Annual Report

Danish Diabetes Academy

2013



DANISH DIABETES ACADEMY

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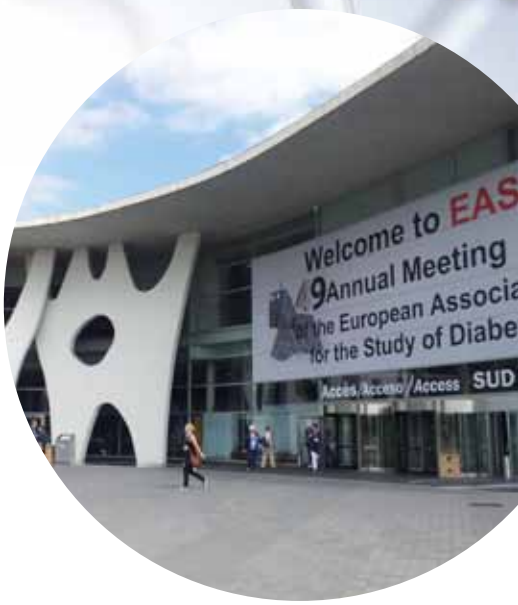
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Letter from the Chairman of the Board

Denmark has a long and strong tradition of research within diabetes. For almost a century, Danish researchers have contributed with important and significant findings to the understanding of the pathophysiology of both type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

To ensure that Danish diabetes research maintains its positions in the international frontline, the Danish Diabetes Academy was established in 2012 upon a donation from the Novo Nordisk Foundation and co-financed by the universities in Denmark and by JDRF.

By the establishment of the Academy, we will strive to attract excellent national and international researchers, strengthen networking, knowledge sharing and collaboration within Danish diabetes research. Furthermore, the Academy will establish an outstanding scientific training program.

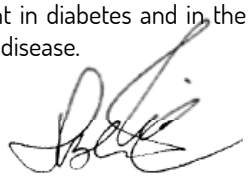
During 2013, we have worked hard to establish the organisation that forms the Academy. We have built up a functional secretariat in Odense, which takes care of the day-to-day management. We have established the committees and boards which will support the Board's effort to attract excellent researchers and to offer the best possible scientific training. These committees will play a pivotal role in the Academy's success.

We look forward to collaborating with prominent international researchers in our International Advisory Board, which will advise the Board on the overall strategy of the Academy, including vision and strategy for research and educational activities. We will keep our website as a focal point to announce the Academy's events, news and grant proposals. We aim to be clear and transparent in our decision-making, and we will accordingly publish all relevant information regarding grants and decisions made by the Academy Board on our website.

In 2013, we have granted approx 28 million DKK to PhD scholarships, Post Doc fellowships and a Visiting Professorship. The awardees have applied for their grants in open and free competition. Their respective projects deal with one of our five prioritized research areas; type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes, diabetes & technology, diabetes & complications and diabetes & pregnancy.

The Danish universities and university hospitals have contributed significantly by co-financing the scholarships, fellowships and the running costs for these projects. We would like to express our gratitude for this gesture to the respective universities and university hospitals.

As mentioned, one of our main objectives is to strengthen the scientific training within diabetes research. In 2013, we have hosted world-class seminars, PhD courses and workshops with the participation of excellent national and international researchers. These educational activities are the cornerstone of the Academy, and through these events, we will strive to reach our goal to improve the quality of Danish diabetes research. I urge all diabetes researchers in Denmark and internationally to join the Academy. Together, we will be able to fight the overwhelming epidemic development in diabetes and in the end find a cure for the disease.



Henning Beck-Nielsen



About the Danish Diabetes Academy

The Danish Diabetes Academy was established in year 2012 with a donation of slightly more than DKK 200 million (€26.9 million) from the Novo Nordisk Foundation. The Academy is co-financed by the universities in Denmark and by Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. During a period of five years (2012-2017) the contribution of the Novo Nordisk Foundation, the universities. the universities and JDRF will enable the Academy to finance up to 150 new research positions i.e., 90 co-financed PhD scholarships, around 50 Post Doc fellowships, 2 Professorships and a number of short-term positions for visiting researchers from abroad.

The aim of the Danish Diabetes Academy is to enhance the quality of Danish diabetes research. This is to be achieved through the establishment of a world class research and teaching environment, staffed by some of the foremost researchers in the field from Denmark and abroad and by building up a cooperative culture of networking and knowledge sharing between researchers.

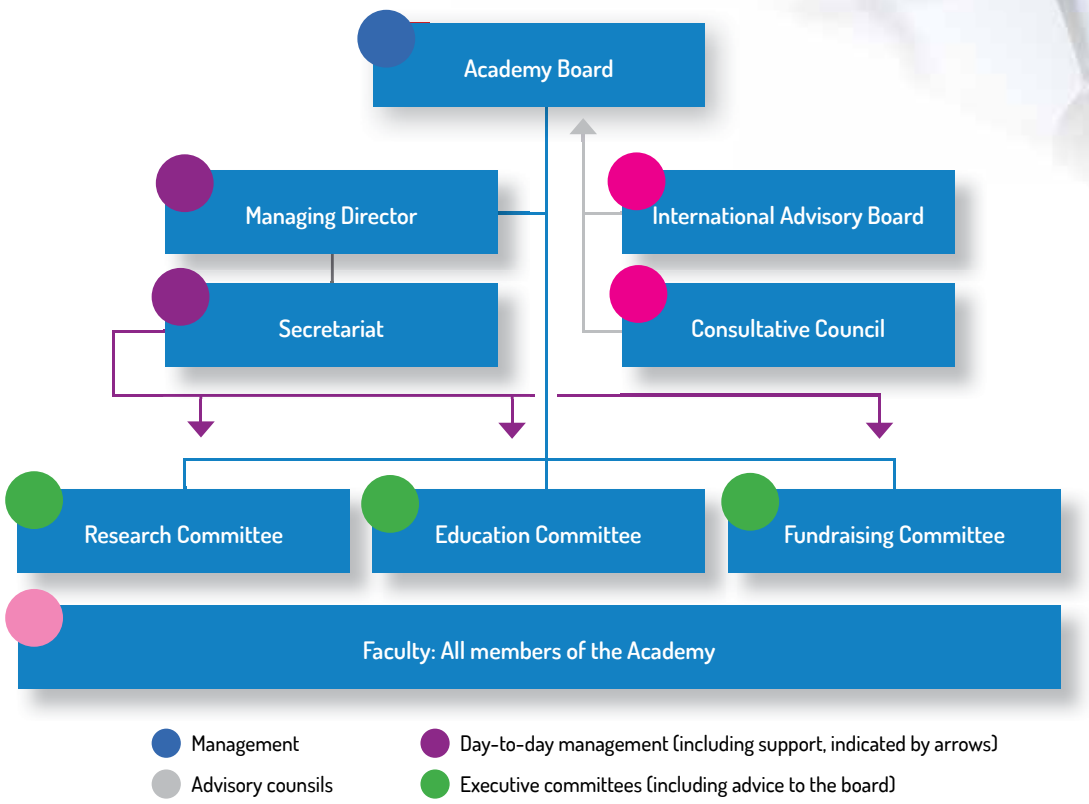
Thus, the objectives of establishing the Academy are to enhance the quality of Danish diabetes research and to ensure that it remains at the highest international level in the future. The Academy will strengthen networking, knowledge sharing and collaboration within Danish diabetology and catalyze the establishment of a national, dynamic, creative and internationally oriented research environment within diabetology. This will help the Academy to attract outstanding researchers both nationally and internationally.

