Danish Diabetes Academy

Annual Report 2016



DANISH DIABETES ACADEMY
ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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Entrance 112, 3rd floor
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www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk

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Annual Report 2016

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Executive summary

Educational activities

The DDA arranged 21 educational activities (PhD courses, symposia, seminars, postdoc courses and webinars) with a total of over 1,000 participants. The scientific quality of the PhD courses, symposia and postdoc courses was highly rated, as the mean scores for these educational activities were 4.4 or more on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). The DDA seminars and symposia have generally been well attended, and the majority of invited experts at the seminars and symposia were international speakers.

Networking

The DDA's PhD Network of Diabetes and Metabolism continued in 2016, with eight out of the nine university PhD schools being affiliated to this network. The DDA arranged fewer workshops in 2016 than in previous years, instead holding several smaller, informal networking meetings for DDA-funded researchers. The DDA also worked during 2016 to establish collaborative networks with foreign research institutions with the aim of giving junior DDA researchers more opportunity to internationalize their education and their networking.

Recruitment

In total, 16 researchers (10 postdoctoral fellows and six visiting professors) were recruited during 2016. Two of the postdoctoral grants were made in relation to the match-funding postdoctoral programme with JDRF. The professors recruited have been an asset to the DDA's educational activities and networking programme.

Publications

DDA-funded researchers published a total of 103 publications in peer-reviewed journals, nearly three times as many as in the previous year. Bibliometric analysis showed that a high proportion of these publications were in high-impact diabetes and endocrinology journals. Further, a relatively high percentage of the publications had a DDA-funded researcher as first author.
Outreach and dissemination

The number of new members of DDA increased by over 40% in 2016. The DDA has been active on Social Media - with an increase in followers on LinkedIn and Facebook of 41% and 59%, respectively.

Funding

The DDA has been successful in securing external funding (DKK 0.4 million) for its activities during 2016. Through the DDA Fundraiser and DDA-funded PhD students and postdocs, the DDA is involved in the "Science in Southern Denmark – Career Learning in Science Subjects" project in collaboration with Svendborg Technical High School and several upper-secondary schools and colleges in the Region of Southern Denmark.

Conclusion

The DDA's performance with regard to the success criteria can be seen in Table 1 (A-C). The achievements, with a total of 21 highly rated and well-visited educational activities and eight network activities within a wide range of diabetes related topics and with internationally renowned invited speakers, confirm that the DDA has succeeded in establishing a competent and high-level international knowledge-sharing environment that has strengthened research training and networking within diabetology at both PhD and postdoctoral level.

Moreover, the successful recruitment of 16 national and international researchers confirms that the DDA has, to a great extent, helped to draw or sustain Danish and international talents into diabetes research. Further, DDA-funded researchers have throughout 2016 continued to publish their results in highly ranked peer-reviewed journals.

About the Danish Diabetes Academy

The Danish Diabetes Academy (DDA) was established on 1 September 2012 with a five-year grant from the Novo Nordisk Foundation (2012-2017) of DKK 201,880,000 (EUR 27,059,485) with the aim of enhancing the quality of Danish diabetes research and ensuring that it remains at the highest international level in the future for the benefit of present and future generations of patients with diabetes.

The DDA constitutes an original platform for a national diabetes research strategy ensuring both basic and clinical research in diabetes.

The five primary research areas of the DDA are:

- Type 1 diabetes
- Type 2 diabetes
- Diabetes and complications
- Diabetes and pregnancy
- Diabetes and technology.

These research areas form the basis of the DDA's activities, which lie in three focus areas: education, networking and recruitment.

To foster enhanced collaboration, all interested and active diabetes researchers, both nationally and internationally, have been able to acquire membership of the DDA since its establishment, and the DDA now has more than 1000 researchers as members, of whom almost 140 are supported financially by the DDA. The DDA is co-financed by the Danish universities and university hospitals, and by JDRF.

1044

members, of whom almost 140
are supported financially by the DDA

Danish Diabetes Academy at a glance

In 2016, the DDA arranged:

4

residential PhD courses

8

networking activities

8

national and international symposia and seminars.

1

winter School for postdoctoral fellows.

The mean rating score of the scientific quality of the PhD courses, symposia, seminars, networking activities and postdoc Winter School was

4.5

on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

In 2016, the DDA had

1044

members and achieved a:

91% increase in the number of subscribers to the DDA newsletter. **41%** increase in the number of followers on the DDA LinkedIn site. **59%** increase in the number of followers on Facebook.

The DDA-funded researchers published a total of

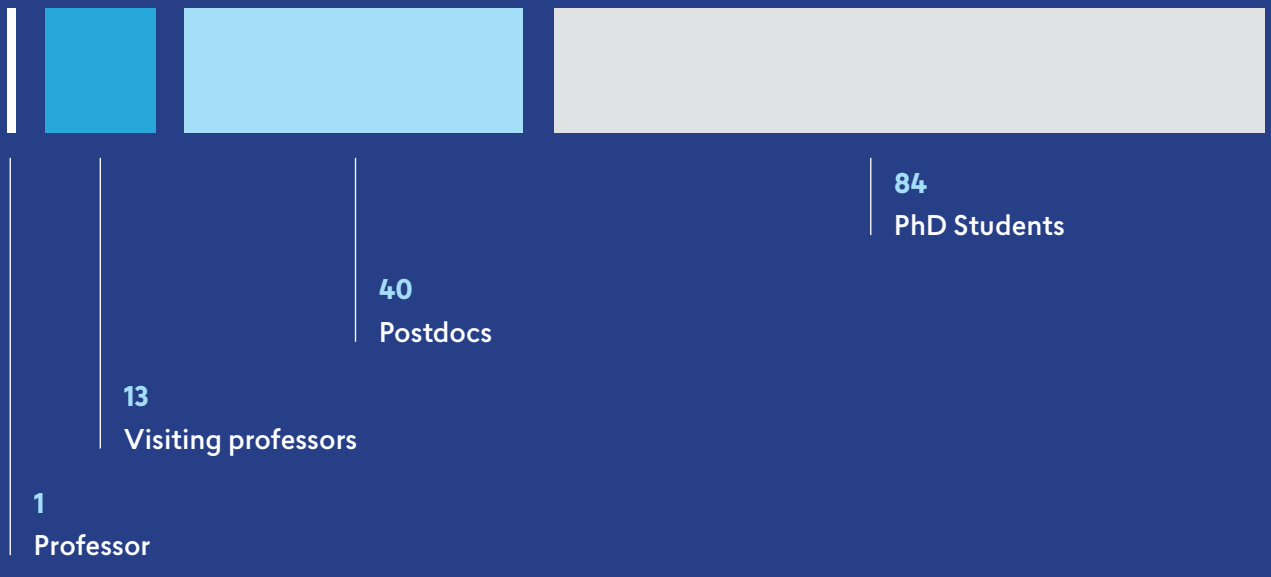
103

peer-reviewed publications.

The DDA secretariat has **7** employees

In 2016, the number of active DDA-funded researchers was

138



Overall objectives and success criteria for the DDA

The overall vision of the DDA is to ensure a high level of research and treatment of diabetes in Denmark for the benefit of present and future patients with diabetes.

This vision serves as the framework for all current and future strategic efforts of the DDA, including the DDA's defined objectives and missions, as outlined in the grant application:

- To enhance the quality of Danish diabetes research and ensure that it remains at the highest international level in the future;
- To strengthen the talent pool and to build up a career direction for young researchers within the field of diabetology;
- to attract outstanding researchers both nationally and internationally;
- to strengthen research training in the field of diabetology;
- to catalyse the establishment of a national, dynamic, creative and internationally oriented research environment in diabetology;
- to strengthen networking, knowledge sharing and collaboration within Danish diabetology.

Within the defined objectives and mission areas, the DDA has identified success criteria in the following three main focus areas (Appendix 2):

- Education: the DDA aims to be recognized as an institution that provides world-class, internationally oriented educational activities;
- Networking: the DDA aims to be identified as a unifying force in Danish diabetes research through national and international networking activities;
- Recruitment: the DDA aims to recruit and nurture the next generation of national and international scientific leaders within basal and clinical diabetes research to obtain a high level of influence on diabetes research in Denmark and abroad.

Table 1 (A-C). The DDA's success criteria and performance in 2016 with regard to these criteria

A: The DDA aims to be recognized as an institution that provides world-class, internationally oriented educational activities.

Criteria	Activities in 2016	Success criteria accomplished
• The DDA arranges annually: • ≥ 2 residential PhD courses • 1 Winter School for postdoctoral fellows • ≥ 4 national and international symposia and seminars.	• Four residential PhD courses • One Winter School for postdoctoral fellows • Eight national and international symposia and seminars	☺ ☺ ☺
≥ 40% of invited experts are from abroad.	60% of invited experts were from abroad.	☺
The number of participants in each seminar is ≥ 60.	The average number of participants was 91.	☺
Rating of the scientific quality of symposia, seminars or PhD courses with a mean score over 3.5 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).	Mean scores of • PhD courses: 4.5 • Seminars and symposia: 4.6 • Winter School: 4.5	☺ ☺ ☺

B: The DDA aims to be identified as a unifying force in Danish diabetes research through national and international networking activities.

Criteria	Activities in 2016	Success criteria accomplished
>80% of all relevant university PhD schools are affiliated with the DDA´s national PhD Network of Diabetes and Metabolism.seminars.	89% (8 out of 9) university PhD schools are affiliated.	☺
The number of networking activities should exceed 12 annually.	The DDA organized eight networking activities.	☹
Documented enhanced collaboration among the DDA's grant recipients	15.5% of publications (16 of 103) were co-publications with two or more DDA-funded researchers as authors.	☺
The DDA should collaborate with all relevant professional societies.*	The DDA invited 10 professional societies to collaborate.	☹
75% of all DDA PhD students have had a change of research environment, preferably abroad, with at least one stay >3 weeks.	85% of PhD students mentioned in their application that they expect to have a change of research environment.	Not possible to measure yet environment.
Annual increase of at least 10% in: • The number of DDA members • The number of newsletter subscribers • The number of unique website hits • The number of followers on social media Content to be given very high rating by at least 75% of website users, newsletter subscribers and social media followers	• Number of DDA members: 43% increase • Number of newsletter subscribers: 91% increase • Number of unique website hits: 5% decrease • Number of followers on LinkedIn: 41% increase • Number of followers on Facebook: 59% increase • Survey in progress – data will be available in the final report to NNF	☺ ☺ ☹ ☺ ☺

* The DDA has invited the following societies to collaborate on scientific educational activities: Danish Endocrine Society, Danish Society of Nephrology, Danish Association for the Study of Obesity, Danish Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Young Endocrinologists' Association, Danish Society of Neurology, Danish Society for Molecular Medicine, Danish Diabetes Nurses' Society, Danish Society of Cardiology, Danish Bone Society, Danish Society for Geriatrics. The right format for the collaboration between DDA and the societies has not yet been developed; in the year to come, however, the DDA will focus on how this collaboration can flourish.

C: The DDA aims to recruit and nurture the next generation of national and international scientific leaders in basic and clinical diabetes research to obtain a high level of influence on diabetes research in Denmark and abroad.

Criteria	Activities in 2016	Success criteria accomplished
At least 50% of the scientific publications must be published in high-impact journals and at least 75% are in the 1st and 2nd quartile of one of the areas forming the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) of Thomson ISI.	• 73.3% of articles were published in journals of the first quartile (high-impact journals). • 89.6 % of articles were published in the first and second quartile.	☺ ☺
Annually, at least one DDA PhD student and postdoctoral fellow receive an award for their scientific skills.	One PhD student and one postdoctoral fellow received awards for their scientific skills.	Survey in progress – data will be available in the final report to NNF
DDA PhD students and postdoctoral fellows receive additional external funding for their projects.	100% of DDA PhD students received the remaining two-thirds of their PhD scholarship from external funds.	☺
95% of all DDA PhD students finish their PhD projects.	Only a small number of the PhD students have finished their PhD projects.	Not possible to measure yet environment.

Facts

Adam Hulman,
MSc, PhD, postdoctoral fellow at the Danish Diabetes Academy from 2015 to 2018
Nationality:
Hungarian
Project topic:
Diabetes Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Workplace:
Department of Public Health, Aarhus University
Principal investigator:
Professor Daniel Witte



An excerpt from the book
12 Talented Researchers
Young diabetes researchers –
supported by the Danish Diabetes Academy

Adam Hulman

Adam Hulman speaks Hungarian, English and German and is learning Danish. And there is another string to his bow: a language he uses on a daily basis but one that few people master—the R statistical programming language. He first encountered R in Germany at the University of Paderborn, as an Erasmus student in 2008. Now he uses the language at the Section for Epidemiology at Aarhus University to apply innovative statistical methods to explore risk factors and outcomes related to diabetes.

He is an epidemiologist (PhD) and applied mathematician (MSc), motivated by the wish to understand complex systems that drive the health of populations. High on the list of aims he hopes to achieve is to identify subgroups at high risk of diabetes that remained unrevealed with traditional methods plus facilitate to better communication and knowledge transfer between clinicians and statisticians.

When asked about his aims, Adam is ready with a list:

- to introduce and apply state-of-the-art statistical methods to contribute to quality improvements in epidemiological research;
- to apply innovative methods to explore risk factors and outcomes related to diabetes; and,
- to ensure knowledge translation: ultimately to assist personalised risk prediction and prevention.

Developed the online risk calculator for the Steno T1 Risk Engine

Adam works on a broad range of projects and has already demonstrated that he can achieve interesting results with clinical relevance. Amongst his past achievements is the development of the online risk calculator for the Steno T1 Risk Engine, an application for cardiovascular disease risk prediction for patients with type 1 patients. “Prediction models are abundant in the epidemiological literature, validation is seen less often, but translation into clinical practice is really rare”, he says.

