



The Danish National Research Foundation invests **585 mil DKK** in **11 new Centers of Excellence** that will set the stage for outstanding ideas and **visionary** research

Danmarks Grundforskningsfond
Holbergsgade 14, 1. sal
DK-1057 København K

Tel. +45 3318 1950
Fax. +45 3315 0626
E-mail dg@dg.dk

www.dg.dk

The Danish National Research Foundation has completed its seventh application round and has decided to initiate contract negotiations to establish 11 new Centers of Excellence with:

Christine Stabell Benn, Statens Seruminstitut, for the *Center for Non-Specific Effects of Health Interventions (CENSEI)*. The foundation is ready to grant up to DKK 58 mil. Tel. +45 3268 8354/mail cb@ssi.dk

Jørgen Christensen-Dalsgaard, Aarhus University for the *Stellar Astrophysics Center: Research on the Sun, Stars and Extra-Solar Planets (SAC)*. The foundation is ready to grant up to DKK 55 mil. Tel. +45 8942 3614/mail jcd@phys.au.dk

Henrik Clausen, University of Copenhagen for the *Center for Glycomics (CCG)*. The foundation is ready to grant up to DKK 62 mil. Mobile +45 2014 5537/mail hclau@sund.ku.dk

Bo Elberling, University of Copenhagen, for the *Center for Permafrost Dynamics in Greenland (CENPERM)* The foundation is ready to grant up to DKK 60 mil. Tel. +45 3532 2520/mail be@geo.ku.dk

Barbara Halkier, University of Copenhagen, for the *Center for Dynamic Molecular Interactions*. The foundation is ready to grant up to DKK 49 mil. Tel +45 3533 3342/mail bah@life.ku.dk.

Antti-Pekka Jauho, Technical University of Denmark, for the *Center for Nanostructured Graphene (Holey Graphene)*. The foundation is ready to grant up to 54 mil DKK. Tel. +45 4525 6335/mail: Antti-Pekka.Jauho@nanotech.dtu.dk

Bo Barker Jørgensen, Aarhus University, for the *Center for Geomicrobiology (CFG)*. The foundation is ready to grant up to DKK 59 mil. Mobile +45 2010 2123/mail bo.barker@biology.au.dk

David Lando, Copenhagen Business School, for the *Friction-Finance Research Initiative Copenhagen (FRIC)*. The foundation is ready to grant up to DKK 48 mil. Tel. +45 3815 3613/mail dl.fi@cbs.dk

Mikael Rask Madsen, University of Copenhagen, for the *Center for International Courts (CIC)*. The foundation is ready to grant up to DKK 42 mil. Tel. +45 3532 3199/mail mikael.madsen@jur.ku.dk

Charles Marcus, University of Copenhagen, for the *Center for Quantum Devices (QDev)* The foundation is ready to grant up to DKK 61 mil. Tel. +1 (617) 495-3908 / +45 3532 5209 / mail marcus@harvard.edu

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Further information
Thomas Sinkjær
Director
E-mail: ts@dg.dk
Tel.: +45 3318 1950
Mobile: +45 4028 9106

Klaus Bock
Chairman of the board
E-mail: kb@dg.dk
Tel.: +45 3318 1950
Mobile: +45 2219 5002

”By investing in the right people with the right ideas we set the stage for groundbreaking research”

Lars Boje Mortensen, University of Southern Denmark, for the *Literary Interfaces of Medieval European Societies (LIMES)*. The foundation is ready to grant up to DKK 37 mil. Mobile +45 2297 1241/mail labo@hist.sdu.dk

Centers of Excellence – room for ideas

The new centers will be established for a six-year period, with a possible extension for another four years provided they undergo a successful midterm evaluation.

“It is the foundation’s philosophy that large and flexible long-term grants to outstanding researchers, in whom we place great confidence, generate creative and strong research environments and thus the possibility of reaching groundbreaking results and new breakthroughs,” says Klaus Bock, chairman of the foundation’s board. He adds that the foundation has seen the proven merits of this strategy.

Through the eye of a needle

The Danish National Research Foundation employs a two-stage application procedure in connection with proposals regarding funding for new centers. In the first stage, prospective center leaders are invited to submit letters of interest with short outline proposals. In this round, the foundation received a total of 198 outline proposals. Of those 198, 27 applicants were invited to submit full proposals, and from those 27, 11 new centers will be established.

Thomas Sinkjær, director of the foundation, is pleased with the enormous mass of talent and potential this application round has produced:

“We have received some remarkably good proposals, and we are now establishing 11 centers that I think will make a big difference. At the same time, I must say that among the proposals we could not accommodate are some exciting ideas, which I hope will be realized with support from others or from us sometime in the future. In all circumstances, I am convinced that there is a lot of growth and potential in the Danish research environment.”

By letting the best people grapple with the problems they are passionate about, we set the stage for real scientific breakthroughs. In its 7th application round the foundation specifically called for ‘dream projects.’