

DCAcademy Summer Meeting 2026

18-20 June 2026

Storebælt Sinatur Hotel & Konference
Østerøvej 121
5800 Nyborg



Thursday, 18 June 2026

Young Investigator Day

09:30 - 10:15 **Arrival and coffee**

10:15 - 10:30 **Welcome**
Professor Thomas Jespersen, Executive Managing Director, DCAcademy

10:30 - 10:45 **Meet & Greet**

Masterclass: Common mechanistic pillars of cardiovascular disease development

10:45 - 11:10 **Immune signaling**
Professor Anke Fender, University Hospital Essen

11:10 - 11:30 **Inflammatory signaling**
Professor Clare Hawkins, University of Copenhagen

11:30 - 11:50 **Redox signaling**
Professor Michael Davies, University of Copenhagen

11:50 - 12:00 **Questions**

12:00 - 12:45 **Lunch**

12:45 - 13:45 **Challenge identification and group work**

13:45 - 14:30 **Break / Check-in (from 14:00) / Change for activities**

14:30 - 16:20 **Outdoor activities**
Stand-up-paddle, archery, guided mountain bike tour, and outdoor fitness

16:30 - 17:30 **Group work continued**

17:30 - 18:30 **Presentations and discussions**

Arrival of PI's & senior researchers

18:30 - 20:00 **Dinner**

Evening session

Chair: Christian Aalkjær

20:00 - 20:45 **DCAcademy Lifetime Achievement Award**

20:45 - 23:00 **Networking**

Friday, 19 June 2026

07:00 - 08:30 Breakfast, optional morning run, ocean dip

08:30 - 08:45 Welcome and introduction of scientific programme

Session 1 Ischemia*Chairs: Charlotte Glinge*08:45 - 08:55 **Introduction**
Postdoc. Charlotte Glinge, Rigshospitalet08:55 - 09:20 **Predicting and modulating ventricular arrhythmias for targeted treatment - Insights from clinical and porcine studies**
Professor Pier Lambiase, University College London

09:20 - 09:25 Discussion

09:25 - 09:50 **Invasive diagnostics and treatment of ischemic heart disease**
Consultant Reza Jabbari, Rigshospitalet

09:50 - 09:55 Discussion

09:55 - 10:05 **Multimodal CMR evaluation of pulsed field versus radiofrequency atrial ablation: Acute and chronic lesion characteristics with histological validation**
PhD Student Kezia Jerltorp, University of Copenhagen10:05 - 10:15 **Comparison of findings from pre-angiographic cardiovascular magnetic resonance in patients with suspected NSTEMI with and without previous MI**
PhD Student Daniel Andersson, Karolinska University Hospital

10:15 - 10:40 Break

Session 2**Parallel session**

	Ischemia Clinical <i>Venue: Flintholm</i> <i>Chairs: Thomas Engstrøm & Mike Davies</i>	Crosstalk Renal-heart <i>Venue: Sandholm</i> <i>Chairs: Hanne Ravn & Rasmus Bo Lindhardt</i>	Inequality Demography <i>Venue: Langesand</i> <i>Chairs: Helena Dominguez</i>
10:40 - 11:00	Familial hypercholesterolemia Assoc. Prof. Martin Bødtker Mortensen, Aarhus Universitet	Extracellular vesicles as a tool to determine molecular mechanisms linking cardiac and kidney function Professor Per Svenningsen, University of Southern Denmark	Disparities in use of automated external defibrillators in the community Assoc. Prof. Carolina Malta Hansen, Copenhagen University Hospital
11:00 - 11:05	Discussion	Discussion	Discussion
11:05 - 11:25	The role of cardiac-CT in modern cardiology Consultant Mathias Holm Sørgaard, Herlev-Gentofte Hospital	Of mice, pigs, and men: Translational studies in kidney outcomes after cardiac surgery Postdoc. Sebastian Buhl Rasmussen, Odense University Hospital	Opportunities and hurdles for management of vulnerable patients across sectors Assoc. Prof. Helle Wentzer, Aalborg University
11:25 - 11:30	Discussion	Discussion	Discussion
11:30 - 11:50	Antithrombotic treatment for patients with ischemic heart disease Assoc. Prof. Rikke Sørensen, Rigshospitalet	Impact of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) on mortality and development of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Professor Hanne Berg Ravn, University of Southern Denmark	Experience to optimize management of heart patients in Kenya Consultant Anders Barasa, Uzwena Health, Nairobi
11:50 - 11:55	Discussion	Discussion	Discussion

