



Annual Report 2022
Danish Cardiovascular Academy

Summary

The aim of the Danish Cardiovascular Academy in 2022 has been to consolidate its position as the unifying factor within Danish cardiovascular research. To achieve this, the academy has focused on its three main areas:

- High-level educational activities
- The annual international summer and winter conferences
- Granting of PhD scholarships, Postdoctoral Fellowships and travel grants.

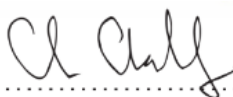
In total the academy hosted 19 educational activities and granted 13 PhD scholarships, 8 Postdoctoral Fellowships and 75 travel grants. The educational activities have been within highly specialised scientific topics as electro physiology, sex-differences and basal metabolism, as well as common transferable skills as career development, project management and communication. Through these activities, we believe to have strengthened the early career researchers and the Danish cardiovascular research environment, as well as the Academy's position within.

Another focus point has been increased cross-academy collaboration with the Danish Diabetes Academy (DDA, now DDEA) and the Danish Data Science Academy (DDSA) on educational activities and joined grants. In 2022 this has led to three cross-academy PhD-courses and scientific meetings, a cross-academy employee day and workshops on development of educational activities for the academies staff. On the executive level we have monthly meetings and an annual meeting for management and Chairmen of the Boards. In 2023 we will grant the first DCA/DDEA PhD-scholarships, and open calls for DDSA-DCA joined PhD scholarships.

In 2022 the Academy was approached by the Novo Nordisk Foundations section for Social & Humanitarian, Global Health. The foundation expressed their interest in involving the NNF-academies in the initiative "Partnership for Education of Health Professionals". We intend to continue the dialogue in 2023.

The Executive Management team and the Board of Directors are pleased that the Academy has reached both the deliverables and success criteria set out for 2022. In 2023 we will strive to continue this positive development of the Academy and consolidate our position as the unifying organ within the Danish cardiovascular environment.

Christian Aalkjær
Executive Managing Director



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Hans Erik Bøtker
Chairman of the Board

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Annual Report 2022

With the annual report, the Executive Management Team of the Danish Cardiovascular Academy (DCAcademy) provides a status on the Academy's achievements in 2022. This includes an overview of the training, educational and funding activities, and a status on the Academy's milestones for 2022. For financial details we refer to the Annual Financial Report in NORMA.

Introduction

The focus for the Academy in 2022 has been to develop and provide excellent educational activities for early-stage cardiovascular researchers. Through these activities, and our funding activities, we have strengthened the Academy's position within Danish cardiovascular research. We are pleased that the Academy is becoming a unifying factor, which brings the Danish cardiovascular researchers together and is increasingly renowned for the high standard of its activities.

Status

The process of hiring employees for the secretariat was completed in 2022. The secretariat is well functioning. The executive management team is continuously aware of the employee's well-being and have initiated a series of well-being initiatives as well as support of the staff's continued professional development through relevant courses and education. These initiatives have been well received and will continue in 2023.

Cross Academy Collaboration

In 2022 we have further strengthened the collaboration with the Danish Diabetes and Endocrine Academy (DDEA) and the Danish Data Science Academy (DDSA). We have bi-weekly executive coordinating meetings, two annual Cross-Academy days, one for all employees and one for Executive Managements and the Chairmen of the Board of Directors. In June we arranged an exclusive two-day course for the Academies' Course Managers on "Course design, planning, execution and evaluation" and, furthermore, we have held Joined Academy PhD-courses and developed the first Call's for Cross Academy PhD scholarships. We are very pleased with the close collaboration between the academies.

DCAcademy Global initiative

In 2022 the Academy was approached by the Novo Nordisk Foundations section for Social & Humanitarian, Global Health. The foundation expressed their interest in involving the NNF-academies in the initiative "Partnership for Education of Health Professionals" (PEP), which is currently being initiated in Northeastern states of India. This was followed by a discussion on how the Academies competences within research training and education can be integrated into the current activities planned for the PEP programme. It was agreed upon that the Academy could play an important role in training local academics to better understand and implement new developments and provide postgraduate teaching at a high level. This is considered necessary to ensure equity in health care. We will continue the dialogue with the Foundation on the academy's involvement in the PEP programme.