Other achievements include a recent publication, with Adam as lead author, in Endocrine on the heterogeneity of glucose response curves during an oral glucose tolerance test. “We identified five different patterns with a statistical method called latent class analysis and found that the cardiometabolic risk profiles of the groups were remarkably different. This fits well with the current notion that diabetes is a heterogeneous disease and may reflect different underlying physiologies that need to be investigated further. Also, these patterns have to be linked to long-term outcomes before our results can have an impact in a clinical setting”, he says.

He also conducted a similar study in a cohort of Asian Indians. “Their (Asian Indians’) diabetes risk is higher than in other ethnic group. Why? This is something I would very much like to investigate and translate into clinical practice: maybe they could benefit from different interventions.”

Mentee of Professor Daniel Witte

Adam was lucky enough to meet Daniel Witte, Professor of Diabetes Epidemiology at Aarhus University under a Danish Diabetes Academy grant. By chance they met in London, and Daniel became his mentor and main PhD supervisor. It was Daniel who introduced Adam to diabetes epidemiology.

Daniel Witte was the leader of the epidemiology group at Steno Diabetes Center at that time, which gave Adam the opportunity to develop a scientific network in Denmark from an early stage of his career, while he completed his PhD in Hungary. “Many researchers from Steno Diabetes Center are still my strongest collaborators and play an important role in my research”, he says. Adam has also succeeded in creating strong collaborations within the Danish Diabetes Academy, among others with Visiting Professors Rebecca K. Simmons (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom) and Venkat Narayan (Emory University, Atlanta, United States) who became now collaborators on various projects.

After finishing his PhD, Adam went to McMaster University, Canada, to take up a postdoctoral position to investigate the role of maternal obesity and weight gain on pregnancy outcomes, but when Daniel Witte started to work at Aarhus University in January 2015 as a Danish Diabetes Academy Professor and was looking for a postdoctoral fellow, Adam considered it as a good opportunity to return to Europe, diabetes research and join Daniel’s team.

His plans are clear-cut: he wants to create his own group within five years. Where this will happen, however, is less certain. ”I would be happy to stay in Denmark for the long-term, but would not exclude the option to return to Hungary at some point and take the gained experience home”, he says and adds, “No matter what, I will keep my strong international collaborations.”

Educational activities

Objectives and goals

The ambition of the DDA is to enhance the quality of Danish education for diabetes research, ensuring that it remains at the highest international level.

Strategy

The Managing Director and the Education Manager are responsible, in close collaboration with the Education Committee, for ensuring that educational activities are aligned with the DDA´s overall educational objective. This is achieved through ongoing evaluation of the activities and their strategic positioning in relation to the type of activities that the DDA should support and initiate.

The DDA´s strategy for developing educational activities involves inviting suggestions from participants and speakers on DDA courses and seminars, and from DDA members. These suggestions are considered by the Education Committee, which then prepares an annual scientific curriculum describing the courses, seminars, symposia and other educational activities offered by the DDA.

The DDA has established the DDA´s national PhD Network of Diabetes and Metabolism consisting of the following PhD schools: Faculty of Science, University of Copenhagen; Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen; Faculty of Health Sciences, Aarhus University; Faculty of Science, University of Southern Denmark; Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Southern Denmark; Faculty of Medicine, Aalborg University; Department of Science, Systems and Models, Roskilde University; Division of Nutrition, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark:

This PhD Network of Diabetes and Metabolism is 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 providing a better and wider range of PhD courses.

For each educational activity, a DDA postdoc or a senior researcher is given key responsibility for drawing up suggestions for the scientific programme in collaboration with the Education Committee.

The DDA secretariat is responsible for advertising, registration of participants, speakers' travel and accommodation and evaluation of each activity.

In order to attract established and emerging diabetes researchers, the DDA advertises all educational activities via social media, websites (including the DDA website: www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk), the newsletter, university e-bulletins and the websites of relevant professional bodies.

In general, the DDA´s educational activities are open to all interested diabetes researchers, and the places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Where seminars, symposia or PhD courses are fully booked, members of the DDA have priority. At the PhD Summer School, PhD students in their second or third year of study have priority.

Performance and achievements

In 2016, the DDA held educational activities in the following programmes:

- **PhD scholarship programme:** The DDA's PhD scholarship programme in 2016 comprised four residential courses. The courses are aimed at PhD students at different stages of their three-year doctoral studies. Further, the courses are embedded in the educational activities of the collaborating universities' PhD schools and PhD programmes in diabetes and metabolism, the network arrangement being agreed to by eight of the nine university PhD schools, and the various PhD schools being represented by members of the Education Committee, who are thus able to ensure that the DDA's courses meet the needs of the universities' PhD schools and programmes.

- **Seminar and symposium programme:** This programme comprised eight seminars and symposia in 2016. The seminars and symposia are aimed at national and international junior and senior researchers in basic and clinical diabetes research in the public and private sectors.

- **Postdoctoral programme:** The postdoctoral programme comprised five postdoctoral courses in 2016. In this programme, the DDA offers educational and networking activities such as the annual Winter School, workshops and courses in research management, and presentation skills.

- **Professorship programme:** The professorship programme included a PhD course, lectures at PhD courses, the postdoc Winter School and webinars in 2016. It is the intention that DDA professors and visiting professors should play an active role in the educational activities of the DDA.

The scientific programmes of the DDA's PhD courses, seminars, symposia, postdoctoral courses and professorship programme are set out in Appendices 3-5.

In general, the DDA's educational activities are all well attended and score well in evaluation. The educational activities are aligned with the DDA´s success criteria (see Appendix 2), as outlined above and as shown in Table 1.

The PhD scholarship programme

The DDA held four major PhD residential courses in 2016, with both national and international speakers taking part. The courses are approved by the universities' PhD schools and carry four ECTS points. The scientific programmes of the four courses are shown in Appendix 3.

Arranged in collaboration with members of the Education Committee, the PhD scholarship programme consisted of:

23-26 May:
"Basal Metabolism and Molecular Mechanism in the Metabolic Syndrome", Sinatur Hotel Storebælt, Nyborg, Denmark

Target group for this PhD course is first-year PhD students.

The course was attended by 51 PhD students (fully booked). The attendees included 14 DDA-funded PhD students.

The participants' satisfaction with the scientific programme was 4.3 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 2.

20-23 June:
"Diabetes and Epidemiology", Sinatur Hotel Storebælt, Nyborg, Denmark

Target group for this PhD course is second- and third-year PhD students.

This course, which is part of the professorship programme (see below), was being held for the first time.

The course was attended by 17 PhD students. Six (6) of the attendees were DDA-funded PhD students.

The participants' satisfaction with the scientific programme was 4.6 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 2.

8-11 September:
"Summer School on Diabetes and Metabolism", Gl. Avernæs, Denmark

Target group for this PhD course is second- and third-year PhD students.

The course was attended by 50 students (fully booked). The attendees included 15 DDA-funded PhD students.

The participants' satisfaction with the scientific programme was 4.5 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 2.

18-21 September:
"Exercise Physiology in Health and Disease", DGI byen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Target group for this PhD course is first- to third-year PhD students.

The course was organized in collaboration with University of Copenhagen Faculty of Science. The course was attended by 30 students. Six (6) of the attendees were DDA-funded PhD students.

The participants' satisfaction with the scientific programme was 4.7 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. DDA PhD courses 2016: Number of participants and mean satisfaction ratings

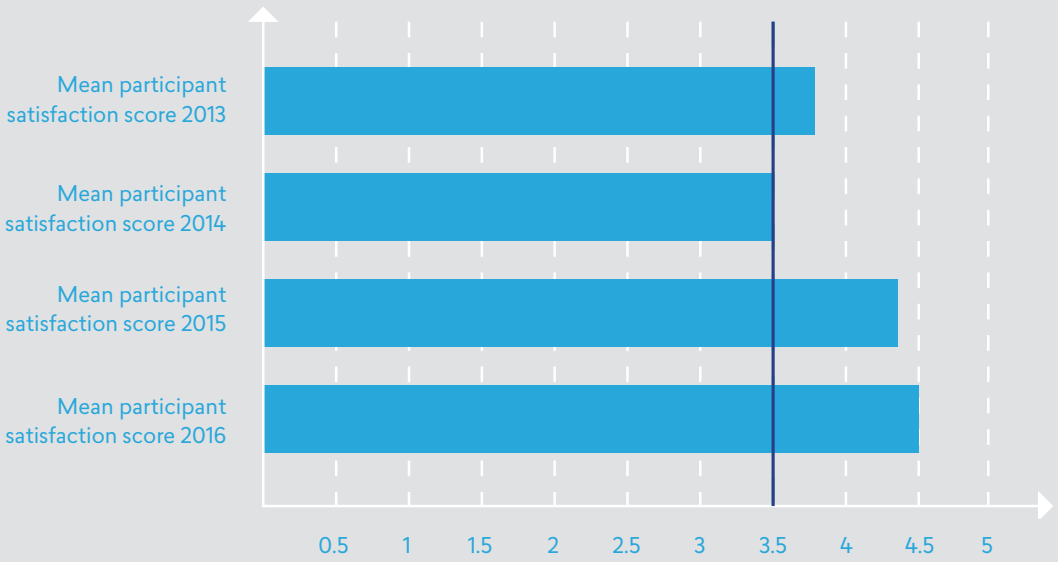
	Number of participants	Satisfaction rating
Basal Metabolism and Molecular Mechanisms in the Metabolic Syndrome	51	4.3
Diabetes and Epidemiology	17	4.6
Summer School on Diabetes and Metabolism	50	4.5
Exercise Physiology in Health and Disease	30	4.7

Reflections on the DDA's PhD courses in relation to the DDA success criteria

The average score for participant satisfaction with the scientific programme on PhD courses in 2016 was 4.5 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) – the target was 3.5, marked by the dark blue line in Figure 1. The average score in 2016 is slightly higher than the previous year's score, as shown in Figure 1.

This may be attributed to the fact that the Education Committee systematically analyses participant evaluations after each course, and takes as much account as possible of participants' comments and suggested improvements.

Figure 1: Participants' average satisfaction score at DDA PhD courses, 2013-2016



Seminar and symposium programme

The DDA held eight major seminars and symposia in 2016. Nearly 730 participants participated in these activities. The percentage of speakers from abroad varied from 29% to 88%, and the average score for satisfaction with the scientific programme ranged from 4.4 to 4.8, as shown in Table 3. The scientific programmes of the seminar and symposia activities are shown in Appendix 4.

14 April:

"New Diabetes Register in Denmark" (seminar), Steno Diabetes Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

Professor Marit Jørgensen, Steno Diabetes Center, Copenhagen, was responsible for the scientific programme. A total of 59 audience members and speakers participated in the seminar.

Participants' satisfaction with the scientific programme was 4.7 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 3. Four (4) of the attendees were DDA-funded researchers (two postdocs and two PhD students).

11 May:

"Diabetes and the Brain" (scientific seminar), Aarhus Scandinavian Congress Center, Denmark

Professor Jan Früstyk, Aarhus University Hospital and consultant Dorte Møller Jensen, Odense University Hospital, were responsible for the scientific programme.

A total of 81 audience members and speakers participated in the seminar. Nine (9) of the attendees were DDA-funded researchers (three postdocs and six PhD students).

Participants' satisfaction with the scientific programme was 4.4 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 3.

27-28 June:

"2nd International Symposium on Mesenchymal Stem Cell Differentiation" (scientific symposium), University of Southern Denmark

DDA postdoc Alexander Rausch and Professor Susanne Mandrup, both University of Southern Denmark, were responsible for the scientific programme.

A total of 70 audience members and speakers participated in the symposium. Eight (8) of the attendees were DDA-funded researchers (three postdocs and five PhD students).

Participants' satisfaction with the scientific programme was 4.8 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 3.

25-26 August:

"Diet, Diabetes and the Metabolic Syndrome" (scientific symposium), Novo Nordisk Foundation, Denmark

Professor Bjørn Richelsen, Aarhus University Hospital and Professor Jens Meldgaard Bruun, Randers Region Hospital, were responsible for the scientific programme.

A total of 118 audience members and speakers participated in the seminar. Eighteen (18) of the attendees were DDA-funded researchers (three postdocs and fifteen PhD students).

Participants' satisfaction with the scientific programme was 4.4 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 3.

3-4 October:

"Bone, Energy Metabolism and Diabetes: Integrated Physiology and Clinical Implications" (scientific symposium), Sinatur Hotel Storebælt, Nyborg, Denmark

DDA postdoc Michaela Tencerova and Professor Moustapha Kassem, both Odense University Hospital, were responsible for the scientific programme.

A total of 79 audience members and speakers participated in the seminar. Twelve (12) of the attendees were DDA-funded researchers (six postdocs and six PhD students).

Participants' satisfaction with the scientific programme was 4.8 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 3.

7 October:

"Mechanisms and Pathophysiology of Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy" (scientific symposium), Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark

DDA postdoc Pall Karlson was responsible for the scientific programme. The symposium was held in collaboration with the International Diabetic Neuropathy Consortium.

A total of 69 audience members and speakers participated in the seminar. Three (3) of the attendees were DDA-funded researchers (one postdoc and two PhD students).

Participants' satisfaction with the scientific programme was 4.5 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 3.

24-25 November:

"Symposium on Gut Microbiota and Metabolic Health" (scientific symposium), Novo Nordisk Foundation, Denmark

Professor Tine Rask Licht, DTU, Professor Torben Hansen, University of Copenhagen and Associate Professor Manimozhiyan Arumugam, University of Copenhagen, were responsible for the scientific programme. The symposium was held in collaboration with the 3G Center (GUT, GRAIN & GREENS) – Center for Gut Microbiota, Metabolic disorders, and Grain/Fibre-based Diets, Denmark.

A total of 166 audience members and speakers participated in the symposium. None (0) of the attendees were DDA-funded researchers.

No participant satisfaction evaluation was performed.

2 December:

"2nd Aarhus Immunotherapy Symposium - Autoimmunity - Restoring the Balance" (scientific symposium), Aarhus University, Denmark

Professor Niels Jessen, Aarhus University Hospital, was responsible for drawing up the scientific programme.
The symposium was held in collaboration with Aarhus University and Stallergenes Greer.