11:55 - 12:05	Long-term Angina-Related Healthcare Utilization in Women with ANOCA and Impaired Coronary Flow Velocity Reserve PhD Student Laura Amalie Rytøft, Bispebjerg-Frederiksberg Hospital	Chronic kidney disease progression after cardiac surgery: a retrospective multicentre study MD Sune Bille, Odense University Hospital	Risk factors, survival and discharge after cardiac surgery across age groups: a multicenter retrospective study PhD Student Johannes Bladt, Odense University Hospital
12:05 - 12:15	Biatrial activation patterns and hemodynamics during Bachmann's bundle pacing: Learnings from a porcine model PhD Student Andreina Gil-Ramirez, University of Copenhagen	Developing a model system to investigate tissue specific extracellular vesicles <i>in vivo</i> Postdoc. Jannik Hjortshøj Larsen, University of Southern Denmark	Genetic subtypes of body composition have distinct biological and clinical features throughout life course PhD Student Victor Svenstrup, University of Copenhagen
12:15 - 13:15	Lunch		

Session 3 Crosstalk

Chairs: Benjamin Anderschou Holbech Jensen & Michael Christiansen

13:15 - 13:45	Two-photon microscopy of brain endothelial glycocalyx uncovers spatial heterogeneity, vesicular transport, and lectin-binding kinetics in the living brain Professor Martin Lauritzen, University of Copenhagen
13:45 - 13:50	Discussion
13:50 - 14:20	Gut microbiota and cardiometabolic disease: Are we ready for therapeutic translation? Senior Researcher Trine Nielsen, Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen
14:20 - 14:25	Discussion
14:25 - 14:35	Where does intramyocardial adipose tissue come from? PhD Student Johs Dannesboe, University of Copenhagen
14:35 - 14:45	The SGLT2 inhibitor, dapagliflozin, decreases mitochondrial oxygen consumption in a murine model of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction PhD Student Anna Vingborg, Aarhus University

Session 4 Poster session

6 groups, 38 posters
Venue: 1st floor

14:45 - 16:05 *Chairs: Charlotte Glinge & Pier Lambiase • Tanita Jeppesen & Gunnar Gislason • Jonathan Achter & Lasse Steffensen • Peter Agger & Rikke Buhl • Mina Nicole Händel & Lisa Gottlieb • Jørgen Kanters & Jonas Isaksen*

3 min. presentations + 2 min. Q&A

Session 5

Parallel session

	Ischemia Vascular <i>Venue: Flintholm</i> <i>Chairs: Clare Hawkins & Christina Christoffersen</i>	Crosstalk Neurovascular <i>Venue: Sandholm</i> <i>Chairs: Tom Jepps & Vladimir Matchkov</i>	Inequality A global perspective <i>Venue: Langesand</i> <i>Chairs: Nicole Schmitt & Hugues Abriel</i>
16:05 - 16:25	16:05-16:30 Apolipoproteins and their role in lipid metabolism Assoc. Prof. Christina Christoffersen, University of Copenhagen	Cerebrovascular S1P signaling in cardiovascular disease Assoc. Prof. Anja Meissner, Lund University	Women's cardiovascular and metabolic health challenges across the life course: a global health perspective. Prof. Manisha Nair, University of Copenhagen
16:25 - 16:30	Discussion	Discussion	Discussion
16:30 - 16:50	16:40-17:05 Mechanisms underlying INOCA- can a systemic microvascular dysfunction approach provide answers? Prof. Ylva Hellsten, University of Copenhagen	Neurovascular crosstalk in hypertension: From cerebral artery remodeling to Alzheimer's-linked exosome dysregulation Assist. Prof. Joakim Bastrup, University of Copenhagen	Strengthening capacity together – reflections from a complex global partnership Assoc. Prof. Jane Brandt Sørensen, University of Copenhagen
16:50 - 16:55	Discussion	Discussion	Discussion
16:55 - 17:15	17:10-17:20 Investigating the effect of somatic mutations on smooth muscle cell clonal expansion PhD Student Camilla Schelander Hansen, University of Southern Denmark	Impaired calcium signaling in precapillary sphincters and pericytes perturbs neurovascular regulation after an ischemic stroke Assoc. Prof. Changsi Cai, University of Copenhagen	Approaches to competence development for health professionals in rural and tribal areas Prof. Nicole Schmitt, University of Copenhagen
17:15 - 17:20		Discussion	Discussion
17:20 - 17:30	Targeting Smad7 reprograms smooth muscle cells toward a contractile phenotype and promotes plaque stability in atherosclerosis Postdoc. Laura Alonso-Herranz, Aarhus University	Oestrus cycle driven changes in vascular function: a novel insight into menstrual migraine Postdoc. Sam Baldwin, University of Copenhagen	Plasma proteomic and lipidomic signatures of metabolic subgroups of obesity in children and adolescents Postdoc. Yun Huang, University of Copenhagen
17:30 - 17:40	Endothelial STING-IFN-I signaling drives atherogenic inflammation and disrupts cholesterol homeostasis Postdoc. Cong Liu, Aarhus University	Post-resuscitation cerebral ischemia is associated with vasospasm and capillary failure after experimental asphyxial cardiac arrest Postdoc. Christian Staehr, Aarhus University Hospital	Left ventricular mass in children with obesity following obesity treatment PhD Student Mathilde Løk, University of Copenhagen
17:40 - 17:55	Short break		
17:55 - 18:05	Group photo		