Activities

The main activity for the DCAcademy secretariat has been to develop and expand the portfolio of DCAcademy training and educational activities, administer the second grant call and educate grant recipients.

Training and educational activities

The training and educational activities are divided into three categories. 1) DCAcademy Courses, which are courses and events that are developed and held by the DCAcademy secretariat and where DCAcademy covers all costs. 2) Joined Academy Courses, developed and held in collaboration with DDEA and/or DDSA where the cost is shared, and 3) Joined DCAcademy – Graduate School Courses, which are held in collaboration with the Graduate Schools at the Health Faculties at Danish universities and where the DCAcademy contribution mainly consist of support of international speakers and networking events.

From 2021 to 2022 the total the number of DCAcademy courses increased from 10 to 19. For more detail, see appendix A.

The total cost of the 2022 educational activities was 3.3 mio. DKK. However, due to the collaborations with the Graduate Schools and the DDEA/DDSA, we received co-financing of approx. 1 mio. DKK, corresponding to ~30% of the total expenses on courses. For more detail, se appendix B.

With the increased number of training and educational activities, we find that the Academy has reached an appropriate level of activities arranged by the secretariat. Still, the ambition for 2023 is to further increase the number of cross academy activities as well as have international oriented courses held bi-laterally between the Academy and foreign universities. Thus, we are planning a course on clinical research within heart failure in May 2023, in collaboration with world-leading experts at Glasgow University. The course will have an even distribution between UK and Danish younger scientists and be held in Glasgow.

Funding activities

In 2022 the DCAcademy completed the second call for stipends, opened Call III as well as developed and opened a call for the new DDEA/DCA cross academy PhD scholarships. Furthermore, the academy awarded several travel grants and funded networking activities for early-stage researchers.

Call I

The recipients of the first Call for DCAcademy PhD and Postdoctoral stipends were all introduced to the Academy at the obligatory Introductory Course in March 2022. As part of the introduction, they receive training in presentations techniques and are assigned to peer-mentoring groups. At the course, the grant recipients are also appointed Science Ambassadors to The Danish Heart Foundation and introduced to the DCAcademy Educational Programme.

Call II

The deadline for the second call for DCAcademy stipends was in February 2022. The call offered 12 PhD scholarships and 8 Postdoctoral fellowships, and we received 138 applications: 87 for PhD and 51 for Postdoc, leaving total success rate of 15%. The distribution of both applications and grants within research areas and sex was fairly equal. See appendix C for statistics and appendix D for list of grant recipients. The recipients of Call II were at the obligatory Introductory Course in August 2022.

Call III

The third call for DCAcademy PhD and Postdoctoral stipends has deadline on 3rd February 2023. The Grant Committee will meet on the 12th-13th April for final evaluation and granting of 12 PhD scholarships, four 2-year postdoctoral fellowships and four 5-year 20%-postdoctoral fellowships.

Cross-academy stipends

In collaboration with the DDEA we have also opened a call for three 2/3-financed DDEA/DCA Cross-Academy PhD scholarships. The purpose of these scholarships is to strengthen the collaboration between diabetes, metabolism, endocrinology and cardiovascular research in Denmark. Applications must therefore be transdisciplinary across the fields of diabetes, metabolism or endocrinology and cardiovascular research. The principal supervisor of the PhD project must be within diabetes, metabolism or endocrinology, and the co-supervisor must be within cardiovascular research. The administration is handled by the DDEA and scholars will be primarily affiliated to the DDEA. In 2024 we will have a second call for DDEA/DCA to be handled by the DCAcademy, and the scholars will be primarily affiliated to the DCAcademy.

In 2024 the Academy will also have a call for four DCAcademy-DDSA PhD-scholarships.

Travel Grants

The DCAcademy offers PhD and Postdoctoral researchers travel grants to cover travel expenses in relation to research. In 2022 the academy handed out 75 travel grants (total of 300.000 DKK)

Other funding activities

A priority for the executive management has been to initiate the Visiting Professors Programme, as well as developing a novel "Visiting Faculty Programme". We are currently processing the first applications for Visiting Professorships and in the process of inviting a faculty consisting of 4 senior international experts within neurovascular signalling to visit selected Danish research groups and share their knowledge through master classes and concluding their visit with a symposium open to all interested researchers.

