invited Meetings*. These new initiatives were successfully implemented, and will be continued in 2018. In the past year, particular effort has also been devoted to supporting the UCPH researcher's 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 has held two very successful meetings, while the YI-networks on Metabolomics and Microbiota are considering their strategy for moving on. We aimed to help recruit international applicants for the Marie Skłodowska Curie grants. Since this is already a key priority for the faculty-based research support offices, the LOM research support unit is prepared to contribute to applications within the LOM area, and to support the processes at the faculty level. In the third year, the UCPH LOM research support unit contributed to raising a total of DKK 33.3 million for individual younger researchers, and provided input to some 70 submitted grant applications. Thus, over the first three years, UCPH LOM has reached the goals outlined in the memorandum in terms of strengthening and supporting network and collaboration and attracting external funding. In total, LOM has in the first three years contributed to attracting DKK 80.4 million, which is in line with the original ambition¹.

¹ The ambition was that LOM would contribute to attracting some DKK 75-150 million over the four-year period. This was described in the final UNIK FFP report.

In the fourth year, LOM will continue the successful approaches, including hosting invited meetings, seminars, meetings for young investigators and an annual conference in June 2018. We will also continue to assist with fundraising and fundraising strategies, and we will particularly work on **interdisciplinary project applications**, grants to **younger researchers** and grants from **private foundations**. We will intensify the effort to include the next generation of young associate professors in setting the agenda for the networking and fundraising activities. In order to fully achieve this, we wish to allow the LOM initiative to continue to the end of 2018 and not as originally planned close in the end of August 2018. This will not increase the total budget for LOM. Allowing for employment of all three staff members of the LOM research support unit until the end of 2018 can ensure a good follow-up to and completion of LOM activities.

The establishment of LOM was strongly inspired by UCPH's 2016 strategy. We are prepared to provide input to the UCPH strategy towards 2023, and to showcase our lessons learned and best practices in supporting networks and research collaborations across faculties.

On behalf of the LOM executive board
Professor Bente Stallknecht
Head of UCPH LOM
September 2017

Introduction

As defined by the memorandum for UCPH LOM², annual Work Programmes outline the research support unit's objectives and success criteria for the year concerned, and the results are subsequently presented in an annual report.

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

This third annual report covers the activities and results for each key topic for the period from September 2016 to August 2017 as defined in the memorandum as well as by the prioritized areas outlined in the Work Programme 2016-2017³. 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 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 2016-2017 and the plans for the coming year
- A summary of prioritized areas for 2017-2018
- A conclusion on the third year, pointing to overall visions for the last year in UCPH LOM

² Memorandum for UCPH LOM (May 2013) http://www.lom.ku.dk/about_ucph_lom/background/memorandum/

³ Annual Report UCPH LOM 2015-2016 including the Work Programme 2016-2017
http://www.lom.ku.dk/about_ucph_lom/work_programs/

The prioritized areas for 2017-2018 are decided by the LOM executive board and research support office, and are discussed with the colleagues in research support at the faculty level. The specific work and results of the LOM research support unit will, to some degree, continue to depend on the interests of, and requests from, the researchers within the LOM area.

The third annual report, including the prioritized areas (work programme) for 2017-2018 was 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).

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

Introduction

UCPH LOM facilitates internal networks that allow and encourage researchers to connect and initiate collaboration, and UCPH LOM promotes common identity and external collaboration in close alignment with the UCPH 2016 strategy⁴. 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.

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 2016-2017

- Focus on the potentials for collaborations between SSH and the biomedical area, and between the biomedical and natural science research environments that together represent the major groups in LOM.
- Establish a series of *LOM Invited Meetings*.
- Strengthen national and international research collaborations, including collaborations with SDCC, the clinical research environment, the IFB in Leipzig and HEPA Europe.

⁴ This key topic has so far been referred to as “General support for the researchers and the research field”.

Activities and results for 2016-2017 and plans for the coming year

The LOM conference in June 2017 – 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 20-21 June 2017⁵. The cross-faculty organising committee comprised mainly young associate professors and young researchers, and they outlined the scientific scope of the conference together with the LOM research support unit. Some 130 scientists attended the conference.

The first day of the conference was dedicated to young researchers, and began with presentations by young researchers followed by master classes with the two keynote speakers. Dean Ulla Wewer of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences gave the opening speech on day two of the conference. The day included keynote presentations from Dr. Jean-Philippe Chaput and Dr. Rebecca O’Connell. As in previous years, pairs of UCPH researchers were invited to host parallel sessions on relevant research topics. The scientific programme concluded with the debate *Visions for future research, impact and solutions to global health challenges*. One key aim with our annual conference is to provide researchers from different disciplines an opportunity to showcase their field and research to each other and to network across fields and disciplines. In line with the new opportunities for collaborations between UCPH and SDCC, several SDCC researchers attended the conference, and the parallel session *Involvement of target groups in developing interventions: barriers and potentials in research* was hosted by SDCC.