A total of 86 audience members and speakers participated in the seminar. Seven (7) of the attendees were DDA-funded researchers (four postdocs and three PhD students).

Participants' satisfaction with the scientific programme was 4.6 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 3.

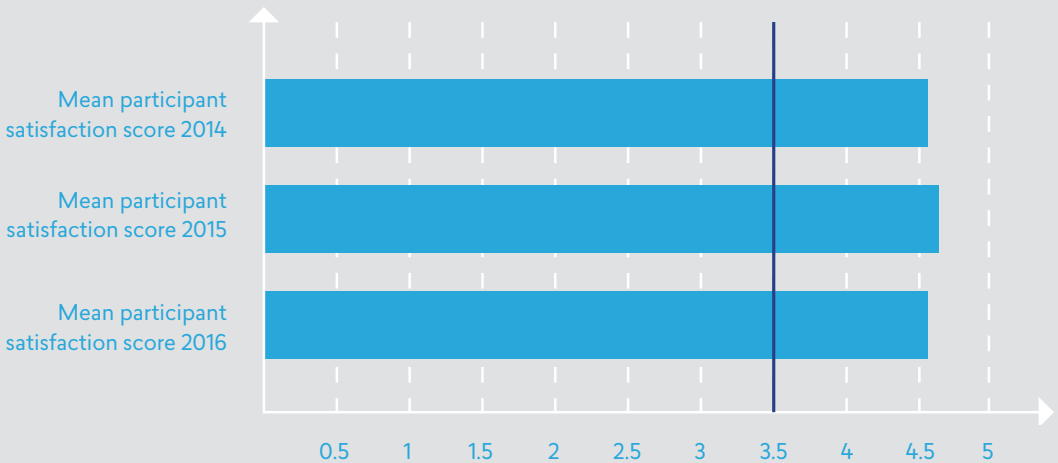
Table 3. DDA seminars and symposia: Number of participants, percentage of speakers from abroad and mean participant satisfaction

	Number of participants	Percentage of speakers from abroad	Participant satisfaction (mean) from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)
New Diabetes Register in Denmark	59	29%	4.7
Diabetes and the Brain	81	50%	4.4
2nd International Symposium on Mesenchymal Stem Cell Differentiation	70	83%	4.8
Diet, Diabetes and the Metabolic Syndrome	118	50%	4.4
Bone, Energy Metabolism and Diabetes	79	38%	4.8
Mechanisms and pathophysiology of diabetic peripheral neuropathy	69	70%	4.5
Symposium on Gut Microbiota and Metabolic Health	166	75%	*Not performed
Autoimmunity - Restoring the Balance	86	88%	4.6

Reflections on the DDA's Seminar and Symposium programme in relation to the DDA success criteria

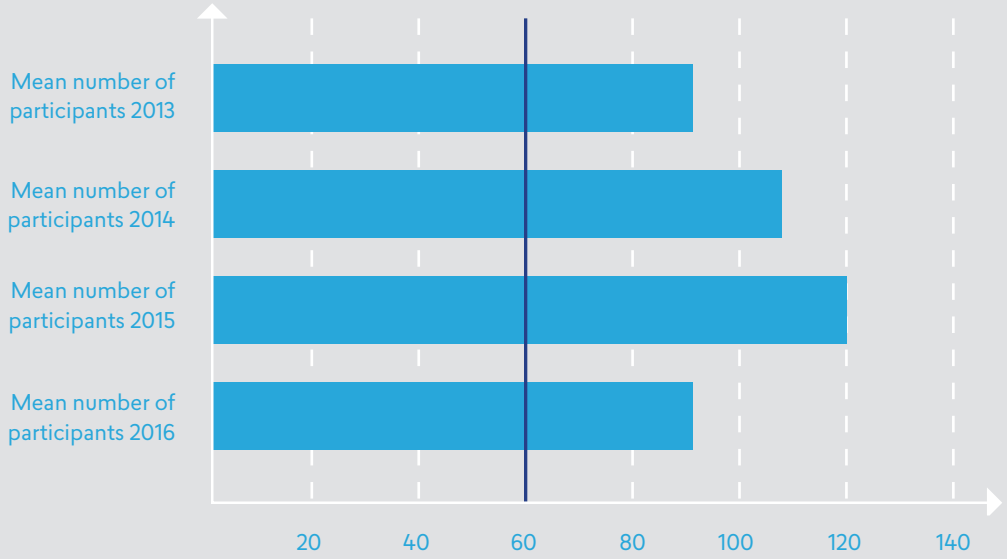
The average score for participant satisfaction with the scientific programme on the DDA's Seminar and Symposium programme in 2016 was 4.6 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) – the target was 3.5, marked by the dark blue line in Figure 2. The average score in 2016 is comparable to the previous year's score, as shown in Figure 2. The relative high satisfaction score may be attributed to the fact that the Education Committee systematically analyses participant evaluations after each course, and takes as much account as possible of participants' comments and suggested improvements. Moreover, it may be attributed to the fact that the DDA is successful in inviting renowned international speakers (on average 60% of invited experts in 2016 were from abroad) to give lectures at the DDA's Seminar and Symposium events.

Figure 2: Participants' average satisfaction score at DDA seminar and symposia activities, 2014-2016



The average number of participants at the DDA seminar and symposia events was 91 – the target was 60, marked by the dark blue line in Figure 3. The average number of participants is slightly below that of the previous year. This decrease may be attributed to the fact that the market for scientific events is rather crowded and competition is high – meaning the DDA's target groups for seminars and symposia have a number of possibilities to choose from.

Figure 3: Average number of participants at DDA seminar and symposia activities, 2013-2016



The DDA also succeeded in attracting a broad range of researchers to the seminar and symposia programme as shown in Table 4. Table 4 shows that the percentage of junior researchers (defined as master's students, PhD students and postdoctoral fellows) who attended DDA seminars was over 40% of all participants.

Table 4. Educational background of participants on the DDA's seminars

Percentage master's students	Percentage PhD students	Percentage postdoctoral fellows	Percentage of participants with a medical degree (not PhD students or postdoctoral fellows)	Percentage of participants with a Master of Science degree (not PhD students or postdoctoral fellows)	Percentage others
6.0%	22.0%	14.8%	16.0%	26.4%	14.8%

Postdoctoral programme

The DDA held five major activities within the postdoctoral programme in 2016. Nearly 120 postdocs attended these activities. Satisfaction with the scientific programme ranged from 4.7 to 4.9 (Table 5). The scientific programmes of the activities are shown in Appendix 5.

14-17 March:
2nd Postdoctoral Winter School: "Diabetes Metabolism – From Basic to Clinical Science", Malaga, Spain

Three DDA-funded postdoctoral fellows, Esben Laugesen, Pall Karlson, both Aarhus University Hospital and Alexander Rauch, University of Southern Denmark, were responsible for drawing up the scientific programme in collaboration with the DDA´s Education Committee.

A total of 57 postdoctoral fellows from seven different countries and 19 speakers from Europe and the United States participated in the Winter School. Nineteen (19) of the attendees were DDA-funded postdocs.

Participants' satisfaction with the scientific programme was 4.5 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 5.

3-4 March and follow-up 18 April:
Research Management Course, Panum Institute, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

A total of 22 participants, mainly postdoctoral fellows, participated in the Research Management Course. Consultant Søren Barlebo Rasmussen, Copenhagen Business School, was course leader. Four (4) of the attendees were DDA-funded postdocs.

Participants' satisfaction with the content of the course was 4.6 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 5.

23-24 June:
Presentation Course, Hotel Storebælt, Nyborg, Denmark

A total of 11 participants, mainly postdoctoral fellows, participated in the course. Training consultant Barry Stainthorp, Partners in Training (PinT), UK, was course leader. Four (4) of the attendees were DDA-funded researchers.

Participants' satisfaction with the content of the course was 4.7 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 5.

31 August and 1 September:
Presentation Course, Hotel Storebælt, Nyborg, Denmark

A total of 12 participants, mainly postdoctoral fellows, participated in the course. Training consultant Barry Stainthorp, Partners in Training (PinT), UK, was course leader. Nine (9) of the attendees were DDA-funded researchers.

Participants' satisfaction with the content of the course was 4.9 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 5.

Postdoc Webinars

DDA postdoc fellows are asked whether they would like to give webinars on the DDA website.

29 September:
"Foetal programming" (webinar)

www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk

DDA-funded postdoc Ekaterina Maslova,
Statens Serum Institut, led the webinar.

Target group was PhD students and postdoc fellows. The webinar was attended by 13 participants.

17 October:
"Diabetic poly-neuropathy" (webinar)

www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk

DDA-funded postdoc Pall Karlsson,
Aarhus University Hospital, led the webinar.

Target group was PhD students and postdoc fellows.
The webinar was attended by 15 participants.

The two webinars were recorded and may be viewed at _
https://www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk/pr/recorded-webinars
The two webinars have subsequently been viewed 38 times.

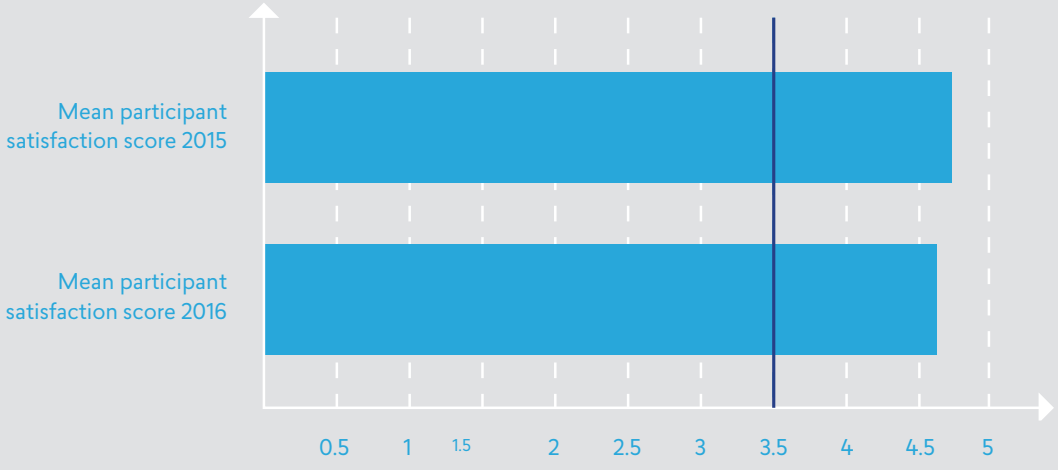
Table 5. DDA postdoctoral activities: Number of participants and mean participant satisfaction

	Number of participants	Participant satisfaction (mean) from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)
2nd Postdoctoral Winter School	57	4.5
Research Management Course	22	4.6
Presentation Course June	11	4.7
Presentation Course August/Sept.	12	4.9
Webinars (n=2)	28	Not performed

Reflections on the DDA's postdoc programme in relation to the DDA success criteria

The average score for participant satisfaction with the scientific programme and the content of the respective event in relation to the DDA's postdoc programme in 2016 was 4.7 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) – the target was 3.5, marked by the dark blue line in Figure 4. The high average score for the three activities (Postdoctoral Winter School, Research Management Course and Presentation Course) is comparable with the scores for these specific activities last year, as shown in Figure 4. Further, it should be noticed that all DDA activities within the postdoc programme were fully booked.

Figure 4: Participants' average satisfaction score at DDA postdoc programme 2015-2016



Professorship programme

DDA visiting professors and DDA full-time professors are asked to give lectures on DDA courses, seminars and webinars.

20-23 June:

"Diabetes and Epidemiology" (PhD course), Sinatur Hotel Storebælt, Nyborg, Denmark.

Daniel Witte of Aarhus University, who holds a five-year DDA-funded professorship in diabetes epidemiology and health, organized a PhD course in diabetes and epidemiology (this PhD course has been described under the PhD scholarship programme, pages 11-12).

Professorship Webinars

10 October:

"Type 2 diabetes phenotypes" (webinar)

www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk

Visiting Professor Venkat Narayan, Emory University, USA, led the webinar.

Target group was PhD students and postdoc fellows. The webinar was attended by 19 participants as shown in Table 6.

5 December:

"Gastrointestinal dysmotility and autonomic neuropathy in T1D" (webinar)

www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk

Visiting Professor Adam Farmer, Keele University, UK, led the webinar.

Target group was PhD students and postdoc fellows. The webinar was attended by 20 participants as shown in Table 6.

The two webinars were recorded, and may be viewed at https://www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk/pr/recorded-webinars

The two webinars have subsequently been viewed 46 times.

Other Professorship Educational activities

Further, The DDA visiting professors and the DDA full-time professor gave lectures or held workshops / Meet the Professor sessions at the following activities: Summer School on Diabetes and Metabolism; 2nd Postdoctoral Winter School for postdoc fellows.

Table 6. DDA Professorship Programme activities: participants and participant satisfaction

	Number of participants	Participant satisfaction (mean) from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)
PhD course on "Diabetes and Epidemiology" (also described in Table 2)	17	4.6
Webinars	39	No evaluation was performed

Reflections on the DDA's professorship programme

The DDA aims to strengthen the education programme through the DDA full-time professorships and visiting professorships. In 2016, DDA professor Daniel Witte, Aarhus University, held a new PhD course within the PhD scholarship programme portfolio. Further, the DDA visiting professors have to some extent been active giving lectures on the PhD courses, at the winter school for postdocs and through online webinars.

The Virtual Laboratory

The DDA has established collaboration with Biotech Academy in relation to the Virtual Laboratory, an e-learning application. The DDA's ambition is that the "Virtual Laboratory" e-learning application, which the DDA and DDA-funded PhD students have helped develop, will be used by DDA-funded postdoctoral fellows and PhD students when they teach high-school and master's students. In 2016, the DDA was able to collaborate with a number of upper-secondary schools and colleges in the Region of Southern Denmark on securing external funding for a project on Science in Southern Denmark – Career Learning in Science Subjects, in which the Virtual Laboratory will play a vital part. Three DDA-funded students and postdocs are involved in this project.