Deliverables and evaluation criteria 2022

As guiding milestones, the contract between the Danish Cardiovascular Academy and the Novo Nordisk Foundation outlines five deliverables for 2022 and a number of evaluation criteria to measure the Academy's performance. In the following we will describe how deliverables have been achieved and to what extent success criteria have been reached. Overall, we are very pleased to announce that the Academy has met the deliverables and achieved High or Medium Success on all relevant evaluation criteria.

Deliverable 1: The DCAcademy Postdoctoral Winter Meeting 2022

The 2022 DCAcademy Postdoctoral Winter Meeting was held in Malaga, Spain from 27-30 March. Inspired by the Danish Diabetes Academy's annual postdoctoral winter meeting, the meeting revolved around the "challenge themes" a) The environmental impact of your own research and b) How research can benefit the low- and middle-income countries. Throughout the meeting, the participants were inspired by talks and workshops, while also working in smaller groups producing contributions for a concluding panel debate. In addition, the meeting offered high-level scientific talks, networking activities and personal feedback from professional consultants on both oral and poster presentations. In the evaluation 91% of the participants rated the meeting Excellent or Good. See appendix F for more detail.

Deliverable 2: The Annual Report for the Novo Nordisk Foundation

The annual report for 2021 was timely submitted and approved by the Novo Nordisk Foundation.

Deliverable 3: The DCAcademy Annual Meeting

The DCAcademy Summer Meeting 2022 was held at Sinatur Hotel Storebælt, Nyborg from 2-4 June. By having the meeting in Nyborg, we broke a 15-year tradition of having the annual summer meeting within the Danish cardiovascular research community at Sandbjerg Estate close to Sønderborg. The intention of moving the meeting to Sinatur Hotel Storebælt was to upscale from an average of 70 participants to 120+, to be able to have parallel sessions, to attract more clinical researchers, and to make the meeting more accessible. With more than 150 participants over the three days, of whom 50% were affiliated to a hospital, and several packed parallel clinical and basal science sessions, we believe that our initiative was a great success.

The meeting started out with a workshop for 50+ PhD and Postdoctoral students on the topic of Imposter Syndrome. This was followed by inspirational and scientific talks, parallel clinical and basal science sessions, poster presentations, keynote talks from prof. Brant Isakson (US) and prof. Thomas Lücher (CH) and a panel debate on The Future of Publishing. At the meeting Prof. Gorm Boje Jensen received the DCAcademy Lifetime Achievement Award 2022. We are very pleased that the Academy was able to transform the annual meeting at Sandbjerg into a meeting at international level, attracting both clinicians and basal researchers as well as international speakers. In the evaluation 96% rated the meeting Excellent or Good. See appendix F for more detail.

Deliverable 4: Establishing a Young Advisory Board

To ensure a strong bond between the Academy and its primary target group of early-career researchers we set out to establish a Young Advisory Board. The purpose of the board is to give input and thus ensure that the Academy's activities meet the demand of the primary target group.

However, during the process of establishing the board, we found that the value of a Young Advisory Board primarily was within the Academy's educational activities. We therefore chose to invite younger researchers into the Training Committee, as this is a better forum for discussion of the Academy's Training and educational activities. Furthermore, we have an open meeting for younger researchers at the annual summer meeting, where everyone is invited to give input to the Academy.

Deliverable 5: PhD summer school in Physiology and Pathophysiology

As Aarhus University in 2022 held a summer school on "Assessment of cardiovascular function: methodology and physiology" we found it to be redundant to establish a DCAcademy summer school within the same topic. Instead, we chose to collaborate with the Danish Diabetes Academy on courses within Basal metabolism, Hypertension and Sex differences in research.

Deliverable 6: Announce grant recipients

The grant recipients of Call I and Call II and their projects have been individually presented on the Academy webpage, as well as on Social Media platforms.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria in the contract are divided into Research and Training and education. The criteria regarding Research are not yet relevant as it is too early to measure the scientific output of the DCAcademy supported researchers.

Of the three criteria within Training and education two have reached "High Success" and one reached "Medium Success". See appendix G.

