

# 1 billion from the Danish National Research Foundation to 12 new groundbreaking research centers

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**The Danish National Research Foundation is investing DKK 700 million and allocating DKK 400 million for 12 new Centers of Excellence that will set an international standard for innovative research.**

**The foundation has decided to initiate contract negotiations to establish the new Centers of Excellence with:**

October 7<sup>th</sup> 2014

**Jan Henrik Ardenkjær-Larsen**, Technical University of Denmark, for the *Center for Hyperpolarization in Magnetic Resonance*. The foundation is prepared to grant up to DKK 55 mil.

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Further information

**Professor Thomas Sinkjær**

**Director**

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**Anja Boisen**, Technical University of Denmark, for the *Center IDUN – Intelligent oral Drug delivery Using Nano and microfabricated containers*. The foundation is prepared to grant up to DKK 56 mil.

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**Professor Liselotte Højgaard**

**Chair of the board**

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**Kenn Gerdes**, University of Copenhagen, for the *Bacterial Stress Survival (BASS) Center*. The foundation is prepared to grant up to DKK 50 mil.

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**Thomas Graven-Nielsen**, Aalborg University, for the *Center for biomedical engineering in human neuroplasticity and pain*. The foundation is prepared to grant up to DKK 60 mil.

Tel.: +45 99409832 / e-mail: [tgn@hst.aau.dk](mailto:tgn@hst.aau.dk)

**Ian D. Hickson**, University of Copenhagen, for the *Center for Chromosome Stability (CCS)*. The foundation is prepared to grant up to DKK 65 mil.

Tel.: +45 35 32 67 38 / e-mail: [iandh@sund.ku.dk](mailto:iandh@sund.ku.dk)

**Marja Jäätelä**, Kræftens bekæmpelse, for the *Center for Autophagy, Recycling and Disease (CARD)*. The foundation is prepared to grant up to DKK 50 mil.

Tel.: +45 3525 7318 / e-mail: [mj@cancer.dk](mailto:mj@cancer.dk)

**“By investing in an outstanding scientist with ambitious ideas, we invest wisely in our common future.”**

**Jens Lundgren**, Rigshospitalet, for the *Center for Personalized Medicine of Infectious complications in Immune Deficiency (PERSIMUNE)*. The foundation is prepared to grant up to DKK 60 mil.

Tel.: +45 35 45 57 51 / e-mail: [jdj@cphiv.dk](mailto:jdj@cphiv.dk)

**Lene Broeng Oddershede**, The Niels Bohr Institute, for the *Stem Cell Decision Making (StemPhys) Center*. The foundation is prepared to grant up to DKK 60 mil.

Tel.: +45 35 32 52 87 / e-mail: [oddershede@nbi.dk](mailto:oddershede@nbi.dk)

**Leif Katsuo Oxenløwe**, Technical University of Denmark, for the *Silicon Photonics for Optical Communications (SPOC) Center*. The foundation is prepared to grant up to DKK 59 mil.

Tel.: +45 45 25 37 84 / e-mail: [lkox@fotonik.dtu.dk](mailto:lkox@fotonik.dtu.dk)

**Rubina Raja**, Aarhus University, for the *Center for Urban Network Evolutions*. The foundation is prepared to grant up to DKK 65 mil.

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**Troels Skrydstrup**, Aarhus University, for the *Carbon Dioxide Activation Center (CADIAC)*. The foundation is prepared to grant up to DKK 60 mil.

Tel.: +45 87155968 / e-mail: [ts@chem.au.dk](mailto:ts@chem.au.dk)

**Peter Vuust**, Aarhus University, for the *Center for Music In the Brain (MIB)*. The foundation is prepared to grant up to DKK 52 mil.

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### **Centers of Excellence – Performers of high-quality research**

The new centers will be established for a six-year period, with a possible extension for another four years, provided they undergo a successful midterm evaluation. In this way the foundation will be investing DKK 700 million now and allocating DKK 400 million for possible extensions of the centers.

Professor Liselotte Højgaard, chair of the foundation's board, is pleased with the enormous amount of talent unveiled by the ambitious and original ideas this application round has produced: "The proposals we have received for this application round are outstanding, and I am convinced that the centers we are now establishing will contribute considerably to growth and welfare in Denmark with original and innovative approaches to a wide range of important research questions."

### **Only the very best dream projects make the cut**

The DNRF funds researchers' "dream projects." This has proven to be a wise investment strategy. "By letting the best people grapple with the problems they are passionate about, we set the stage for real scientific breakthroughs. We know that it produces exceptional results when applicants pursue their dream projects, and, who knows, maybe a Nobel Prize, too, one day", said Thomas Sinkjær, director of the foundation, backed by an international evaluation panel that commended the Centers of Excellence as an extremely successful funding mechanism.

The Danish National Research Foundation employs a two-stage application procedure in connection with proposals regarding funding for new centers. In the first stage, prospective center leaders are invited to submit letters of interest with short outline proposals. In this round, the foundation received a total of 186 outline proposals. Of those 186, 30 applicants were invited to submit full proposals, and from those 30, 12 new centers will be established.

**The focus, structure and size of established D NRF Centers of Excellence are such that they set the stage for scientific ventures that are not feasible using conventional funding from other sources.**