The annual LOM conference is highly appreciated by the attendants, and several have reported that the conference provides them not just a deeper understanding of their own field, but also a shared identity with other researchers from across UCPH. The decline in the overall number of attendants may reflect the ending of the UCPH Interdisciplinary Excellence (2016) projects, of which four fall within the LOM area, and a scheduling conflict with exams and competing meetings and activities for researchers. As with the previous LOM conferences, relatively few researchers from THEO,

⁵ UCPH LOM Conference 20-21 June 2017, summary, program, abstracts, organising committee etc.

http://www.lom.ku.dk/previous_events/2017/lom-conference/

LAW, HUM 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.

Plans for the coming year: We will host a final LOM conference in June 2018.

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 interest for a cross-faculty group of LOM researchers. As of September 2017, we have hosted five invited meetings:

- How to influence the upcoming Work Programme in Horizon 2020? (November 2016)
- EIT Health innovation project- What's in it for me? (January 2017)
- Toxic Stress (April 2017)
- Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen (May 2017).
- Meeting for younger associate professors in the Food area of LOM (May 2017).

All LOM invited meetings are organised to ensure that key researchers with an interest in the given topic are able to attend. In most cases, the meetings are also widely advertised to allow others to attend. All the meetings have a specific purpose, but they have different topics and target groups.

Plans for the coming year: We will continue to host the LOM Invited Meetings in the coming year, and strive to find topics that are not covered by other research support offices at UCPH. We plan to host meetings with representatives from private national foundations for LOM researchers who plan to apply to these specific foundations. Other invited meetings could revolve around new and emerging research areas and collaborations with external collaborators (such as SDCC, Copenhagen Health Science Partners or the Danish Diabetes Academy). We encourage all LOM researchers to propose themes for invited meetings. When we plan meetings related to funding, we will ensure that the research support staff at the faculty are informed, and we see their attendance at the meetings as a way of strengthening our network to colleagues in research support.

Other scientific seminars, meetings and matchmaking

Based on a DKK 50.000 grant from the Danish Diabetes Academy, the LOM research support unit contributed to organising a symposium on *Promoting physical activity in Gestational Diabetes*

Mellitus (GDM) pregnancies and early motherhood in April 2017. The symposium was hosted by the Danish Diabetes Academy and the University of Copenhagen, and was attended by some 80 researchers and clinicians. Furthermore, the LOM office has organised a seminar with professor Bob Ross (Queen's University, Canada) titled *Towards precision in exercise medicine: promise or peril?* (March 2017), and continues to announce the seminars held by the August Krogh Club to the LOM network.

Plans for the coming year: Based on suggestion from LOM researchers, we expect to organise a 1-day seminar on whole genome sequencing for early preventive approaches in early 2018. The LOM area represents an ideal focus for such a meeting, as metabolic diseases exemplifies the complexity of human diseases and the first meeting in the organising committee (T.I.A. Sørensen, S. Brunak and P. Olesen) will be held in September 2017.

Moreover, the LOM research support unit can contribute to organise future meetings for researchers in the four 2016 initiatives in the LOM area (GO, CWS, CALM and LifeStat). This can include support for grant applications, booking of meeting rooms at Panum, organising and paying for meals in relation to the meeting etc. This support could contribute to harvesting the fruits of the 2016 initiatives after the end of these projects' funding period.

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

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

HEPA Europe

As described under Topic 3, UCPH LOM has, in collaboration with international researchers, incl. representatives of HEPA Europe⁶, contributed to lobbying for a future EU topic on "Improving health and wellbeing through active living".

Integrated Research and Treatment Center Adiposity Diseases

⁶ 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>

We invited colleagues from the ‘Integrated Research and Treatment Center (IFB) Adiposity Diseases’ initiative in Leipzig to attend the LOM conference in June 2017. However, it was decided to plan for a visit by three researchers in the autumn of 2017, to allow for dedicated meetings between our guests and the relevant UCPH researchers. The IFB plans to host the Leipzig International Meeting for Interdisciplinary Obesity Research (LIMIOR) in the spring of 2018, and we will encourage UCPH researchers to attend and plan additional meetings with relevant IFB researchers. Finally, in collaboration with the IFB management unit, UCPH LOM has promoted the IFB MS PRO internships to students at SUND (see Topic 2).

Danish Association for the Study of Obesity

The LOM office continues to disseminate information on meetings and other activities of the Danish Association for the Study of Obesity (DSAF). The upcoming DSAF annual meeting (November 2017) with the theme ‘*Is Obesity a disease?*’ appears to have been inspired by the LOM conference parallel session ‘*Should obesity be defined as a disease?*’. We have assisted DSAF and Wonderful Copenhagen in applying for hosting the International Congress on Obesity in 2020 (this application was unsuccessful, however).

