

Center for Evolutionary Hologenomics - Annual highlights 2022

The Center for Evolutionary Hologenomics has continued to expand in 2022, both in light of the efforts of our talented PIs to obtain new research grants, but also the continued attraction of early career stage researchers to join us on their own funding. Thanks to the efforts spent in the early years of the Center to build up a centralised management and information dissemination model, while the Center has now become relatively large - with over 70 employed researchers spanning all career stages - we do not feel that it has come at a cost of cohesion. For example, regular full Center meetings, and monthly newsletters serve to update all to new people, projects and other developments. Indeed, rather than threatening our cohesion, the increase in staff has enabled us to continue to both develop our laboratory and computational resources, but also address a broader range of research questions, that while unified within a hologenomics framework, apply to a much wider range of study systems than initially anticipated.

With regards to research, we continue to push the frontiers of both basic and applied hologenomic research, with many of our research papers involving team members from many of the Center's groups. In this way we are able to capitalise on the diversity of talent hosted at the Center. Naturally these collaborations are not only internal, but as recognition of our research and researchers' spreads, we have initiated multiple new collaborations both in Denmark and abroad. As in September 2021 we co-arranged and chaired the first ever Applied Hologenomics Conference, in Bilbao, that was a large success. It was attended by nearly 200 in person and online attendees, and we anticipate that such collaborations will continue to grow. And indeed, given the overall positive reception to this event, we are already taking steps to plan a follow up large international conference that we plan to host in Denmark in 2024.

2022 saw the awarding of 16 grants to researchers at the CEH, from both Danish and International sources, and including some of the most prestigious early career stage grants available, for example five Marie Sklodowska Curie Fellowships, and an ERC Starting Grant. Among other things these make it clear how excellent the early career staff linked to CEH are, and we are proud to have them among us.

We also experienced in 2022 a continued increase in our outreach and dissemination, not all of which was academic. For example, while Center members published forty-four peer review papers, and gave 13 invited major research talks, we are also extremely proud of our popular science article published in *Aktuel Naturvidenskab* - the first ever Danish publication about hologenomics -, and the 28 public outreach linked events that were performed, by a diverse range of our Center members. These included not only general level talks, but events at *Kulturnatten*, as well as what we believe to be Denmark's first ever high-school level program linked to Hologenomics. We plan to develop the high-school programme further in 2023 with our collaborators at *Frederiksberg Gymnasium*.