The Academy will focus on strengthening the talent pool and to build up a career path for young researchers within the field of diabetology. The intention is to become a beacon within academic medicine and thus, a role model for other scientific areas.

The Academy at a Glance

The organisational structure of the Academy is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: The organisational structure of the Academy.



The employees at the Academy:



Tore Christiansen
Managing Director



Tina Hansen Barbisan
Personal Assistant &
Communications Coordinator



Kristine Melgaard Michailidis
Education Manager &
Communications Coordinator

- Lene von Fintel Sostack, Office Assistant
- Tine Hylle, Administrative Secretary to the Head of the Academy and Chairman of the Board, Henning Beck-Nielsen
- Lisette Washburn Administrative Secretary to the Head of the Academy and Chairman of the Board Henning Beck-Nielsen (maternity cover for Tine Hylle from August 2013 to November 2014)



Performance Education and scientific training

The primary aim of the Academy is to educate and train new scientists in diabetology. Thus, the Academy will strengthen the education and scientific training for researchers through seminars, PhD courses and workshops.

Seminars

The Danish Diabetes Academy is responsible for hosting at least four scientific seminars annually. The main objective of the seminars is, throgh a state-of-the-art lectures, to cover both clinical and basic research within one of the Academy's five focus research areas: Type 1 diabetes, Type 2 diabetes, Diabetes and complications, Diabetes and pregnancy and Diabetes and technology, to strengthen the education and scientific training for researchers. The targeted audience for the seminars are diabetes researchers and clinicians within the diabetic field.

The Academy has been able to attract a number of prominent international speakers to each of the seminars. During the breaks and plenum discussions of the seminars participants had the opportunity to network with fellow researchers from different national and scientific backgrounds and to share their different opinions and viewpoints of the given topic.

In general, all seminars are announced in various media including the following:

- www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk
- Direct mail to all Academy members
- Surface mail to all endocrinological departments at Danish Hospitals
- Health Faculties at collaborating universities in Denmark
- Lund University in Sweden
- www.fyen-endokrinologi.dk
- www.endocrinology.dk

4 national seminars and 1 international seminar covering the prioritized research areas of the Academy have been held in 2013:

31 January: An upstart seminar covering all the prioritized research areas was held at the Novo Nordisk Foundation in Copenhagen.

13 June: A seminar about Diabetes and Pregnancy was held at the University of Southern Denmark.

22 August: A seminar about Type 1 diabetes was held at the Novo Nordisk Foundation in Copenhagen.

23 September: An international seminar on complications to diabetes was held at the European Association for the Study of Diabetes Annual Meeting in Barcelona.

14 November: A seminar about Diabetes and Technology was held at the Novo Nordisk Foundation.

In Figure 2 the number of attendees to the respective meetings is shown. Figure 3 shows how the seminar participants were divided into different academic groups/ professions.

Figure 2: Number of attendees to the respective meetings.

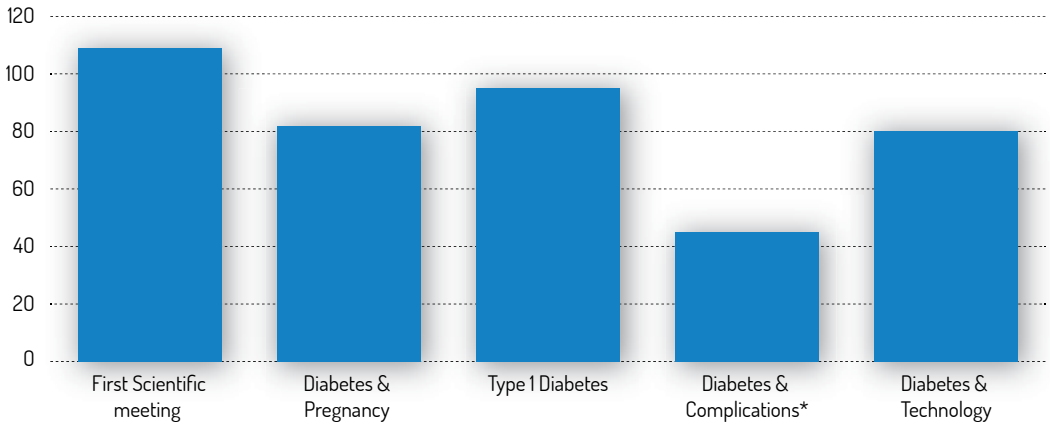
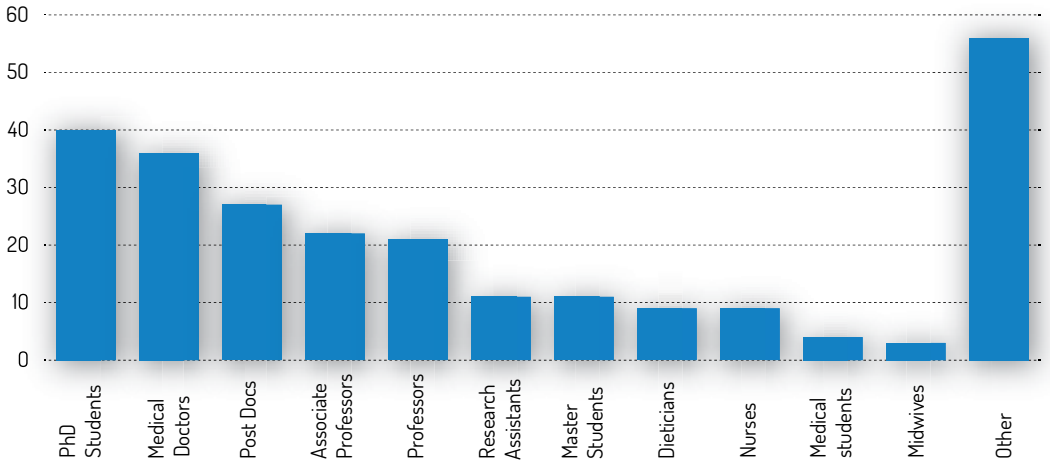


Figure 3: Attendees divided into different academic groups/professions.



*Data from the first scientific meeting and from the international meeting regarding the participant's academic positions are not available.

The programmes for the above-mentioned seminars are attached in the appendix of the annual report (6).



Workshops

In connection to some of the seminars and to take advantage of the presence of international collaborators and speakers, small workshops have been implemented to take place the day before or after the seminars.

Moreover, to facilitate the synergy of research within the Academy and in particular to facilitate the synergy and collaboration between research groups in Denmark and between Danish and International researchers, the Academy has facilitated the establishment of a number of smaller workshops and consortia.

The following workshops were held in 2013:

14 June:	A workshop about Diabetes and Pregnancy was held at the University of Southern Denmark.
19. June:	A workshop in Adipocyte Biology was held at the University of Southern Denmark.
13 August:	A workshop in The Role of Autophagy in Skeletal Muscle in Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes, and in Response to Exercise was held at MEA, Aarhus University Hospital.
23 August:	A workshop about Type 1 Diabetes was held at the Panum Institute.
2 September:	A consortium about Leadership in Epidemiological Analysis of Longitudinal Diabetes-Related Data (LEAD) was established between 8 International Research Institutions.
30 October:	A workshop about Glucagon-Incretin was held at Gentofte Hospital.
15 November:	A workshop about Diabetes and Technology was held at Odense University Hospital.
26 November:	A workshop about Artery Disease in Diabetes was held at Odense University Hospital.



PhD courses and PhD network

The Academy aims to strengthen the PhD education in diabetes and metabolism by providing a better and wider range of PhD courses that focus specifically on this field of research.