Key events, 2023

The Academy has several key events to look forward to in 2023. In March, we will gather 35+ postdoctoral fellows for the annual DCAcademy Winter Meeting in Isaberg (S). This will be followed by our first international meeting with some of the world's leading experts within heart failure to be held in May in Glasgow. Before the summer break, we will also have had the DCAcademy Summer Meeting, completed evaluation of Call III and met with our International Review Board to discuss the performance of the Academy. In 2023 we hope to welcome our first Visiting Professors, the faculty of visiting professors and, also, to collaborate with the Novo Nordisk Foundation on initiatives benefitting research training and education in low- and middle-income countries.

Concluding remarks

In conclusion, the Academy has in 2022 been able to achieve the main deliverables and meet the success criteria, as set out in the contract. The Executive Management team is pleased with the result and would like to emphasise that this is a result of a team effort of a dedicated secretariat that collaborates with an engaged and actively supporting scientific environment within Danish cardiovascular research. In 2023, we strive to continue the positive development of the Academy and consolidate our position as the unifying organ within the Danish cardiovascular environment.

Appendix A

The DCAcademy Courses 2021 – 2022



2021	2022
DCAcademy Courses	DCAcademy Courses
DCAcademy Summer Meeting	DCAcademy Summer Meeting
DCAcademy Empower your talent, Career paths	DCAcademy Winter Meeting for Postdoctoral fellows
DCA/OUH Networking Symposium on SDU /ArterieKlubben	DCAcademy Empower your talent 2.0, Leadership
	DCAcademy Introduction Course for Grant Recipients I
	DCAcademy Introduction Course for Grant Recipients II
	DCAcademy - Talented researcher part I
	Mid-way Meeting: Peer Mentoring Circles, Grant 1
	DCA and AU/AUH Networking Symposium: Know your Impact
Joint Academy Courses	Joint Academy Courses
Hypertension, Diabetes and Cardiovascular disease (DDA, DCA), Nordic Baltic	Hypertension, Diabetes and Cardiovascular disease (DDA, DCA), Nordic Baltic
	Sex-differences in Cardiovascular and metabolic diseases (DCA, DDA, DDSA)
	DCA & DDA: Basal Metabolism & Molecular Mechanism in Diabetes
Joint DCA - Graduate School Courses	Joint DCA - Graduate School Courses
PhD course: Cardiovascular Winter School	PhD Course: Cardiovascular Winter school
Jepps Hybrid: "Understanding pathomechanisms of cerebral small vessel disease - basic and clinical research", Philip Ulbrich	Hybrid Symposium: "Cardiac arrest survivors - diagnostic workup", Bo Winkel
Hybrid Symposium: "Understanding the heartbeat at the nanoscale", William Louch	PhD Course: CMR
PhD Course: Danish Health Registries	PhD Spring School: CARDIAC ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY - BASIC AND CLINICAL ASPECTS
Hybrid Symposium: "A multifaceted role for Pannexin1 in ischemic heart disease.", Brenda Kwak	PhD Course: Integrative Human Cardiovascular Control
Honorary Symposium for Prof. Mary Sheppard, KU	Review on scientific dissemination, Rigshospitalet
	PhD Course: Vascular function and angiogenesis in relation to health and physical activity
	Cardiovascular seminar Hybrid

Appendix B

Course expenses 2022

DCAcademy Courses	Budget	Co-Financing	DCA cost
<i>DCAcademy Introduction Course for Grant Recipients I</i>	140.000 kr.	0 kr.	119.863 kr.
<i>DCAcademy Winter Meeting for Postdoctoral fellows</i>	550.000 kr.	0 kr.	534.000 kr.
<i>DCA and AU/AUH Networking Symposium: Know your Impact</i>	15.000 kr.	0 kr.	19.125 kr.
<i>DCAcademy Summer Meeting</i>	700.000 kr.	0 kr.	750.036 kr.
DCAcademy Introduction Course for Grant Recipients II	175.000 kr.	0 kr.	121.789 kr.
Mid-way Meeting: Peer Mentoring Circles, Grant 1	15.000 kr.	0 kr.	6.900,00 kr.
DCAcademy Empower your talent 2.0, Leadership	150.000 kr.	0 kr.	188.116 kr.
PhD Day at Aarhus University	1.000 kr.	0 kr.	1.200 kr.
Talented reseracher part I	200.000 kr.	0 kr.	135.000 kr.
	1.946.000 kr.	0 kr.	1.876.029 kr.
Joint Academy Courses			
<i>Hypertension, Diabetes and Cardiovascular disease (DDA, DDSA, DCA), Nordic Baltic</i>	239.366 kr.	177.000 (SDU, DDA)	61.902 kr.
DCA & DDA: Basal Metabolism & Molecular Mechanism in Diabetes	250.000 kr.	125.000 (DDA)	125.000 kr.
Sex-differences in Cardiovascular and metabolic diseases (DDA, DDSA)	250.000 kr.	65.000 (AUFF)	156.036 kr.
	739.366 kr.	367.000 kr.	342.938 kr.
Joint DCA - Graduate School Courses	Budget	TILSKUD-PHD-SKOLE	DCA UDGIFF
<i>PhD Course: Cardiovascular Winter school</i>		75.476 kr.	
<i>Hybrid Symposium: "Cardiac arrest survivors - diagnostic workup", Bo Winkel</i>		0 kr.	2.000 kr.
<i>PhD Course: CMR</i>		69.672 kr.	
<i>PhD Spring School: CARDIAC ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY - BASIC AND CLINICAL ASPECTS</i>		238.062 kr.	20.000 kr.
<i>PhD Course: Integrative Human Cardiovascular Control</i>		170.057 kr.	20.000 kr.
DCAcademy Summer Meeting 2022		106.890 kr.	
Review on scientific dissemination, Rigshospitalet		0 kr.	2.000 kr.
Vascular function and angiogenesis in relation to health and physical activity		0 kr.	0 kr.
Cardiovascular seminar Hybrid		0 kr.	25.000 kr.
	0 kr.	660.157 kr.	69.000 kr.

Appendix C

Statistics of Call II

Granted stipends

	# Appl.	# Granted	Suc.rate
1/3 stipend	12	1	8%
2/3 stipend	75	12	16%
2-year Postdoc	34	4	12%
5-year Clin Postdoc	17	4	24%
Call II Total	138	21	15%

Research area

	# Appl.	# Granted	Suc.rate
Basic research	37	7	19%
Clinical research	60	7	12%
Epidemio research	33	7	21%
Public Health research	8	0	0%

Geographical distribution

		Triage	# Granted	Suc.rate
Region Hovedstaden	70	26	11	16%
Region Midt	36	9	4	11%
Region Nord	10	3	3	30%
Region Sjælland	1	1		0%
Region Syd	21	4	3	14%
Call II Total	138	43	21	15%