Copenhagen Health Science Partners

In June 2017, The Capital Region of Denmark and UCPH launched the first Clinical Academic Groups (CAGs) as part of the Copenhagen Health Science Partners (CHSP). The CAGs on ‘[Physical activity and sports in clinical medicine](#)’ and ‘[Precision Diagnostics in Cardiology](#)’ are related to the LOM area, and the LOM research support office is prepared to assist the CAGs with our networking and fundraising services as and when it becomes relevant.

Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen

One key priority for the third year was the establishment of a strong relation to the SDCC⁷, and to the clinical research environments in order to strengthen our platform for shared research projects and

⁷ Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen. The Novo Nordisk Foundation gives DKK 2.945 billion to improve the treatment of people with diabetes <http://www.novonordiskfonden.dk/en/content/novo-nordisk-foundation-gives-dkk-2945-billion-improve-treatment-people-diabetes>

grants in the area of translational and clinical research, health promotion and prevention. Head of LOM Bente Stallknecht and Associate professor Signe Smith Jervelund from the Department of Public Health (HEALTH) are both members of the SDCC faculty steering committee. In addition to the above-mentioned LOM Invited Meeting about the SDCC, the LOM research support office has held meetings with the SDCC research support staff and helped disseminate the invitation to the first Steno Faculty Meeting, which was held in May 2017. The LOM research support office has, together with Bente Stallknecht, outlined an overview of researchers, research activities and facilities across UCPH. This was presented at the invited meeting on SDCC and the first meeting of the Steno Faculty, where professor Arne Astrup also provided a detailed insight into the SDCC-relevant research activities at SCIENCE.

Plans for the coming year: We will continue to look for openings for collaboration with HEPA, including options to influence EU Framework Programme 9 (FP9). We will also look for new opportunities arising from the recent establishment of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Physical Activity and Health at the University of Zurich⁸, which will support the implementation of the Physical Activity-strategy for the WHO European Region 2016–2025.

Collaboration with research support staff and contributions to best practices

The UCPH LOM research support unit collaborates 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 used an office at SOCIAL SCIENCE (Department of Anthropology) some 3 days every week. The purpose of this part-time secondment is to strengthen the contact between the LOM research support office and the researchers and research support staff at SOCIAL SCIENCE. The results have been quite remarkable and include assistance to seven grant applications, two of which were successful and attracted a total of DKK 4 million to two young researchers. Nicolai was invited to co-host the faculty's 3-day workshop on Marie Skłodowska Curie fellowship grants, where 14 potential MSCA-fellows flew in to learn how to make the best possible applications. He has furthermore helped numerous researchers and students with language issues,

⁸ [New WHO Collaborating Centre for Physical Activity and Health](#) (19-06-2017)

funding questions etc., and has thereby advertised the LOM office and not least our annual conference to a new audience.

Plans for the coming year: We will remain on the lookout for ways to share best practice for supporting collaborations across faculties. We plan for Nicolai to continue the secondment at SOCIAL SCIENCE and have assured that an office is available.

UCPH strategy towards 2023

The establishment of LOM was strongly inspired by the UCPH 2016 strategy⁹, which had a strong focus on strengthening internal collaboration and a shared identity and on strengthening external collaborations. We are following the development of the *UCPH strategy towards 2023*, and have provided input in the first phase via the head of LOM, Bente Stallknecht. Our input touched on the importance of identifying and training the young talented researchers, of encouraging and supporting interdisciplinary collaborations (not least among neighbouring disciplines), of professional research support for all strategic areas, and of influencing the political research agenda on both European and national levels. We have also provided input to the hearing for the first draft of the strategy, in which we called for more attention on the competences and results produced by the past strategic measures to bolster collaboration across the UCPH (including the 2016 grants), and on health as a societal challenge.

Plans for the coming year: Based on the first draft of the *UCPH strategy towards 2023*, we expect to be able to provide experience and tools to support the implementation of several of the focus areas, in particular the collaborations across the university and the nurturing of talents. Together with the 2016-projects, LOM can showcase the added value of UCPH being one coherent university, and our approaches to support network and collaborations across the six faculties.

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

Work Programme 2017-2018

- We will host a final LOM conference 6-7th of June 2018.
- We will continue to host seminars and Invited Meetings, and we encourage researchers to suggest topics that reflect scientific interests and relevant funding and networking opportunities.
- We expect to welcome guests from the IFB and encourage LOM researchers to attend the IFB LIMIOR conference in 2018.
- We expect to be able to provide experience and tools to support several elements of the *UCPH strategy towards 2023*.

Conclusion

With our annual conferences, meetings and seminars, we continue to bring together researchers from across the UCPH. The invited meetings have proven useful to bring researchers with shared interests together, and we plan to host more of these meetings. We are prepared to document and share our approaches to support the UCPH 2023 strategy, and to embrace the opportunities for possible networking activities with SDCC, CAGs and DSAF, and we continue to support the international collaborations in the LOM research field.