Raising the standard of the DDA's educational activities

A dialogue with DDA-funded researchers and the DDA's collaborative partners, including the International Advisory Board, the Education Committee and a number of national and international research institutions, has considered how the DDA can enhance the professional value of its educational activities for PhD students and postdocs. It has been stressed that the DDA's courses should promote more interaction and less one-way communication. It has also been emphasized that the DDA's courses should help junior researchers be more aware of each other and show appreciation of each other's work. Consequently, the DDA has in 2016, in collaboration with an external consultancy, WElearn - www.welearn.dk, initiated a project to develop a "diabetes challenge" concept that will strengthen future DDA courses for PhD students and postdocs.

The aim with the "diabetes challenge" concept is to assist young researchers to learn in new ways, through different activities, to collaborate across disciplines and to use their creativity in bringing to a pernicious problem solutions that ultimately can help patients attain a better life with diabetes. The Diabetes Challenge is accordingly based on the following three keywords: Learn, Collaborate, Create.

In 2016, the DDA and WElearn used the concept to prepare a diabetes challenge for the postdocs who had signed up for the Winter School in Malaga in 2017.

Below is a brief factual outline of the Diabetes Challenge to postdocs at the Winter School in Malaga:

Two professors (Professor Daniel Witte, Aarhus University, and Paul Franks, Lund University, prepared two challenges (on Diabetes Epidemiology and Precision Medicine, respectively).

Daniel Witte, Diabetes Epidemiology

Challenge video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DlKZqDNaxIo
On-board video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=549gIu1OCBo

Paul Franks, Precision Medicine

Challenge video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeS5UrFAYBc
On-board video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J665q4MK33g

The postdocs were divided into teams with both basic and clinical researchers. In eight missions, the teams had to develop one creative solution. The teamwork required 10 hours work before, 5 hours during, and 2 hours after the presentation of the creative solution.

At the Winter School in Malaga, teams presented the solution to their challenge to a panel of 5 judges, in 5 minutes, on 9 power point slides. The panel selected 3 winning proposals: one for 'best idea', one for 'promising team' and one for 'most visionary solution'.

To read more, go to the Diabetes Challenge website:
http://www.diabeteschallenge.dk/.

Conclusion

The achievements set out above confirm that the DDA has strengthened research training for PhD students and for Postdocs in collaboration with national research institutions. The four PhD courses have been generally well attended and received excellent participant feedback. The eight seminars and symposia have likewise been well attended, received excellent participant feedback and had a majority of international speakers presenting their research. The postdoc programme was also characterized by excellent participant feedback and fully booked courses. Further, the DDA has to some extent been successful in involving the professors in the DDA's educational activities. In collaboration with an external consultancy, the DDA has initiated a process building on the success of its existing educational programme, making its educational activities even more robust than they are at present, and ensuring that they take new teaching methods on board.

Facts

Theresia Schnurr,
MSc, PhD student at the Danish Diabetes Academy from 2014 to 2017
Nationality:
German
Project title:
The role of genetics on objectively assessed physical activity and sedentary behavior and its association to obesity and diabetes-related traits
Workplace:
Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research, Section for Metabolic Genetics, University of Copenhagen
Principal Investigator:
Professor Torben Hansen
Consultant:
Danish Diabetes Academy, The Virtual Laboratory 2.0, Project: Development of an exercise for high school student to learn about genetic risk for diabetes (03/2015 – present)



An excerpt from the book
12 Talented Researchers
Young diabetes researchers –
supported by the Danish Diabetes Academy

Theresia Schnurr

Actually, it was a pack of sled dogs—and their owner—who made Theresia Maria Schnurr a diabetes researcher. And she did not walk into it; she went skiing. It was a lucky punch: In her work with both a Danish and a Greenlandic cohort, she has made interesting findings, and her hope is that they will aid in eventually identify new potential targets for individualized prevention and treatment of obesity and diabetes.

Theresia Schnurr is German, from Bühertal, a small mountain village in the black forest, and she has a Master of Science degree in biochemistry and molecular biology, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, United States.

She studied in Alaska because she had received a sports scholarship to represent the University of Alaska in cross-country running/skiing during the national university championships.

During her bachelor studies, she had to take some independent research credits and bumped into a young professor who worked with sled dogs in an Arctic setting as an exercise and diabetes model. She worked with her for a semester and soon found out that the research she was doing was not only adventurous—sampling the dogs at -40°C at a dog kennel outside town—but also fun and educational. She learned a lot about insulin resistance and exercise-stimulated GLUT4 translocation.

"When she offered me to do my Master's thesis in her lab I didn't hesitate to say yes", Theresia said.

She did her Master's and it got her hooked to continue her research, which led to a PhD with the interest in digging further into the health benefits of exercise—which is her personal interest—and obesity/diabetes complications.

Diabetes, obesity and exercise in a genetic perspective

Her Danish boyfriend made her aware of the great PhD conditions in Denmark, and her next luck was that Professor Torben Hansen helped her find funding to work on her PhD project: Diabetes, Obesity and Exercise in a Genetic Perspective.

The overall objective of her PhD project is to elucidate the role of genetics on objectively assessed physical activity and fitness and its association to obesity and diabetes-related traits. To address her research questions, she is studying well-characterized population-based Danish cohorts as well as a cohort of Greenlandic Inuit for which objectively assessed physical activity data and/or fitness data are available.

Body fat percentage and cardiorespiratory fitness

In one project studying Danish cohorts, she and her colleagues made the potential and very interesting observation that there might be shared genetic aetiology between body fat percentage and cardiorespiratory fitness. In another project they found that Greenlandic Inuit who are homozygous carriers of the TBC1D4 risk variant can greatly benefit from physical activity shown in improved postprandial two-hour glucose levels, probably through a mechanism involving an exercise-induced and TBC1D4-independent GLUT4 translocation to the muscle cell membrane. Theresia believes not only that her PhD project can contribute to eventually identify new potential targets for individualized prevention and treatment of obesity and diabetes, but also that the epidemiological scale of the present study will enable a direct translation of their findings to the real-life setting of population-wide general practice-based diabetes screening and tailored prevention in an Arctic setting.

Still skiing – and mostly training on rollerskis

And as for the skiing, she started up a cross-country skiing kids group in Copenhagen Skiing Club - the training is of course mostly on rollerskis. She was also team captain for Team Denmark during the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Falun, Sweden, in 2015.

And the Danish boyfriend? He is still her boyfriend. He is working as a attorney -at-law - so it is likely that Theresia will stay and work some more years in Denmark even though she misses spectacular mountains and the snow outside the backdoor.

Networking and collaboration

Objectives and goals

The DDA has an ambition to serve as a national diabetes hub bringing together researchers from academia, hospitals and the life science industry. The DDA will strive to strengthen collaboration among diabetes researchers nationally as well as internationally by arranging research workshops, holding formal and informal networking meetings, and running the DDA Annual Days.

Strategy

Together with the DDA's Secretariat, the DDA's Education Committee is responsible for ensuring that the established networking activities are aligned with the DDA's overall networking objectives. This is achieved through ongoing evaluation of the activities and strategic positioning of the type of networking activities that the DDA should support and initiate.

The DDA's strategy for developing networking activities involves receiving ad hoc suggestions from participants and speakers on DDA workshops and seminars and from DDA members. These suggestions are considered by the Education Committee, and the final decision as to whether or not the proposed activity should be supported is made by the Board.

All networking activities are announced via social media, the DDA website (www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk), the newsletter, university e-bulletins and the websites of professionally relevant bodies.

The DDA communicates with its members and the national and international diabetes community through the DDA's website and social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn, as well as through the newsletter, where new and relevant research is presented and discussed. The DDA's communications are described in detail in the section on outreach and dissemination (pages 38-39).

Performance and achievements

The DDA maintained its close collaboration with the Danish PhD Network of Diabetes and Metabolism in 2016. Eight of the nine university PhD schools are still affiliated through this network.

In 2016, the DDA held both large and small networking meetings (workshops, formal and informal networking meetings and an Annual Day) where the objective was to bring together the DDA's young scientists in formal and informal settings and thus give them the opportunity to exchange and discuss research ideas across disciplines and institutions.

In 2016, the DDA held the following networking activities:

18 – 20 May:

Annual meeting of North European Young Diabetologists, Hotel Borupgaard, Snekkersten, Denmark

Postdoc Kirstine Bojsen-Møller, Copenhagen University Hospital Hvidovre, and PhD student Jonathan Bagger, Centre for Diabetes Research, Dept. of Medicine, Gentofte Hospital, were responsible for the scientific programme.

A total of 30 participants, 10 from Denmark, 10 from the UK and 10 from the Netherlands, attended the annual meeting of North European Young Diabetologists. Two (2) of the attendees were DDA-funded PhD students.

Participants' satisfaction with the scientific programme was 4.4 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 7.

The programme of the annual meeting in NEYD is shown in Appendix 6.

12 June:

Networking meeting: "Young researchers' discussion", the American Diabetes Association's (ADA) 76th Scientific Sessions, New Orleans, United States

12 DDA-funded PhD students and postdocs attended the networking meeting, where they each presented and discussed their own contribution (oral or poster presentation) to the ADA meeting.

30 August:

Science in Southern Denmark – Career Learning in Science Subjects, Syddansk Sundhedsinnovation, Odense

DDA Fundraising Officer Michael Rasmussen was responsible for the scientific programme. DDA-funded PhD student Anna Kaufmann Lindqvist introduced the new diabetes exercises in Virtual Laboratory 2.1, and the Chairman of the DDA Board Henning Beck-Nielsen gave a talk on how diabetes is becoming a widespread disease in Denmark and internationally, and which issues need to be addressed as priorities in future research.

A total of 50 people participated in the workshop.

14 September:

Networking meeting: "Young researchers' discussion", European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) Annual Meeting, Munich, Germany

Eight DDA-funded PhD students and postdocs participated in the networking meeting, where they each presented and discussed their own contribution (oral or poster presentation) to the EASD.

14 September:

Networking meeting: "JDRF – DDA mutual interest in the future", European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) Annual Meeting, Munich, Germany

Representatives from DDA and JDRF discussed opportunities for collaboration with regard to the DDA/JDRF postdoc match-funding programme and other initiatives with the potential to strengthen collaboration between DDA and JDRF.

15 September:

Networking meeting: "Deutsche Zentrum für Diabetesforschung (DZD) and DDA collaboration", European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) Annual Meeting, Munich, Germany

Representatives from DDA and DZD discussed opportunities for collaboration on educational activities (PhD and Postdoc programme) and the possibility of collaboration on a grant application to the Horizon 2020 European Framework Programme, with regard to the European Training Programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

10 October:

Networking meeting: "Young researchers' discussion", 3rd BBDC-Joslin-UCPH Conference: Cellular Mechanisms and Cell-Based Therapies of Diabetes, Boston, USA

11 DDA-funded PhD students and postdocs participated in the networking meeting, where they each presented and discussed their own contribution (oral or poster presentation) to the 3rd BBDC-Joslin-UCPH Conference.

1 November:

Networking meeting: "Third Annual DDA Day", Hotel Storebælt, Nyborg, Denmark

A total of 130 audience members and speakers attended the Annual Day. Fifty-six (56) of the attendees were DDA-funded researchers.

Participants' satisfaction with the content of the Annual Day was 4.4 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), as shown in Table 7.

Nearly 60% of respondents said that at the DDA's Annual Day they had established new research relationships that could lead to new collaborations in the future.

The programme of the annual day is shown in Appendix 6.

Table 7. DDA networking activities: participants and participant satisfaction

Activity/Data	Number of participants	Participant satisfaction (mean) from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)
Annual meeting of North European Young Diabetologists	30	4.4
Young researchers' discussion (ADA, EASD, 3rd BBDC-Joslin-UCPH Conference)	30	Not measured
Science in Southern Denmark – Career Learning in Science Subjects	50	Not measured
Annual Day	130	4.4

Reflections on the DDA's networking programme in relation to the DDA success criteria

In 2016, the DDA's PhD Network of Diabetes and Metabolism continued, with eight of the nine university PhD schools affiliated to this network. The DDA did not meet its success criterion regarding the number of networking activities in 2016, as only eight activities were held (the goal being 12). As a matter of priorities, the DDA arranged fewer workshops in 2016 than in previous years, instead holding several smaller, informal networking meetings for DDA-funded researchers. The DDA also worked during 2016 to establish collaborative networks with foreign research institutions with the aim of giving junior DDA researchers more opportunity to internationalize their education and their networking.

Recruitment/ grant activities

Objectives and goals

The DDA aims to attract outstanding young researchers both nationally and internationally.

Strategy

The recruitment strategy and selection procedure for all types of grant (PhD scholarships, postdoc fellowships, visiting and full-time professorships) has been determined by the Board with input from the International Advisory Board and the Consultative Council.

Central to the strategy is the clear intention that recruitment should take place in open and free competition where all candidates have equal opportunity to apply for a grant regardless of nationality, educational background or research area.

The DDA´s Research Committee is responsible for recommending the best-qualified candidates to the Board following assessment of their scientific skills (Appendix 7).

All applications for postdoctoral positions and visiting professorships in 2016 were subject to external review, nationally or internationally. On the basis of these reviews, the Research Committee drew up a ranking for the DDA Board, which took the final selection decision.

The strategy for recruitment to postdoctoral fellowships established with JDRF under the International Research Partnership (IRP) includes evaluation of applicants by JDRF's international expert panel and selected Danish assessors.

The DDA announced all grants through the websites of Danish universities, university hospitals and professional societies, as well as on recruitment sites. The DDA also advertised on international websites, including NatureJobs.

Performance and achievements

In 2016, the DDA recruited ten postdoctoral fellows and six visiting professors.

