

INSIDE: MEDICON VALLEY

Number 2 | 2023

*The Leading
Life Science
Cluster in
the EU*

Women's Health

.....

Collaboration Between Academia,
Business and the Public Sector

.....

Sustainability

.....

Bridging Oral and Systemic Health

.....

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The Leading Life Science Cluster in the EU

Medicon Valley, spanning eastern Denmark and the southernmost part of Sweden, is the strongest Life Science cluster in the Nordic countries. It is home to a vibrant ecosystem of Life Science companies, universities, and world-class research facilities.

More than 1150 Life Science businesses

With more than 1150 Life Science businesses in Medicon Valley that employ 65,500 people, as well as nine excellent universities, Medicon Valley encompasses a resourceful and impressive ecosystem. But the region's largest strength lies in the unique collaboration framework between public and private, big pharma and startups, making Medicon Valley a competitive and appealing district

for the whole Life Science industry. Being a bi-national cluster spanning eastern Denmark and southern Sweden, collaboration is in the DNA of Medicon Valley, and it creates incredible conditions for successful partnerships and ground-breaking innovation.

A growing region

Strengthening EU's already largest Life Science region and sticking to the strongholds creates awareness and interests from internationals, hence attracting more companies, investment,

and talent to our region, making it a virtuous circle for Medicon Valley.

/ Anette Steenberg
CEO Medicon Valley Alliance (MVA)

Asbjørn Overgaard
CEO Copenhagen Capacity

Ulf G. Andersson
CEO Medeon Science Park & Incubator – the vibrant Life Science place, Vice Chairman Medicon Valley Alliance



Medicon Valley Alliance

Medicon Valley Alliance's mission is to promote, strengthen and represent Medicon Valley in becoming the most competitive and vibrant Life Science region in the EU. Missions that are not the same but complementary to both Copenhagen Capacity and Medicon's raison d'être.

We do that for our 330+ members (private Life Science companies, universities, and regions/hospitals). Our members are 40 % Danish, 40 % Swedish, and approximately 20 % other internationals. We are a not-for-profit organisation.

We strengthen our ecosystem through tailor-made events, conferences, networks, and strategic long-term projects. Always in a cross-border collaboration between Swedish and Danish stakeholders, sometimes with other internationals too, and always in a public-private partnership.

We cherry-pick stronghold areas, where we can document or investigate the potential for being and becoming world-class leaders. Areas like oncology, microbiome, diabetes, fertility, and women's diseases. We believe in strengthening our strengths and building new and unique strongholds.



Anette Steenberg
CEO Medicon Valley Alliance (MVA)

Copenhagen Capacity

Copenhagen Capacity works to attract global businesses and top-tier professionals to Denmark and the Greater Copenhagen Region. The Life Science industry is a key sector for us, and we work with international companies and talent-seeking opportunities in this world-class region.

As the leading Life Science cluster within the Nordic countries, Medicon Valley is a crucial stronghold that gives our region a global competitive edge. We experience this as an influential value for the companies we work with when they decide where to set up or expand their business, and when it comes to attracting the best talent pool.

Furthermore, the natural ease with which partnerships and collaborations form in our region is a remarkable advantage. It's a big reason why we're able to go head-to-head with other strong Life Science clusters worldwide in attracting more international talent



and companies to join the Medicon Valley region. The ability to create this collaborative ecosystem and a breeding ground for innovation can be attributed to organisations like Medicon Valley Alliance and Medeon, with whom we're proud to work with.

We are thrilled to be able to contribute to the Medicon Valley Magazine that showcases the region, and we hope that hearing from the people, companies, and organisations of Medicon Valley will inspire and increase interest in our booming Life Science cluster.

Asbjørn Overgaard
CEO Copenhagen Capacity

Medeon

Since 1985, Medeon Science Park & Incubator has been a major force in the development of Life Sciences in Medicon Valley.

Situated in the heart of the region, Medeon is perfectly positioned to support business and innovation within healthcare and prevention along the axis Copenhagen-Malmö-Lund.

With our own Science Park, Incubator, and Professional Networks we have a strong, sustainable, and complete set of tools to meet the demands from the growing and dynamic community of Life Sciences in Medicon Valley.

Furthermore, we have recently launched a new initiative, Health Innovation District, with the purpose of further

strengthening the close collaboration between Medeon, Skåne University Hospital, Lund University, and Malmö University, all situated physically very close to each other in the centre of Malmö.

We are proud to, once again, and together with Medicon Valley Alliance and Copenhagen Capacity, welcome Nordic Life Science Days to our region.

Ulf G Andersson
CEO Medeon Science Park & Incubator – the vibrant Life Science Place, Vice Chairman Medicon Valley Alliance





The Innovative Life Science Ecosystem of Medicon Valley

Medicon Valley, dating back to 1997, is the largest Life Science cluster in the EU.

It is bi-national, employing more than 44,000 people, of whom almost a thousand border-commute via the Øresund Bridge every day.

In a sophisticated ecosystem, the triple helix of government agencies, research infrastructure, and business networks work together in an intensive, integrated,

and connected way. All are focused on one goal: building a stronger cluster that can create opportunities and reduced time-to-market.

Research is carried out at both companies and universities, Swedish and Danish investors join together to create new ideas, startups take shape at universities and science parks – companies, organisations, labour forces, capital, and research all merge in the Øresund Region's Life Science sector.

Some of the region's biggest strengths are globally leading research in diabetes, women's health, and fertility, which we will shine an extra bright light on in this magazine.

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Partnering with KLIFO unlocks access to project teams representing the full breadth of expertise, competencies, and experience for successfully taking drug and device development projects from candidate selection to market. KLIFO has the scientific and strategic capabilities to support you, be it with portfolio strategies or project management, regulatory affairs, clinical development, clinical trial supply and quality assurance, we have resources you can activate.

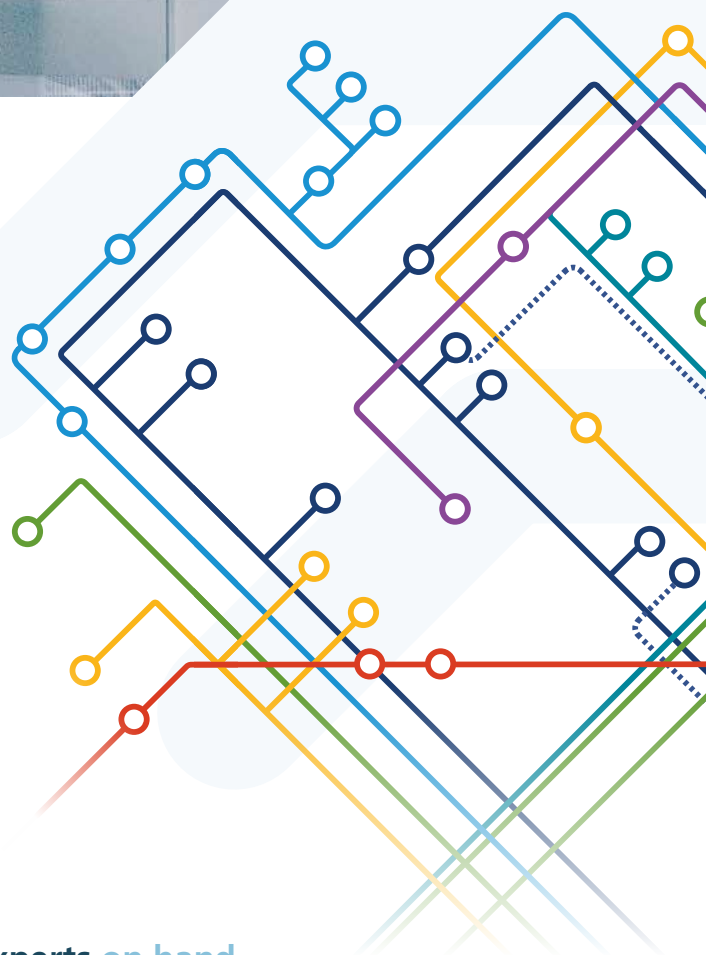
Tailor-made solutions

Our solutions are based on close collaboration with you and your colleagues so that we harness our combined expertise and ensure proper project implementation. Whether your organisation is challenged with time, resources, or expertise, KLIFO will create a solution for you.

Offices in 4 life science hubs

Our highly qualified staff work from life-science hubs in Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands, so a team of experts can quickly be assembled to support your project's efficient advancement.

- Denmark
- Sweden
- Germany
- The Netherlands



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TRIAL SUPPLY
SOLUTIONS

○ CLINICAL
OPERATIONS
SOLUTIONS

○ REGULATORY
AFFAIRS
SOLUTIONS

Facts About Medicon Valley

28
Hospitals

38,000
Employees
in public hospitals

7
Science parks
With major focus
on life science

10
Incubators

9
Life science
universities

Science parks	Companies	Employees
DTU Science Park	290	3400
Symbion	450	2000
COBIS	100	400
KRINOVA	118	300
MEDICON VILLAGE	120	1600
IDEON	400	9000
MEDEON	60	450
Total	1502	17150

Academics in Medicon Valley	Totalt
Life Science researchers	14641
Life Science professors	1343
Life Science PhD students	5742
Life Science students	23985

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Employees in the private
life science sector

----- **65,500**
(approx.)



Total tax contribution
life science sector

----- **3.75 billion**

A large ecosystem

Medicon Valley is the leading Life Science cluster of Scandinavia. The cluster, located in Greater Copenhagen, is home to more than 1500 Life Science companies, of more than 250 are in healthtech.