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 a culture of collaboration across disciplines, and they represent the future in ground-breaking research and innovative solutions. Recruitment, retaining, networking, education and career promotion were key priorities in the UCPH 2016 strategy, and this is echoed in the draft for the *UCPH strategy towards 2023*.

Primary tasks

- 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

Specific priorities 2016-2017

- Establish an overview of the 'growth layer' of young talented associate professors at UCPH within the research fields of LOM, and make a dedicated effort to involve them in relevant meetings, new collaborative projects and joint applications.
- Launch an initiative to attract Marie Skłodowska Curie-fellows to the UCPH by announcements in international research environments and assisting UCPH post docs in attracting Marie Skłodowska Curie fellowship grants to go abroad.

Activities and results for 2016-2017 and plans for the coming year

The 'growth layer' of young talented associate professors

In the third year, we created an overview of the young talented associate professors at UCPH within the research fields of LOM. Sixty *next generation* researchers have been identified via contact to the relevant departments. The list is dynamic and continuously updated to reflect new appointments and departures. We also recognise that senior postdocs or assistant professors in particular may benefit

from our support to raise funds and to establish collaborations to qualify for an associate professor position. Identifying the *next generation* allows us to make a dedicated effort to involve this group in relevant meetings, new collaborative projects and joint applications and in defining key future research priorities and influencing national and international funding priorities.

Associate professors were centrally involved in organizing the annual LOM conference in 2017 and in hosting the parallel sessions of the conference. To match our strategic focus on ‘the growth layer’, two outstanding young international researchers were chosen to give the keynotes.

We have ensured that selected associate professors, together with the relevant professors, have been informed of the early drafts of the upcoming Horizon 2020 work programmes, and that they recognise these drafts as a starting point for identification of international colleagues, who might invite them to join an application. In late 2016, we invited relevant associate professors to the FOOD2030 high-level conference in Brussels. Three associate professors participated together with Camilla Verdich. The conference provided an insight into the political dimensions and mind-sets behind the EU investment in food research for the coming 10 years. Furthermore, several of the identified *next generation* associate professors attended the invited meetings on Horizon2020 and SDCC.

A secondary aim of identifying the young associate professors was to enable the group to establish and strengthen their internal networks. We organised a *LOM Invited Meeting* for the young associate professors in the area of food, nutrition, diet and eating. The attendants appreciated the opportunity to be introduced to each other.

Plans for the coming year: We will continue to engage the younger associate professors in the organising of network conferences and meetings and to provide them with targeted information on networking and funding opportunities. We are prepared to support meetings for the associate professors, but will allow this to depend on ideas and requests from the researchers.

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 concrete opportunities for MSCA-projects at 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 with a planned major announcement. The LOM office continues to offer assistance with MSCA-applications in collaboration with the faculty research support units. We also offer to help young UCPH researchers who wish to apply for funding to go abroad. The LOM research support office has supported a total of 4 applications (2 from HEALTH, 1 from THEO, 1 from SOC).

Plans for the coming year: We will, in collaboration with local research support units, continue to inform the researchers about the opportunities in MSCA and of the importance of starting the application and dialogue with candidate/host institution early – even up to a full year before the application deadline.

Engaging and inspiring students and recruiting young researchers

UCPH LOM continues to support 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 encouraging students to attend the annual LOM-conference and the meetings in the young investigator networks. In addition, medical students are encouraged to write their theses in these fields. LOM announces relevant PhD-defences and other events via the website and newsletters to provide both graduate- and PhD-students with an overview of relevant activities at UCPH. In early 2017, Nicolai Paulsen was invited to give a basic introduction to the application process for postgraduate students at the Department of Anthropology who, as part of their postgraduate studies, have to fund obligatory fieldwork. It was decided to do this as a 1-hour 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 students' profound interest in all aspects of the funding process.

In collaboration with the International Relations Office at 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 science¹⁰.

Young Investigators' Networks

The 'Muscle, Fitness and Metabolism Network' continues to bring together the research environments at SCIENCE and HEALTH. This long-standing network hosted the seminar "Career-changing scientific discoveries, moves, thoughts and people" featuring Professor Bente Klarlund Pedersen, Associate Professor Thomas Elbenhardt Jensen, and group leader Christoffer Clemmensen in February 2017. The 'Muscle, Fitness and Metabolism Network' will host a seminar on 'Limits to exercise: physiological and behavioural' on 20 September 2017. The seminar will be disseminated in the LOM newsletter and via the network mailing list, and to the newly established CAG on 'Physical activity and sports in clinical medicine'.