Recruitment of postdoctoral fellows

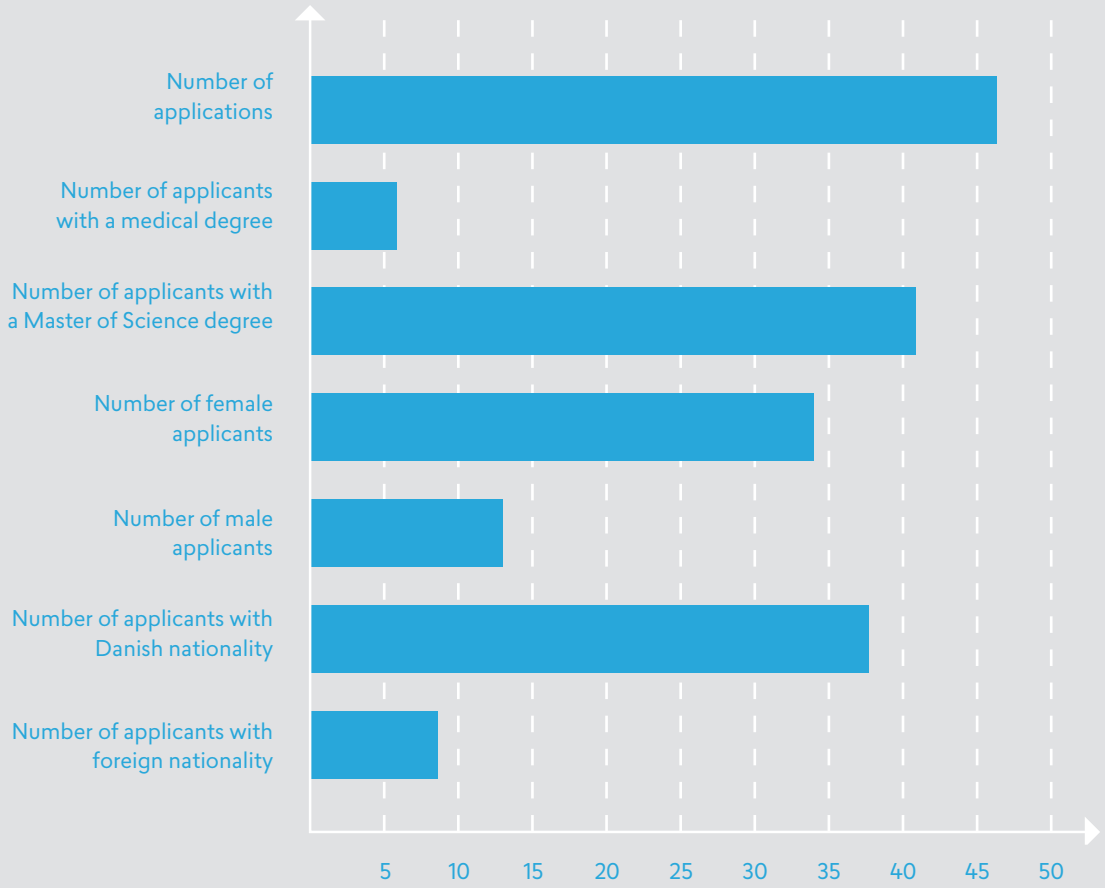
Previous DDA grants to postdocs have not been fully spent, resulting in a reflux of postdoc monies to the DDA. By agreement with NNF, it was decided to use the returned funds to advertise two types of postdoctoral grant to be awarded in open and free competition:

DDA bridging grants, aimed at talented young researchers who have just completed their PhD studies and have the potential to continue in postdoc positions. The bridging grant will enable the applicant to prepare for publication as-yet unpublished data from their PhD studies, and to design and prepare a future postdoctoral research project.

Two-year postdoctoral fellowships aimed at talented young researchers who have just completed their PhD studies, or applicants in the beginning stage of a current postdoctoral position. In contrast to the bridging grants, these awards are for applicants offering a specific, new postdoctoral project.

In June, the DDA awarded five bridging grants and three two-year postdoctoral fellowships.

Figure 5. Total postdoc grant applications in 2016, and applications by educational background, gender and nationality



The overall success ratio of postdoctoral applications, and this success ratio broken down by three parameters: educational background, gender and nationality, are shown in Table 8. The success ratio is calculated as the number of grants divided by the number of applications.

Table 8. Success ratio of postdoctoral applications, and success ratio broken down by three parameters: educational background, gender and nationality

	Number of applications	Number of grants	Success ratio %
Total applications	47	8	17.0%
Applicants with medical degree	6	2	33.3%
Applicants with Master of Science degree	41	6	14.6%
Female applicants	34	6	17.6%
Male applicants	13	2	15.4%
Applicants with Danish nationality	38	7	18.4%
Applicants with foreign nationality	9	1	11.1%

As the DDA granted a total of eight NNF-funded postdoctoral grants in 2016, the success ratio for each of the three parameters should be interpreted cautiously.

Table 9 shows the actual numbers and percentage distribution of the institutional affiliation of postdoctoral fellowships.

Table 9. Institutional affiliation of postdoctoral fellowships

Institution	Numbers (Percentage)
University of Copenhagen (Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research, Department of Public Health, Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports)	3 (37.5%)
Rigshospitalet, University Hospital of Copenhagen	1 (12.5%)
Aarhus University Hospital	1 (12.5%)
Odense University Hospital	2 (25.0%)
University of Southern Denmark	1 (12.5%)

NNF-funded postdoctoral fellowship grant recipients and their affiliations are listed in Appendix 7.

Match-funding postdoctoral programme with JDRF

The DDA and JDRF have an agreement to co-fund (50:50) a number of postdoctoral grants of 1 to 5 years by free and open call.

The postdoctoral fellowships are designed to attract promising, qualified scientists embarking on professional careers in the field of type 1 diabetes research.

It is a requirement that international applicants and potential grant recipients can document collaboration with Danish diabetes researchers.

In 2016, the DDA and JDRF made awards to two applicants. Names and affiliations of the two awardees are listed in Appendix 7.

Recruitment of visiting professors

The DDA awarded six visiting professorships in 2016:

Professor Ruth Loos of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, USA will collaborate with Drs Torben Hansen (primary host) and Tuomas Kilpeläinen of the Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research and with Dr Susanne Mandrup of the University of Southern Denmark. The focus will be on the physiological mechanisms that determine why some obese individuals are protected, and why some normal-weight individuals are at risk. These mechanisms are poorly understood because clinical studies are often too small and methods for testing presumed pathways are too invasive. Ruth Loos will teach junior researchers on symposia, PhD courses and webinars, the latter in collaboration with Visiting Professor James Granneman.

Professor James Granneman, Center For Integrative Metabolic and Endocrine Research, Wayne State University, Detroit, an Integrative biologist, will collaborate with Professor Susanne Mandrup (primary host) and Professor Nils Færgeman of the University of Southern Denmark. The collaboration will provide new insights into the basic biology of fat cells and will identify new points for possible therapeutic intervention in diabetes and obesity. James Granneman will teach junior researchers on symposia and webinars, the latter in collaboration with Visiting Professor Ruth Loos.

Professor David McIntyre, Mater Research, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia will collaborate with Professor Peter Damm (Primary Host), Rigshospitalet, Associate Professor Dorte Møller Jensen, Odense University Hospital and Professor Per Ovesen, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus University. The focus will be on analysis of Danish and Australian data on elevated glucose levels in pregnancy and associated pregnancy complications. Professor David McIntyre will teach junior researchers on DDA symposia, PhD courses and webinars, the latter in collaboration with Visiting Professor Chittaranjan Sakerlal Yajnik.

Associate Professor Anandwardhan A. Hardikar, University of Sydney, Australia will collaborate with Associate Professor Louise T. Dalgaard (Primary host), Roskilde University and Professor Emeritus Jens H. Nielsen, University of Copenhagen. The focus will be on investigating serum microRNAs and circulating cell-free DNA profiles in the Danish Childhood Obesity Cohort, in which a one-year multidisciplinary intervention programme in childhood obesity was shown to confer reduction in liver and muscle fat, offering metabolic improvements to children and adolescents. Associate Professor Anandwardhan A. Hardikar will teach junior researchers on PhD courses and DDA webinars.

Professor Timothy Charles Skinner, Head of Psychological and Clinical Sciences, Charles Darwin University, Australia, will collaborate with Principal Investigator Ingrid Willaing, Diabetes Management Research, Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen. The focus will be on developing empirically derived approaches to reducing and preventing diabetes distress in people with diabetes. Timothy Charles Skinner will teach junior researchers on DDA symposia and webinars.

Professor Chittaranjan Sakerlal Yajnik, Director, Diabetes Unit, King Edward Memorial Hospital and Research Centre, Pune, India will collaborate with Professor Henning Beck-Nielsen and Associate Professor Dorte Møller Jensen (Primary Host), Odense University Hospital, Professor Ellen Nøhr, University of Southern Denmark and Professor Torben Hansen, Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research. The focus will be on different aspects of developmental programming of diabetes and comparative studies of normal glucose-tolerant subjects and type 2 diabetic patients, investigating the genetic-epigenetic-phenotypic differences in the two populations (Indian and Danish) to understand genotype-epigenotype-phenotype associations. Professor Chittaranjan Sakerlal Yajnik will teach junior researchers on DDA symposia, PhD courses and webinars, the latter in collaboration with Visiting Professor David McIntyre.

Visiting professorship grant recipients, their affiliations and their project titles are listed in Appendix 7.

In addition to the six newly recruited visiting professors, the researchers below all continued their DDA-financed visiting professorships in Denmark during 2016, as described in their applications:

Antonio Muños (Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Copenhagen), Jørgen Jensen (Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports, University of Copenhagen), Adam Farmer (Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Aalborg University Hospital), Ari Meerson (Department of Biomedical

Sciences, University of Copenhagen), Rebecca Simmons (Department of Public Health, Aarhus University), Professors Venkat Narayan (Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen) and Cora Weignert (Rigshospitalet, University Hospital of Copenhagen).

Professorships

To stimulate the Danish diabetes research environment in one of the DDA's five research areas, the DDA aims to fill two full-time professorships.

In 2016, recruitment to the second DDA professorship, the Professorship in Molecular Biology of Diabetes Pathogenesis, to be hosted at the University of Southern Denmark, was still ongoing. It was decided to re-advertise the call for applications as no eligible candidates were found in the two first calls.

Professor Daniel Witte, who was granted the first professorship, in the Department of Public Health, Aarhus University, continued his research in diabetes, epidemiology and health during 2016. Furthermore, he contributed to the following DDA educational activities: Winter School (lectures and Meet the Professor session); chairman of PhD course in diabetes and epidemiology (organizer); reviewing postdoc applications (external review). Further, Professor Daniel Witte contributed to the project to raise the standard of DDA educational activities as described on page 22.

The contribution of the DDA professor and visiting professors to the DDA educational programme and outreach is listed in Table 10.

Conclusion

The DDA aims to attract outstanding researchers both nationally and internationally in open and free competition. In 2016, the DDA recruited 16 researchers in total: eight NNF-funded postdoctoral fellows, two match-funded (JDRF and DDA) postdoctoral fellows and six visiting professors. The visiting professors have been an asset to the DDA's educational activities.

Table 10. Contribution of the DDA professor and visiting professors to the DDA educational programme and outreach

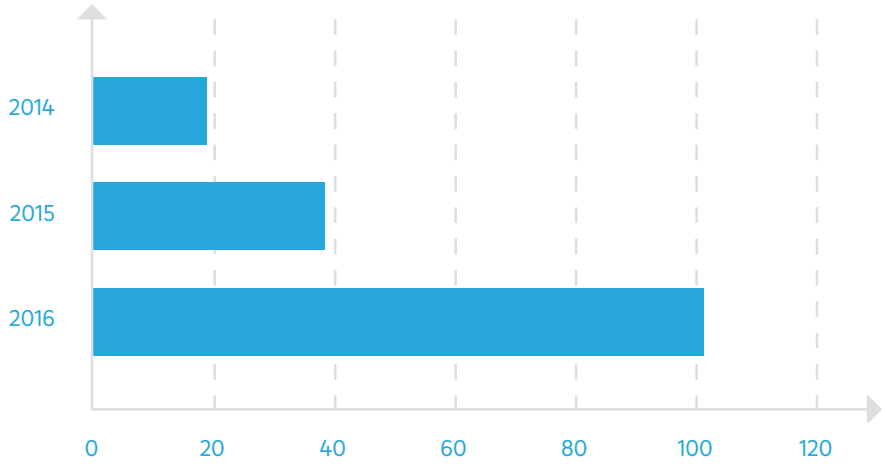
Activity	Number of visiting professors who contributed
Winter School in Malaga for postdocs: Organizing the event and Meet the Professor session	4
Webinars at www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk	2
PhD course "Summer School"	1
PhD course "Diabetes and Epidemiology"	1
Organizing forthcoming PhD course in collaboration with Deutsche Zentrum für Diabetesforschung and Cambridge Metabolic Network	2
Review of applications for DDA postdoc grants	3
Publishing peer-reviewed publications	6

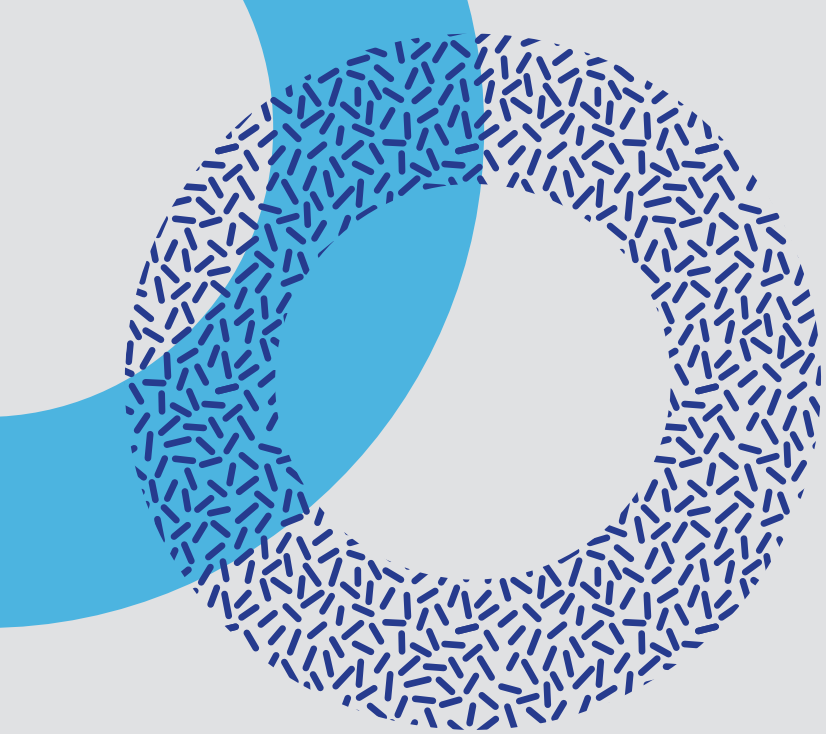
Scientific output

Publications

In 2016, DDA-funded researchers published a total of 103 publications in peer-reviewed journals. This is nearly treble the figure for the previous year, as shown in Figure 6. Publications include primary research articles, reviews, commentaries and an editorial. The publications are listed in Appendix 8 (DDA-funded researchers marked in bold).The rate of publications in 2014-2016 is shown in Figure 6 (no publications were published in 2013).

