



Minutes:  
29<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

## Board of Directors, Danish Cardiovascular Academy.

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Present: Lars Bo Nielsen (Chairman), Karin Conde-Knape, Anne Kaltoft, Alicia Lundby, Claus Graff, Christian Aalkjær (non-voting member), Thomas Jespersen (guest), Emil T Brøndum (secretary).

### Agenda:

- A. Welcome and opening thoughts, 5 min. (Lars Bo)
  - B. Presentation of Board Members, 10 min (~2 min each)
  - C. About DCA vision, strategy and instruments, 15 min (Christian, Thomas)
  - D. Questions and discussion of DCA strategy, 15 min
  - E. Presentation of Vice Chair candidates, 45 min
  - F. Election of Vice President, 10 min
  - G. Next steps for Board of Directors 10 min
  - H. AOB 10 min
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### **Adv A: Welcome and opening thoughts**

Lars Bo welcomed the Board to its first meeting and thanked the members for their willingness in helping Danish Cardiovascular Academy (DCA) succeed. The role of the board, as outlined in the Terms of Reference, was briefly presented. If the members have comments to the Terms of Reference, they should send these to the Boards secretary. The Terms of Reference will be discussed on the next Board meeting.  
Terms of Reference are enclosed.

### **Adv. B: Presentation of Board Members**

The Boards members briefly presented them self.  
Biographies for the members of the Boards is enclosed below.

### **Adv. C: About DCA vision, strategy and instruments**

Executive director, Christian Aalkjær, presented the strategic objectives for DCA and the instruments available to obtain these; PhD- and post doctoral scholarships, visiting professor programme, travel grants, DCA- Summer and Winter Schools, DCA-courses and Network events etc. The current status of the Academy was also presented.  
Executive Director of Training and Education, Thomas Jespersen, presented the framework the DCA training and Educational activities.  
The presentations and current status report are enclosed.

#### **Adv. D: Questions and discussion of DCA strategy**

The Board suggested and discussed both strategic objectives, specific suggestions for courses, the proposed network activities and election process of candidate and.

Main points:

Strategic Objectives:

- Industrial sciences area network connection to DCA is poor – how do we initiate it – possible incentives?
- Promote supervisor-teams with industry-co-supervisors.
- Address the clinicians by presenting cutting edge clinical research. Consider more perspectives (patient/demography/clinical) – could attract clinicians.

Courses:

- It is important that DCA activities and courses are national, not focused toward Copenhagen or Aarhus.
- DCA course-portfolio must reflect the DCA vision of supporting the entire Danish cardiovascular research environment.
- Remember the entire pathophysiological perspective, kidney diseases etc.
- DCA should be aware to tie the new academies from NNF together and collaborate on courses on Transferable skills,
- This is an opportunity of making courses that are more translational, as industry will make collaborations, when the topics are aligned.
- DCA should consider courses in Translational to commercialization; creating a mindset of applicability of the students research.
- The Executive Managements Team must be aware of workload on suggested activities while ensuring that the activities support the creation of a DCA cohort mentality.

Network activities:

- Important to include supervisors in network-activities.
- DCA should actively initiate/support mentorships
- Put the network represented by the Board into play for the benefit of DCA.
- Consider having speakers from google/facebook etc. – interesting new perspectives
- There is value for students in having time spend in an industry setting. Spend perhaps month/weeks in an industry lab. (DCA-internship / special grants?) – Novo Nordisk will be able to offer such internships.

Selection process

- In selection of candidates The Grant Committee should be aware on selecting the future elite researchers. A way to ensure this, is for the Committee not only to look at current merit but also on the candidate's future potential.
- DCA could consider running Grant Calls through an AI program that corrects for bias toward gender and other parameters. Such a tool is available at Aalborg University.



**Adv. E: Presentation of Vice Chair candidates**

The suggested candidates were presented and pros and cons for each candidate were discussed. The Board agreed on appointing a Vice Chair with a clinical background and organizational experience. Preferably a European based candidate with Industry-translational experience and an entrepreneurial mindset

**Adv. F: Election of Vice President**

The Board chose three candidates for the position, in prioritized order:

- Barbara Casadei
- Adriann Voors // Michael Marber // Karin Sipido

**Adv. G: Next steps for Board of Directors**

Next meetings will be in August (virtual) and again in December (physical) 2021.

