

Annual Highlights

The Center for Chromosome Stability (CCS) was inaugurated on March 1st, 2015, and has been operational for approximately one year. A key aim for 2015 was to establish two new research teams both to widen the remit of the Center and to complement existing strengths. These recruitments (both from overseas) have now taken place. Associate Prof. Andrés Lopez-Contreras was recruited from the National Cancer Research Center in Madrid and is building a team in the CCS focusing on the characterization of mouse models for analysis of chromosomal instability and age-related pathological disorders. In late 2015, Prof. Eva Hoffmann was recruited from the Genome Damage and Stability Center at the University of Sussex, UK, and has recently begun to establish a team studying chromosomal instability in the human germline. The Hoffmann laboratory aims to uncover the effects of age-associated chromosome deterioration on the incidence of infertility and congenital diseases in humans. As part of these developments, the CCS has also acquired additional, newly refurbished, laboratory space in the Panum Institute.

The CCS has had a very successful first year. A number of key research articles were published in 2015, including in *Nature* and various other high profile international journals. There was also notable success for the CCS's principal investigators (PIs) in obtaining external grant funding from within Denmark and the European Union. Of particular note, Eva Hoffmann and Andrés Lopez-Contreras each obtained large-scale funding for development of their research teams. Eva was one of only two recipients in Denmark of the recently announced Novo Nordisk Foundation Young Investigator Award, which provides funding for a 7-year period to applicants from overseas wishing to establish their research group in Denmark. Andrés obtained a prestigious and highly competitive 5-year starting grant from the European Research Council (ERC). In addition, both Eva and Andrés secured major grants for the purchase of essential items of equipment in 2015, and Ian Hickson and Ying Liu jointly received a 4-year grant from the EU-Horizon 2020 fund as part of their 'Future and Emerging Technologies' (FET) initiative.