INSIDE MEDICON VALLEY

Number 3 | 2024/2025

The Leading Life Science Cluster in the EU

Genmab Celebrates 25 Years of Helping Patients With Limited Treatment Options

AI Improves Efficiency and Precision

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One of the Leading Life Science Clusters in the EU

The Swedish-Danish Medicon Valley in the Øresund Region is one of Europe's leading Life Science clusters and a beacon for Life Science in the Nordics. Academic strengths on both sides of the Øresund Strait include cancer, diabetes, and fertility research.

The region is home to large, global pharma, medtech, and contract manufacturers in proximity to universities, hospitals, research facilities, and small companies in science parks. With more than 1,100 Life Science companies employing close to 70,000 employees, world-class research infrastructure facilities, and an impressive pipeline, the region encompasses a thriving and growing Life Science ecosystem, continuously exploring new fields and frontiers such as microbiomes, ATMP, the use of AI in Life Science discovery and development, and women´s health.

Unique collaboration framework

The region is home to a well-educated, English-speaking, and digitally competent labour force crossing the Swedish-Danish border. 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.

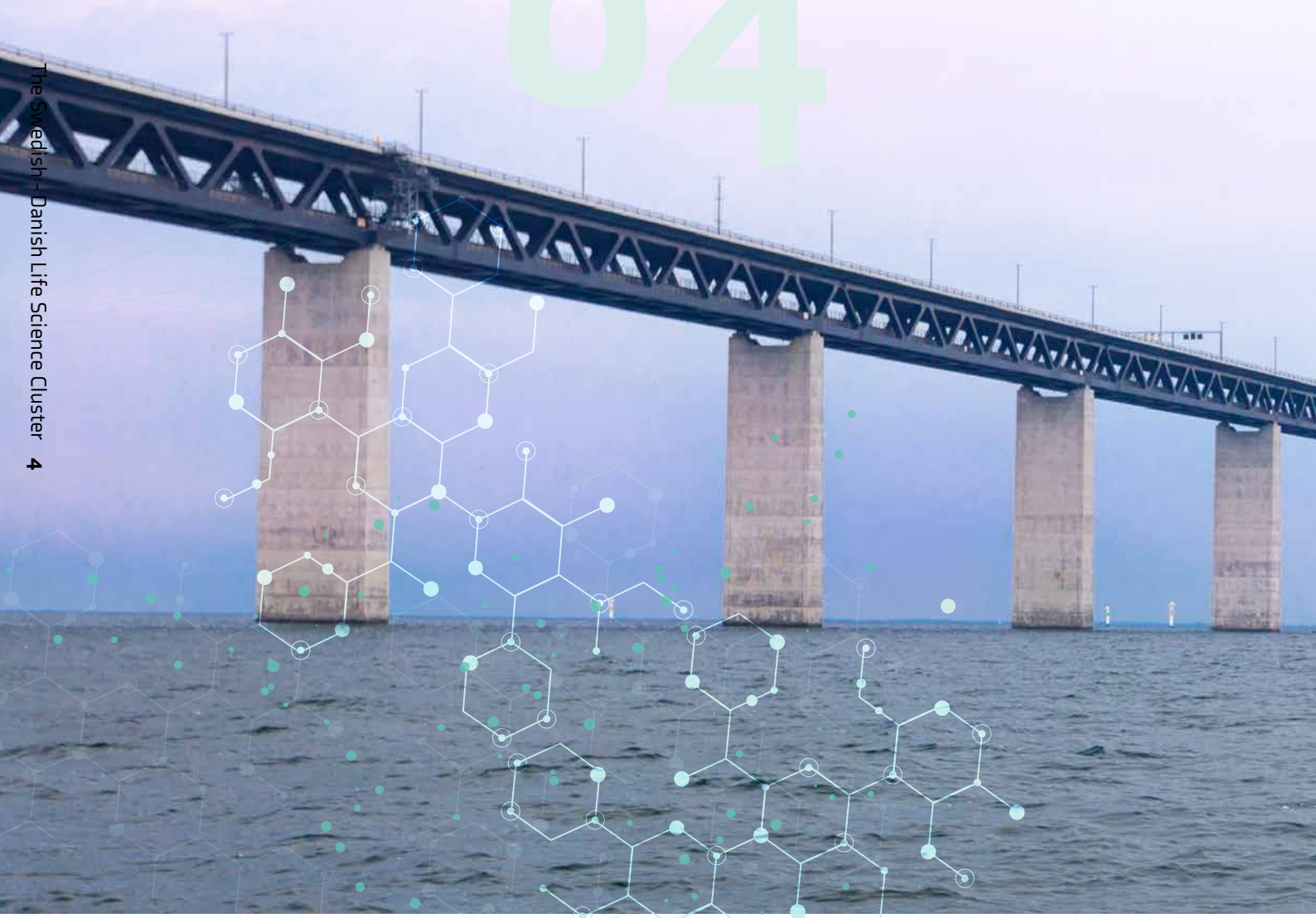
A growing region

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

The not-for-profit organisation Medicon Valley Alliance´s mission is to promote, strengthen and represent the Swedish-Danish Medicon Valley Life Science cluster and position Medicon Valley as the most competitive and vibrant Life Science cluster in the EU. To achieve this mission, we work with partners such as the science park Medeon, Copenhagen Capacity, Invest in Skåne, and other key stakeholders from academia, hospitals, and industry, including our 330+ member companies and organisations from both Denmark, Sweden, and the rest of Europe, which constitute an attractive meeting and market place for Life Science in the Nordics.

We strengthen the Life Science ecosystem through tailor-made events, conferences, network meetings, and strategic long-term projects involving cross-border collaboration in public-private synergies – benefitting the entire positioning of Denmark and Sweden's as leading Life Science nations.

Realising that we are not Boston and cannot realistically aspire to become world class within each and every aspect of Life Science, we focus on existing and future strongholds where we can document and explore the potential for world-class excellence, including but not limited to fields such as oncology, diabetes, microbiome, fertility, and women´s health.

Visit mva.org to learn more about the benefits of membership.

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.

Our Science Park, Incubator, and Professional Networks forms a strong, sustainable, and complete set of tools to meet the demands from the growing and dynamic community of Life Sciences. Furthermore, we are now developing the new initiative, Health Innovation District, aiming at strengthening the close collaboration between Medeon, Skåne University Hospital, Lund University, and Malmö University, all situated close to each other in the center of Malmö.

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

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 is the largest Life Science cluster in the EU. It dates back to 1997 and spans both Sweden and Denmark. Medicon Valley employs over 65, 000 people, of whom almost a thousand border-commute via the Øresund Bridge every weekday.

The triple helix of government agencies, research infrastructure, and business networks forms a sophisticated ecosystem in which the parts work together in an intensive, integrated and connected way. The focus is on one goal: building a stronger cluster that can create opportunities and reduced time-to-market.

First-class research is carried out at universities and coorporations, startups take place at universities and science parks, and Swedish and Danish investors join forces to create new ideas. Companies, organisations, labour forces, capital, and research all merge in the Øresund Region's Life Science sector.

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Reach out

Hanne Wulff Nielsen
VP Drug Development Counselling

+45 44 222 903
Hanne.Nielsen@klifo.com

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Insights Into 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 Science Park	60	500
Total	**1502**	**17150**

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

A Thriving Ecosystem

Medicon Valley is Scandinavia's foremost Life Science cluster, located in the Greater Copenhagen region.

It´s a vibrant ecosystem of over 1,500 Life Science companies, with more than 250 dedicated to healthtech. This concentration of innovation and expertise has positioned Medicon Valley as a key player in advancing healthcare technologies and scientific research on a global scale.

Genmab Celebrates 25th Anniversary and Sees a Bright Future Ahead

Since Genmab was founded in Denmark in 1999, it has transitioned from a startup to a global biotech company with over 2,600 employees. The company has multiple proprietary technologies and eight approved medicines incorporating Genmab innovation, helping patients with limited treatment options in cancer and other serious diseases.

The company was co-founded by President and Chief Executive Officer Jan van de Winkel with a vision to develop innovative and differentiated antibody therapeutics to improve patients' lives. He says:

– This year marks Genmab's 25th anniversary, and it's incredible to reflect on our journey from being a small team to a thriving company with over 2,600 employees. While success can't be distilled into a simple formula, certain key elements have consistently permeated our organization, driving our growth over the past 25 years.

– One of these key elements is our highly successful strategy for turning science into medicine, which is our dedicated focus on harnessing the power of antibodies to fight diseases. This focus has allowed us to become leaders in our field, with medicines that are first-in-class and/or best-in-class and have the potential to transform how cancer and other serious diseases are treated.

He continues:

– Another key ingredient for our success is our investment in people. We strive to create an inspiring work environment and offer opportunities for professional growth, ensuring that our team remains motivated and innovative. Now, seeing how far we have come, it's clear that our growth has been driven by our unstoppable team at Genmab.

Knock-your-socks-off guides the work

There is a term at Genmab that sets the standard for the work: KYSO®.
Jan van de Winkel explains:

– KYSO® – "knock-your-socks-off" – is a way for us to express just how unique and impactful the antibodies created by our team are and will continue to be in the future. We call our antibodies KYSO®, because they are brilliantly and distinctively designed and engineered to harness the power of antibodies to fight diseases.

Several Genmab-developed drugs have been approved, and the future is looking at least as bright.

– We have a more robust and diversified pipeline than we've ever had in the history of our company, with numerous candidates in clinical development. We understand the biology of the target and follow the data. Looking back on the past 25 years, I am very humbled that today eight antibody medicines are powered by our innovation, six in cancer, including Darzalex® for multiple myeloma, bispecifics like Epkinly® for Diffuse large B cell lymphoma and follicular lymphoma, and Tivdak®, the first approved ADC for cervical cancer, Jan van de Winkel elaborates.

The future of cancer treatment

Jan van de Winkel is optimistic about the future and the legacy Genmab is creating.

– We've never been in a better place. The future of cancer treatment lies in precision medicine and innovative therapies targeting specific cancer mechanisms. We aim to continue our current development to fundamentally transformative cancer treatments.

– There are two key areas where we anticipate breakthroughs: technology advancements and new modalities. First, the integration of AI, big data, and high-performance computing has the potential to not only expedite the drug discovery process, but also contribute to a better understanding of diseases and delivering medicines. Second, new modalities, such as antibody-drug conjugates, bispecific antibodies, and cell and gene therapies, have shown great promise, offering potential for previously difficult-to-treat diseases.

Genmab's pipeline focuses on antibody-based technology platforms, such as their DuoBody® bispecific technology, which allows them to develop next-generation antibody medicines that engage multiple targets.

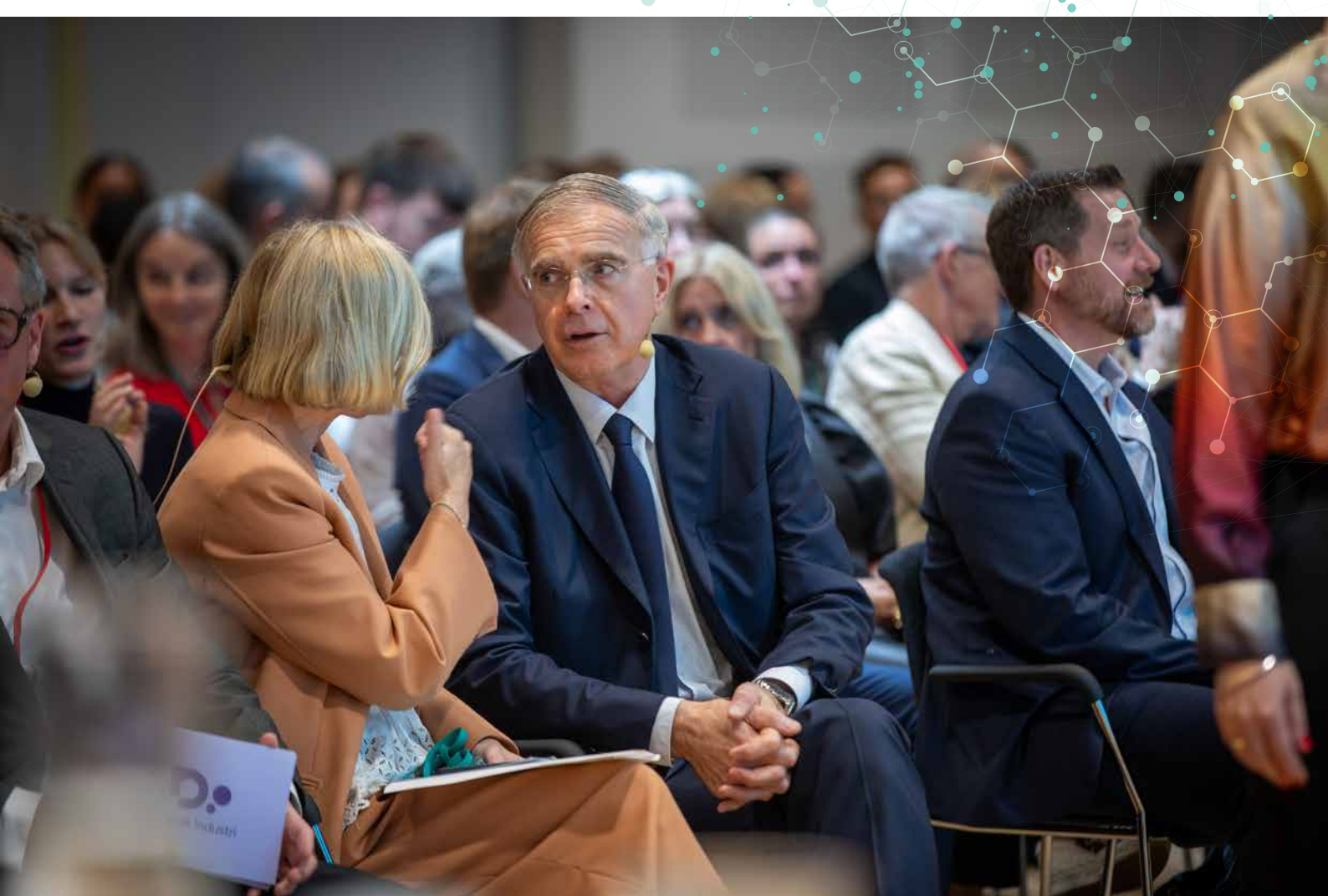
– A notable step towards our 2030 vision is our recent acquisition of ProfoundBio, which included three promising drug candidates, including a treatment for ovarian cancer, Jan van de Winkel says.

Genmab has its headquarters in Copenhagen, on the Danish side of Medicon Valley. Jan van de Winkel appreciates the location.

– With Genmab being founded in Denmark, we are proud of our Danish roots and heritage. We have our headquarters in Copenhagen, which I believe highlights our commitment to the local Life Science ecosystem. Denmark's Life Science, biotech, and pharmaceutical industries are highly advanced, thanks to a robust ecosystem with strong networks and an excellent healthcare system that facilitates efficient clinical trials. Denmark also benefits from access to top-tier research environments and a highly qualified, ethically driven workforce, Jan van de Winkel says.

– At Genmab, collaborations and partnerships have always been integral to our DNA. We believe in fostering an innovation ecosystem through close partnerships with academia, research institutes, and talent pools. Genmab strives to contribute significantly to the Danish Life Science sector by being an active participant in this ecosystem.

Genmab 25
INNOVATION with IMPACT



Medicon Valley Alliance

BRIDGING LIFE SCIENCE IN THE NORDICS

Welcome to MVA´s Women´s Health Network

With the Medicon Valley Alliance Women's Health Network it's our ambition to gather our members from industry, academia and the public sector, who are or want to be engaged in this agenda to knowledge-share, create partnership and advocate for more focus, research funding and investments in start-ups, etc, on Women's Health.

Our vision is to make Medicon Valley an attractive hub for research and development of medicine and equipment adapted to women's biology and bodies, as well as to create an attractive ecosystem for entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, and other talents in this field. Overall, this will create a virtuous circle and a strong Life Science ecosystem – also within women's health.

The network meets twice a year and with agendas to be decided on an ongoing basis by the network participants. As a rule, the meetings will be hosted by the members of the network, and on special occasions by Medicon Valley Alliance. It is the ambition that the meetings will be hosted evenly on Danish and Swedish venues.

Learn more about MVA´s Women´s Health Network and how to join by contacting MVA Network and Event Manager, Katrine Brems Olsen at kbo@mva.org

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The Transformative Power of AI in Pharma: How Novo Nordisk Works With AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping industries, and pharma is no exception. At the forefront of this transformation is Thomas Senderovitz, senior vice president of Data Science at Novo Nordisk, a global healthcare company renowned for its innovative diabetes care solutions. Senderovitz shares how AI is being deployed across various aspects of the business, from drug discovery to day-to-day operations, and reflects on the broader implications for the industry.

Thomas Senderovitz explains that his role as senior vice president of Data Science entails being ultimately responsible for all data science analytics functions for data in human beings. This encompasses a broad spectrum of activities, including biostatistics, AI, real-world data analysis, and more.

– I believe that AI will change the way many, many businesses work, including Life Science and pharma. You can broadly say that AI can be deployed in every single part of the business from discovery research, where we, for instance, use AI to simulate how proteins fold, to production, where AI identifies impurities in manufacturing.

One of the most significant applications of AI at Novo Nordisk is in the early stages of drug development. AI tools like AlphaFold are used to simulate the complex process of protein folding, which is crucial for understanding how potential drugs will interact with biological targets.

– These are very powerful and recently upgraded algorithms that require super compute facilities, says Senderovitz, highlighting the sophistication of the technology.

– Moreover, AI is utilised for screening molecules, simulating drug interactions, and even automating parts of clinical trial processes.

Improving efficiency and precision

AI's influence extends beyond research and development. Senderovitz describes how AI is improving efficiency and precision in areas such as image analysis, where it often outperforms human radiologists in speed and accuracy. Additionally, AI is transforming routine tasks, such as writing clinical study reports, which are increasingly being automated to streamline workflows.

– We are scaling this up so that everything we do, from the moment we start a study until it's reported, is going to be automated in terms of data flow analytics, but with humans in the loop, he explains.

Despite the promising advancements, Senderovitz is cautious about the ethical and regulatory challenges that come with AI.

– We have established an AI governance framework to ensure that every AI we deploy in development has been evaluated against prefixed criteria, he says.

– This "trustworthy AI governance" is particularly crucial in the context of clinical data, where the risks of biased or erroneous decisions can have significant consequences.

Senderovitz also touches on the forthcoming EU AI regulations, noting that while they are necessary, there is a risk of over-regulation that could hinder innovation in Europe.

Still a need for human oversight

When asked whether AI could render human roles obsolete, Senderovitz acknowledges that while AI will change the nature of many jobs, it won't eliminate the need for human oversight.

– Our roles will change; a lot of manual processes will disappear. But humans, at least for the foreseeable future, will have to remain in the loop, he asserts.

He likens the evolution of tasks in the pharmaceutical industry to the shift from manual calculations to the use of calculators, illustrating how technology frees up resources for more complex work.

In conclusion, Senderovitz remains optimistic about the future of AI in pharma, but he stresses the importance of balanced regulation and ethical considerations.

– AI, if deployed ethically and appropriately, has a huge potential to speed up processes, create more insights, shorten development time, and improve treatments, he says.

As Novo Nordisk continues to integrate AI into its operations, the company is not only advancing its mission to bring innovative treatments to patients faster, but also setting a precedent for how AI can be harnessed responsibly in the Life Sciences.

Lundoch Diagnostics' LDcoder Detects Type 2 Diabetes Risk Before the Disease Develops, to Great Individual and Socioeconomic Gain

Lundoch Diagnostics has developed a technology that from a blood test detects if a person has a risk of developing type 2 diabetes at least four years before pre-diabetes or diabetes actually develops. Since type 2 diabetes is largely preventable, this discovery makes efficient prevention possible.

The Malmö/Lund-based company Lundoch Diagnostics was founded in 2020 by Dr. Yang de Marinis. She led and published a large international study on more than 7,000 individuals from eight countries, and discovered biomarkers in the blood that could be used to predict type 2 diabetes several years before diabetes is developed.

Dr. Yang de Marinis is Chairman and CEO of Lundoch Diagnostics, associate professor at Lund University, professor at Shandong University (China), researcher at the University of Oxford (UK), board member, as well as regional coordinator of Diabetes Sverige.
She says:

– Lundoch developed LDcoder, the world's first and only technology for the early risk detection of type 2 diabetes, at least four years before diabetes or pre-diabetes actually develops. Diabetes is the leading cause of blindness, kidney failure, amputation, cardiovascular diseases, strokes, and even death – however, type 2 diabetes is largely preventable, and LDcoder makes it possible to stop diabetes before it strikes. This world-leading technology has great significance to people's health.

LDcoder releases economic burden from medical expenditure

LDcoder also offers extensive economic advantages, Dr. de Marinis says:

– Diabetes and care currently consume up to one fourth of total healthcare expenditure, and regular populational screening using LDcoder will greatly release economic burden from governments on medical expenditure.

LDcoder is a CE-marked product and ready for the European market. Lundoch Diagnostics is also in the process of listing the product as medical devices in the Mid-East and China, and populational screening in dedicated regions is expected in 2024–2026.

So how does the technology work? Dr. de Marinis explains:

– LDcoder uses AI for the analysis of diabetes risk with patented blood biomarker measurements. AI is a powerful tool for the analysis of multi-dimensional factor associations for disease outcome. Lundoch's technology development benefits from my scientific expertise in a combination of machine learning, molecular genetics, and clinical studies.

Lundoch Diagnostics is located in Medeon Science Park in Malmö, in the midst of Medicon Valley. Dr. Yang de Marinis says:

– The Medicon Valley region is a great platform for innovation! Many world-leading technologies have been growing in this rich soil and are benefitting the whole world! We believe Lundoch is the next Medicon Valley legend, - one who will contribute to save the world from diabetes!

Medeon Plans for a Health Innovation District in Malmö

There are numerous examples of how gathering several actors from the same sector in the same place leads to synergy effects and advantages. In Malmö, Medeon Science Park plans to create a Health Innovation District, gathering actors from the health and health innovation sectors. Arwin Sohrabi, chairman of the board of Medeon, tells more.

– The plans for a Health Innovation District in Malmö are quite exciting and ambitious. The concept is to create an integrated hub that brings together nearby actors all active within health and health innovation. We will more than double the size of Medeon Science Park to 80,000 square meters and

enhance the synergy between these facilities. By clustering these entities, the district will foster collaboration between research, industry, and education.

Thanks to close proximity, the idea is to encourage spontaneous interactions and deeper collaboration, ultimately driving innovation in health.

Arwin Sohrabi says:

– This initiative is inspired by successful innovation districts in Europe and aims to strengthen Malmö in Life Science innovation. We're not only looking at traditional Life Sciences but also incorporating new, interdisciplinary approaches. For example, the district might also integrate and attract the artistic and cultural elements of health innovation. That's an exciting thought.

Medeon's goal is to create a vibrant, mixed-use area that remains active around the clock, blending residential, commercial, and research spaces. The integration of spaces and functions will create a holistic environment where health-related innovations can thrive.

– Gathering several Life Science actors in the same place offers numerous advantages. Firstly, it enhances collaboration and synergy among different sectors such as research, healthcare, and industry. When researchers, clinicians, and businesses are in close proximity, it facilitates easier and more frequent interactions, leading to innovative solutions and faster implementation of ideas. This proximity helps break down silos and fosters a multidisciplinary approach to problem-solving.

Arwin Sohrabi continues:

– Secondly, it creates a vibrant ecosystem that attracts talent and investment, as companies and professionals are drawn to the dynamic environment. This kind of ecosystem can become a magnet for startups and established companies alike, fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. Additionally, it allows for shared resources and infrastructure, such as laboratories, clinics, and advanced research equipment, which can reduce costs and increase efficiency. Shared facilities also encourage resource optimisation and collaborative use of high-tech equipment that might otherwise be too expensive for individual entities.

Malmö, Sweden's third largest city, is situated in the center of Medicon Valley and already has an existing Life Science community, a university hospital, its own university, and Lund University close by.

– This planned district will leverage existing strengths in the region. By bringing together these diverse actors, the district will facilitate knowledge exchange and the commercialisation of new technologies, ultimately improving public health outcomes. Moreover, such a concentrated focus on Life Sciences will help to create a globally competitive hub that can attract international partnerships, talent, and projects.