Figure 6. Annual rate of DDA publications 2014-2016





103

publications published by DDA-funded researchers

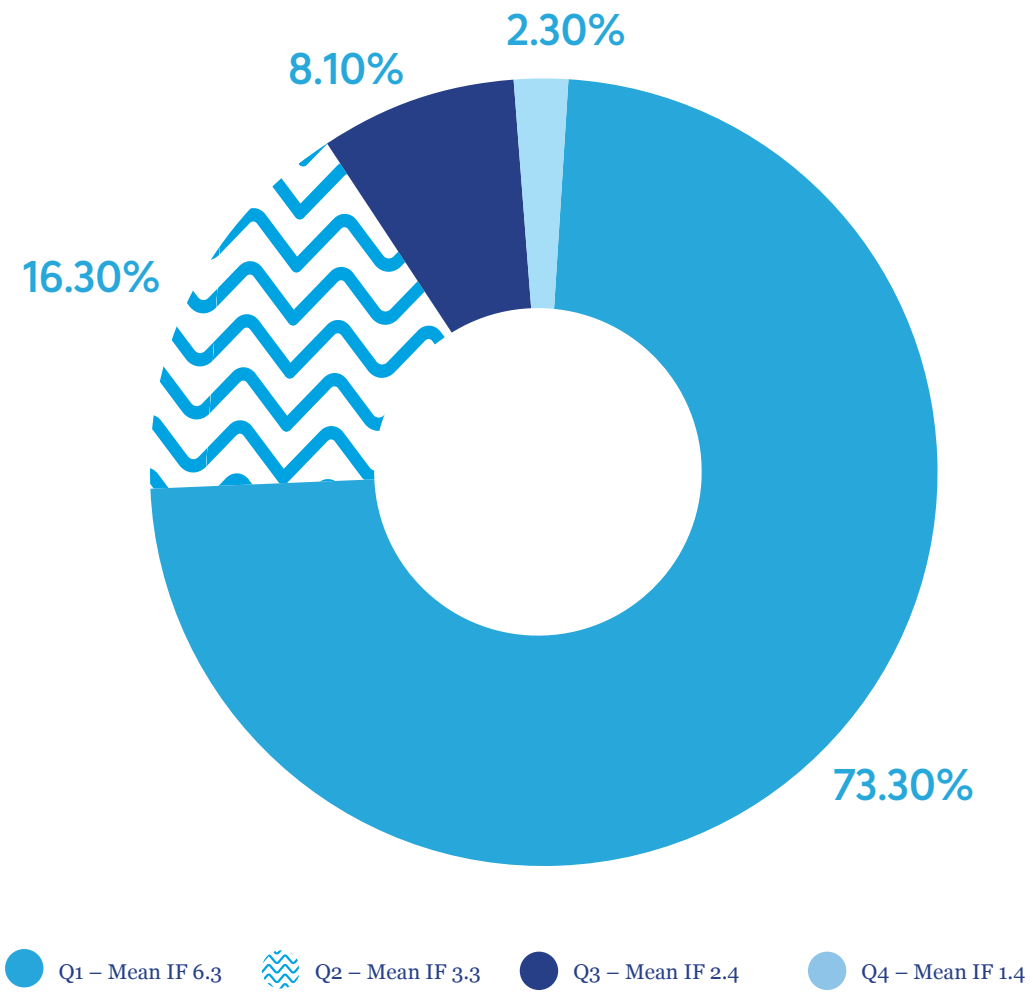
Bibliometric analysis

A bibliometric analysis was performed on 86 of the 103 articles in the publication list, as only 86 articles were indexed in the 2015 Journal Citation Reports® (Thomson Reuters, 2016)[1]. All journals included in Journal Citation Reports (JCR) are assigned to categories according to subject (e.g. the subject category[2] Endocrinology & Metabolism).

The journals in each category may be ranked by journal impact factor (JIF), and each subject category may be divided into quartiles.

The analysis shows that, of the 86 articles published by DDA-funded researchers in peer-reviewed, JCR-indexed journals, 63 (73%) were published in journals ranked in quartile 1 (Q1), 14 (16%) in Q2, 7 (8%) in Q3 and 2 (2%) in Q4 (Figure 7)

Figure 7. Distribution of publications by Journal Citation Reports® subject category quartile and mean impact factor (IF) for each quartile

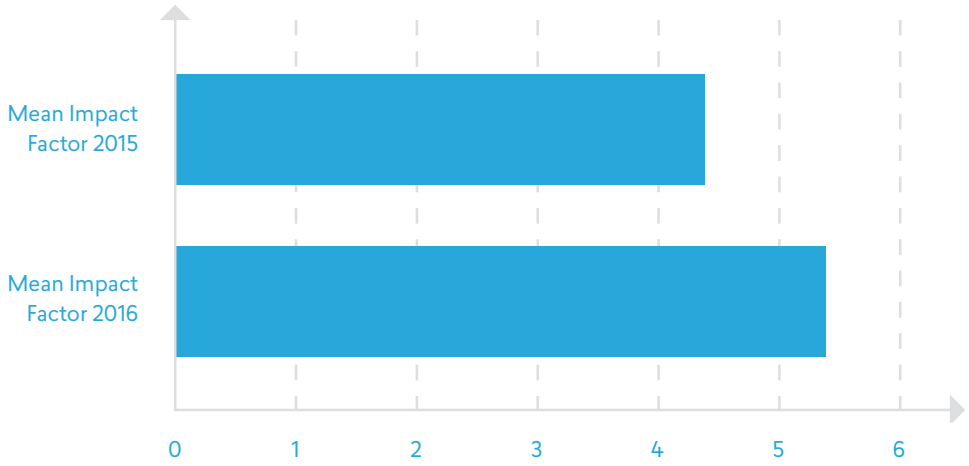


1 The 2015 Journal Citation Reports is used instead of the 2016 version as this is not available until summer 2017.

2 Each journal in JCR is assigned to at least one subject category, indicating a general area of science or the social sciences. Journals may be included in more than one subject category; therefore, when comparing journals across related categories, the same journal title may occur in different categories. *InCitesTM Journal Citation Reports® Help (2015):* http://ipscience-help.thomsonreuters.com.proxy1-bib.sdu.dk:2048/incitesLiveJCR/glossaryAZgroup/g12/7744-TRS.html

The mean JIF score of the 86 indexed publications was 5.41 (range 1.3 – 19.7) in 2016, and 4.49 (range 1.8-8.0), in 2015 as illustrated in Figure 8 below. Thus, in 2016 there was an increase of nearly 20% in the mean Journal Impact Factor score of the scientific output of DDA-funded researchers as compared with 2015.

Figure 8. Mean Journal Impact Factor Score, 2015 and 2016



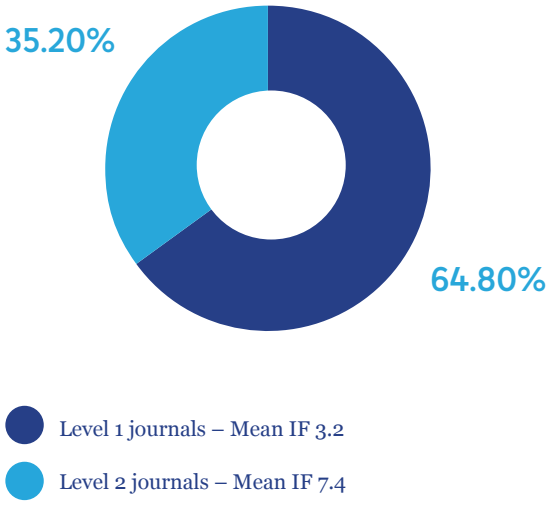
The Danish Bibliometric Research Indicator

Another way to show the impact of the DDA-funded researchers' publications is through the Danish Bibliometric Research Indicator (DBRI), which is a publication metric that rewards publication in the most prestigious, recognized channels. Journals are rated as either level 1 (standard) or level 2 (high quality). Level 1 includes good, well-regarded journals, while level 2 contains journals attracting the very highest level of prestige and recognition. The Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science publishes lists, known as authority files, showing which journals are included in the DBRI and at which level (See Appendix 8 for more information).

Of the 103 publications DDA-funded researchers published in 2016, 91 appear in the DBRI authority file for journals and serials.

The analysis shows that, of the 91 articles published by DDA-funded researchers in journals listed in the authority files, 59 articles (65%) were published in level 1 journals, the standard level, and 32 (35%) were published in journals on level 2, the high level, which includes journals such as the American Journal of Gastroenterology, Nature Communications, Molecular & Cellular Proteomics, the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, and Diabetes (Figure 9).

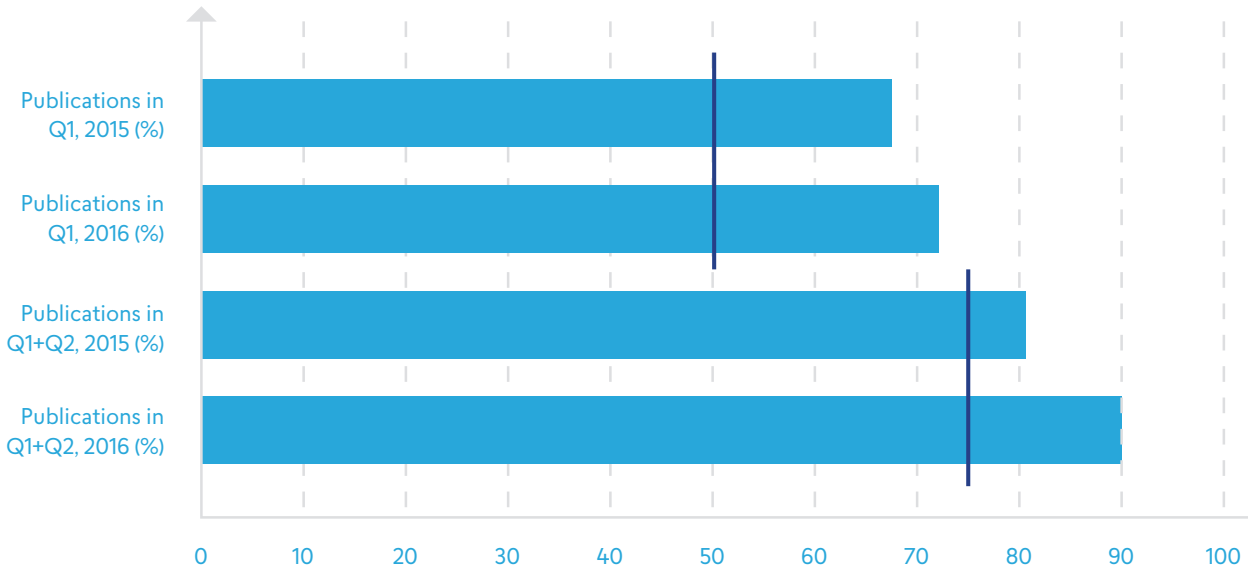
Figure 9: The percentage distribution of the total number of publications (n = 91) by DBRI level and the mean impact factor (IF) for each level.



Reflections on DDA-funded researchers' scientific productivity in relation to the DDA success criteria

The DDA's success criterion for scientific publications was met in 2016, with 73% (target 50%, marked by the dark blue line in Figure 10) appearing in journals in the first quartile, and nearly 90% (target 75%, marked by the dark blue line in Figure 10) appearing in journals in the first or second quartile, as described in the bibliometric analysis. The results for 2016 are slightly higher than those for 2015.

Figure 10. Percentage of publications in Q1 and Q2 in 2015 and 2016



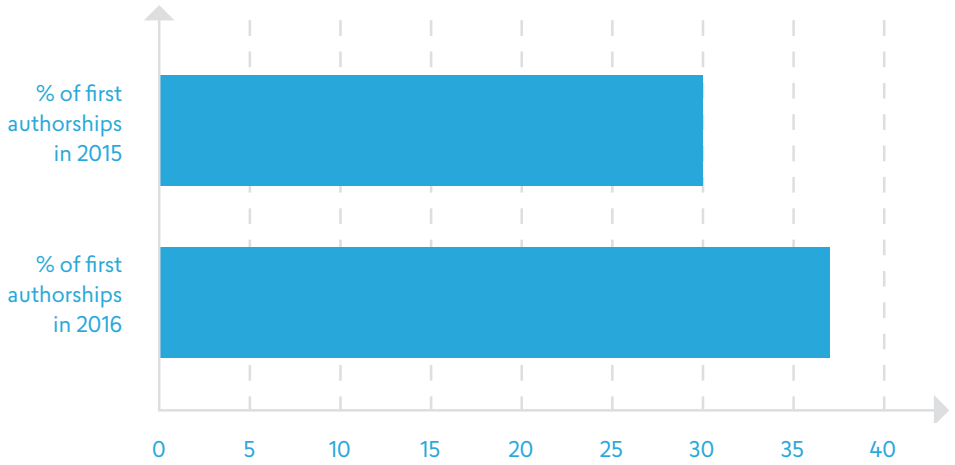
Co-publications

Nearly 15% of publications (16 of 103) were co-publications with two or more DDA-funded researchers as authors. The DDA aspires to be identified as a unifying hub in Danish diabetes research. The relatively high total of co-publications may be seen as an indication that this has been achieved.