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Innovation Gives Treatments That Improve Quality of Life

Niels Abel Bonde is both Vice President HCP Marketing at Novo Nordisk and Chairman of Medicon Valley Alliance. He sees the Øresund Region as one of the strongest Life Science clusters in Europe, and is working on expanding cooperation even farther geographically.

Novo Nordisk is a leading global healthcare company with a 100-year focus on developing innovative treatments for diabetes. Niels Abel Bonde is Vice President HCP Marketing, Obesity, and says:

care practitioners in the area of obesity, meaning how to best support prescribers to treat obesity as a chronic disease.

He is also since the beginning of 2023 the Chairman of Medicon Valley Alliance (MVA), and he explains:

facilitating more than 30 annual conferences, seminars, network meetings, etc., which essentially serve as meeting and marketplaces for Life Science companies, academia, and healthcare professionals working in or with the Medicon Valley region.



– We also innovate in the area of rare diseases and also, in the last 10 years, in development of treatment of obesity as a serious chronic disease. Innovation means treatments that improve the life of people living with diabetes or obesity.

Niels Abel Bonde leads the company's global commercial strategy for health-

– MVA is a cross-border 300+ member Danish-Swedish-driven Life Science organisation in Medicon Valley – East Denmark and South Sweden – comprising of public and private members. Also including 50+ members located outside the region using the membership as a gateway to business and research partnerships in Medicon Valley.

Among them are Life Science companies within biotech, pharma, medtech, CROs, CMOs, and business providers, universities, hospitals in the Capital Region, Region Zealand and Region Skåne, as well as Life Science parks and incubators.

– The focus of MVA is to strengthen our Life Science ecosystem and EU's largest Life Science region. This happens via creating fertile grounds for collaboration within the triple helix across the Øresund Region and by organising and

– Our mission is to represent, strengthen and position Medicon Valley as the most competitive and vibrant Life Science cluster in the EU.

MVA also gathers Swedish and Danish Life Science companies, academia, and healthcare professionals from the Medicon Valley region around strategic projects and strongholds.

– We believe that can make a significant and positive difference for the cluster and help position it internationally. Medicon Valley Alliance has for instance been instrumental in the facilitation and development of Medicon Valley strongholds within the field of microbiome related R&D, infertility, and the Life Science related use of large-scale infrastructures, such as MAX IV & DESY and ESS & European XFEL.



Niels Abel Bonde sees many benefits with the Øresund Region:

– We have very strong universities and research in the region, along with some strong private companies that create a strong base in the Øresund Region. Given the different areas of strength we are creating something unique here. There is also closeness and relatively short distances in the region, which also fosters collaboration – as long as barriers between the countries in terms of legislation and work aren't created.

Even though the Øresund Region is already a strong Life Science hub, MVA and Niels Abel Bonde have even higher ambitions: they are also working on strengthening relations with Norway and Finland.

– It's basically about creating and improving the framework conditions for collaboration and exchange of ideas, research, and collaboration in concrete projects. Denmark and Sweden both have a very strong focus on growth in Life Science, and by facilitating collaboration we drive stronger growth in the Medicon Valley. Equally, Norway and Finland have areas of expertise that could further contribute to creating a strong Nordic Life Science sector that can compete on a European and global scale.

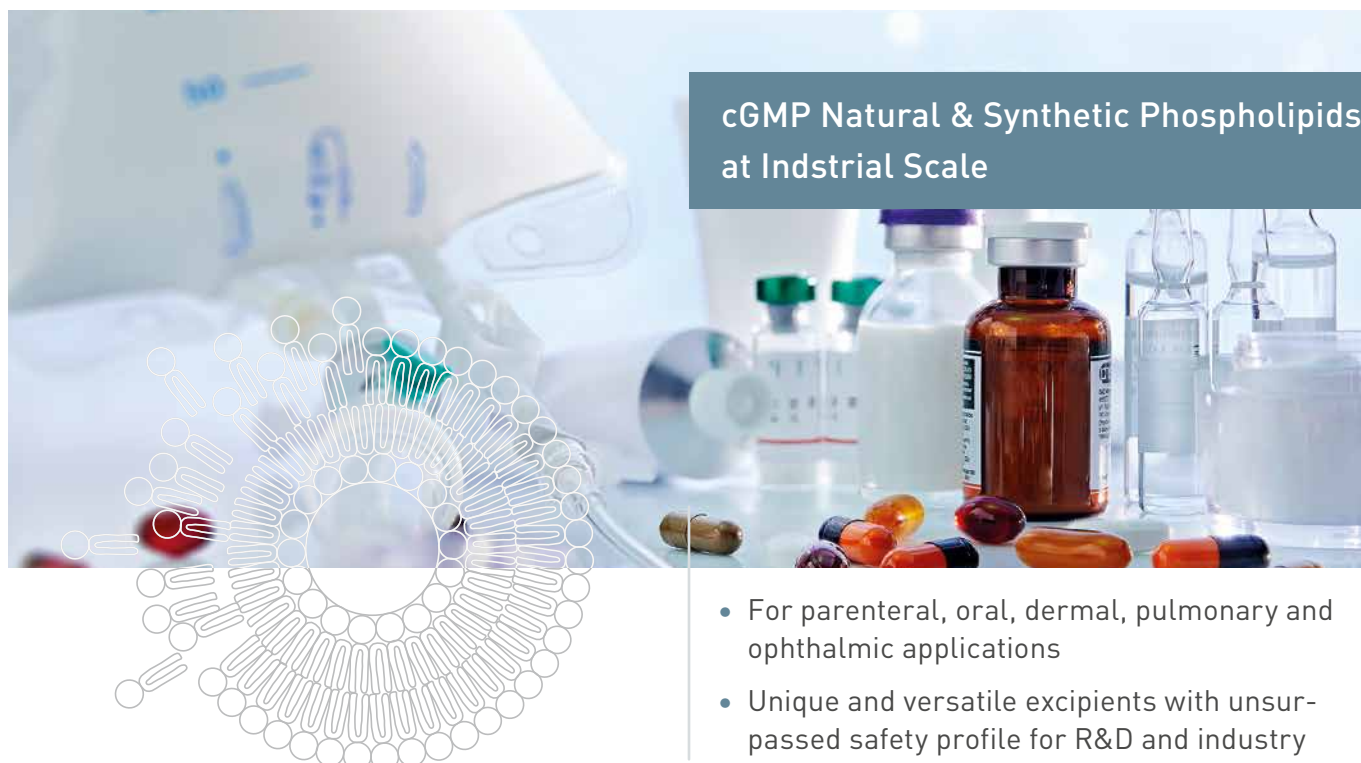
What do you think of the Øresund Life Science sector compared to other regions? Do we have a high level of innovation and results?

– I think the numbers are very impressive. Danish Life Science exports

were worth DKK 143 bn in 2021, while Swedish Life Science exports totaled SEK 108 bn. Life Science exports comprised 18.2 % and 6.6 % of all exports in Denmark and Sweden respectively in 2021. On the innovation side there were 1,158 Danish and Swedish Life Science patent applications to the EPO in 2021, increase in MedTech (+2 %) on the Danish side, and a strong increase in pharma patents (+24 %) on the Swedish side. 773 Life Science patents came from Medicon Valley in 2021, an increase of 41 % from a decade ago. Medicon Valley has grown over the past five years. 300 new Life Science companies have been founded over the past five years – more than one new company started every week. So this puts the MVA as one of the strongest clusters in Europe.

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Pila Pharma Develops Novel Treatment of Obesity, Diabetes, and Pain

Malmö-based Pila Pharma was founded in 2014 by Dorte X. Gram. The company develops a TRPV1 antagonist as novel treatment of obesity, diabetes, and pain.

Dorte X. Gram came up with the idea for the medication and is now the company's CEO and main driver of the development of the product. She says:

– The cause of diabetes is complex and not fully understood. Around 20 years ago, during my PhD studies, I stumbled upon a discovery that TRPV1, the chili and capsaicin receptor, might play a role in regulating glucose levels. Through research, I formed a hypothesis that obesity could be a common risk factor for diabetes and all its comorbidities. TRPV1 had previously been studied for pain, inflammation, and temperature control, but not metabolism.



At the time, Dorte X. Gram worked at Novo Nordisk, and she submitted a use-patent proposal, which she later bought out, for using TRPV1 antagonists to treat obesity and diabetes.

– In 2016, we in-licensed a clinically safe TRPV1 antagonist, and from 2018 to 2020, we showed it was well-tolerated

in obese people with diabetes. It led to improvements in ANP, which is a biomarker for heart failure, a possible reduction in HbA1c, which is a long-term blood glucose measure, as well as insulin secretion and glucose tolerance. This warrants for both reduction of the risk of cardiovascular death and improvement in diabetes. We've also demonstrated its safety in animals, and we plan to continue testing higher doses in humans to demonstrate that higher doses that can effectively reduce HbA1c and obesity are well tolerated.

Erythromelalgia is a rare condition associated with a lot of pain, that Pila Pharma hopes their research can help alleviate. Since it is an orphan indication, it can lead to data protection for their work.

– This is especially important when working with existing molecules like XEN-Do501, which we are repurposing for various conditions like obesity, diabetes, and pain, Dorte X. Gram explains.

Pila Pharma is now about to submit two trial applications to assess higher doses tolerability in obese persons with diabetes to eventually go to clinical proof of concept afterwards (phase 2b), as well as a small proof-of-concept trial to demonstrate an effect on pain in the orphan indication erythromelalgia.

– Malmö has been a great place for us as a startup, since there is a tradition for investing in smaller, high-risk compa-

nies. Two years ago, we listed on the small stock exchange, and although that has coincided with a remarkable depression on the stock market, it still has provided us the needed capital, and we hope for that to continue until we can tie bonds with a larger pharmaceutical partner for the later stages of the development.



– The proximity to Copenhagen Airport is also good as we grow. We're developing a global product, so we could be anywhere, but here I personally find that I can work intensively on a high level in a very competitive international area, as well as being down to earth at home and close to Denmark, where I come from. So it's a possibility for a good work-life balance – if you can get your nose out of the work trail!



CLINICAL TRIAL CONSULTANTS

TRANSLATING SCIENCE INTO TREATMENT



CTC – a CRO with internal Site Network

In contrast to many other CROs, CTC performs clinical conduct at our own clinical research units – the CTC Site Network – with our own investigators, research nurses and laboratory personnel.

CTC's In-house Site Network currently consists of six fully equipped clinical research units located in Uppsala, Stockholm, Gothenburg and Linköping. CTC's Site Network will have a total of 60 beds for early clinical trials and a capacity of 10,000 outpatient visits that support the clinical conduct of studies in all phases of development as well as medical device investigations.

www.ctc-ab.se



Medeon – The Vibrant Life Science Place in Medicon Valley

Medeon Science Park & Incubator's philosophy is that each and every growth industry has its unique needs. Medeon's focus is on knowledge intensive companies in the Life Science field. To stimulate corporate climate, Medeon offers flexible premises and close cooperation with healthcare providers and universities.

Medeon is centrally located in Malmö with only 20 minutes to Copenhagen Airport. With reception, restaurant, and conference rooms, it caters to every company's needs and is an ideal place for companies to grow. There are currently around 60 companies that belong to the community of 30,000 sqm.

Medeon is owned by the City of Malmö and the real estate company Wihlborgs Fastigheter.

Networks

In total there are more than 600 members of the Medeon Life Science Network, whose main purpose is to create many valuable research and business relationships.

The specific networks Diabetes Alliance Sweden, DentzHealth, Pharma Development Group, NanoMedNorth, Life Science Malmö, and all the Internal networks are also created for valuable cooperation.

Medeon Labs

For companies in need of lab space in Malmö, Medeon Labs offer R&D laboratories, cell-culture labs, and co-working spaces, all of which are easy to rent.





The Vibrant Life Science place – Malmö

We welcome companies with focus on:

- Biotechnology
- Healthcare
- Medical technology
- Pharmaceutical development

Join a strong network:

- DSS, The Diabetes Alliance Sweden
- Dent2Health
- PDG, Pharma Development Group
- NanoMedNorth
- Life Science Malmö
- Internal networks



Questions? Contact Catrine!

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Ferring Pharmaceuticals is Committed to Women's Health

Ferring Pharmaceuticals is a driving force in the development of women's health. The company helps women throughout the IVF journey all the way through birth and postpartum, and also collaborates with other institutions in Medicon Valley, setting them up for success.

Ferring Pharmaceuticals is recognised as a world leader in the field of reproductive medicine and maternal health. Kelle Moley is Vice President of Global Clinical and Translational Sciences for Reproductive Medicine and Maternal Health at Ferring Denmark, leading the Research and Development Team in that therapeutic area. She says:

– We are committed to women's health and are dedicated to building families of every shape and size worldwide. Ferring is one of few companies to have products in both reproductive and maternal health, from conception to birth- spanning the entire IVF journey, from controlled ovarian stimulation, all the way through pregnancy and postpartum. We are always looking for new therapeutics to improve this work and meet the growing needs of patients.

Ferring believes in the power of research and strives to provide innovative solutions to help people live better lives. Kelle Moley says:

– Our history and legacy are entwined with the health of women and reproductive medicine. These areas are understudied and underfinanced compared to diseases affecting men, and there are several theories as to the cause of this health inequity. Women were excluded from any medical drug testing before 1993 in the US and similarly for the EU, for fear of exposure of a fetus to a potential teratogen, which did occur in the 1950's. Despite the FDA recommendation, studies have shown that clinical trial recruitment still falls short of equality by 15-30 %.

– This means that there are higher risks of complications for women. For the last 20 years, total adverse events from approved drugs occur over 50 % more frequently than for men and fatal events are close to 30 % more frequent. This in large part is due to a lack of understanding of female biology as compared to male. Throughout history, the male human and, male animal have become the default gender and as a result, sex-based differences are rarely studied. Drugs have been designed with little knowledge of effects on women. Both

basic and clinical science institutions and organisations need to start teaching, investigating, and reporting the biological norms in women's health.

Kelle Moley says that funding for research into the health of women has finally started to increase, thanks in part to the growing awareness of these health inequities.

– The "perfect storm" of public awareness, increased representation of women in science and finance, and the public health crises of maternal mortality and preterm birth, are together catalysing a change in the way scientists, economists, investors, and philanthropists are thinking about the health of women. We believe that this is a huge opportunity to advance women's health, and Ferring remains dedicated to bringing about positive change for women and girls around the world.

Ferring has a long history of public-private-academic partnerships and believes that multi-lateral engagement can help to drive long-lasting impact. Ferring is currently partnering with several local private and academic institutions to stimulate innovation in this space.

– For the last six years we have been collaborating with ReproUnion, and they have just been awarded another three years of funding from the EU Interreg grant mechanism to start an Innovation Platform in Reproductive Medicine. They have the discovery power, and we have the industry tools to expedite the translation of their discoveries faster to patients. We both benefit from the relationship and are extremely excited about this collaboration. We also have a first collaborative project together with BII, the BioInnovation Institute in Copenhagen. Their commitment to building a startup ecosystem within women's health innovation aligns well with our mission. Discoveries within this therapeutic area need to move the needle, and Ferring is committed to doing its part to mature the vibrant women's health ecosystem in our region.

The Soundport building provides 24,000 m² of laboratory and office space for up to 750 people in a spectacular waterfront setting. The site is designed as a forum for innovation, idea generation, and screening of novel antibodies. It houses bioanalysis, discovery biotherapeutics, and immunology laboratories, and is a centre of excellence for immunology science throughout Ferring.



17

Ferring was founded in Malmö, Sweden, in 1950, and has now grown to be an international company headquartered in Saint-Prex, Switzerland. It employs over 7,000 people worldwide and markets its products in over 100 countries.

In addition to Ferring's commitment to women's health, the company also works in the therapeutic areas of gastrointestinal medicine, and uro-oncology. Kelle Moley says:

– We are looking at novel ways to improve not only gut health, but also overall health by microbiome mechanisms. Novel innovations to treat urinary cancers are also a theme.



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ReproUnion is Bridging Borders to Advance Reproductive Health

ReproUnion is a cross-border, public-private partnership spanning Sweden and Denmark. Its primary focus is on creating an innovation platform for reproductive health solutions, as reproductive challenges affect as many as 25 % of Scandinavian couples.

The partners include the Capital Region of Denmark and Region Skåne, Lund, Malmö, and Copenhagen Universities as well as industry (Ferring Pharmaceuticals) and Lund Innovation. The platform is co-funded by EU Interreg for the next three years, with the objective of establishing infrastructure and forming partnerships to advance technologies, diagnostics, and drug discovery programmes that target infertility and reproductive health conditions.



Eva Hoffmann is a professor in molecular genetics and head of department at the Medical School, University of Copenhagen, as well as serving on the Executive Board of ReproUnion, which is managed by MVA. She explains:

– The research we conduct is focused on elucidating how our DNA is inherited from parent to child and how this influences reproductive health as well as the origin of congenital disorders. Perhaps counterintuitive, many fertility traits have a significant genetic component. Infertility typically results from defects

in germ cells (sperm and eggs), embryos, as well as fetuses. More than 30% of human eggs contain a numerical chromosome error, i.e. too few or too many chromosomes that usually results in infertility or early pregnancy loss. The incidence increases with maternal age and the error-prone nature of human eggs shapes fertility curves in women.

Eva Hoffmann goes on to explain that genes affecting menopause actually also affect men:

– For other hallmarks in women's health, such as menopause, the heritability component is at least 30% - and the genetic component is important for determining the age of natural menopause, whether a person is 35 or 65 years. This seems to be a combination of common genetic variants in our population as well as rare variants that are specific to families. Intriguingly, some of the genes that are important for determining menopause are also critical for sperm production in males. Genetic variations in these genes can lead to non-obstructive azoospermia.

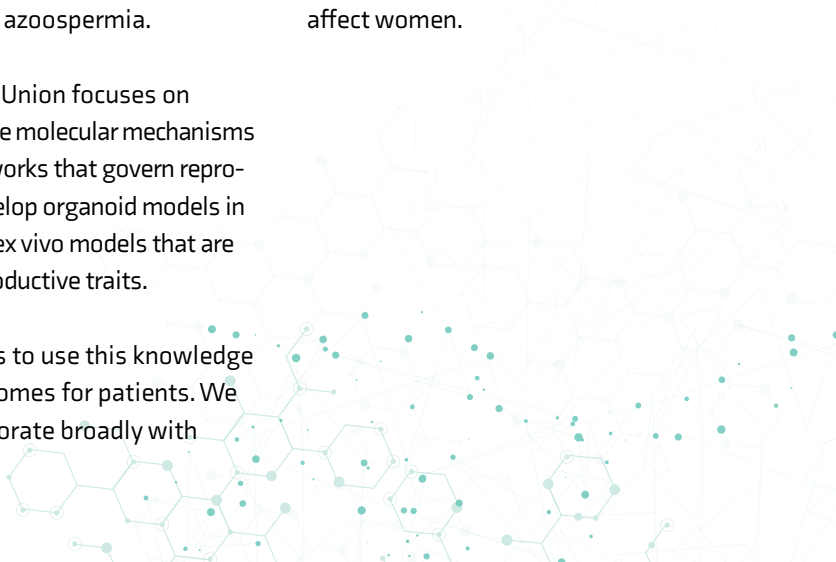
The lab at ReproUnion focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms and genetic networks that govern reproduction, and develop organoid models in both in vivo and ex vivo models that are relevant for reproductive traits.

– Our vision is to use this knowledge to improve outcomes for patients. We therefore collaborate broadly with

technologists; academics in the DNA repair, aging, and meiosis fields, as well as clinicians and industry. By engaging in a range of activities, we build capacity for interactions between the clinic-academia-industry, for example by training clinicians, industry partners, and academics in a range of activities to facilitate career development that spans the sectors.

Women's health is poorly understood, in large part due to underfunding of the area, which means that women's health is lagging behind other biomedical fields, Eva Hoffmann says.

– The global socioeconomic impact of women's health is substantial - indicators range from early retirement due to menopausal symptoms to maternal and infant mortality. Infertility treatment is a particularly important area of research and innovation because there are potentially three "patients"; the mother, the father, and the developing baby. This means that fetal diagnostics or paternal causes of infertility directly affect women.



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The pharmaceutical industry is incredibly inventive in finding new ways to treat diseases. The creativity required to pursue drug discovery, to develop new ideas and develop them towards new molecules with new activities is often found in small, nimble organizations. We rely more and more on small biotech companies and academic drug discovery centers to make the breakthroughs in disease understanding and its translation into therapies, thus providing pipelines for pharma companies to develop these ideas into products for patients.

Nevertheless, SMEs face a long list of challenges, uncertainties, and risk as success rates are low and costs are very high, especially in later stages of development. Fortunately, there are ways to reduce these risks during early-stage discovery and translation periods. One of the most impactful solutions is the collaboration with larger companies, who have the capacities and revenues to take on the risks of drug development.

Collaboration empowers SMEs and provides access to technology and resources to develop their early-stage inventions.

Support with venture capital helps small companies fund the riskier stages of validating their ideas, and many academic institutions and incubators have also set in place specific mechanisms to support them through seed funding to develop ideas towards products.

Small Organizations are also increasingly turning to contract research organizations (CROs) for support.

SMEs often need to stay focused on their core strengths and work more with a CRO in the areas they consider peripheral to their strengths, even if they are essential to translate their idea into reality. "Working with a global open-access capability and technology platform, such as WuXi AppTec, allows a much more flexible approach to accessing labor resources, removes the headache of finding and equipping suitable lab space, and ensures access to the latest technology", says Dave Madge, Vice President of Discovery Services at WuXi AppTec.

"Companies working with us will have access to these optimized tools, which will bring them to the forefront of drug research and development."



Dave Madge, Vice President of Discovery Services at WuXi AppTec.
discoveryservices@wuxiapptec.com

"Drug discovery is driven by a deep technical understanding of disease biology and the recognition of potential for therapeutic intervention. It is a continually evolving activity."

With the introduction of numerous novel technologies each year, WuXi AppTec is continuously validating and evaluating new technologies.

"Our platform is dedicated to providing high-quality research services and industry know-how. We support our clients in the discovery and development of future therapeutics and works collaboratively to rapidly advance programs from target through to preclinical selection, and beyond", says Dave. "Our local collaborations with clusters and incubators facilitate access to our services and expertise, and create new opportunities for biotech start-ups to advance their research and increase translational success."

About WuXi AppTec:

As an innovation-driven and customer-focused company, WuXi AppTec helps its partners improve the productivity of advancing healthcare products through cost-effective and efficient solutions. WuXi AppTec's open-access platform is enabling more than 6,000 customers from over 30 countries to improve the health of those in need.



BiolInnovation Institute is Building a Women's Health Ecosystem

BiolInnovation Institute (BII) in Copenhagen was created in 2018, after the Novo Nordisk Foundation saw a need to bridge the gap between research and business. Today, BII is a non-profit organisation that manages approximately USD 500 m, with the mission of translating great science into actual solutions to address unmet needs of people and society, focusing on human and planetary health.

BII is building an ecosystem with the goal of creating Europe's leading innovation hub for women's health. Trine Bartholdy is driving the BII Women's Health Initiative, as well as being Chief Innovation Officer at BII, part of BII Leadership Team, and also responsible for running the Bio Studio Program, a three-year company creation programme supporting world-leading researchers in maturing their research into an actual startup.



She has worked for twenty years in the intersection between science and business, focusing on Life Science:

– Joining BII was on top of my list when I learned about the new initiative from the Novo Nordisk Foundation, as I clearly saw the unmet need in terms of being the bridge between academia and business. And on a personal level I truly enjoy making that connection. It is a privileged job where I get to work with really insightful and passionate people. Also, I highly enjoy the need to

work very interdisciplinary to create successes.

Trine Bartholdy allows herself to become a little upset when talking about the field of women's health:

– 50 % of the world's population, but only 1 % of R&D spend going to women's specific needs. Just to mention three areas: one out of ten women have endometriosis – there is no treatment and little understanding. Menopause: it will hit all women above a certain age – there is no treatment apart from taking hormones, which comes with severe side effects such as increased cancer risk. Cardiovascular diseases: mortality reason no. 1 in the Western world for women, but we have seven times as high risk for misdiagnosis as our symptoms are not well understood. I could go on for +20 other indications.

She continues:

– Furthermore, there are three other general themes. One: the female physiology is not well understood, as drug developers have always sought to limit the inclusion of women because it came with more complexity/higher costs. There was a tendency to just treat women as "small men", and it still happens when deciding on dosage. There are no, or very, very limited, preclinical female animal models to test before going into human trials. The second area is that, in general, we tend to accept hormonal treatments, for both

contraceptives and menopause. There has been no innovation in 60 years despite approximately 60 % of women reporting side effects.

– The third item is the huge lack of research funding. On top of our wish list is to see significant research grants coming into the women's health area. If we could become the leading research and innovation place for areas such as reproductive health, endometriosis, menopause, cardiovascular/metabolic diseases for women – this would be amazing. From an unmet need perspective and for the region's scientific and economic outlook.



In creating the ecosystem within women's health, BII is working in four areas:

1. sourcing and incubation of research and startups within women's health
2. awareness creation
3. creating a world-leading Women's Health Innovation Panel (WHIP) with leading researchers and experts from universities, investors, industry, and entrepreneurs
4. establishing new partnerships to strengthen the highly fragmented ecosystem that women's health represents

So far, BII has supported eight projects within women's health in their two programmes, Venture Lab (for existing founders with startups) and Bio Studio (for researchers).

– Cirql Biomedical, a non-hormonal contraceptive, is the biggest success, as they almost went straight from incubation to a USD 300 m licensing deal with Organon, Trine Bartholdy says.

Trine Bartholdy thinks that the Øresund Region, encompassing the Greater Copenhagen area and Southern Sweden, is an ideal place for BII:

– As we clearly need to work in partnerships across the value chain, having key partners and stakeholders close by is highly important. Our region benefits from having leading researchers and

industry. And now BII is in the middle, and we hope to be able to attract more research funding, more VC funding, and we need more pharma interest as well. Ferring Pharmaceuticals is clearly present here, but we also work with other pharma companies and hope to tie even closer bonds with them. Their development and go-to-market expertise, as well as them being potential exit partners to the VCs is essential to create that positive circle between research, investors, and industry. She concludes:

– I hope that in 10 years, we only talk about health and have no need to talk specifically about women's health. There is still a lot of work to be done.

www.bii.dk



Livio Improves Assisted Reproduction

Livio is the largest provider of fertility treatments in the Nordic countries with clinics in Sweden, Norway, and Iceland. Livio's Malmö clinic is one of the private clinics in Sweden having performed most treatments with donated eggs. Working closely with the clinics is Livio Research, developing new methods for improving assisted reproduction.

Malin Sundler is a specialist in gynecology and obstetrics, and Operations Manager at Livio's IVF clinic in Malmö. She says:

– Our aim is to provide the highest quality IVF treatments and best results in the area of reproductive medicine at every one of our clinics. Within Livio we have our own egg and sperm bank, as well as maternity clinics. We also have our own non-profit research company, Livio Research.

In association with the Livio clinics, Livio Research develops and evaluates new methods to improve assisted reproduction methods and pregnancy results on a large scale. Malin Sundler says:

– We have a high focus on the mental health and wellbeing of our patients. IVF treatments are rarely a choice made by patients themselves, and we often meet people in crisis. The mental stress of childlessness has been proven to cause the same response and sense of crisis as getting a diagnose of cancer.

Livio Research has recently ended a large study in the area of time-lapse. Malin Sundler explains:

– Special incubators with built-in microscopes taking pictures that continuously monitor and record the development of the embryo. This technique allows the study of the embryo's

cell division in further detail since the embryo does not have to be retrieved and put under a microscope manually in order to be studied. The speed and symmetry of an embryo's cell division can be recorded, and embryos can be selected for transfer based on this information.

Further on, Livio Research is doing a study with AI in the laboratory. AI has the potential to store a lot of embryo information that might be used to a better embryo selection in the future as a step to increase the chance of pregnancy and reduce time to conceive. In Livio's work it is important to study both the female and male factors causing infertility.



– A lot of fertility research is being performed globally in order to improve human reproduction but also to optimise fertility treatments. For example, the microbiome is a new and exciting field, as is genetic testing of embryos.

Livio is located in Medeon Science Park, which Malin Sundler sees as an advantage:

– Being located in an innovative Life Science environment not only fits our company and our values, it is also very inspiring to be surrounded by companies and people focused on research, healthcare innovations and products that will benefit human health in different ways. Our Livio Egg and Sperm Bank has its headquarters here in the same building, as does one of the companies that supply us with material that we use in our operation room and

laboratory, minimising transports and our environmental footprint.

– An advantage to operating in Medicon Valley is the opportunity to share knowledge between peers and clinics, but it is also very important to us that keeping prices at a competitive level never interferes with our high quality of treatments. The fertility treatments in Skåne and Denmark are the most inexpensive in the world, so the clinics really do not make big profits. This is a good thing for the patients, as the quality of care is still very high.



Innovation Happens in Cooperation

The triple helix is an integral part of Medicon Valley: the combination of government agencies, research infrastructure, and business networks. The City of Malmö recognises the importance of being involved in the Life Science sector.



Micael Nord is director for business and external relations in the City of Malmö.

– My department works with business and growth, tourism, external relations, and strategic community planning, he says.

– The Life Science sector is very important for Malmö, and we work closely with the industry to create the

right conditions for development and innovation. Within the framework of the Medeon Science Park, we collaborate with both the universities in the region and the companies linked to the science park. Since the Life Science sector is also significant in other parts of Skåne, we also collaborate within the Research and Innovation Council of Skåne (FIRS) with Region Skåne, the universities, science parks, incubators, and of course the businesses.

The Øresund Region is unique in the way that it encompasses two countries, but very closely linked together – visibly and physically illustrated by the Øresund Bridge.

– We see the entire Øresund Region as a single entity when it comes to Life Science. Together with the rest of Skåne and the Danish side, we are a global player with strong competitiveness. The cooperation within the region is also successfully facilitated by our common organisation, Medicon Valley Alliance, and within the work for innovation and growth in general carried out by our joint organisation, Greater Copenhagen.

But why is cooperation between different sectors so important? Micael Nord has a clear answer:

– This is often how innovations happen! Cross-sectoral cooperation is becoming the decisive factor for radical innovation. This is something that also characterises Malmö's creative and innovative business community.

The City of Malmö is involved in several projects in the Life Science sector, and Micael Nord particularly mentions one:

– The City of Malmö is a partner in the Cities Changing Diabetes with the commitment to drive action against type 2 diabetes and obesity in cities globally. Within the initiative we work closely with for example Novo Nordisk and 25 other major cities around the world.

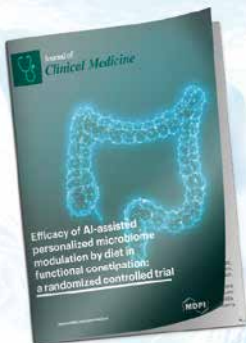
– We are also very pleased to be hosting the Nordic Life Science Days on a regular basis.





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Malmö University Collaborates With the City of Malmö

In Sweden, all higher education institutions are obliged to make sure their research and education will benefit society. That is one of the reasons that Malmö University has a close collaboration with the City of Malmö.

Since 2021, Malmö University and the City of Malmö have a formal collaboration agreement with the goal to both broaden and deepen their collaboration.



Charlotte Ahlgren Moritz, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Collaboration and Innovation at Malmö University, expands:

– In this agreement one focus area includes health and Life Science. Furthermore, the university has the Biofilms Research Center for Biointerfaces with close collaboration with the Life Science industry. We also have Open Lab Skåne that supports the Life Science industry, including smaller companies, that need

access to important infrastructure for experimentation as well as development. Open Lab Skåne is a collaboration with Smile Incubator and Lund University.

Charlotte Ahlgren Moritz explains one of the reasons for the collaboration:

– All Swedish higher education institutions are obliged to make sure that our research and education will benefit society at large. Thus, at Malmö University, we have an internal innovation structure to support and continuously develop our ability and ambition to be relevant to society. My role means that on a strategic level I am responsible for developing and deepening the university's collaboration with external partners, i.e. private industry, regional and local government, as well as the civil society.

On the subject of the importance of cooperation between different sectors, Charlotte Ahlgren Moritz says:

– When it comes to health and Life Science, we encounter great societal challenges that I believe we can only solve if we work across sectors and combine knowledge and insights from research, industry, and the civil sector, as well as the infrastructure and knowl-

edge of healthcare both in the region and in the municipalities. Innovations often occurs in the "in between" spaces.

– The Øresund Region is one of the strongest regions in the world when it comes to Life Science. The combination of larger and smaller companies, as well as world-class research, provides very good conditions for startups. It also attracts talents and capital to the region. The more collaboration we can develop across the sound, in all sectors and cross-sectorial, the more competitive the Øresund Region will be, and that will benefit jobs, growth, and a good life.





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Collaboration is Important for Malmö University's Biofilms Research Center for Biointerfaces

Biofilms Research Center for Biointerfaces (BRCB) at Malmö University is a multidisciplinary research centre in the interface between life and material sciences. Under the Biofilms Research Center umbrella we find the Department of Biomedical Science, the Faculty of Odontology, and the materials science research at the Faculty of Technology and Society.

Professor of Biomedical Technology Tautgirdas Ruzgas is the Director of BRCB, and he says:



– Our centre is multidisciplinary, and we do molecular level research in different areas of Life Science and natural science. We look at how the science on a molecular level can be beneficial and translatable in products and processes interesting for the industry. The main idea of the centre is that our research should be relevant to a number of industry partners and clinics – even

though in principle the molecular research is fundamental research that could be done without the involvement of industry, we look at fundamentals that are relevant to our partners.

Since cooperation with companies is an important prerequisite for the work, every autumn companies are invited to the Biofilm Network's annual conference in Malmö under different themes.

– If we want to get better impact from fundamental research, we need to look at the needs and real problems of the industrial society. The challenges that industry and society have are problems that we need to solve. And the research that we conduct gets higher impact when we do research with the industry, Tautgirdas Ruzgas explains.

– When we start a project we decide on the areas that are strong in fundamental science and we then contact companies or clinicians that have an interest in that area. Often we also get contacted for common research in certain aspects or product ideas that they would like us to do. It's common both ways, Ruzgas says.

– We also have good support from the Swedish Knowledge Foundation, which also supports collaboration.

Being situated in Medicon Valley is beneficial, according to Ruzgas:

– It is a big benefit, because it's a quite strong Life Science area. Of course, we benefit from the strong universities and incubators in Sweden, and also from the other side in Copenhagen. We have collaborations with Copenhagen, the Technical University of Denmark, and Danish clinics that we run common projects together with.



Understanding Skin-Care Ingredients' Effects on the Skin Barrier

Sebastian Björklund is Associate Professor at the Department of Biomedical Science, Malmö University. He is a physical chemist and is currently working on a project with several companies, sponsored by the Swedish Knowledge Foundation (Kunskapsstiftelsen).

The project examines the skin barrier and molecular structure linked to macroscopic function, and attempts are made to understand at the molecular level how the skin barrier works and responds to various treatments.

– The focus is on vitamins and their derivatives, which are commonly used in skin care. We are trying to understand how they affect the skin barrier, how much they permeate it, and their distribution in the different skin layers, says Sebastian Björklund.

– We are inspired by clinical studies on skin-care products that contain these ingredients. In studies such as these, common end points are transepidermal water loss, skin hydration, and if the overall status of the skin barrier is improved by the treatment. We, in turn, try to understand the mechanisms that lead to such an improvement.

Sebastian Björklund explains that it is a complex issue, the skin is exposed to changes in temperature and humidity, UV radiation, and air pollution, among other things.

– There are many parameters that come into play. Therefore, for simplicity, we start by selecting one substance and remove all other ingredients in the skin-care product and use it with simple buffer solutions. We look at how much passes through the skin barrier and how the substance is distributed in the outermost, dead layer, the stratum corneum, and in the viable epidermis and dermis layers underneath. How the substances influence the molecular properties of stratum corneum can help us understand potential beneficial effects of skin-care ingredients. However, since the stratum corneum is dead, the substances must pass through it to reach living cells to result in positive biological effects.

– To investigate this, we also use cell studies and look at keratinocytes, the cell type that dominates the skin, to see if the substances affect the gene expression and protein expression, and we aim to investigate changes of the lipid composition of viable cells by lipidomics.

– It is exciting to combine physico-chemical and cell biology studies. This link can help us to deepen our understanding of how skin-care ingredients work, and for this we need to collaborate. Cell biology is a strength at some of the companies we collaborate with, so we get important expertise from there.



Nordic Center for Sustainable Healthcare Calls for Even More Cooperation

Nordic Center for Sustainable Healthcare (NCSH) is a cross-sectoral, international network founded in 2015. The network involves stakeholders and expertise in the up-and-coming industry of sustainable healthcare. NCSH's members are companies, hospitals, regions, universities, NGOs, clusters, and more.



Daniel Eriksson is the CEO and founder of NCSH, and he says:

– Together with our members, we form an arena which generates collaboration, projects, business, knowledge, and new innovative ideas. The network is global, with members from almost twenty countries around the world.

– NCSH is a network formed around sustainability as the sole idea. Our work means promoting the most innovative and sustainable Nordic healthcare solutions through our activities, ranging from international delegations to projects such as the digital hospital

Grønnsköpingkið.

www.worldsgreenesthospital.org

The digital hospital Grønnsköpingkið is soon showcasing soon about 100 real, workable solutions from the Nordics that can increase the sustainability performance at hospitals and healthcare facilities. It was created by NCSH and TEM, the foundation that initiated the founding of NSCH.

Collaboration is key, says Daniel Eriksson:

– As a small organisation with limited, and no regional, funding, collaborating with members and partners is a key to our network's common achievements. Sustainable healthcare is an area that involves multiple stakeholders from a multitude of sectors. Without collaboration, it would be impossible to gain successful results at the required speed.

And being situated in Malmö, in the Øresund Region, gives ample opportunity for cooperation:

– From a Swedish point of view, being in the Øresund Region means being close to other countries' borders – the step to the rest of Europe is very small. NCSH had likely been a very different organisation and network, with a more

national focus, had we been based in mid-Sweden. In terms of collaborating in the Øresund Region, there is still room for much more of that sort. Speaking as a person not originally from this region, I am often surprised by the lack of advantage taken of the possibilities for cooperation and integration in southern Sweden as well as in the whole Øresund Region. Only a fraction of the opportunities seems to have been utilised so far.



NCSH aims to:

Raise the status and awareness of sustainable healthcare

Boost innovation and investments in sustainable healthcare

Bring world-class solutions and ideas to the Nordics

Deliver Nordic solutions and knowledge to the world

Nordic Sustainable Hea





Controlant Increases Sustainability in the Pharma Industry

Global leader Controlant empowers the world's leading pharmaceutical companies to reduce waste and ensure patient safety. They do this by digital transformation of pharma supply chains. With headquarters in Iceland, Controlant opened an office in central Copenhagen in March 2023.

Elín María Björnsdóttir is Chief Human Resource Officer at Controlant. Together with the Controlant team, which today numbers over 500 people of more than 40 nationalities, Björnsdóttir is helping the company realise its vision of a workplace where people are empowered and effective, in a culture characterised by respect, trust, inclusivity, and diversity.

– The strong Life Science ecosystem in Denmark and the large pool of skilled professionals are among the key reasons for establishing a local presence in the Danish capital, Björnsdóttir says.

– We look forward to getting more closely integrated with technology and industry partners and bringing on board new talents to our growing team in Denmark.

Over the past 16 years, Controlant has grown from an Icelandic startup to a global leader. The company was founded in 2007 by a group of engineers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Controlant partnered with Pfizer, as well as other Operation Warp Speed agencies, for the global monitoring of the delivery of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

– The scale and speed of the global pandemic proved the effectiveness of our solution, and we have recently partnered with UNICEF, the world's largest producer of vaccines, who provides over 40 % of vaccines to children in impoverished countries. In our partnership, we will place the emphasis on children's immunisation, including raising aware-

ness of the importance of immunisation as one of the most effective ways to prevent diseases and support health, Björnsdóttir explains.

As a global leader in the digital transformation of pharma supply chains, the vision is to unleash the power of people and technology to deliver zero-waste supply chains for Controlant's partners – and the planet. Björnsdóttir explains:

– In practice, we do this by working in partnership with some of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies and logistics providers who use our real-time visibility platform to track and monitor global shipments of medicines and vaccines.

– Our platform, IoT devices, and dedicated services help pharma companies digitalise and automate their supply chains, gaining not just end-to-end visibility but end-to-end control. This enables them to optimise quality and efficiency, proactively intervene when issues arise, and automatically release products to market. Ultimately, such digital transformation of their supply chains allows them to reduce waste and ensure patient safety.

Controlant has made it its mission to eliminate waste in pharma supply chains – one of the world's most critical value chains. As Björnsdóttir explains:

– Around 30 % of all medicines and vaccines produced globally gets wasted along the way from production to patient. Adding to that, the pharmaceu-

tical industry is more carbon-intensive than the automotive industry. There is a clear opportunity to make pharma supply chains more sustainable. If not tackled, the carbon footprint and waste produced by pharma will only grow.

– Our solution helps pharmaceutical companies eliminate waste, and we are proud to have achieved more than a 99 % success rate in the delivery of pharmaceutical products. In other words, less than 1 % product waste.

– To further solidify our commitment to becoming a sustainability leader, we had our science-based target for carbon emission reduction validated in May this year. In fact, we were the first among global industry peers with a validated science-based target.

About Controlant's solutions:

www.controlant.com/insights/the-aurora-platform-at-the-heart-of-pharma-supply-chains

Most recent financial results

www.controlant.com/insights/controlant-agm-2023-revenue-doubled-and-continued-growth-ahead

Copenhagen office opening:

www.controlant.com/insights/controlant-accelerates-global-expansion-with-a-new-office-in-copenhagen

Science-based target validation:

www.controlant.com/insights/validation-of-science-based-target-demonstrates-our-commitment-towards

In Kalundborg Symbiosis. Sustainability and Profit Go Hand in Hand

What can industries learn from the small Danish town of Kalundborg? For over 50 years, the town's large industrial companies have worked together across sectors to share excess energy, water, and materials, so less goes to waste. This is called Kalundborg Symbiosis.

Lisbeth Randers is Head of the Secretariat at Kalundborg Symbiosis, and in her daily work she supports the industry to share, recycle, and save resources in cooperation.



– I make sure that we always have a pipeline of new project ideas that the board can prioritise between, so that we can achieve our vision of continuing to be the world's leading industrial symbiosis with a circular approach to production. In addition to supporting the local partnership, I pass on knowledge and experiences from the collaboration to others around the world who would like to be inspired by the model.

– We receive delegations from all over the world who would like to use the experience of the world's leading industrial symbiosis. Last year we held presentations for approximately 3,000 people, either in Kalundborg, where we are based in the Helix Lab, or at conferences and workshops around the world. Likewise, Kalundborg Symbiosis has gotten great political attention as a tool for circular economy, both in Denmark and in the EU as part of the New Green Deal.

In Kalundborg Symbiosis, the companies are physically connected to each other. More than 20 different streams of excess resources flow between the companies, creating a symbiosis of resource exchange. This adds more resilience and profit to the partners. One company's profit benefits another.

Another positive result of the symbiosis is the environmental benefits: Kalundborg Symbiosis is reducing thousands of tons of CO₂ emissions each year. Sustainability and profit go hand in hand.

Lisbeth Randers thinks that cooperation is crucial to reach lofty goals:

– It is absolutely certain that it is attractive to both Danish and international clusters, such as Kalundborg Symbiosis, that you have access to

resources and well-trained labour. When, on top of that, there is a partnership, a network that you can become a part of from day one in relation to establishing the framework for sustainable production, not only internally, but also in relation to the local area – yes, then we are talking about a genuine "value proposition". We experience an enormous interest in being part of a green eco-production system in our daily work, both when we talk to companies that are already located in Kalundborg and to companies that are considering establishing themselves.





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DentzHealth Bridges the Gap Between Oral and Systemic Health

– There is a huge potential in the Medicon Valley region in terms of collaborations with a focus on the connection between oral and systemic health, says Magdalena Almén from Medeon Science Park. She is coordinator of the DentzHealth initiative, which is partnering with several key stakeholders in the region.

The overarching objective of DentzHealth is to bridge the gap between oral and systemic health, thereby promoting novel collaborations, innovations, and products with an impact on people's health. DentzHealth is an initiative managed by Medeon Science Park, working closely in partnership with key stakeholders including Medicon Valley Alliance, Folktandvården Skåne, (public dental health services), Region Skåne, Centrum för primärvårdsforskning (Center for Primary Care Research), Malmö University, Lund University,

Copenhagen University, Steno Diabetes Center, Novo Nordisk, and CR Competence. The primary focus of this initiative is to contribute to the prevention of non-communicable diseases, such as type 2 diabetes.

DentzHealth encompasses three key focus areas:

1. **Development of a screening tool, based on oral biomarkers, for type 2 diabetes. A screening tool that can be utilised at the dental office would enable screening of a large part of the population.**
2. **A fundamental objective of DentzHealth is to stimulate increased collaboration between dental care and primary care, promoting an interdisciplinary approach and holistic patient care.**
3. **Establishing a research and innovation hub with a central focus on exploring the connections between oral and systemic health.**

– If we want to see change and improvement regarding research involving patients, a prerequisite is to collaborate and utilise our resources in an optimal way. Folktandvården Skåne is one of the biggest dental health services providers in Sweden. We have a large number of patients eligible for different clinical studies. In this respect I believe that the collaboration with universities and industry gives us great opportunities to improve and implement new knowledge, which hopefully will improve oral health in the long term.

An important part of the initiative is the annual DentzHealth conference, and the second is scheduled to take place in Malmö on 24 October 2023.

– On the program is a diverse array of topics, including subjects such as the correlation between periodontitis and diabetes, as well as the role of oral microbiota in relation to cancer, says Magdalena Almén.



Henrik Jansson is Director for Specialist Dental Care and Research/Associate Professor at Folktandvården Skåne. He says:





Medicon Valley Alliance



MEDICON VALLEY ALLIANCE

Your gateway to Nordic life science networks, partners, and customers

Medicon Valley Alliance is the cluster organisation for the Danish-Swedish life science cluster Medicon Valley. As a non-profit, fee-based member organisation, we carry out initiatives and host and co-host meetings, seminars and networks on behalf of the life science community in order to create new research and business opportunities within the region. Medicon Valley lies in the Øresund Region, which includes the regions of Greater Copenhagen and Zealand in Denmark and Region Skåne in Sweden.



David Munis Zepernick
Director, Member Engagement and
Communication, Medicon Valley Alliance

Visit the link to learn more
or e-mail dz@mva.org to
schedule a meeting.
www.mva.org/membership

DiaUnion Establishes a Screening Program for Type 1 Diabetes

Type 1 diabetes is an incurable autoimmune disease that strikes randomly and independently of personal lifestyle. 34,560 Danes and 50,000 Swedes are affected by the disease, which requires life-long, complicated treatment with insulin and places a great burden on patients around the clock. The total annual cost for the Swedish and Danish societies amount to more than EUR 650 million.

These numbers show that Sweden and Denmark are among the countries with the highest type 1 diabetes prevalence in the world. But fortunately, both countries also have a long tradition of excellent research and treatment.



Finn Kristensen is the Programme Director for DiaUnion at Medicon Valley Alliance (MVA). The project has the Capital Region of Denmark, Region Skåne, Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen, Lund University, and Novo Nordisk A/S as partners, and is led by MVA. Kristensen says:

– The DiaUnion diabetes project has been bridge-building between the two countries since 2020. With a new

grant from the EU Interreg programme, screening for type 1 diabetes and two related autoimmune diseases, celiac disease and autoimmune thyroiditis, has now begun. The DiaUnion project strengthens and develops Medicon Valley's position as one of Europe's leading centres for research into diabetes and autoimmune diseases.

– With early intervention, new drugs can potentially delay, and eventually completely stop, the development of type 1 diabetes and the two related autoimmune diseases, Finn Kristensen says.

– But early intervention requires detection of people at risk of developing these diseases, and today no screening is carried out in Sweden and Denmark. At the same time, a global lack of screening programmes constitutes a bottleneck for the development of new therapies. In the previous DiaUnion 1.0 feasibility study for the screening program, ground-breaking new multiplex analysis methods were verified against the golden standard. In this process, more than 200 children

were identified autoantibody positive, i.e. at risk for developing type 1 diabetes or the two related autoimmune diseases.

DiaUnion is now establishing a screening programme based on the new multiplex analysis methods that significantly streamlines laboratory work. In the first phase, the goal is to screen 4,500 people from Denmark and Sweden, and the plan is subsequently to tenfold the number of screenings over 3–5 years.

– The screening programme forms the basis for the prevention of type 1 diabetes, celiac disease, and autoimmune thyroiditis through new therapies to delay and stop the development of the disease, and at the same time it strengthens the continued clinical development of therapies against these and other autoimmune diseases. With Lund University's experience in screening activities and Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen's genetics experience, the impact of them together in DiaUnion is much stronger than if the two institutions had worked separately.





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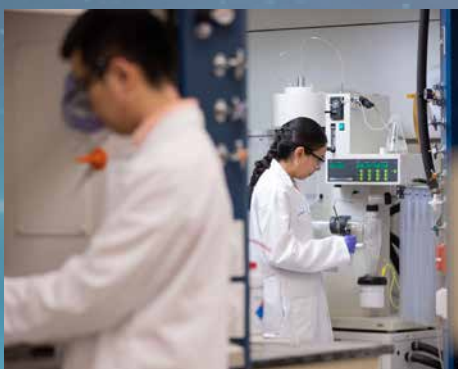
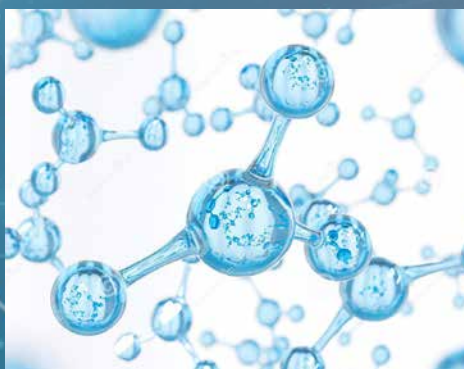
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PORTON

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Indian NGO MAMTA Works in 20 Indian Regions – and Sweden

The large Indian not-for-profit organisation MAMTA Health Institute for Mother and Child (HIMC) has an operational space at Medeon Incubator in Malmö. Assistant Director Devika Mehra and Deputy Director Shantanu Sharma have health educations from Lund University and work from Malmö to seek new Swedish partners to support MAMTA's international collaborations for future funding in India.

– MAMTA's main focus is on youth and adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights, maternal newborn health and nutrition, gender-based violence, midwifery to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality, and improved adolescent health. Some other areas of work are climate change, and energy-efficient solutions for health systems and hospitals, and non-communicable diseases like diabetes, says Devika Mehra.



Today, MAMTA is one of the largest implementation organisations in India. They work closely with public health systems in most projects for sustain-

ability and wider impact. Everything takes place in accordance with the guidelines of the government of India.

It all began in 1990 when pediatrician Dr. Sunil Mehra, the present CEO of MAMTA, founded a small health clinic for pregnant women and children in Tigri, an urban slum in Delhi, India. Over the years, the organisation has evolved and broadened its reach to address chronic diseases, such as HIV and TB, as well as diabetes, hypertension, and cancer. Since the last decade, the projects are using more mHealth and technology-based innovations.

– We have been working dedicatedly to improve maternal and infant health and nutrition among underprivileged communities over the years, says Shantanu Sharma.

Today, MAMTA works in three main areas: health, livelihood, and climate change with a focus on reaching the marginalised populations. MAMTA currently has a staff of 1,000 people, a budget of around USD 7 million per year, a presence in 20 Indian states, and has experience in providing technical assistance to South Asian and some African countries as well.

With headquarters in New Delhi and eight regional offices around India, Devika Mehra explains MAMTA's Swedish presence:

– Medeon is a very good starting point for reaching out to Swedish companies and other organisations to make new partnerships, seek funding, and connect with startups that have technology-based health solutions, that can be useful for our target groups. We also manage some of MAMTA's projects from here.

– Some of our ongoing projects in partnership with Swedish agencies include supporting the integration of midwives into the healthcare systems in southern Asia, which is funded by the Swedish Research Council, and we are working to strengthen the situation of midwives in some of the Asian and African countries in a project funded by SIDA. Another current project is about finding energy-efficient solutions in India, which is financed by the Nordic Center for Sustainable Healthcare.

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Genmab Recruits Talents Who Share Their Commitment

Genmab is a Danish-founded biotech company with the vision to transform the lives of people with cancer and other serious diseases through the power of antibodies. Last year they hired 448 new employees and are expecting to grow even further.

With innovative and differentiated antibody therapeutics, Genmab's goal is to improve the lives of patients with cancer and other serious diseases. In 2022, the company recruited 448 new employees globally, including more than 100 in Denmark, and is poised for continued growth in business and operations.

Øresund Region. The region gives us access to a thriving Life Science ecosystem, enabling us to grow and attract the best talents who are sharing our purpose and commitment.

– I have been with Genmab since 2008, and in my current role I am managing HR operations and talent

Sanne Byskov Klinke sees being part of the Øresund Region as an advantage.

– We benefit from and contribute to a strong and thriving Life Science community in the region, with access to excellent talent from the industry and from the top educational institutions such as Copenhagen University and Lund University, to name a few. It's a combination that provides a good base to recruit from. For us, being part of a thriving Life Science ecosystem is essential for recruitment.

– For Genmab, hiring the right talent is crucial for the company's success, and fortunately, our location contributes to realising our growth ambitions. In our experience, talents are on a personal level inspired and motivated by our vision to fundamentally change the lives of people with cancer and other serious diseases. Professionally, talents are attracted by the unique opportunity to contribute to the development of effective antibody therapeutics and work with our world-class proprietary antibody technology platforms such as the DuoBody® and HexaBody® platforms. These technologies combined with our knowledge of disease target and biology help us unlock novel approaches to target cancer and other diseases. We are proud to fulfill these personal and professional aspirations of our employees.



Genmab was founded in 1999 in Copenhagen and has since grown considerably, with offices in USA, the Netherlands, and Japan. Globally, they have more than 2,000 employees, and in their newly opened office in Valby, there are nearly 500 full-time employees, of which around 40 commute from Skåne, Sweden.

Sanne Byskov Klinke is Director, Site HR at Genmab's Danish site. She says:

– While we have global operations, we are proud of our Danish heritage, and we are headquartered in Valby, Copenhagen and are part of the

acquisition in Denmark. I know the company well and I have been part of the tremendous growth journey the past 15 years, resulting in Genmab's world-leading position today. In my job, I am responsible for a team of HR operations professionals, and talent acquisition functions who are recruiting new talent for the Danish organisation where we are ramping up and hiring talents working to support Genmab's vision to transform the lives of people with cancer and other serious diseases. Fortunately, we also see a strong interest from talent to join us, as Genmab is a successful and fast-growing international biotech company.



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Find the space that exceeds your needs at Forskaren, a life science hub at the heart of Medicon Valley. Here, your company will get the right conditions to grow and flourish together with Estea and a vibrant community of innovators.

Let's discuss your future today. Contact us at forskaren@estea.se or read more at estea.se/forskaren.

The image shows the lower portion of a modern building with a facade of blue and grey rectangular panels. A large, white, three-dimensional logo is mounted on the wall. The logo consists of a stylized symbol followed by the word 'Forskaren'. The symbol is a combination of a circle and a cross, resembling a medical or scientific icon. The building is set against a clear blue sky.

 Forskaren

Estea

Copenhagen Capacity Helps Danish Companies Attract Competence

Copenhagen Capacity was established in 1994 to create more awareness about Copenhagen and attract international companies, investors, and professional talent to Denmark and the Greater Copenhagen Region.

Dan Rosenberg works as Strategy and Talent Acquisition Lead at Copenhagen Capacity. He says:

– Copenhagen is the best place in Europe to do business – and we wish that more become aware of this. Despite a genuine position of strength, Copenhagen faced the obstacles of low international awareness and recognition. Behind every successful business, there are talented people. But finding the right people can be tricky and time-consuming. Despite numerous global crises over the past years, the Danish economy and companies are still in good shape. With an aging population and an increased demand for specialists, Denmark is deeply dependent on an international workforce.

But the inflow of international talent is not sufficient to meet the demand from the companies, even though one out of 10 working in Denmark are foreigners.

– That's why we need to proactively brand Denmark as an attractive career destination. While doing that we have attracted more than 2,300 international

talents over the past 10 years. Recent numbers from InterNations and the Expat Insider 2023 study show that Denmark still ranks among the top 10 countries when it comes to quality of life, the state of the economy, and working hours. At the same time, expats find it difficult to settle in, make local friends, and get used to the local culture. It's important not to oversell, to be authentic and true to what internationals can expect when they move here.

Dan Rosenberg supports Danish-based companies in getting access to qualified talent and specialists, and Copenhagen Capacity is running several initiatives and projects to brand Denmark and attract international talent, always in close dialogue with the companies to understand and address their current recruitment need.

– There can be many reasons for international companies and investors to get established in Copenhagen and Denmark. One of them is the proximity to relevant knowledge hubs and established clusters related to their business.

Access to talent in particular is a crucial factor for a company's decision to settle down.

– Medicon Valley stands as the most robust Life Science cluster within the Nordic nations. This dynamic region boasts a thriving ecosystem and a rich pool of talent, supported by top-tier Life Science universities and cutting-edge research facilities. With a workforce of 44,000 professionals in the Life Science sector and 14,600 Life Science researchers affiliated with nine universities throughout the Greater Copenhagen Region, Medicon Valley proudly serves as the epicentre of Nordic Life Science. This creates a natural interest and traction of international companies and talents within Life Science and the Medicon Valley cluster. Copenhagen Capacity helps foreign companies open an office and find new partnerships, investments, or projects within Life Science. The services are free of charge and completely confidential.

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Nordic Life Science Days in Copenhagen – 10-Year Anniversary

Nordic Life Science Days is the largest Nordic partnering conference dedicated to the Life Science industry. It offers a unique opportunity to partner and network with the best of Nordic and international Life Science leaders. For the 10th year in a row, world-renowned and up-and-coming companies take a deep dive into the latest trends in the industry.

NLSDays attracts leading decision makers from biotech, pharma, and medtech, as well as finance, research, policy, and regulatory authorities.

During NLSDays, startups and early phase clinical projects can find new investors, established businesses can find commercial partners for expansion, and global pharmaceutical and biotech companies can evaluate new and promising investment opportunities in the Nordic region.

In 2022, NLSDays...

- attracted 1,540 delegates representing 880 companies and organisations from 32 countries
- gathered 150+ investors
- facilitated more than 3,000 face-to-face meetings
- showcased 135 companies, organisations, and countries

NLSDays has been hosted in Malmö, Sweden, for the past three years. In 2023 it will be hosted in Medicon Valley for the fourth time, when it is held at Bella Arena in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 29-30 November.



Photo: @Camille_Sonally

Nordic Life Science Days



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Microbes in Women's Health Congress

Medicon Valley is among the strongest microbiome hubs in the world, and that in combination with the region's focus on women's health has made it possible to attract the Microbes in Women's Health Congress to Copenhagen in April.

The term "microbiome" encompasses the diverse micro-organisms present in various body sites, exerting a significant impact on human health. Research has primarily centered on the gut microbiome, resulting in approved microbiome therapeutics for recurrent *Clostridium difficile* infection. However, as microbiome research advances, there's a growing focus on women's health. This emerging field explores the microbiome's role and tailors interventions to address women's unique physiological and hormonal factors, offering promising prospects for conditions like reproductive health, urinary tract infections, and endometriosis.

The Microbes in Women's Health Congress, happening in Copenhagen in April 2024, unites experts, researchers, and industry leaders in microbiome research and women's health. It's a hub for sharing research, discussing trends, and fostering collaborations. Attendees can enjoy sessions, workshops, and networking with top-notch speakers.

The event committee is comprised of world-renowned experts in women's health and microbiome research, representing perspectives across industry and academia, including:

- Vanessa Ridaura – Senior Program Officer – Microbiome Products at Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Ina Schuppe-Koistinen – Alliance Director Center for Translational Microbiome Research – Karolinska Institutet
- Kelle Moley – Global VP of Clinical and Translational R&D, Reproductive Medicine, and Maternal Health – Ferring Pharmaceuticals
- Jacques Ravel – Chief Scientist – LUCA Biologics
- Adam Baker – Director of Science, Future Labs – Chr. Hansen
- Johan E.T. van Hylckama Vlieg – Chief Scientific Officer – Freya Biosciences

The Microbes in Women's Health Congress will cover a wide range of topics related to the development of therapeutics encompassing the

relationship between microbiomes and women's health. Key themes that will be explored include:

1. The relationship between vaginal microbiome composition and fertility
2. Microbiome-based approaches for targeting women's health indications
3. Defining the optimal vaginal microbiome
4. Evaluating the interplay between menopause and microbes
5. Understanding how microbes can be leveraged to improve pregnancy outcomes

The emerging field of microbiome-focused research and therapeutics has the potential to revolutionize women's health.

Join the revolution by attending the Microbes in Women's Health Congress 2024 – for more information visit:

www.womensmicrobes.com



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HALRIC Believes Collaboration is the Only Way Forward

HALRIC, the Hanseatic Life Science Research Infrastructure Consortium, aims to boost innovation in the Life Science sector through increased awareness about and access to the unique research infrastructures in the Hamburg and Øresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak (ØKS) regions.



Kajsa Paulsson is HALRIC's Project Director, which entails leading the consortium overall, as well as leading the project's management team.

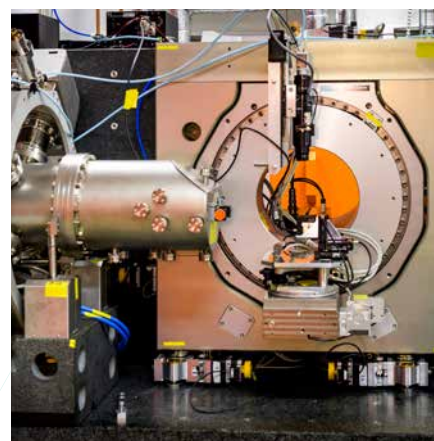
– HALRIC builds on years of collaboration and is now narrowing the scope, going from a broader Life Science perspective to a more clinical research and industry focus, with regards to the users we want to attract to collaborate at the research infra-

structures. At the same time, HALRIC is widening the scope by also facilitating collaboration with unique and complementary research infrastructures, such as advanced mass spectrometry and 7-Tesla imaging – in addition to the large-scale facilities MAX IV, ESS, DESY, and European XFEL. HALRIC will sponsor 75 cross-border projects to use the research infrastructures, of which at least 35 are expected to include industry and 20 clinical research. HALRIC is also working to build a Hanseatic Science Cloud prototype to allow more efficient cross-border handling of data generated at the research infrastructures.

There are 21 partners in HALRIC: research infrastructures, hospitals, universities, regional agencies, and cluster organisations, from the four countries Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Germany. The project has a budget of EUR 11,2 million and will run until March 2026. Kajsa Paulsson explains:

– HALRIC is an EU Interreg – Øresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak (ØKS) project and partly builds on the work done in the previous project HALOS, which focused on the large-scale research infrastructures MAX IV and ESS in Lund and DESY and European XFEL in the Hamburg area. These four unique, large-scale research infrastructures together provide great opportunities for Life Science innovation and research. The synergies and opportunities coming from these four large-scale research infrastructures have paved the way for

HALRIC to now also be bringing complementary research infrastructures such as for sample preparation, image analysis, and cryo-electron microscopy into the equation and facilitate even more innovation from collaboration between the triple helix of academia, hospitals, and industry in the ØKS-Hamburg region. The complementarity and synergy potential between both the large-scale research infrastructures, other research infrastructures, and the Life Science strength areas in the Hamburg and ØKS regions are important incentives for the HALRIC consortium. The coming Fehmarn Belt fixed link is another strong argument to continue to develop joint strategies around resources and expertise in the Hamburg and ØKS regions.



Kajsa Paulsson believes that more collaboration is the only sustainable and responsible way forward:

– Not only for the Life Science sector but for all sectors, sharing best practices and knowledge, and making more efficient use of existing resources. HALRIC is an unpretentious consortium working for the benefit of the partners and other stakeholders. The principles of sharing, learning from each other, and creating synergy by bringing resources together are the backbone of HALRIC's ethos. For HALRIC, the UN's SDGs and other sustain-

ability goals are also a high priority, which further motivates collaboration between the consortium partners and other stakeholders. We try to have a positive spirit, seeing the value of collaboration sometimes even before the actual wanted or expected outcome is defined.

– Together we are ready to tackle the grand challenges of today and tomorrow, including an aging population and increase of chronic diseases, antimicrobial resistance and emerging infectious diseases as well as a need for more personalised medicine.



Through this link you can apply for support for pilot projects through HALRIC.

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