Sex distribution

	# Appl.	% of total	# Granted	Suc.rate
Female	77	56%	12	16%
Male	61	44%	9	15%
Call II Total	138	43	21	15%

Appendix D

The DCAcademy Grant recipients, Call II

PhD Scholarship				
First name	Surname	University	Area	Title
Andrietta Sofie	Grenzmann	University of Southern Denmark	Basic research	THE ROLE PYRUVATE DEHYDROGENASE KYNASE-1 IN CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES
Mélodie Jil	Schneider	University of Copenhagen	Basic research	Detection of atrial fibrosis by echocardiography, 3D mapping and 3D light sheet imaging - A longitudinal study in an equine atrial fibrillation model
Stephanie Thuy Duon Pham		University of Southern Denmark	Basic research	The role of kallistatin and the contact activation system in abdominal aortic aneurysms
Marlene Schouby	Bentestuen	Aarhus University	Other	Pharmacogenetics in Psychiatry: Optimizing identification of high-risk patients for the development of serious cardiac events.
Asli Bahar	Topaktas	University of Copenhagen	Basic research	Autonomous Energy Harvesting for Powering Heart Implants and Multi-channel Wireless Communication
Signe Amalie	Wolthers	University of Copenhagen	Epidemiological research	Using Artificial Intelligence to Improve Data in the Danish Cardiac Arrest Registry
Peter Engel	Thomas	University of Copenhagen	Epidemiological research	Lipoprotein(a) and cardiovascular disease - The role of systemic low-grade inflammation, lipoprotein(a) cholesterol, and apoB
Sofie	Dannesbo	University of Copenhagen	Clinical research	Patency of interatrial communications in children Part of The Copenhagen Baby Heart Study - Impact (CBHS-I)
Filip Jurijevitj	Gnesin	University of Copenhagen	Epidemiological research	Predicting acute cardiovascular disease in a pre-hospital setting
Dung Nguyen	Riis	Aarhus University	Clinical research	Novel Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training Strategies to Improve In-hospital Cardiac Arrest Outcomes
Josephine Maria	Kanta	University of Copenhagen	Other	Medium chain fatty acids as dietary tool to improve cardiac metabolism and function in heart failure
Jan Walter Dhillon	Shanmuganathan	Aalborg University	Epidemiological research	Risk of Myocardial Infarction depending on Cancer Subtype and Treatment
Milad	Hasani	Aalborg University	Clinical research	Autonomous Energy Harvesting for Powering Heart Implants and Multi-channel Wireless Communication
2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships				
First name	Surname	University	Area	Title
Gustavo Luis	Tripodi	University of Southern Denmark	Basic research	TARGETING THE KYNURENINE PATHWAY OF TRYPTOPHAN DEGRADATION TO COMBAT ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM
Nicklas	Vinter	Aalborg University	Epidemiological research	Disease burden of atrial fibrillation: new methods and perspectives
Laura	Alonso Herranz	Aarhus University	Basic research	Mechanisms regulating smooth muscle cell plasticity and atherosclerotic plaque stability
Carolin	Sailer	University of Copenhagen	Basic research	Molecular phenotyping of Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy by single cell proteomics
5-year 20% Postdoctoral Fellowships				
First name	Surname	University	Area	Title
Kevin Kris Warnakula Olesen		Aarhus University Hospital	Epidemiological research	Cardiovascular risk in prediabetes patients with and without coronary artery disease - Studies from the Western Denmark Heart Registry
Johannes	Grand	University Hospital, Bispebjerg hospital	Clinical research	VASODILATION OR DIURETICS FOR INITIAL TREATMENT OF PULMONARY CONGESTION DUE TO ACUTE HEART FAILURE - A RANDOMIZED PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TRIAL
Charlotte	Glinge	Copenhagen University Hospital, Rigshospitalet	Clinical research	Genetic Architecture of Ventricular Fibrillation during first Acute Myocardial Infarction
Manan	Pareek	Copenhagen University Hospital - Herlev and Gentofte	Clinical research	Randomized Comparisons of Morning versus Bedtime Drug Administration: The Cardiovascular Circadian Chronotherapy (C3) Trial Program

Appendix E

The DCAcademy Postdoctoral Winter Meeting 2022



- **35 Postdoctoral fellows and third-year PhD student**
 - Representing 12 nationalities and institutions from 6 different countries.
- **12 Speakers**
 - Representing 5 nationalities and institutions from 4 different countries
- **Workshops on:**
 - Presentation techniques
 - Personal meaning and well-being
- **Poster sessions**
- **Challenge themes**
 - Environment Impact of research
 - Research and Global South
- **Network activities**

Appendix F

The DCAcademy Summer Meeting 2022



- 150 Participants (50,3% affiliated to a hospital)
- 55 PhD-student at workshop on Imposter Syndrome
- 8 Paralleled clinical and basal sessions
- 2 Keynote Speakers
- 1 Panel debate
- 1 Lifetime Achievement Award
- 96% rated the meeting Excellent or Good

Appendix G

Training and educational evaluation criteria



The 2022 activities meets 2 out of three of the “high success” criteria for the Training and Educational Activities

EVALUATION CRITERIA	MEASURE	LOW SUCCESS	MEDIUM SUCCESS	HIGH SUCCESS
Training and education				
Early career and senior scientists participating in the DCA summer camp	Number of participants compared to DCA supported fellows	100-150%	150-200%	>200%
Participation from different sectors in DCA educational activities	Distribution of researchers from academia, hospitals and industry	Severely skewed	Somewhat equal	Fairly equal
Participation in DCA organized workshops and symposia	Number of participants compared to maximum uptake	<60%	60-80%	>80%