First-author publications

In 2016, nearly 37% of indexed articles (Figure 11) had a DDA-funded researcher as first author, as against 2015, when just fewer than 30% of indexed publications had a DDA-funded researcher as first author.

Figure 11. Comparison of first authorships in 2015 and 2016



In conclusion, DDA-funded researchers published a total of 103 publications in peer-reviewed journals, which was nearly three times as many as in the previous year. The bibliometric analysis, which included the Journal Citation Reports analysis and the Danish Bibliometric Research Indicator, showed that a high proportion of these publications were in high-impact diabetes and endocrinology journals. The success criterion regarding the percentage of publications published in journals in the first quartile and second quartile of the Journal Citation Report was achieved. Further, a relatively high percentage of the publications had a DDA-funded researcher as first author.

Facts

Jakob Appel Østergaard,
MD, PhD, postdoctoral fellow at the Danish Diabetes Academy from 2013 to 2016
Nationality:
Danish
Project title:
The complement system in kidney disease.
Workplace:
Department of Endocrinology and Internal Medicine, Aarhus University Hospital
Principal Investigator:
Professor Troels Krarup Hansen



An excerpt from the book
12 Talented Researchers
Young diabetes researchers –
supported by the Danish Diabetes Academy

Jakob Appel Østergaard

Jakob Appel Østergaard faces a very considerable challenge: having completed a postdoctoral assignment, he must embark on his main educational topic: endocrinology. In his own words, he must leave one fantastic area of work to go to another, equally fantastic one. The challenge will be to have to choose, when in fact he would like to pursue both things. "I am looking forward to applying my knowledge to clinical practice, but I dread the possibility that there won't be time enough to do research", he says.

Jakob is aware of his obligation to continue research, something he owes to himself, the Danish Diabetes Academy and the Novo Nordisk Foundation and other contributors, who have made the investment in him, and he wants to retain the connection with the Danish Diabetes Academy and participate in the symposia and workshops as well as the expanded network it provides.

It has always been his dream to continue as a researcher, so the challenge consists in finding a solution that allows him to combine this with his clinical work. It will be hard, especially since he must also find time for home life with his wife Lisbeth, a nurse anaesthetist, and their daughters aged five and seven.

Something that counts in his favour is that, unlike others who have had to give up their research, he already has his postdoctoral fellowship behind him. "The three years I spent on the postdoc in the Danish Diabetes Academy have helped me build a great network and I envisage plenty of exciting projects, so my odds have become much, much better. One the other hand, I can`t do research only in my free time for the rest of my life. This will be a tipping point". He is, however, admirably optimistic that systems will change to prevent a lot of research from falling by the board when students finish their postdoctoral or PhD work, and that it will be possible for them to carry projects through.

Diabetes has a massive impact on people's lives

The subject of Jakob's research is diabetic kidney disease. And the reason for his choice of specialism is partly that both his brothers have type 1 diabetes. "So, I have seen close up what it means to have diabetes. It is something that impacts massively on your life. I don't think the public are sufficiently aware of this impact. But when someone close to you has diabetes, you want to make things better for them", he says.

What particularly interests him in diabetes is the risk of complications. How do these connect with the disease itself? What exactly is happening?

Jakob turns to military terminology when describing his research. "In war, they speak of friendly fire when an army shoots at their own troops by mistake. What our research group has identified is that the body's own weaponry, the immune system, seems to be mistaking its own cells for those of invading bacteria. So, when it opens fire, the body's cells are hit; this seems to be happening in the development of diabetic kidney disease", he concludes.

Around 30 per cent contract kidney problems

Jakob's aim is to discover a means of deflecting or at least mitigating the attacks on the body's own cells. This, he feels, would mean a healthier, better quality of life for a lot of diabetes sufferers. Nearly 30 per cent of patients with type 1 or type 2 diabetes are affected by varying degrees of kidney problems. "The research perspectives are very promising. A number of drugs that control the immune system have already been developed. It is reasonable to speculate that they could be applied preventively in the case of diabetes patients", Jakob says.

When asked about further goals, Jakob does not hesitate: "I hope that the road I'm on now will prove to have been the right one when I come to my retirement. My task now is to test my hypothesis and continue working on preventing damage. The ultimate dream is that these immune system 'inhibitors' can be used by people with diabetes. And in the short-term view, I would like to be able to describe the mechanisms involved. This is a realistic short-term aim."

Outreach and dissemination

The DDA's outreach activities include the educational and networking activities (presented earlier in this report) and attendance at international and national conferences, but also the use of media and online communication channels (social media) for dissemination of both research information and information in general.

Researchers funded by the DDA, and the DDA's faculty members, participate in national and international conferences to present their research externally (data collection on this issue is ongoing and will be presented next year).

The recruitment of DDA researchers, scientific results published by DDA-funded researchers, and awards achieved by DDA-funded researchers were published in national newspapers over 30 times during 2016 (see Appendix 9 for documentation). This frequency of dissemination of scientific output in Danish and international media is expected to increase in the years to come.

The following online channels have been used for communication about the DDA's events, research news and grant proposals: social media, such as Facebook and LinkedIn, and the DDA website (www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk). Finally, the DDA also sends out a monthly newsletter by e-mail to all DDA members and other interested researchers.

DDA communications in numbers

From 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016:

The number of members of the DDA increased by

43%

(from 730 to 1044)

The number of visitors to the DDA website decreased by

5%

(from 42,623 hits to 40,668 hits)

The number of subscribers to the DDA newsletter increased by

91%

(from 623 to 1193*)

The number of followers on LinkedIn increased by

41%

(from 373 to 527)

The number of followers on Facebook increased by

59%

(from 365 to 580)

Specific news items reached the newsfeed of up to

12000

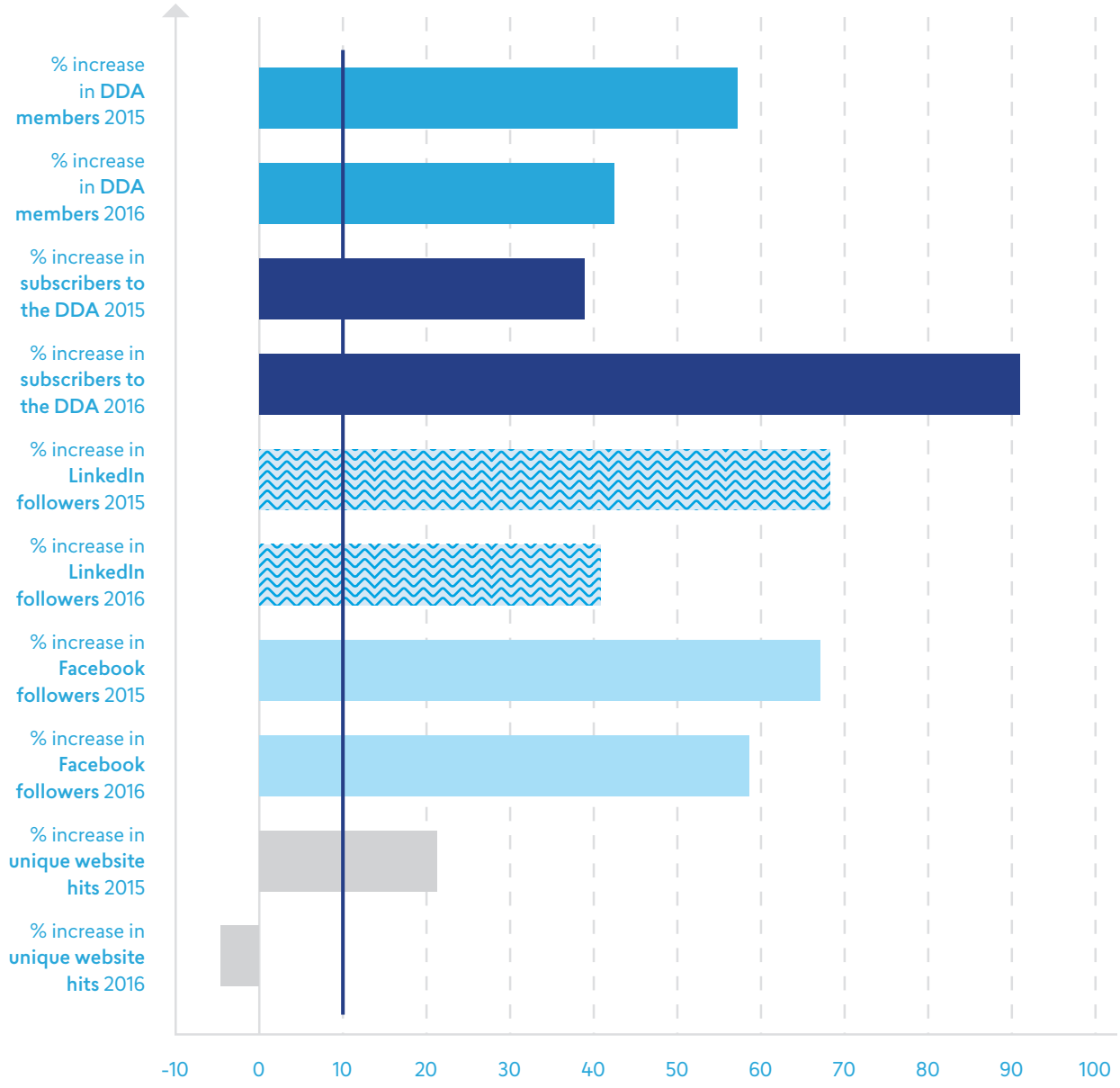
people per month via Facebook

*including 359 newsletter subscribers who are not members of the DDA.

Reflections on the DDA's outreach and communications in relation to the DDA success criteria

The DDA's success criterion regarding an annual increase of at least 10% (marked by the dark blue line in Figure 12) in the numbers of DDA members, subscribers to the DDA newsletter and followers on social media was met. Besides using the DDA website, www. danishdiabetesacademy.dk, the DDA has announced all activities within the educational programme, networking and recruitment via relevant social media (DDA Facebook and DDA LinkedIn) and the DDA newsletter. Activity on social media linking directly to a specific activity at the DDA website or to the enrolment form for an educational activity https://danishdiabetesacademy.plan2learn.dk/KursusValg could serve to explain why the number of visitors to the DDA website decreased by 5% in 2016 .

Figure 12. Increase in members of DDA and social media communication in 2015 and 2016



Organization and management

The organigram below (Figure 13) shows the reporting structure of the DDA's bodies and their sizes.

The organization consists of a Board, an International Advisory Board, a Research Committee, an Education Committee, a Council and Secretariat, and a Faculty including all members of the DDA.

As mentioned in the Terms of Reference (Appendix 10), the timeframe for the membership of the DDA´s Board and committees is three years, with the possibility of renewal.

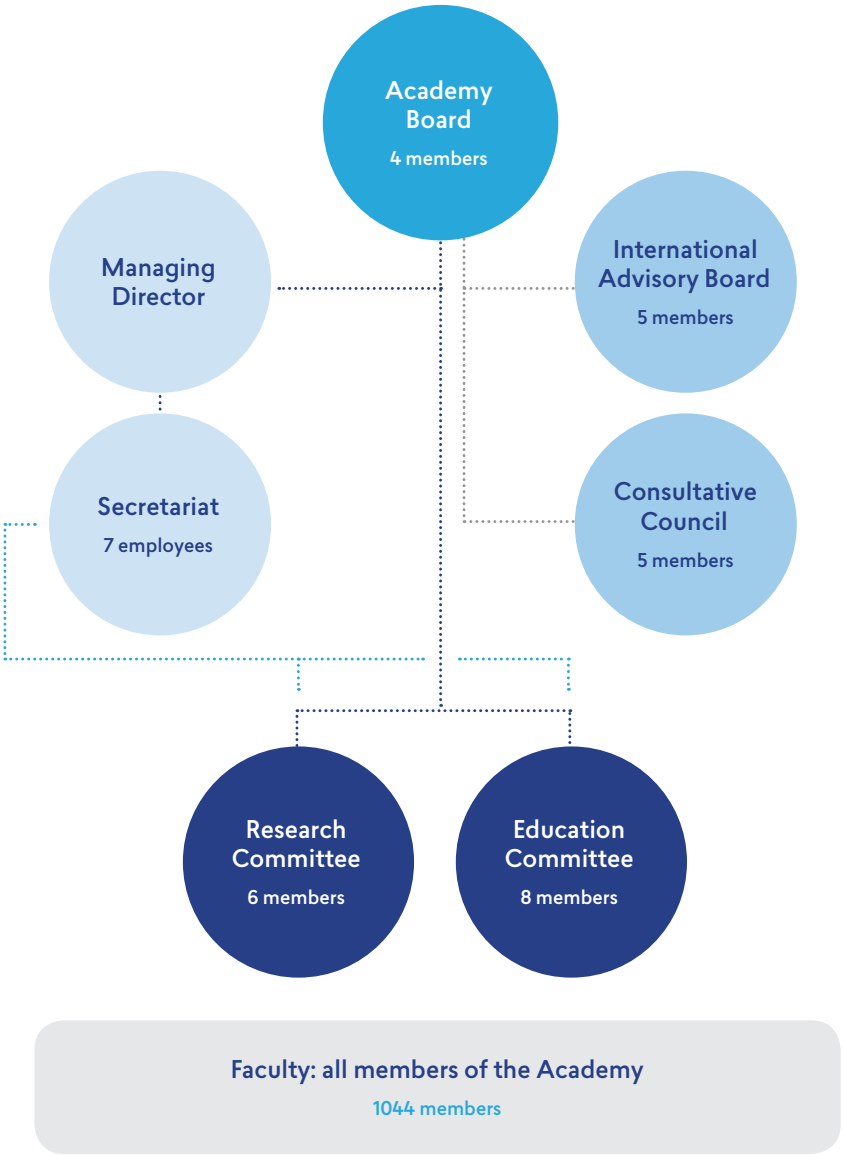


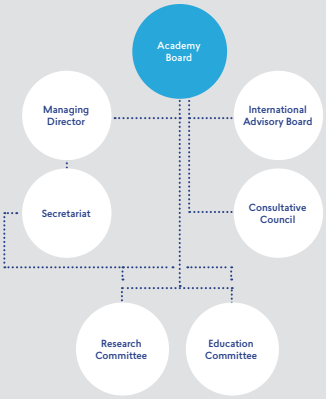
Figure 13. The DDA's organization

- Management
- Advisory councils
- Day-to-day management (including support, indicated by arrows)
- Executive committees (Including advice to the Board)

The Board

The Board was convened two times during 2016.