The Board members are encouraged to comment on the Terms of References before next Board meeting.

**Adv. H: Any Other Business**

None.

# Danish Cardiovascular Academy

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**Board meeting**

29/4-21



Bridging cardiovascular  
research across boundaries

# AGENDA

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# A. Welcome and opening thoughts

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*The role of the Board is to oversee the strategy, activities and leadership of the Danish Cardiovascular Academy providing clear sighted counsel on the strategic direction of and alignment to its Vision, Values and Purpose.*

# B. Presentation of Board Members



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## Appointed Board members:

- Lars Bo Nielsen (Chairman), prof., Dean at Faculty of Health, Aarhus University
- International member – TBA (Vice-chairman)
- Karin Conde-Knape, PhD, SVP Global Drug Discovery - Novo Nordisk A/S
- Anne Kaltoft, CEO, The Danish Heart Foundation
- Alicia Lundby, Prof., Molecular Cardiology and Membrane Proteins, Copenhagen University
- Claus Graff, Ass. Prof., Dep. of Health Science and Technology, Aalborg University
- Christian Aalkjær, Prof., Executive Managing Director DCA (non-voting member)

# C. About DCA vision, strategy and instruments

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## DANISH CARDIOVASCULAR ACADEMY

A multisectorial and interdisciplinary  
academy bridging cardiovascular  
research across boundaries



# C. About DCA vision, strategy and instruments

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Based on generous donations from

The Novo Nordic Foundation



The Danish Heart Foundation



# C. About DCA vision, strategy and instruments

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**The VISION** of the Danish Cardiovascular Academy (DCA) is to prevent cardio-vascular disease and provide better quality of life for patients suffering from cardiovascular disease.

**The MISSION** of DCA is to establish an elite academy for excellent inter-disciplinary education and training to improve understanding of disease mechanism, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cardiovascular disease.

# C. About DCA vision, strategy and instruments

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The overall **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES** are:

1. To recruit the most excellent **PhD** students and **postdoctoral** fellows within the field of cardiovascular research
2. To provide international level elite research **training** and **education** of PhD students and postdoctoral fellows
3. To create a strong national **interdisciplinary** and **inter-sectoral** network by increasing collaboration across boundaries of academia, pre-clinical/ clinical research and industry on national and international level
4. To establish a **cohort mentality** amongst grant recipients

# C. About DCA vision, strategy and instruments

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## Fundable activities (over 5 years)