In 2013, the Academy arranged two residential PhD courses directed at PhD students in molecular metabolism, diabetes, endocrinology, cardiology and higher physician training, as a postgraduate segment towards their PhD degree. The aim of the courses is to introduce PhD students to basal metabolism and the pathophysiology of the metabolic syndrome at the molecular level as a basis for the diagnosis and treatment of specifically type 2 diabetes. Another aim with the courses is to introduce the members of the Danish Diabetes Academy to each other, thus creating a good opportunity for networking, and not the least to give the PhD students a chance to present their work.

The following PhD courses were held in 2013:

21 - 24 May

Basal Metabolism and Molecular Mechanisms in the Metabolic Syndrome was held at Sinatur Hotel Storebaelt in Nyborg.

The Academy prepared the programme in collaboration with the three assigned course managers and members of the Academy: Professor Nils Færgeman, Ass. Professor Jacob Bo Hansen, and Professor Henning Beck-Nielsen.
52 PhD students signed up for participation.

3 - 6 September

Summer School on Molecular Metabolism
The Academy prepared the programme in collaboration with the Academy's Education Committee.

The course was held at Gl. Avernæs in Ebberup.
51 PhD students signed up for participation.

Both PhD courses received excellent reviews by the participants, who praised the opportunity to present their work to each other and to experts in their field of research, and not the least to network with fellow students and prominent researchers in informal settings. Moreover, they welcomed the opportunity to expand their knowledge about diabetes and metabolism.



PhD Network of Diabetes and Metabolism

The Academy has established a national PhD Network: the PhD Network of Diabetes and Metabolism – an interdisciplinary and research-focused networking platform for PhD students aiming to strengthen collaboration between relevant PhD programmes associated with Health and Science faculties at universities across Denmark and accordingly, provide a better and wider range of PhD courses, summer schools, workshops and seminars.

The benefits from establishing the PhD Network of Diabetes and Metabolism are manifold for the PhD students who get a unique opportunity to share knowledge and to network with fellow students and prominent researchers from across the country and abroad.

The PhD Network originates from the Danish PhD School of Molecular Metabolism that in 2013 changed its name to the PhD programme of Diabetes and Metabolism and became part of the Danish Diabetes Academy and its PhD Network of Diabetes and Metabolism.

The PhD Network of Diabetes and Metabolism is managed by the Education Committee of the Danish Diabetes Academy and is a joint venture between relevant PhD programmes (or relevant representatives) from the following PhD schools at Danish universities:

- Faculty of Science, University of Southern Denmark
- Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Southern Denmark
- Faculty of Science, University of Copenhagen
- Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen
- Faculty of Health Sciences, Aarhus University
- Faculty of Medicine, Aalborg University
- Dept. of Science, Systems and Models, Roskilde University
- Division of Nutrition, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark

In 2013, members of the Education Committee and Heads of the 8 above mentioned universities' PhD schools have signed a contract based on an agreement between the PhD schools at the three Health Faculties of Aarhus University, University of Copenhagen and University of Southern Denmark, respectively, that formalises the establishment of the PhD Network of Diabetes and Metabolism.

Grants

In 2013, the Academy allocated grants, organised seminars and PhD courses, catalyzed research networking and performed fundraising activities.

Grants

The Academy aims to attract outstanding researchers both nationally and internationally to ensure that Danish diabetes research maintains its position in the international frontline. All the available grants will be posted in open and free competition through national and international channels.

All incoming applications are going through a national or international peer reviewed process. The Academy aims for an utmost competitive field of applicants with a contribution ration (number of grants / number of applications) of 20% which is similar to the contribution ration in the Danish Research Council for Independent Research. The Academy has identified five major research challenges and opportunities in Denmark: Type 1 diabetes, Type 2 diabetes, Diabetes in pregnancy, Diabetic complications and Diabetes technology.

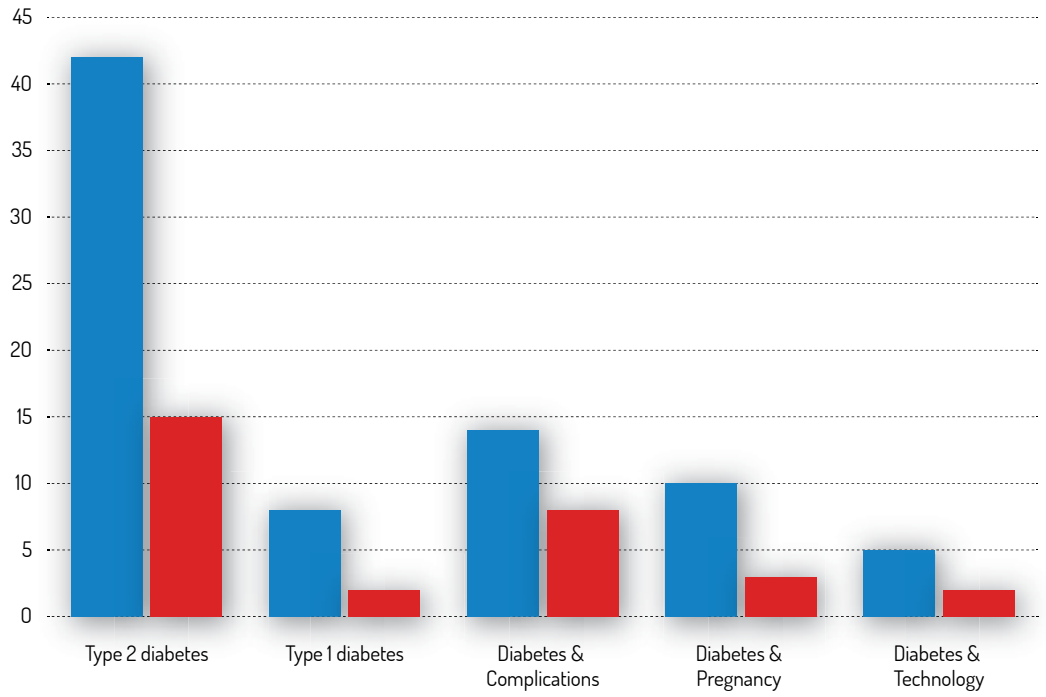
In 2013, The Academy posted available PhD scholarships, Post Doc fellowships and Visiting Professor /Scientist grants.

PhD scholarships

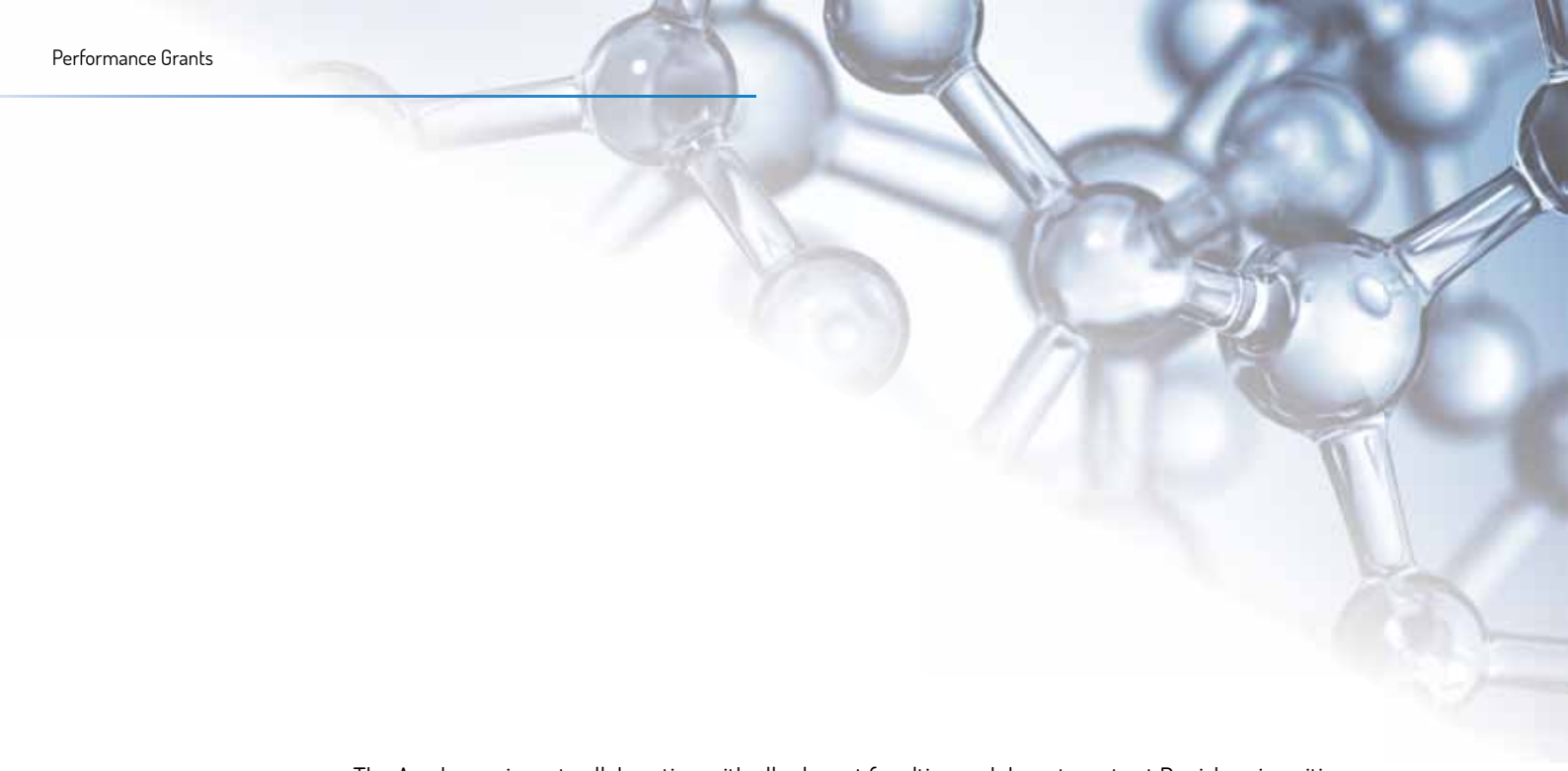
On September 2, the Academy granted 30 1/3 financed PhD scholarships. Each of these scholarships was supported with DKK 550,000 from the Academy. The contribution ratio was 36% and 9 applications were from abroad

Even though the majority part of the PhD applications were related to Type 2 diabetes research, the Academy received and granted applications within all five prioritized research areas as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Received and granted applications within all five prioritized research areas.



Blue bars represent received applications within the respective research area. Red bars represent allocated grants with the respective research area.



The Academy aims at collaborating with all relevant faculties and departments at Danish universities.

Table 1 shows the number of recipients affiliated to the respective faculties at the Danish universities.

Table 1: The number of recipients affiliated to the respective faculties at the Danish universities.

FACULTIES	NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS
Health, University of Copenhagen	12
Science, University of Copenhagen	3
Health, University of Southern Denmark	5
Science, University of Southern Denmark	3
Health, University of Aarhus	4
Health, Aalborg University	1
Science, Roskilde University	1
Food, Technical University of Denmark	1

The names, project titles and affiliations of the PhD students allocated a grant from the Academy are as follows:



Ann Sofie Bøgh Larsen, MSc, enrolled at University of Southern Denmark workplace Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with Professor Susanne Mandrup as main supervisor, project: "Transcription factors involved in defining brown and brown-in-white adipocyte gene programs"



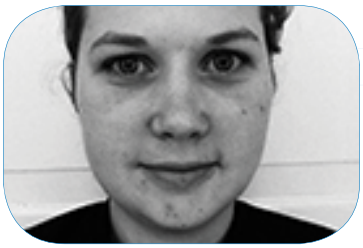
Sofie Traynor, MSc, enrolled at University of Southern Denmark, workplace Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with Professor Susanne Mandrup as main supervisor, project: "Function and genomic interactome of early adipogenic transcription factor hotspots"



Kristian Honnes de Lichtenberg, MSc, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, workplace Danish Stem Cell Center with Professor Palle Serup as main supervisor, project: "Mechanisms of beta-cell Progenitor Formation"



Manan Pareek, MD, enrolled at University of Southern Denmark, workplace Dept. of Endocrinology, Odense University Hospital with Professor Michael Hecht Olsen as main supervisor, project: "Detection of Early Atherosclerosis and Arteriosclerosis using Biomarkers and PET/CT (DETECT) in Healthy Controls and Patients with hypertension, Type 2 Diabetes, or Carotid Artery Stenosis"



Ida Dalgaard Pedersen, MSc, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, , workplace Dept. of Biology with Dr Birthe Kragelund as main supervisor, project: "Targeting diabetic retinopathy using a novel pathway involving prolactin Fragments"



Therese Juhlin Larsen, MSc, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, workplace Center of Inflammation and Metabolism with Professor Bente Klarlund Pedersen as main supervisor, project: "Recruitment of Human Brown Fat – An Anti-Diabetes Strategy?"



Anna Maria K Lindqvist, MSc, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, workplace Dept. of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports with Ass Professor Thorbjørn Åkerstrøm as main supervisor, project: "Skeletal muscle angiogenesis in type 2 diabetes and its relation to insulin sensitivity"



Ditte Sørensen, MSc, enrolled at University of Southern Denmark, workplace Dept. of Clinical Biochemistry and Pharmacology with Professor Lars Melholt Rasmussen as main supervisor, project: "FoxO target genes regulated by insulin in endothelial cells as determinants of atherosclerosis in type 2 diabetes"



Sheila Maibom-Thomsen, MSc, enrolled at University of Southern Denmark, workplace Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with Professor Martin Røssel Larsen as main supervisor, project: "Alterations in matrix proteins in the arteries in type 2 diabetes. A proteome study."



Andreas Brønden Pedersen, MD, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, workplace Dept. of Medicine Gentofte Hospital with Professor Tina Vilsbøl as main supervisor, project: "Physiological mechanisms behind sevelamer's effect on glucose metabolism"



Rok Kosmina, MSc, enrolled at University of Southern Denmark, workplace Dept. of Cardiovascular and Renal Research with Ass Professor Ditte Andersen as main supervisor, project: "The role of Delta-like 1 (DLK1) in obesity and Metabolic Syndrome"



Rikke Møller Hjortebjerg, MSc, enrolled at Aarhus University, workplace Dept. of Clinical Medicine Aarhus University Hospital with Professor Jan Frystyk as main supervisor, project: "Metabolic functions of the IGF system in human adipose tissue"



Annemarie Lundsgaard, MSc, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, workplace Institute of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports with Professor Bente Kiens as main supervisor, project: "Dietary fatty acids and insulin sensitivity: regulatory mechanisms"



Ditte Søgaard, MSc, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, workplace Dept. of Biomedical Sciences with Ass Professor Jørn Wulff Helge as main supervisor, project: "The influence of training and age on human muscle bioactive lipids and coupling to insulin resistance"



Angela Estampedor, MSc, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, workplace Dept. of Clinical Medicine, Rigshospitalet with Professor Allan Vaag as main supervisor, project: "Pregnancy and Early Life Origins of Metabolic Disease"



Clea B. Johansen, MSc, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, workplace Steno Health Promotion Center, Steno Diabetes Center with Ass Professor Inge Kryger Hansen as main supervisor, project: "Type 1 diabetes in the family: An exploratory study of family challenges and resilience factors and their translation into a research based framework for family interventions



Sascha Pilemann Lyberg, MD, enrolled at Aarhus University, workplace Diabetes Complications Group, Steno Diabetes Center with Professor Peter Rossing as main supervisor, project: "Uric acid and its role in initiation of diabetic nephropathy and cardiovascular disease in patients with diabetes"



Ann Bjørnshave, MSc, enrolled at Aarhus University, workplace Dept. of Endocrinology and Internal Medicine, Aarhus University Hospital with Professor Kjeld Hermansen as main supervisor, project: "Whey protein, postprandial lipidemia and cardiovascular disease: Evaluation of the effect of a pre-meal of whey protein on postprandial lipidemia in persons with the metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes"



Sisse Heiden, MSc, enrolled at Aalborg University, workplace Dept. of Health Science and Technology with Professor Ole Hejlesen as main supervisor, project: "A model-based information and communication system to help diabetic kidney patients cope with diet restrictions"



Katrine L Kristensen, MD, enrolled at University of Southern Denmark, workplace Dept. of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery with Professor Jes Sandal Lindholt, project: "The paradoxical protective role of diabetes mellitus in the development and progression of atherosclerotic abdominal aortic aneurysms"



Michael Væggemose, MSc, enrolled at Aarhus University, workplace Dept. of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University Hospital with Professor Henning Andersen as main supervisor, project: "The Diabetic Foot: Magnetic Resonance Imaging, a Novel Diagnostic Approach"



Michael Christensen, BSc (4+4), enrolled at Aarhus University, workplace Institute of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University Hospital with Ass Professor Rikke Nørregaard as main supervisor, project: "The effect of Metformin on impaired renal function in response to complex kidney diseases"



Anja Elaine Sørensen, MSc, enrolled at Roskilde University, workplace Dept. of Science, Systems and Models with Ass Professor Louise Torp Dalgaard as main supervisor, project: "MicroRNA biomarkers of insulin resistance and reduced fertility in women with polycystic ovary syndrome"



Mathilde Svendstrup, MD, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, workplace Novo Nordisk Foundation Centre for Basic Metabolic Research with Ass Professor Henrik Vestergaard as main supervisor, project: "Are genetic variants in the Inhibitor of differentiation-3 (ID3) associated with clinical and biochemical measures related to development of obesity, insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease?"



Freja Drumm-Hakim (now: Bach Kampmann), MSc, enrolled at Technical University of Denmark, workplace Dept. of Clinical Medicine, Rigshospitalet with Professor Inge Tetens as main supervisor, project: "Fetal exposure to tobacco smoking and diabetes – what are the cardiometabolic consequences for the offspring?"



Line Hjort, MSc, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, workplace Dept. of Clinical Medicine, Rigshospitalet with Professor Allan Vaag as main supervisor, project: "Epigenetic mechanish in fetal programming by Gestational Diabetes"



Kamilla Winding, MSc, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, Workplace Center of Inflammation and Metabolism with Professor Bente Klarlund Pedersen as main supervisor, project: "The role of nucleotides in the impaired blood flow in people with recommendations for exercise training as treatment"



Johanne Agerlin Windeløw, MSc, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, workplace Dept. of Biomedical Sciences with Professor Jens Juul Holst as main supervisor, project: "Glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide - an energy storage hormone"



Marianne Dalsgaard Kristensen, MSc, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, workplace Dept. of Biomedical Sciences with Ass Professor Clara Prats Gavalda as main supervisor, project: "Skeletal muscle lipid and glycogen storage and its relation to insulin sensitivity during insulin resistance remission after gastric by-pass surgery"



Mette Yde, MSc, enrolled at University of Copenhagen, workplace Novo Nordisk Foundation Centre for Basic Metabolic Research with Scientific Director Juleen Zierath as main supervisor, project: "The role of small non-coding RNAs and nuclear hormone receptors in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease"

Post Doc fellowships

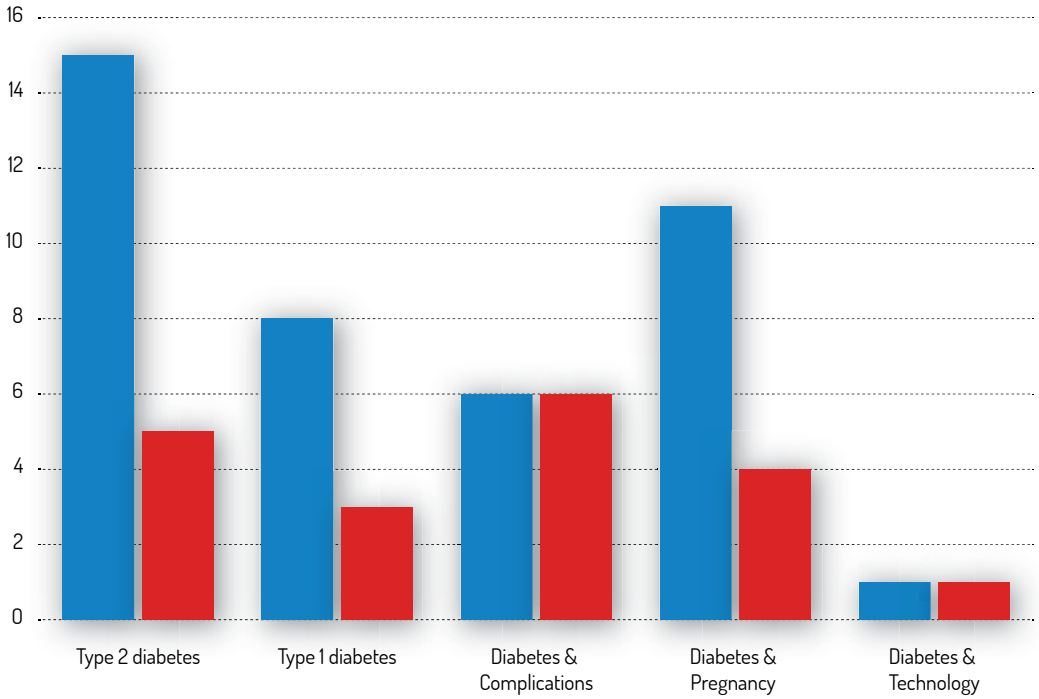
On April 13, 2013, the Academy allocated 19 full-time, 3-year Post Doc fellowships aimed at young researchers.

The application procedure was divided into two parts:

1. An open call for Principal Investigators (PI) to submit a proposal for Post Doc positions
2. Postings of the Post Doc positions in free competition nationally and internationally

In Figure 5, the distribution of proposals from PIs and number of granted applications within the five prioritized research areas is shown.

Figure 5: The distribution of proposals from PIs and number of granted applications within the five prioritized research areas.



Blue bars represent received applications within the respective research area. Red bars represent allocated grants with the respective research area.



The contribution ratio was 20.6% and 40 of the applicants were from abroad.

Table 2 shows how the recipients' affiliations are distributed to different university hospitals and universities in Denmark.

Table 2: The recipients' affiliations to the to the different university hospitals and universities in Denmark.

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AND UNIVERSITIES	NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS
Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen	3
Aarhus University Hospital	5
Odense University Hospital	1
Hvidovre Hospital	1
Steno Diabetes center	1
University of Aarhus	1
University of Copenhagen,	4
Roskilde University	1
University of Southern Denmark	2

The names, project titles and affiliations of the Post Doc fellows allocated a grant from the Academy are as follows:



Rasmus Ribel Madsen, MSc and PhD – employed at Dept. of Endocrinology, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen with Professor Allan Vaag as the Principal Investigator (PI), project: "Subcutaneous adipose tissue expandability and ex vivo pre-adipocyte functions in subjects with low birth weight – an integrative physiological study approach of the mechanisms underlying developmental programming of Type 2 diabetes"



Mathias Ried Larsen, MSc and PhD – employed at Center of Inflammation and Metabolism, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen with Professor Bente Klarlund Pedersen as the PI, project: "Implementation of the DD2 exercise program in Danish Municipalities"



Karina Cullberg, Civil Engineer and PhD – employed at Dept. of Endocrinology and Internal Medicine Aarhus University Hospital with Professor Bjørn Richelsen as PI *, project: "Hypoxi induced inflammation in adipose tissue as a model for adipose dysfunction in obesity; Implications for the metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes"



Tina Ravnsborg, MSc and PhD – employed at Dept. of Clinical Biochemistry and Pharmacology Odense University Hospital with Ass Professor Dorte Møller Jensen as PI, project: "Serum Biomarkers of Gestational Diabetes in Obese Women"



Esben Laugesen, MD and PhD – employed at Dept. of Endocrinology and Internal Medicine Aarhus University Hospital with MD and PhD Per Løgstrup Poulsen as PI, project: "Arterial Stiffness and cardiovascular disease in patients with type 2 diabetes"



Charlotte Jeppesen, MSc and PhD – employed at Institute of Public Health Aarhus University with Ass Professor Helle Terkildsen Maindal as PI, project: "Prevention of diabetes among women with previous gestational diabetes"



Janne Lebeck, MD and PhD– employed at Dept. of Endocrinology and Internal Medicine Aarhus University Hospital with Chief Physician Sten Lund as PI, project: "AQP9 and hepatic synthesis of glucose and triglyceride"



Amarnadh Nalla, MSc and PhD– employed at Dept. of Biomedical Sciences the University of Copenhagen with Professor Jens Høiriis Nielsen as PI, project: "Identification of circulating factors involved in beta cell adaptation to changes in insulin demand"



Martin Friedrichsen, MSc and PhD – employed at Dept. of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports, the University of Copenhagen with Professor Jørgen Wojtaszewski as PI **, project: "Exerkines and the health beneficial effects of exercise"



Signe Schmidt, MD and PhD – employed at Dept. of Endocrinology Hvidovre Hospital with Chief Consultant Kirsten Nørgaard as PI, project: "Closed-loop and type 1 diabetes"



Kåre Engkilde, MSc PhD - employed at Dept. of Pathology, Rigshospitalet with Senior scientist Knud Josefsen as PI, project: "Regulation of immunity in insulin-producing beta cells"



Anna Salö, MSc and PhD - employed at Medicinal Biology, Dep. of Science, Roskilde University with Ass Professor Louise Dalgaard as PI, project: "Physiological roles of miR-21 and miR-29a for beta-cell function and replication in the neonate and in the adult"



Honggang Huang, MSc and PhD – employed at Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology University of Southern Denmark with Professor Martin R Larsen as PI, project: "Characterization of reactive oxygen/nitrogen species (ROS/RNS)-mediated post-translational modifications of proteins in diabetes"



Ehm Astrid Andersson, MSc and PhD – employed at The Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research, University of Copenhagen with Professor Niels Grarup as PI, project: "In-depth genetic and functional characterization of rare variation in G-protein coupled receptors of importance for type 2 diabetes"



Gitte Lund Christensen, MSc and PhD - employed at Dept. of Biomedical Sciences, University of Copenhagen with Professor Niels Billestrup as PI, project: "Induction of beta cell Regeneration for the treatment of diabetes"



Alexander Rauch, MSc and PhD – employed at Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Southern Denmark with Professor Susanne Mandrup as PI, project: "Transcriptional networks controlling determination and differentiation of the adipocyte lineage"



Esben Søndergaard, MD and PhD – employed at Dept. of Endocrinology and Internal Medicine, Aarhus University Hospital with Ass Professor Søren Nielsen as PI, project: "Postprandial VLDL-TG kinetics and metabolism in type 2 diabetes mellitus"



Jakob Østergaard, MD and PhD – employed at Dept. of Endocrinology and Internal Medicine, Aarhus University Hospital with MD and PhD Søren Tang Knudsen as PI, project: "The complement system in kidney disease"



Nanna Borup Johansen, MD and PhD – employed at Dept. of Clinical Epidemiology, Steno Diabetes Center with PhD Marit Eika Jørgensen as PI, project: "Diabetes epidemiology"

*In Autumn 2013, Karina Cullberg resigned her position.
** Martin Friedrichsen received a Sapere Aude grant from The Danish Council for Independent Research | Medical Sciences and so, terminated his position as a Post Doc fellow at the Danish Diabetes Academy before the end of 2013.



JDRF IMPROVING LIVES. CURING TYPE 1 DIABETES.

Post Doc fellowship match-funding between the Academy and JDRF

In order to ensure talents of the Academy the best possible international research experience, a collaboration with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) has been established. The collaboration strives to offer postdoctoral training in laboratories of outstanding international diabetes scientists and to establish a formal relationship between the Academy and these scientists.

The Academy and JDRF will match-fund two different types of postdoctoral grants, namely, Career Development Awards and Early Career Patient-Oriented Diabetes Research Awards. The Academy will fund up to 5 Post Doc positions of each 5 years corresponding to 25 full time equivalents The awards have been posted at the websites of JDRF and the Academy respectively.

Applicants applying for the grants were required to show documented collaboration with a Danish research group. The Academy pointed out eight Danish peers to be involved in the review process. In total, 33 applicants applied for the two grants. The review process was ongoing throughout 2013 with an expected decision for awardees in April 2014.



Antonio L. Cuesta-Muñoz

Visiting Professor / Scientist programme

As international research experience and collaboration are important to enhance the quality of Danish diabetes research, the Academy will grant highly qualified international and excellent professors / scientists visits to Denmark for periods between 1 to 6 months. The recipients of this programme will also be involved in the scientific training of the Academy's PhD students and Post Doc fellows.

On December 23, 2013, the Academy allocated a Visiting Professor grant to Antonio L. Cuesta-Muñoz MD, PhD, who holds a position as Research Professor and Director of the Center of Genetic Pancreatic Beta-cell Diseases, Biomedical Research Institute of Malaga, Carlos Haya Hospital.

Antonio L. Cuesta-Muñoz is recognised worldwide as a leading expert within research of the mutation in the glucokinase gene (GSK-MODY).

Antonio L. Cuesta-Muñoz will set up collaboration with research teams from Department of Biomedical Sciences, The Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research, the Danish Stem Cell Institute and Department of Endocrinology, Odense University Hospital. In total, the grant covers 6 months' salary and expenses for accommodation and travel during his stay in Denmark.



Professorships

The Danish Diabetes Academy will post two 5-year professorships within highly promising research areas. The aim of allocating the two professorships is to stimulate the Danish diabetes research environment by attracting outstanding established investigators.

The professors will, besides their own research, contribute to graduate teaching, supervision of dissertation students for bachelor and master projects and they are expected to supervise graduate students and Post Docs and to participate in the training activities of the Danish Diabetes Academy.

In 2013, the Academy invited the Consultative Council and the Research Committee to propose research areas within diabetology that have world-class potential and a high impact on diabetes research in Denmark. The proposals should form the basis of the research area for the two professorships.

The incoming proposals were evaluated by the International Advisory Board who performed a recommendation for the decision to the Academy Board. The Academy Board hereafter decided that the first professorship should be within Diabetes and Epidemiology and the second professorship to be within Pathogenesis of Diabetes.

Afterwards, the Academy invited all the universities to submit proposals within the selected research area.

For the first professorship in diabetes and epidemiology, four applications from the universities were submitted. An external international committee selected Aarhus University to host the first professorship within Diabetes and Epidemiology.

For the second professorship in pathogenesis of diabetes, the application process will continue throughout 2013.

In Table 3: An overview of activities (grants & education training) is shown.

Table 3: Overview of activities including grants and education training in 2013.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
First scientific meeting	31.											
Allocation of 19 full-time 3-year Post Doc fellowships				13.								
Basal Metabolism and Molecular Mechanisms in the Metabolic Syndrome					21-24.							
Post Doc reception						6.						
Seminar Diabetes and Pregnancy						13.						
Workshop about diabetes and pregnancy						14.						
Workshop in adipocyte biology						19.						
Workshop in the of role of autophagy in skeletal muscle								13.				
Seminar Type 1 diabetes								22.				
Workshop Type 1 diabetes								23.				
Allocation of 30 PhD Scholarships									2.			
Summer School on Molecular Metabolism									3-6.			
Seminar Complications to diabetes									23.			
Seminar Diabetes and technology											14.	
Workshop diabetes and technology											15.	
Consortium about leadership in Epidemiological Analysis of longitudinal diabetes-related data									2.			
Workshop about Glucagon-Incretin										30..		
Workshop about artery disease in diabetes											26.	
Allocation of a visiting professor grant												23.
Workshop about artery disease in diabetes											26.	
Allocation of a visiting professor grant												23.



Board, Councils and Commitees

The Academy is managed by a scientific board including five experienced scientists representing the universities and university hospitals, the NNF Center of Basic Metabolic Research and the Consultative Council (the Chairman).

To support the Academy´s effort to recruit excellent national and international researchers as well to offer the best possible scientific training, the Academy has established a Research Committee and an Education Committee. Furthermore, a Consultative Council and an International Advisory Board have been established to support the Board in relation to scientific, educational and strategic matters. The terms of references for all the committees are attached in the appendix (2-5).

The Board
The Board is responsible for the overall strategy of the Academy with regard to research education and finances, including drawing up the research strategy and raising financial support.

Furthermore, the Board is responsible for hiring of employees within the Academy's secretariat as well as for granting stipends and for educational activities.

In 2013 the Board held 4 meetings.

The members of the Board are:

- Professor Henning Beck-Nielsen, Chairman (Department of Endocrinology, Odense University Hospital)
- Professor Allan Flyvbjerg, Department of Medical Endocrinology and Internal Medicine,Aarhus University, and Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University) (representative of the universities involved)
- Chief Medical Officer Jannik Hilsted, Copenhagen University Hospital (representative of the university hospitals)
- Professor Oluf Borbye Pedersen, NNF Center for Basic Metabolic Research, (representative of the NNF centres at the Faculty of Health Science, University of Copenhagen)
- Associate Professor Kurt Højlund, Department of Endocrinology, Odense University Hospital (Chairman of the Consultative Council of the Academy)



Christopher J. Rhodes

International Advisory Board

The International Advisory Board (IAB) is advising the Academy Board on the overall strategy of the Academy, including vision and strategy for research and educational activities. The IAB will meet with the Board every year in connection with the annual summer school to discuss weaknesses and strengths of the Academy based on a self-evaluation of the Academy.

Two meetings with the IAB have been held in 2013 - in connection with the opening seminar of the Academy in January and in connection with the annual summer school. At both meetings, the agenda has dealt with the following topics: research positions, seminars, PhD courses and fundraising possibilities.

In 2013, the IAB has been involved in the evaluation of the professorship proposals and in the review of the Academy's success criteria.

The International Advisory Board consists of

- Professor Christopher J. Rhodes, Chairman (University of Chicago, USA)
- Professor Ulf Smith (University of Gothenburg, Sweden)
- Professor Barbara Corkey (Boston University School of Medicine, USA)
- Professor Ele Ferrannini (University of Pisa School of Medicine, Italy)
- Professor C. Ronald Kahn (Joslin Diabetes Center, Boston, USA)



Kurt Højlund

Consultative Council

The primary task of the Consultative Council is to advice the Board in scientific and educational matters and to provide the Board with input regarding research strategy. This will ensure a dynamic and always present state-of-the-art science within the Academy.

The Consultative Council of the Danish Diabetes Academy was originally established on the basis of a principal investigator (PI) as a representative for each of the work packages produced for the Academy. In 2013, the Consultative Council was reorganised to ensure a more dynamic council that is more committed to transacting its tasks. Accordingly, the Council was reduced to 6 members. These members will represent the various research environments in Denmark according to the frame of the Academy.

In 2013, the Consultative Council held 3 meetings.

The members of the reorganised Consultative Council are:

- Associate Professor Kurt Højlund (Chairman), Department of Endocrinology, Odense University Hospital
- Associate Professor Niels Jessen (Vice-chairman), Department of Molecular Medicine, Aarhus University Hospital
- Professor Allan Vaag, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Rigshospitalet
- Professor Annelli Sandbæk, Institute of Public Health, Aarhus University
- Professor Jørgen Wojtaszewski, August Krogh Institute, University of Copenhagen
- Professor Susanne Mandrup, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Southern Denmark



Torben Hansen

Education Committee

The primary aim of the Academy is to ensure high international educational training for scientists within the diabetes research field. This will be based on workshops, seminars, symposia, summer schools and international annual meetings. The Education Committee will guide the Board in these matters and propose an education strategy and vision to the Board. The Education Committee has been reorganised during 2013 to ensure that members of the PhD Network of Diabetes and Metabolism form the basis of the Education Committee of the Danish Diabetes Academy.

In 2013 the Education Committee held 3 meetings.

The members of the re-organized Education Committee are:

- Professor Torben Hansen, The Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research, University of Copenhagen (Chairman)
- Professor Jørgen Wojtaszewski, Faculty of Science, University of Copenhagen
- Professor Nils Færgeman, Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Southern Denmark
- Ass. Professor Dorte Møller Jensen, Dept. of Endocrinology, Odense University Hospital
- Professor Jan Frystyk, Department of Clinical Medicine – The Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes, Aarhus University
- Ass. Professor Louise Torp Dalgaard, Dept. of Science, Systems and Models, Roskilde University
- Professor Inge Tetens, Division of Nutrition, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
- Professor Peter Vestergaard, Dept of Clinical Medicine, Aalborg University Hospital

Substitute members

- Professor Steffen Thiel, Department of Biomedicine – Medical Microbiology and Immunology, Aarhus University
- Ass. Professor Filip Krag Knop, Dept. of Biomedical Sciences, University of Copenhagen
- Head of Division, Gitte Gross, Division of Nutrition, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark



Peter Rossing

Research Committee

The Academy aims to attract outstanding researchers both nationally and internationally.

The primary task of the Research Committee is to evaluate the professional quality of the applications received by the Academy, and be responsible for recommending the best qualified candidates to the Board based on an evaluation of the applicants' scientific skills.

In relation to the evaluation of the Post Doc and PhD applications, the committee held four meetings during 2013.

The members of the Research Committee are:

- Professor Peter Rossing, Steno Diabetes Center (Chairman)
- Professor Susanne Mandrup, Dept. Of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University Of Southern Denmark
- Vice-dean Lise Wogensen Bach, Faculty of Health Sciences, Aarhus University
- Professor Michael Hecht Olsen, Department of Endocrinology, Odense University Hospital
- Professor Torben Hansen, The Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research, Metabolics Genetics, Copenhagen University
- Clinical Associate Professor Per Løgstrup Poulsen, Faculty of Health Sciences, Aarhus University



Communication

To ensure that all members of the Academy are closely linked to the Academy, the Academy will use its website to communication and information.

The Academy´s website (www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk) serves as the focal point of the Academy's many events, news and grant proposals as well as it displays all relevant information regarding the organisational structure, background, objectives and contact information to the Academy secretariat.

In October 2013, the design and structure of the website was updated and now includes a number of new features such as membership registration, news feeds, monthly scientific reviews by Academy Post Doc fellows and an event calendar.

Through the website and a monthly follow-up newsletter based mainly on the Academy news and events posted on the website, the Academy will ensure full transparency as regards to procedures for all the posted grants (PhD scholarships, Post Doc fellowships, visiting professorships) and the evaluation criteria used in the review process.

To facilitate networking and knowledge sharing among national and international researchers, registration for membership is open to all researchers with interest in the five overall research areas of the Academy. Registered members will receive Academy related news and have a personal profile.

In 2013, 170 researchers registered as a member.

From 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013, the website had more than 21,000 visits as illustrated in the audience overview from Google Analytics below (Figure 6 og Table 4).

Figure 6: Audience overview at the Academy's website in 2013.

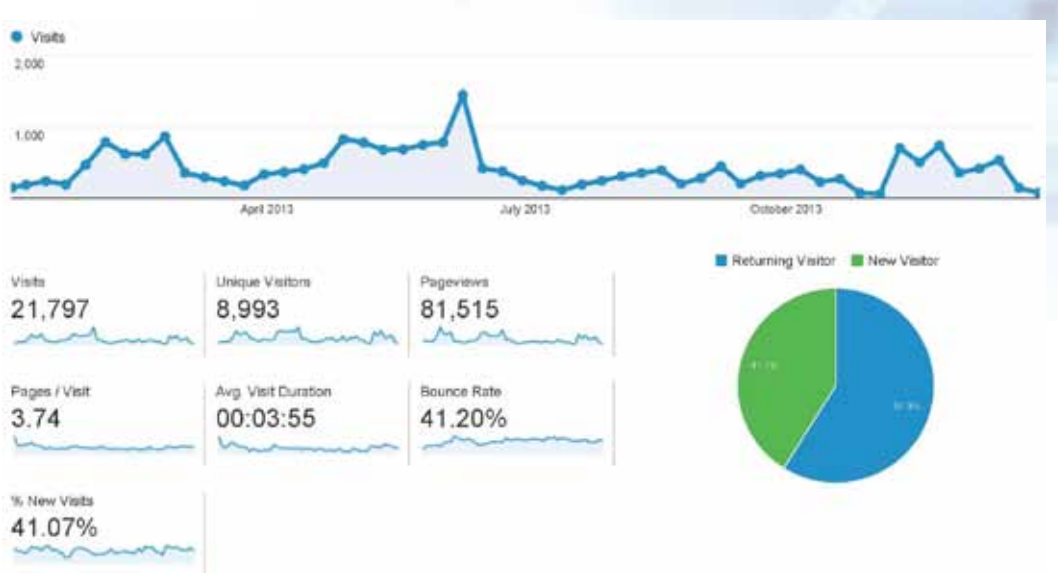


Table 4 shows the number of visits to the website from the individual top ten countries – Denmark being displayed as number one with approx 15,000 visits (from Google Analytics).

Table 4: Number of visits to the website for the individual top ten countries.

		21,797 % of Total: 100.00% (21,797)	21,797 % of Total: 100.00% (21,797)
1.	Denmark	15,286	70.13%
2.	India	1,045	4.79%
3.	United States	737	3.38%
4.	Sweden	726	3.33%
5.	United Kingdom	706	3.24%
6.	Germany	263	1.21%
7.	France	259	1.19%
8.	Italy	204	0.94%
9.	Belgium	192	0.88%
10.	Spain	180	0.83%

To strengthen and extend the Academy's professional network, we have established a page on www.linkedin.com "Danish Diabetes Academy". From the launch of the site on LinkedIn, there has been a growth rate of 20% per week to our website and 100 persons have signed up for membership.

The Academy will also strive to use social media such as Facebook and Twitter. A Facebook site is under construction and will be available in the forthcoming year.



Fundraising - Budget and accounts year 1

The Academy will strive to raise funds from other foundations and bequeathed funds. A fundraiser will be employed in the forthcoming year on a full-time basis to initiate fundraising activities, including assuring the application for external funding.

The Academy will seek to raise additional funding through:

- Danish public grants
- Danish private grants
- EU grants
- Other grants

In 2013, the managing director and the head of the Academy Board attempted to raise additional funding through unsolicited applications to major Danish private foundations. However, by the end of 2013, the Academyhad not succeeded to raise any additional funding.

Besides, looking into different private and public funding opportunities, the Academy cooperates with the Danish universities and hospitals to co-finance PhD scholarships and Post Doc fellowships.

The Academy granted 30 1/3 financed PhD scholarships in 2013. Each PhD fellowship is supported with DKK 550,000 by the Academy corresponding to about 1/3 of the total costs. The universities have contributed with 30 million DKK and other external funding has contributed with 3 million DKK to finance the remaining 2/3 of the 30 co-financed PhD scholarships. Moreover, the universities and hospitals have contributed with a significant amount of finances to cover the running expenses related to the PhD and Post Docs projects.

Budget and accounts year 1

The accounts in details are provided in an enclosed audit from the financial department at Odense University Hospital including the statement of warranties and representations (appendix 1).

The Accounts Manager of Odense University Hospital, Lars Weber Strate functions as Financial Manager of the Academy and administrates the grant in cooperation with the Managing Director of the Academy.



Conclusion

The Danish Diabetes Academy was established by a five year grant from the Novo Nordisk Foundation and co-financed by the universities in Denmark and by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) with the ambition to further enhance the high quality of Danish diabetes research. This is to be achieved through the establishment of a world class research and educational environment staffed by some of the foremost researchers in the field from Denmark and abroad, and by building up a cooperative culture with networking and sharing of knowledge sharing between researchers.

Year 2013 has been a very active and fruitful year. The Academy has done its utmost to ensure high international educational training of scientists in diabetology through four national and international seminars, a high number of workshops and PhD courses. In addition, the Academy has established the first formal national PhD Network the "PhD Network of Diabetes and Metabolism" aiming to strengthen collaboration between relevant PhD programmes associated with Health and Science faculties at universities across Denmark.

The Academy aims to attract outstanding researchers both nationally and internationally to ensure that Danish diabetes research maintains its position in the international frontline. In 2013, the Academy has granted 30 1/3 financed PhD scholarships, 19 full-time 3-year Post Doc fellowships and allocated a Visiting Professor grant. All the available grants have been posted in open and free competition through national and international channels.

To support the Academy´s effort to recruit excellent national and international researchers as well to offer the best possible scientific training, the Academy has established a Research Committee and an Education Committee. Furthermore, a Consultative Council and an International Advisory Board have been established to support the Board in relation to scientific, educational and strategic matters.

To ensure that all the members of the Academy are closely linked to the Academy, the Academy´s website (www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk) has served as the focal point of the Academy's many events, news and grant proposals as well as it displays all relevant information regarding organisational structure, background, objectives and contact information to the Academy secretariat. In 2013, the website had more than 21.000 visits.

The Academy has strived to raise additional funding from public and private grants to support the activities within the Academy, however with limited success. The universities and other external funding have contributed with over 30 million DKK to co-finance the 30 PhD scholarships granted by the Academy.

In summary, the Academy has within the scope of the budget for 2013 fulfilled the expectations and guidelines set out in the grant notification letter from the Novo Nordisk Foundation.