The Board decided not to replace Chief Medical Officer Jannik Hilsted, who left the Board in 2015, with a new Board member.



Members of the Board:

Professor
Henning Beck-Nielsen,
Department of Endocrinology, Odense University Hospital (chairman)

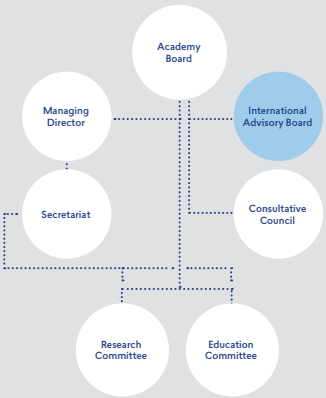
Professor
Dean Allan Flyvbjerg,
Department of Medical Endocrinology and Internal Medicine, Aarhus University Hospital, and Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University (representative of the universities involved)

Professor
Oluf Borbye Pedersen,
Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research (representative of the Novo Nordisk Foundation centres at the Faculty of Health Science, University of Copenhagen)

Professor
Kurt Højlund,
Department of Endocrinology, Odense University Hospital (chairman of the Consultative Council)

International Advisory Board

The International Advisory Board was convened for the annual meeting of the American Diabetes Association.



Members of the International Advisory Board:

Professor
Christopher J. Rhodes,
University of Chicago, USA

Professor
Ulf Smith,
University of Gothenburg, Sweden (former president of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD))

Professor
Barbara Corkey,
Boston University School of Medicine, USA

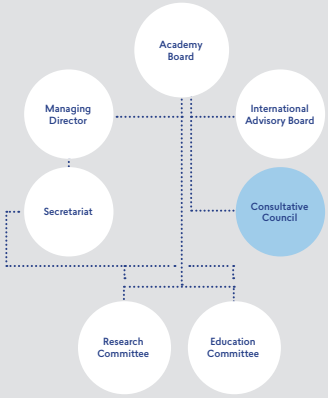
Professor
Ele Ferrannini,
University of Pisa School of Medicine, Italy (former president of the EASD)

Professor
C. Ronald Kahn,
Joslin Diabetes Center, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA

Consultative Council

The Consultative Council was convened twice during 2016.

In 2016, all Consultative Council members were re-elected, except for Professor Allan Vaag, who left the Council in 2016. The Board decided not to replace Professor Allan Vaag with a new council member



Members of the Board:

Professor
Kurt Højlund (Chairman),
Department of Endocrinology,
Odense University Hospital

Professor
Niels Jessen (Vice-chairman),
Department of Molecular
Medicine, Aarhus University Hospital

Professor
Allan Vaag,
Institute of Clinical Medicine,
Copenhagen University Hospital
(until March 2016)

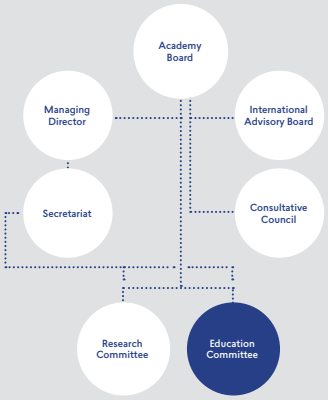
Professor
Annelli Sandbæk,
Institute of Public Health,
Aarhus University

Professor
Susanne Mandrup,
Department of Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology, University of
Southern Denmark

Professor
Jørgen Wojtaszewski,
August Krogh Institute,
University of Copenhagen

The Education Committee

The Education Committee was convened four times during 2016. In addition, monthly conference calls were scheduled between the DDA Managing Director, the Education Manager and the Committee Chairman.



Members of The Education Committee:

Professor
Torben Hansen (Chairman),
Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences,
University of Copenhagen

Associate Professor
Dorte Møller Jensen,
Faculty of Health Sciences,
University of Southern Denmark

Professor
Jan Früstyk,
Faculty of Health Sciences,
Aarhus University

Professor
Jørgen Wojtaszewski,
Faculty of Science,
University of Copenhagen

Professor
Louise Torp Dalgaard,
Department of Science, Systems and
Models, Roskilde University

Professor
Nils Joakim Færgeman,
Faculty of Science,
University of Southern Denmark

Professor
Peter Vestergaard,
Faculty of Medicine, Aalborg University

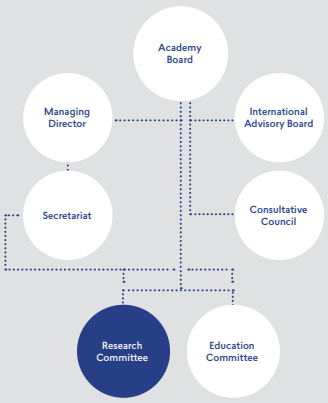
Professor
Inge Tetens,
National Food Institute,
Technical University of Denmark

Education Advisory Board

The Education Advisory Board is a sub-committee of the Education Committee. The primary role of the members of the Education Advisory Board is to participate in summer schools and seminars held by the DDA. Each year, members of the Education Advisory Board are invited to the DDA's PhD Summer School, where their tasks are to network with the young researchers participating in the Summer School and to act as chairmen and/or workshop managers. In 2016, members of the Education Advisory Board participated in the PhD course "Summer School on Diabetes and Metabolism" and the 2nd Postdoctoral Winter School for postdoc fellows. The members of the Education Advisory Board are listed in Appendix 10.

Research Committee

The Research Committee was convened twice during 2016. In addition, the Research Committee held two conference calls in connection with research funding for postdocs and guest professors.



Members of the Research Committee:

Professor
Peter Rossing, (Chairman),
Steno Diabetes Center , Copenhagen

Professor
Susanne Mandrup,
University of Southern Denmark

Pro-Dean
Lise Wogensen Bach,
Aarhus University

Professor
Tina Vilsbøll,
Gentofte Hospital

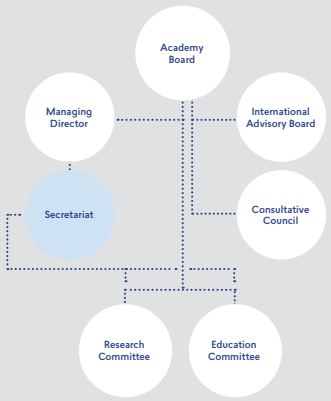
Professor
Thomas Mandrup-Poulsen,
University of Copenhagen

Consultant
Reimar Thomsen,
Aarhus University Hospital

Secretariat

The Secretariat assists the management team and the above-mentioned bodies by providing administrative help.

The organigram below (Figure 14) shows the organization and composition of the Secretariat.



Secretariat employees:

Tore Christiansen,
Managing Director

Tina Hansen Barbisan,
Personal Assistant (PA) to the Managing Director

Tine Hylle,
PA to the Chairman of the Board/Head of the DDA

Kristine M. Michailidis,
Education Manager

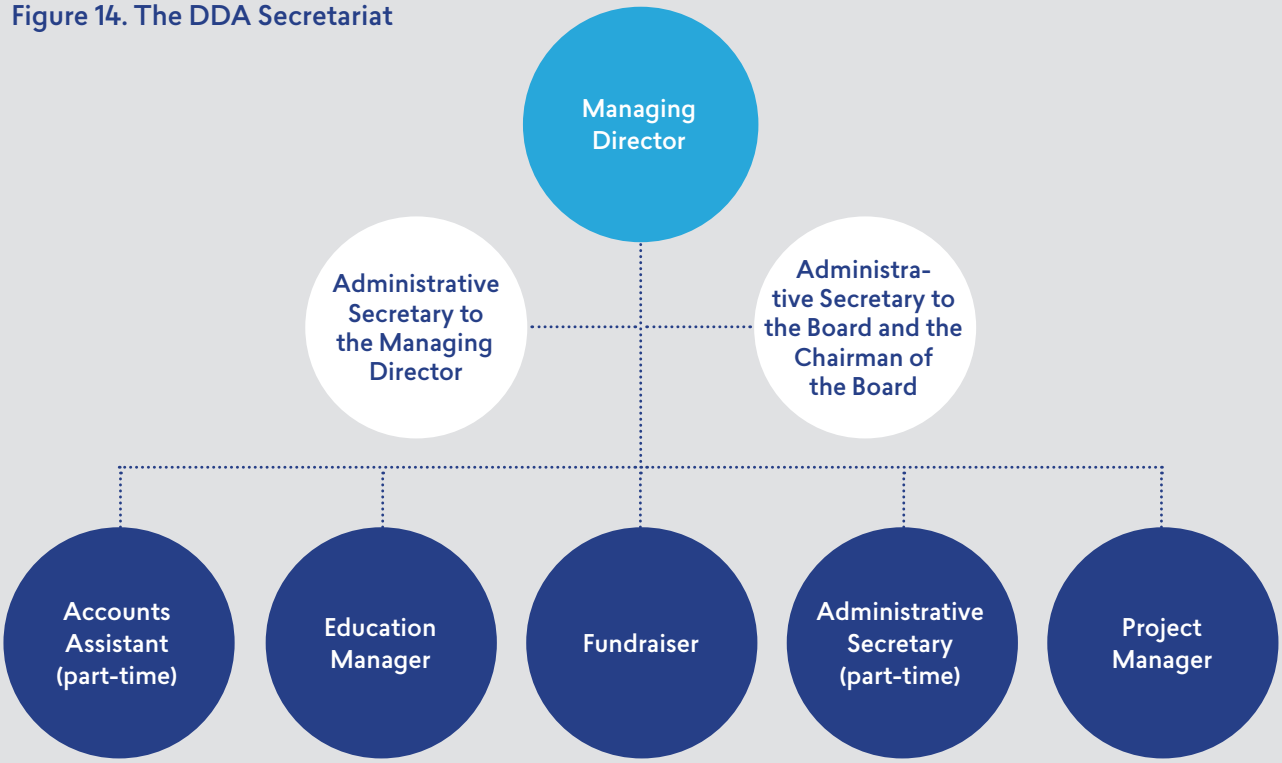
Lene Von Fintel Sostack,
Administrative Secretary (part-time) (maternity leave from 18 April 2016)

Tine Rosengreen Pallisgaard,
Administrative Secretary (maternity cover from 18 April 2016)

Michael Rasmussen,
Fundraiser

Iben Brøndum
Project Manager (from 22 June 2016)

Figure 14. The DDA Secretariat



Fundraising

Science in Southern Denmark

The DDA was successful in securing external funding for its activities during 2016. It was announced at the end of June that the Education Fund of Southern Denmark would support the "Science in Southern Denmark – Career Learning in Science Subjects" project, contributing DKK 2.5 million toward the total project budget of DKK 3.7 million. This project has been set up by the DDA in collaboration with Svendborg Technical High School and several upper-secondary schools and colleges in the Region of Southern Denmark. DKK 0.4 million is allocated for the DDA to coordinate contact between junior researchers and teachers and students, and for the development of new teaching materials. There was a joint project launch in Odense on 30 August, and the first workshop, with three of the DDA's junior researchers and several secondary-school teachers, was a great success. The workshop series is planned to continue in 2017, and the aim is to create new secondary-level teaching materials and courses focusing on diabetes. The teaching materials also include the newly devised diabetes exercises in Virtual Laboratory 2.1, developed collaboratively by two of the DDA's PhD students and the Biotech Academy. As well as raising the profile of diabetes, the project helps position the DDA's junior researchers as role models who can get young Danes interested in a career in the natural and health sciences.

https://www.regionsyddanmark.dk/wm487397

EU Funding

In 2016, the Fundraising Officer worked on identifying research collaboration opportunities that could form the basis of a joint application to the EU's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme. This programme includes several measures that are a good fit for the DDA's existing activities, and it can also help fund new initiatives. COFUND and European Training Networks (ETN) are seen as particularly relevant.

Regarding the establishment of an ETN, various themes and combinations of partners were discussed, but it was not until late in 2016 that we were able to settle on a theme and a group of collaborators as the basis for drafting an application. This process will be ongoing throughout the next year.

Under the COFUND scheme, we can apply for co-funding of PhD and postdoctoral scholarships. This is a good opportunity to secure increased resources to attract foreign researchers to Danish research environments.

T1D Task Force

In collaboration with the Danish Diabetes Association and several researchers from the University of Copenhagen and elsewhere, the DDA has initiated an interdisciplinary Task Force with the goal of discovering the cause of type 1 diabetes and thereby finding a treatment to eliminate the disease. Innovation Fund Denmark has shown an interest in this project, and the DDA's Fundraising Officer is contributing to project development and to the application stage.

Self-evaluation of the Academy and invitation to submit a new application

In 2016, the DDA's internal self-evaluation of the Academy´s performance in the period from 1 September 2012 to 31 October 2015 was evaluated by four international peers and subsequently approved by the board of NNF. Based on the evaluation of DDA, the NNF decided to call for an application for a potential continuation of the Academy (2017-22) after expiration of the existing grant on August 31 2017.





Danish Diabetes Academy
Funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation