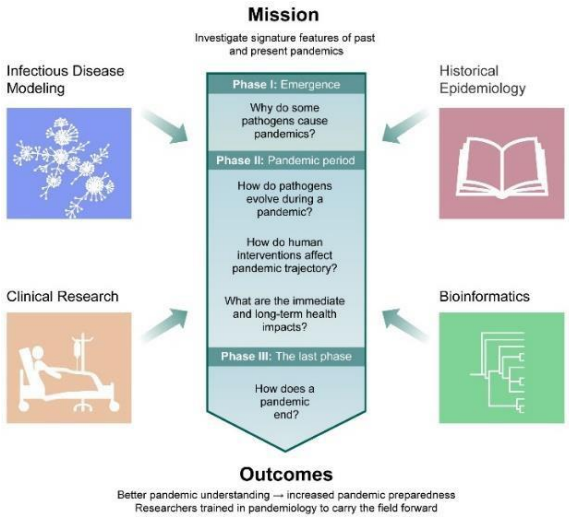
PANDEMIX Center of Excellence
HIGHLIGHTS 2023 June to December

Beginning of PandemiX Center
In June 2023, PandemiX Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Pandemic Signatures was officially launched at a big opening event at Roskilde University. The ceremony included presentations from Hanne Leth Andersen, Rector of Roskilde University; Søren-Peter Olesen, CEO of the Danish National Research Foundation (DNRF); Lone Simonsen, Professor and Center Leader of PandemiX; Henrik Ullum, CEO of Statens Serum Institut (SSI) and flash talks from PandemiX postdocs Rasmus Kristoffer Pedersen and Bjarke Frost Nielsen. Afterwords a festive celebration with live jazz, bubbles and cake concluded the opening of PandemiX.

In August 2023, PandemiX moved into Roskilde Universities new suite of offices at Statens Serum Institute (SSI). This was celebrated with a reception where new and existing partners and collaborators of the Center were invited to hear more about the vision and mission of PandemiX and have a guided tour through the offices.



Beginning of October 2023, the first PandemiX Center Retreat was held. Around 25 Center staff participated, and the focus was on the Centers vision and Research plan for the years to come. Many scientific presentations were held, and the Center's interdisciplinary research was discussed and planned.

Publications in top academic journals
Several new articles by PandemiX members were published or accepted for publication in 2023 (June to December). This includes articles "The counterintuitive implications of superspreading diseases" in Nature Communications and "Synthetic Biology for Vector-Borne Diseases" in PRX Life.

Book chapters
Several members of PandemiX contributed to the book "Sustainable Health and the Covid-19 Crisis Interdisciplinary Perspectives" with a chapter on "Framing the roots of critical COVID-19 public health concepts: Intersecting history and epidemiology". Center Leader Lone Simonsen further contributed with a chapter in the book "Videnskab fra vilde hjerner".

Research presentations
Members of PandemiX gave several presentations in 2023. This includes "Global Perspectives on Modeling to Support Pandemic Decision Making" at the LEVERS: Lessons & Experiences on Viable Epidemic Response Strategies conference by associate professor and center core member Viggo Andreasen; "Pandemics of the Past and Present – and What Comes Next" at the Nordic HIV- og virology conference in Stockholm, Sweden as well as "Pandemics of the Past, Present and Future: Reflections of an epidemiologist" at the Swiss National Science Foundation: Corona Research Conference in Switzerland by professor and center leader Lone Simonsen; "Superspreader Mitigation & A Synthetic Biology for Epidemics" at the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics Conference (NORDITA), by Kim Sneppen; "Identifying Signature Features of Epidemic Diseases in 19th Century All-cause Mortality Data" at the Epidemics9 conference in Bologna, Italy by postdoc Rasmus Kristoffer Pedersen; "Een historisch perspectief op vaccinatieprogramma's: hoeveel gezondheidswinst hebben we behaald?" at the Dutch Society for Paediatrics (Historical Day) in Utrecht, Holland by associate professor Maarten van Wijhe.

In the media
Research and work from PandemiX members featured in newspapers Berlingske, Information, Politiken and Jyllandsposten. The research cited primarily revolved around COVID-19, but also bird flu and tick-borne diseases. Center leader Lone Simonsen also contributed to a feature article in Science titled "Killer 1918 flu didn't pick on the healthy, after all" and several DR podcasts (Danish Broadcasting Corporation) e.g. "Fremtiden på P1: Fremtidens epidemier".

Awards and recognition
Center leader Lone Simonsen was for her extraordinary work during the COVID-19 crises, given the Order of the Dannebrog by Queen Margrethe II. Further, Lone Simonsen was awarded the Fritz Kauffmann Prize as a recognition for her extensive effort to support Denmark and the authorities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and for her efforts to strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration across institutions.

Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Pandemic Signatures is a Center of Excellence at Roskilde University, founded in 2023, with partners from Niels Bohr Institute (NBI) at University of Copenhagen (UCPH), Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and North Zealand Hospital. PandemiX will work toward a comprehensive interdisciplinary understanding of pandemics and launch pandemiology as a new interdisciplinary field.

Danmarks Grundforskningsfond
Danish National Research Foundation