30 DCA Elite Ph.D. Fellowships (2/3)

30 DCA Elite Heart Foundation supported Ph.D. Fellowships (1/1)

16 Elite post-Ph.D. grants (1 year)

20 DCA Elite Postdoctoral Fellowships (2 years)

20 DCA Elite Clinical Postdoctoral Fellowships (5 years, 20% per year)

Visiting professors program

Secondments for Ph.D. students

Travel grants

### Funding criteria

The project

The applicant

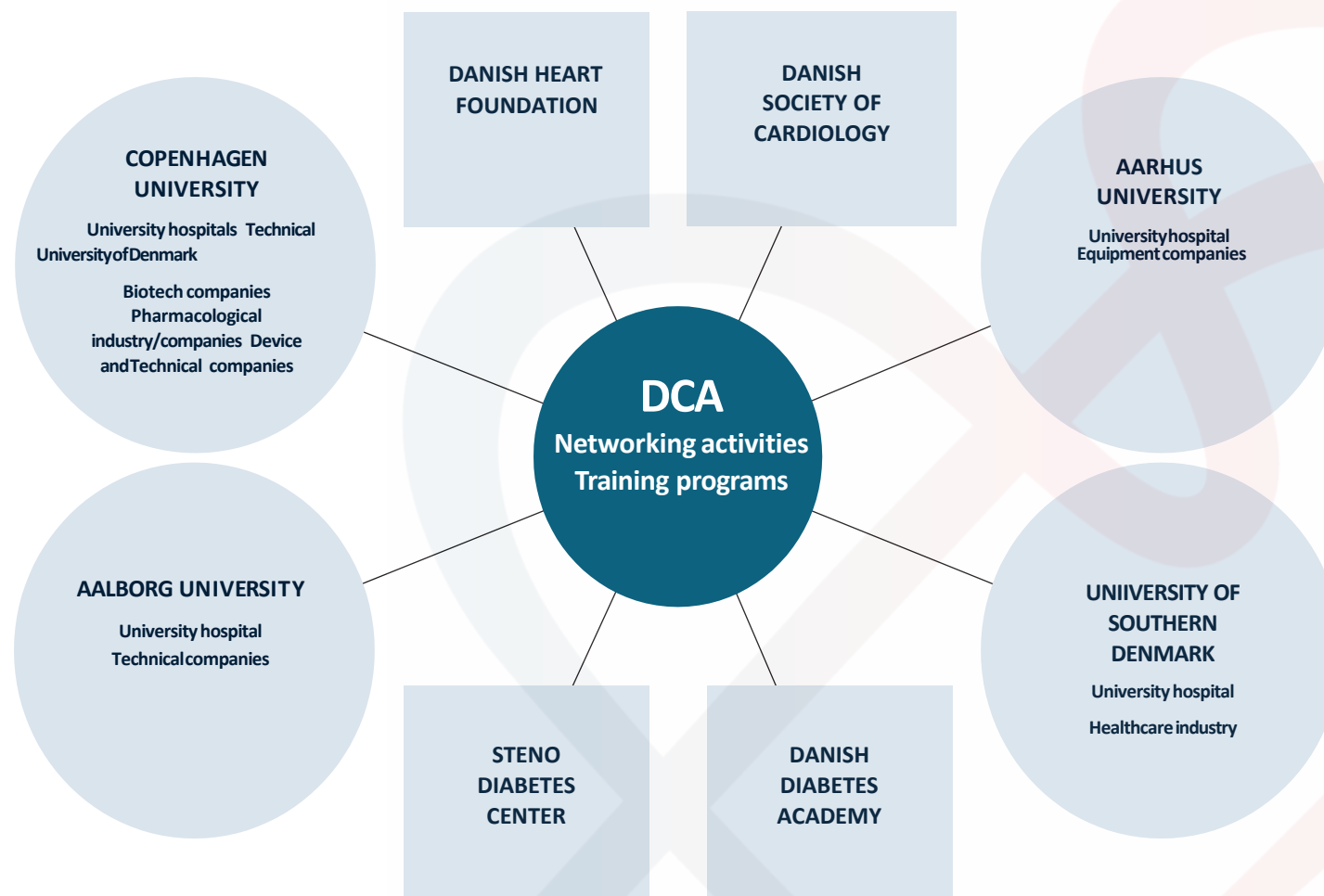
The research environment

# C. About DCA vision, strategy and instruments

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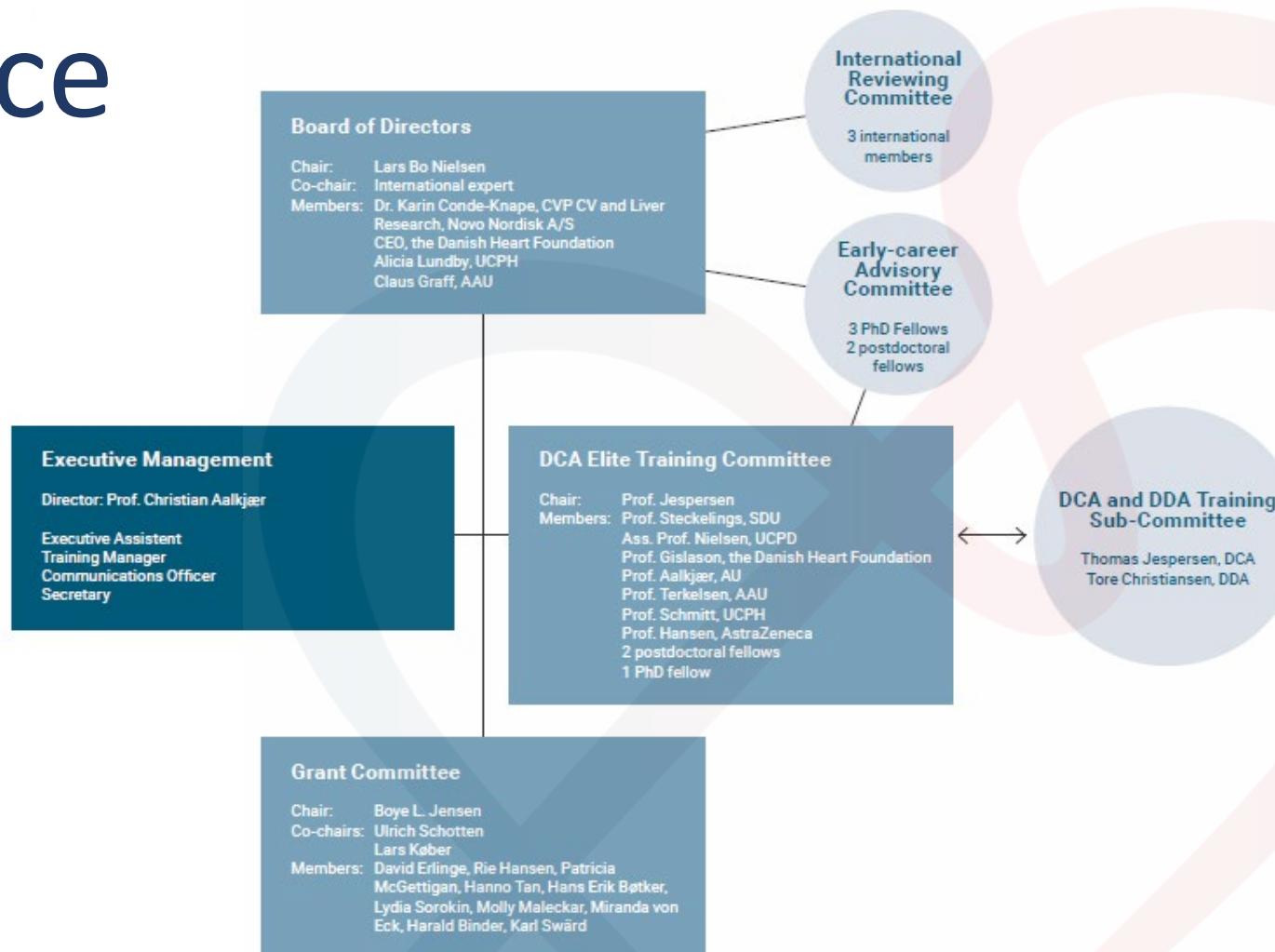
## Partners



# C. About DCA vision, strategy and instruments



## Governance



# C. About DCA vision, strategy and instruments

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## Deliverables

- **Rental contract with Aarhus University signed** Dec. 2020
- **Contract with executive managing Director and chair of the Training Committee signed** Dec. 2020
- **Recruitment of management talent, and communications officers and secretary** Feb 2021
- **1st Board of Directors meeting (min. 2 pr. year)** Mar. 2021
- **Website ([www.dcacademy.dk](http://www.dcacademy.dk))** April 2021
- 1st DCA News Letter (4 pr. year) May 2021
- International announcement for recruitment of visiting professors June 2021
- IT infrastructure regarding applications established July 2021
- Opening of call for DCA Elite scholar and fellowships (1 pr. year, deadline primo October) Aug. 2021
- Announcement of grant recipients Dec. 2021
- DCA postdoctoral winter school Jan. 2022
- Annual report to the Novo Nordisk Foundation Feb. 2022

# C. About DCA vision, strategy and instruments

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## Training and educational activities in DCA

### Key pillars of DCA:

- Interdisciplinary training
- Cross-sectoral training
- Geography
- Inclusion of local PhD schools/programs
- Outreach and complementary skills



# C. DCA vision for Training and Education



- DCA Elite one-day seminar (high-end attractive course on personal development; limited number of participants)
- Introduction day for grant-holders (12 PhDs + 8 post.docs; Copenhagen; visit at Hjerteforeningen; Dinner)
- **DCA annual meeting (summer; cohort identity)**
- DCA postdoctoral winter school (4-5 days “get-away” with focus on complementary skills and networking: Cohort identity)
- DCA summer schools (PhD students): In conjunction with international meetings (EHRA, Europhysiology.....)
  - Together with DDA, DCS, etc
- **Technical work-shops (1½-3 days; Tool-courses)**
- Industry seminars (½-1 day)
- Interdisciplinary meetings (1-4 days; e.g. cardiovascular effects of obesity)
- Cardiovascular Winter School in presentation skills (PhD students)
- Site-visits to industry/academia/hospitals in Ålborg, Århus, Odense and København (1-2 days)

# C. About DCA vision: Annual Meeting



Previously: DaCRA Sandbjerg Summer Meeting  
(far away; limited capacity)



DCA Annual meeting  
(location Fyn or western part of Zealand; maybe a “Højskole”)

- **Day 1: Workshop for younger scientists**
- **Day 2+3: Presentations:**
  - Younger scientists
  - High-end national speakers
  - International speakers
  - Interdisciplinary sessions (together with e.g. DDA)
  - Networking and social activities are key
- **Participants:**
  - DCA stipend-holders
  - Mentor-duo (mandatory)
  - All Danish CV (and related areas) researchers are welcome
  - Ambition: 200 participants

# C. DCA vision for Training and Education



## “Tool-courses” for PhD students (1½-3 day)

- MR-scan (Per Lav, Herlev; Henrik El Ali, BMI; Morten Lund, BMI)
- Echo cardiography (Tor Bierring-Sørensen, Gentofte; Morten Thomsen, BMI)
- Genetic Heart diseases Alex Hørby, RH; Nicole Schmitt, BMI)
- ECG og arythmia (Stefan Sattler, Gentofte; Jonas Isaksen, BMI)
- An introduction to national-wide Danish health registries and translational perspectives (Emil Fosbøl, RH; Morten Lamberts, Herlev)
- Single cell analysis & stem cells (Joanna Kalucka, Jacob Bentzon, AU)
- Blood pressure, blood flow and *in vivo* imaging

# D. Questions and discussion of DCA strategy

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- Comments
- Discussion
- Reflections



# E. Presentation of Vice Chair candidates



	Personal Profile			Related experiences				
	Nationality	Educational background	Sector of employment	Area of Expertice	Management	PhD-programmes	Post doc programmes	Nominated by
<b>Adriaan Voors</b>	Nederlands	MD - Cardiologist	University and clinic	Heart failure, -omics data	Director of Heart Clinic			Karin Conde-Knape
<b>Barbara Casadei</b>	UK	MD - Cardiologist	University and clinic	Heart failure, atrial fibrillation	President of ESC			Lars Bo Nielsen
<b>Carolyn Lam</b>	Singapore	MD - Cardiologist	University and clinic	Heart failure, CV-disease of women	Institute leader			Karin Conde-Knape
<b>Gordon Thomaselli</b>	USA	MD - Cardiologist	University and clinic	Basic-, clinical- and translational cardiac research	Dean A. Einstein College of Med.	X	X	Alicia Lundby
<b>Karin Sipido</b>	Belgium	MD - Cardiologist	University and clinic	Cardiac Electrophys and Hypertrophy	Head of Inst for Exp. Cardiology			Alicia Lundby
<b>Michael Marber</b>	UK	MD - Cardiologist	University and clinic	AMI and cardiomyopathy	Head of School of CVD Med.	X	X	Lars bo Nielsen
<b>Pyotr Planatov</b>	Sweden	MD - Cardiologist	University and clinic	Arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy	Group leader			Claus Graff
<b>Thomas Thun</b>	Germany	MD - Cardiologist	University and industry	Cardiac patho-physiology, translational aspects	Institute Director			Karin Conde-Knape

# F. Election of Vice President

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# G. Next steps for Board of Directors

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- Appointment of two advisory bodies:
  - An **International Reviewing Committee** with three international experts
  - A **Young Advisory Committee** consisting of three PhD-students and two Post Doctoral student.

# H. Any Other Business

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