Evening session

Chair: Thomas Jespersen

18:05 - 18:30 **DCAcademy Rising Star Award**

18:30 - 20:00 Dinner

20:00 - 21:00 Poster viewing and refreshments

21:00 - 23:00 **Live music and networking**

23:00 Dismount posters

Saturday, 20 June 2026

07:00 - 08:30 Breakfast, optional morning run, ocean dip

Session 6 Inequality in CVD Research*Chairs: Anke Fender & Christian Staehr*08:30 - 08:50 **Hjertemor: A postpartum cardiovascular prevention clinic after preeclampsia**
Consultant Christina Stolzenburg Oxlund, Esbjerg-Grindsted Hospital

08:50 - 08:55 Discussion

08:55 - 09:15 **Equitable partnerships with African biomedical researchers: personal experiences of a scientist from the North**
Professor Hugues Abriel, University of Bern

09:15 - 09:20 Discussion

09:20 - 09:40 **Heartsink patients also have hearts**
Professor Morten Sodemann, University of Southern Denmark

09:40 - 09:45 Discussion

09:45 - 09:55 **Reversing severe persistent childhood-onset obesity with semaglutide: The RESETTLE randomized controlled trial**
PhD Student Louise Aas Holm, University of Copenhagen09:55 - 10:05 **Beyond valve repair: the hidden psychological burden after mitral valve repair**
PhD Student Simon Melchior, Rigshospitalet

10:05 - 10:25 Break

Session 7**Parallel session**

	Ischemia Translational <i>Venue: Flintholm</i> <i>Chairs: Michael Davies</i>	Crosstalk Involvement of Gut Microbiota in Vascular function <i>Venue: Sandholm</i> <i>Chairs: Jane Stubbe</i>	Inequality Sex Differences <i>Venue: Langesand</i> <i>Chair: Peter Agger</i>
10:25 - 10:45	Extracellular traps as drivers of cellular damage and inflammation in atherosclerosis Professor Clare Hawkins, University of Copenhagen	12:25-10:55 Gut microbiota metabolites as drivers in atherosclerosis Prof. David Sancho, Spanish Centre for Cardiovascular Research	Cardiovascular disease prevention after preeclampsia Postdoc. Gabriela Byskov Petersen, Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen
10:45 - 10:50	Discussion	Discussion	Discussion
10:50 - 11:10	Characterizing protein changes in atherosclerosis using proteomics Professor Michael Davies, University of Copenhagen	11:00-11:30 Gut microbiota-derived metabolites in hypertension MD. Hendrik Bartolomae, University Hospital Würzburg	Sex differences in hypertension: still underrecognized in the lab and clinic Professor Ulrike Muscha Steckelings, University of Southern Denmark
11:10 - 11:15	Discussion		Discussion
11:15 - 11:35	Ossabaw pigs as models of cardiovascular disease Professor Peter Heegaard, Technical University of Denmark		Beyond body surface area: Better scaling for more accurate (cardiac) diagnosis Postdoc. Mads Fischer, University of Copenhagen
11:35 - 11:40	Discussion	Discussion	Discussion
11:40 - 11:50	Characterization of 3D smooth muscle cell spheroids: A human relevant model for smooth muscle cell phenotypic modulation in atherosclerosis Master's Student Laura Alarcón-Castellanos, Aarhus University	Dietary medium-chain triacylglycerol induces erythropoietin and initiation of erythropoiesis even in the absence of hepatic ketogenesis Postdoc. Josephine M. Kanta, University of Copenhagen	Sustained use of oral versus transdermal postmenopausal hormone therapy and cardiovascular events in women with diabetes - an observational target trial emulation PhD Student Hannah K. Wood-Kurland, Copenhagen University Hospital

11:50 - 12:00	Perfusable Artery-On-Chip model: combined environmental stimuli drive arterial cells towards atherosclerosis PhD Student Lorraine Couteau-Brisset, Queen Mary University of London	Mechanistic insights into microvascular dysfunction in INOCA using human resistance arteries Postdoc. Jessica Meades, University of Copenhagen	Women with pregestational adiposity - a high-risk population - The PRE-STORK baseline data PhD Student Emilie Bahne, Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen
12:00 - 12:45 Lunch			
Closing session <i>Chair: Thomas Jespersen</i>			
12:45 - 13:30	Honorary Lecture: Science out of Africa Professor Christian Aalkjær, Danish Cardiovascular Academy		
13:30 - 13:45	Awards for best poster- and oral presentations		
13:45 - 14:00	Thank you and goodbye		