As for the networks on Microbiota and Metabolomics, we have seen a decrease in their activities. The microbiota YI network has not been active in the past year. However, future meetings might take place if volunteers can be found to do the planning. The network on metabolomics hosted a meeting in September 2016, but most of the audience at this meeting were very young researchers, and many were first-time participants. Without a strong core group attending several of the meetings, the network may not be sustainable in its current form. Opportunities to establish a network among the more senior postdocs organising the meetings were limited.

Plans for the coming year: We will encourage the networks on Microbiota and Metabolomics to consider how the networking activities may be revitalised in a form that is beneficial for both the PhD students and postdocs. We will make sure that the traditions of the 'Muscle, Fitness and Metabolism Network' are continued, and that new members are recruited for the steering committee of this

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

network. In addition, we will look into the Young Investigator Network at SCIENCE, which focuses on strengthening the professional relations with private and public companies¹¹.

Transferable skills

As many other offices across the UCPH, LOM offers training seminars in English writing and fundraising upon request from researchers. In the third year, the LOM research support unit has hosted one afternoon training seminar on fundraising for young researchers.

Work Programme 2017-2018

We will continue to work on the described tasks and build on the activities and knowledge obtained in the first years of LOM. For the coming year, we aim to continue the above described activities and will:

- Engage the younger associate professors in the organising of network conferences and meetings and provide them with targeted information on networking and funding opportunities.
- Make sure that the traditions of the ‘Muscle, Fitness and Metabolism Network’ are carried on encourage the networks on Microbiota and Metabolomics to continue.

Conclusion

The young researchers are important agents of the collaborative and interdisciplinary mind-set and forms the next generation of senior researchers at UCPH. Our focus on the young talented researchers is in line with the first draft of the UCPH 2023 strategy.

¹¹ Young Investigator Network at SCIENCE with focus on professional relations with private and public companies
<http://www.science.ku.dk/english/external-relations/young-investigator/>

Topic 3: Fundraising and lobby

Introduction

The over-arching goal of UCPH LOM is 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, and 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 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

Specific priorities 2016-2017

- Support large interdisciplinary collaborative applications that involve researchers across faculties and research disciplines and, when relevant, bridges to clinical research. We aim to engage in dialogue with key relevant foundations and host dedicated information meetings for invited LOM scientists. The ‘growth layer’ of young associate professors are expected to play a central role in these grant applications.
- Fundraising for young researcher’s careers including regular and industrial PhDs and post docs and Marie Skłodowska Curie fellowships for attracting international postdocs and allowing UCPH post docs to go abroad.
- We will maintain the current level of funding support for researchers who apply for excellence grants (ERC, Sapere Aude DFF Starting Grants, NNF Excellence, Lundbeck Foundation group

leader grants etc.). This will include early identification of candidates and a plan for career-boosting, e.g. through courses and expertise in leadership, teaching and supervision, stronger international and independent research profiles etc.

- Continued lobbying to place obesity and cross-disciplinary approaches on the research agenda for Horizon 2020 in close collaboration with Copenhagen EU Office (formerly: CreoDK) and a strong effort to prepare UCPH researchers to take a central and leading role in future Horizon 2020 applications.
- Increased focus on openings for grants in relation to collaboration with SDCC and in the setting of [InnoLife KIC](#) on ‘Healthy Living and Active Aging’, and in the setting of [Health Axis Europe](#).

Activities and results for 2016-2017 and plans for the coming year

Supporting researchers in the application process

The LOM newsletter and website continues to provide a customised overview of the funding landscape and open funding calls, courses, workshops, and a collection of tools for all stages of the funding process. The research support unit provides individual notifications of deadlines for researchers with a particular interest in a given call. In the third year, researchers from all faculties, except LAW, have discussed fundraising and career strategies with the research support unit. The LOM research support office strives to keep the Research and Innovation offices at the faculties and the central EU office informed and involved in the work, recognising that the assistance provided by the LOM support office is complementary to their services.

In 2016-17, the UCPH LOM research support unit was involved in successful applications attracting more than DKK 33 million for researchers at UCPH. The LOM research support unit provided assistance for some 70 applications from SCIENCE, SOCIAL SCIENCE, HUM, THEO and HEALTH, ranging from applications for PhD and postdoc grants to excellence grants, project grants and collaborative grants.

In terms of support to interdisciplinary projects across the UCPH, the support office was involved in two applications for the NNF Interdisciplinary Synergy Grant, one for the NNF challenge grant and one for the NNF tandem grant in January 2017, but none of these were successful. The LOM research support office provided grant writing assistance to Associate professor Tenna Jensen (HUM), who

attracted the DKK 5.6 million Velux grant for the interdisciplinary project ‘Ageing in the Arctic’ (AgeArc) about quality of life and health for the elderly in Greenland¹².

The LOM research support office contributed to attracting a housing grant from the Nordea-Foundation to Professor Stanley Ulijaszek (Oxford University) for the spring 2017. Professor Ulijaszek has been granted an honorary professorship in health research in the humanities at the Saxo Institute with affiliation to Copenhagen Centre for Health Research in the Humanities (CoRe) and will thus continue to visit UCPH. This will allow for new collaborations and projects to be established.

In terms of support to excellence grants, the unit assisted with one ERC advanced grant application (August 2016), two ERC starting grant applications (fall of 2016), and one ERC consolidator grant (February 2017). One of the ERC starting grant applicants were invited to interview for the ERC, but was not awarded a grant in this round. We provided assistance for six Sapere Aude grant applications (two from SCIENCE and four from HEALTH), four applications for Lundbeck Fellowships (HEALTH) and four NNF Excellence Grant (1 from SCIENCE and 3 from HEALTH). LOM has contributed to attracting both a Lundbeck Fellowship and an NNF Excellence grant. The latter to Christoffer Clemmensen, allowing him to return to UCPH from Helmholtz Zentrum München to establish his own research group at the UCPH.

We have provided support to some 10 PhD- and post doc applications for CACHET, Lundbeck foundation, Velux foundation etc. These include the two successful postdoc applications to the Velux foundation from, respectively, Nete Schwennesen (SOCIAL SCIENCE) with the project “CONNECT – creating digital connections between caregivers and people with dementia (DKK 2.3 million)” and Sofie Rosenlund Lau (SOCIAL SCIENCE) with the project “Senior Citizens and Antidepressants - Investigating Decision-Making surrounding the prescription and use of Antidepressant Pharmaceuticals (DKK 2 million)”. As described in Topic 2, the researchers showed little interest in our offer to advertise for Marie Skłodowska Curie applicants. Given that this granting instrument is a key priority for the faculties’ research support offices, the assistance from the LOM

¹² <http://veluxfoundations.dk/en/content/quality-life-and-health-elderly-greenland>

research support office should be complementary to, and closely coordinated with, the services of these units. In September 2016, we assisted with five MSCA applications, none of which were successful. In September 2017, we assisted with four applications, two from HEALTH, one from THEO and one from SOC.

The LOM research support office assisted with 11 applications to the Danish Council for Independent Research. Two of these applications were granted: Associate Professor Marianne Nissen Lund (SCIENCE and HEALTH) received DKK 5.9 million to investigate how the quality of dairy products can be improved using plant polyphenols¹³ and Professor Thorkild IA Sørensen received DKK 1.7 million to investigate the combined effects of maternal-child genetic profile and early environmental exposures on childhood obesity. We have supported applications for project grants to various other foundations including the NNF, Helsefonden, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (resulting in a 100.000 Euro grant to Associate Professor Michal Marzec (HEALTH)). LOM assisted scientists from HUM with one application to Innovation Fund Denmark for the open call for Grand Solutions (June 2017), but have otherwise not been involved in Grand Solution or industrial PhD and postdoc applications. The office continues to offer assistance to these applications in close collaboration with the faculties' research support units.

Plans for the coming year: We will continue, and draw more attention to, our support for PhD- and post doc-applications and for applications for LOM-relevant private foundations. We hope to support several interdisciplinary collaborative applications, and will coordinate our efforts with other research support staff to provide the bespoke assistance that is not available elsewhere. In addition, the LOM research support office will be establishing an overview of the opportunities for strengthening external, public and private, collaborations in the field of LOM-research. This could be pursued by bringing together key elements of the LOM-relevant knowledge and activities in the faculties' Research and Innovations units, via an Invited Meeting on external collaborations (including examples of LOM-related grants from Innovation Fund Denmark), and by keeping an eye out for unexplored opportunities to strengthen external collaborations in the LOM area. As mentioned above, we will

¹³ <http://www.science.ku.dk/english/press/news/2017/new-research-will-provide-better-quality-of-dairy-products-with-plant-polyphenols/>

look into the Young Investigator Network at SCIENCE, which focuses on strengthening the professional relations with private and public companies¹⁴.

Focusing the funding support

The Danish funding landscape currently offers few grants for postdocs who want to continue their research career in Denmark, and to the more senior researchers who cannot compete for the excellence grants.

Plans for the coming year: We work to ensure that younger associate professors are involved as collaborators in larger projects as a step towards taking the lead in larger projects, and to increase the involvement of the next generation of senior scientists in collaborative projects. In our fundraising support, both for excellence, postdoc and for project grants, we also aim 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 aim to help counter the tendency to submit hastily prepared applications to many funding bodies. Rather, we encourage and support submission of well-crafted applications to the most realistic calls and instruments.

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

Since 2011, ‘Obesity’ has been a strategic focus area for Copenhagen EU office (previously CreoDK), and the staff of the LOM research support unit 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 the significance of the interdisciplinary and SSH-driven research approaches. The results include the interdisciplinary topic on childhood obesity in 2017 (described below), input to the interdisciplinary approaches in Horizon2020, increased awareness of the EU funding system among the researchers, and finally a readiness to influence the national funding agenda including Forsk2025 (see below). We have advised the Copenhagen EU Office that obesity should no longer be a strategic aim for their work.

¹⁴ Young Investigator Network at SCIENCE with focus on professional relations with private and public companies <http://www.science.ku.dk/english/external-relations/young-investigator/>

In December of 2016, we prepared a draft topic for Horizon 2020 SC1 on “Improving health and wellbeing through active living”. This was done in collaboration with key international researchers, including representatives from HEPA Europe. The topic was sent to key contacts in the European commission, and was well received. Though the topic did not make it to the work programme for 2018-2020, we are working on getting elements included under one of the headlines for the 2020 topics. We expect that our work can be a starting point for influencing the work programmes in FP9. We circulated the early drafts of the work programme for SC1 and SC2 to professors and associate professors in the LOM area, and assisted the researchers in providing input to two topics in SC1 and SC2, respectively.

On the national funding scene, the LOM research support office coordinated two inputs to FORSK2025, namely “Physical Activity and Health” (contact person Professor Bente Stallknecht, HEALTH) and “Obesity, Stress and (Food) Insecurity” (contact person Professor Anders Sjödin, SCIENCE)¹⁵. Both physical activity, obesity and stress are well reflected in the FORSK2025 catalogue¹⁶ under the topic “Physical and mental health - effective prevention and healthy lifestyle”. In addition, LOM researchers have responded to the call for themes for the upcoming round of Novo Nordisk Foundation Challenge Grants.

Plans for the coming year: We will continue to promote the interdisciplinary approaches and the areas of lifestyle, obesity, diabetes, health-enhancing effects of physical activity and diets throughout life as input to FP9. In our collaboration with Copenhagen EU Office we will mainly focus on openings for specific and targeted operations based on matching opportunities in the EU and individual researchers’ interests. We will be particularly observant of opportunities to involve the younger associate professors in these activities. Finally, we would like to share our knowledge and experience from our lobbying activities in order to support UCPH’s future lobbying activities, and our overall approaches are already documented in our toolbox¹⁷.

¹⁵ FORSK2025 process and input: <http://ufm.dk/forskning-og-innovation/indsatsomrader/forsk2025>

¹⁶ FORSK2025 catalogue: <http://ufm.dk/publikationer/2017/forsk2025-fremtidens-lofterige-forskningsomrader>

¹⁷ UCPH LOM Toolbox - leading and managing interdisciplinary research initiatives: <http://www.lom.ku.dk/toolbox/>

Applications for Horizon 2020 societal challenges and InnoLife KIC

The UCPH LOM research support unit continues to approach both individual researchers and research groups to identify their interests and to motivate them to apply for EU grants. Many researchers at UCPH had an interest in joining applications for the call *SFS-39-2017: How to tackle the childhood obesity epidemic?*, but none of the UCPH researchers were prepared to take the lead in an application. In the spring of 2016, we developed 14 'calling cards' for individual researchers, 1-page presentations aimed to present a researcher's potential contribution to a proposal under that call¹⁸. The LOM research support office subsequently provided input to two applications with UCPH researchers as partners, but the applications failed to make it to the second phase. We also provided input to one proposal for another topic in the LOM area, which did proceed to the second phase.

In early 2017, LOM hosted an invited meeting on the InnoLife KIC on 'Healthy Living and Active Aging'. We have not yet been involved in any applications or follow-up activities, which may indicate that this initiative is of little relevance to the LOM researchers.

Plans for the coming year: The draft work programmes for 2018-2020 for SC1 and SC2 offer several opportunities for LOM-researchers to be involved in applications. We will continue to work to identify the opportunities for the LOM-researchers in Horizon 2020 and FP9, both for those who would like to be partners and those who would be ready to take a leading role in EU applications. We will continue to use the calling cards as a means for the researchers to highlight their interests and unique abilities to contribute to specific topics. Finally, we can offer to arrange workshops for grant writing in relation to EU or national calls.

As mentioned in Topic 2, we work continuously to keep the associate professors informed of the EU funding landscape and policies.

¹⁸ LOM template for Calling Cards for Horizon2020 proposals: <http://www.lom.ku.dk/fundraising-services/services-and-tools/calling-card/>

Work Programme 2017-2018

We will continue to work on the described tasks and build on the activities and knowledge obtained in the first years of LOM. In the coming year, we aim to have a particular focus on:

- Grant applications to private foundations, including the Novo Nordisk Foundation and TrygFonden. We hope to support several interdisciplinary collaborative applications. As described in Topic 1, we aim to host dedicated information meetings on funding for invited LOM scientists.
- If the coming Lundbeck Foundation Thematic Call and NNF Challenge themes fall within the LOM area, we will endeavour to identify researchers relevant for the call and provide the necessary grant writing support.
- We will advertise our support for PhD and postdoc grant applications.
- We will maintain the current level of funding support for researchers who apply for excellence grants, and also have a high focus on supporting funding strategies for those researchers who cannot compete for these types of grants.
- We plan 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 FP9.
- We can offer to arrange workshops for grant writing in relation to EU or national calls.
- We will explore the possibilities for promoting key opportunities for strengthening external, public and private, collaborations in the LOM area.

Conclusion

In the third year, the UCPH LOM research support unit has been directly involved in some 70 grant applications. LOM has contributed to obtaining DKK 17.5, 29.6 and 33.3 million to individual researchers in the first three years. 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 grants from the Velux foundation and from the Danish Council for Independent Research. In the last year of the LOM platform, we will focus particularly on the interdisciplinary applications, grants to younger researchers and grants from the private foundations that support the LOM area.

Topic 4: Communication and outreach

Introduction

In terms of communication, the UCPH LOM research support unit's primary tasks are to make UCPH LOM visible, to communicate the services to the UCPH researchers, and to increase the visibility of the UCPH LOM researchers towards each other. UCPH LOM also aims 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 towards tackling 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 to the society.

Specific priorities 2016-2017

- Further improvements of the website and newsletters to promote the UCPH LOM services and tools, including features that allow researchers to identify contacts and collaborators.
- Continue proactive approaches towards the departments and sections that might be interested in a presentation of LOM at one of their regular meetings, hereby opening for requests for concrete network activities or assistance with grant applications.
- Providing assistance for strengthening the Curis ('Find a researcher') profiles, to allow for a better overview of researchers in the field of lifestyle, obesity and metabolism, based on these UCPH search terms.

Activities and results for 2016-2017

Internal communication via newsletters and website

Following the makeover of the website in the spring of 2016, we have maintained the website as a natural go-to for researchers, who need the services that the LOM research support unit provides.

The UCPH LOM newsletter still disseminates news, events and funding opportunities to more than 600 researchers at UCPH every other week. This newsletter is 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 website is thus to support the newsletter by hosting all news, events, calls etc. The LOM research support office offers assistance for optimising the researchers' profiles, but the researchers have not taken this up.

Plans for the coming year: We will continue with our UCPH LOM Newsletter. We will also explore options for transferring our toolbox for supporting interdisciplinary research to 'the researcher portal' or another UCPH website, 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 first and second year, the LOM research support office collaborated with The Science Theatre to produce the play 'Live life in style' ('Lev livet med stil')¹⁹, which combines theatre, music, gamification and research to communicate health- and lifestyle research to students in upper secondary school. The play was developed in the setting 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.

Plans for the coming year: In the summer of 2017, The Science Theater won a grant for a new tour in 2018, and the LOM research support office will provide assistance in identifying researchers to participate. The play will be part of Kulturnatten 2017 with two performances at Panum. We are also prepared to contribute to the planning of new seminars for 'Akademiet for Talented Unge' (The Academy for Talented Youth), when there is a concrete occasion or theme.

Work Programme 2017-2018

For the coming year, we aim to focus on:

¹⁹ Scientists show off their research in the theatre, see a short video (in Danish) from the performance 'Live life in style' <http://go.ku.dk/public-outreach/videnskabsteater/>

- Exploring options for transferring our 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.
- Continue to contribute to science communication and bridging to upper secondary school.

Conclusion

Internal communication motivates and inspires network between researchers and showcases the services offered by the LOM research support unit. In addition to the LOM conference and meetings, the newsletter is a key instrument to promote a high level of shared identity.

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 UCPH in the research areas of lifestyle, obesity and metabolism. When these occur, the executive board and the research support office will make ad hoc plans for how, and to which extent, to engage in these.

Plans for the next year: LOM can showcase the added value of 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 the fourth year, we will evaluate the effects of UCPH LOM and prepare for sharing our approaches, best practice and lessons learned, and hereby to make the mind-set as well as the concrete work available for the UCPH 2023 strategy and in other areas of research (see also Topic 1). The experiences from LOM can be combined with lessons learned from the 2016 projects that will be concluded in 2017. In the last year of LOM, we will evaluate 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 will consider which of our original aims, lessons learned and best practices we could pass on, and where in the organisation this information would be appropriate and useful. We may also update our web-based toolbox with new tools, provided that we have identified a place to present these tools after the end of the LOM platform.

The organisational structure of UCPH LOM

The strategic platform is governed by an executive board with representatives from the University faculties and the leaders of two Excellence Programme Research Initiatives. 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.

UCPH LOM executive board 2016-2017



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



Thue W. Schwartz
Professor, Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research,
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 Richter
Professor and head of Copenhagen Women Study (CWS)
Faculty of Science



Mette Hartlev
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*[Left UCPH LOM in September
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*[Started in UCPH LOM 25th of
September 2017]*