– The Medicon Valley Life Science sector stands out as a highly innovative and productive region compared to others. Medicon Valley has established itself as a leading hub for Life Science research and development. One of its key strengths is the strong collaboration between academia, industry, and healthcare providers, which drives cutting-edge research and accelerates the development of new treatments and technologies. The presence of globally leading companies like Novo Nordisk, which has announced substantial investments in the region, underscores its importance and potential. Additionally, ongoing efforts to enhance connectivity, such as the future Øresund Metro, will further strengthen regional integration and collaboration. Medicon Valley's commitment to becoming a world-leading Life Science region is evident in its innovative plans and robust support for growth, making it a formidable player in the global Life Science arena.

Arwin Sohrabi concludes:

– This dynamic environment will hopefully assist in attracting talent and investment, further solidifying Malmö's position as a key player in Medicon Valley and, in extension, Europe.

Lundbeck's Biotech Engagement Paves the Way for Further Innovation and CNS Breakthroughs

The global pharmaceutical company Lundbeck has for over 70 years specialised in developing innovative treatments for brain diseases. Last year, the company launched an incubator, Lundbeck Biotech Incubator (LBI), to promote innovation and entrepreneurship within the local Danish biotech ecosystem.

Jesper Frank Bastlund is senior director in Drug Discovery and head of Strategy for LBI at Lundbeck, he explains:

– Lundbeck is stepping up our active engagement in the biotech and medtech ecosystem by guidance, sharing our expertise in central nervous system (CNS) research and development, and now also providing access to our facilities for selected companies, thus catalysing advancements in CNS disorders. We have in recent years increased our efforts to support and collaborate with other local biotech innovation environments such as the BioInnovation Institute, specifically within brain diseases.

Jesper Frank Bastlund highlights the broader impact of this initiative:

– Lundbeck is already an active player in the blooming Danish biotech environment, and we see a great opportunity to contribute to further strengthen the university-biotech-pharma ecosystems' strong global position within neuroscience and brain disease therapy. We have multiple initiatives to be a catalyst for enabling biotech and startup investments in neuroscience. We see the Lundbeck Biotech Incubator as an extra resource in our toolbox to reach our goal. With each successful collaboration, Lundbeck not only advances neuroscience but also enhances its attractiveness as a workplace for professional growth.

According to Jesper Frank Bastlund, the incubator is a natural extension of Lundbeck's mission to improve patient outcomes.

– In our continued effort to advance brain health, we are also directly engaged with early-stage biotech and medtech companies in the local ecosystem and beyond to support that companies are successful and bringing innovation to the field and ultimately helping patients. We launched the Lundbeck Biotech Incubator, in our research site at Lundbeck's headquarters in Copenhagen, to further promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the local biotech ecosystem. The Lundbeck Biotech Incubator is currently in pilot mode and is a fully integrated incubator model that grants selected biotech and medtech companies working in the field of CNS disorders access to Lundbeck's state-of-the-art research facilities and experts in research and development.

The incubator provides selected companies with more than just a workspace consisting of offices and laboratories rental. It offers a collaborative environment where entrepreneurs can tap into Lundbeck's deep expertise in CNS drug discovery and translational pharmacology.

– We are still in the early stages, as the incubator was launched less than a year ago with Embark Laboratories as the first tenant. We are happy to see the continued success and further development of Embark Laboratories, also with their recent spinout of Incipiam Pharma, and are starting to see interesting synergies with the Lundbeck research organisation. We are very curious about the synergies we can create by inviting biotech and medtech companies into our facility and bringing the companies together with our world - class research teams. We have been overwhelmed by the interest from the local ecosystem in the Lundbeck Biotech Incubator model and are currently reviewing opportunities to further expand our efforts for direct support and interaction with the fast-expanding, world - class local biotech and medtech environment, says Jesper Frank Bastlund.

– I would like to emphasise that the Lundbeck Biotech Incubator is more than a facility; it is a new way of facilitating innovation and synergy in our local university-biotech-pharma ecosystem, and a place where the future of CNS breakthrough therapies can be shaped.

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2022


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2023
Unleashing the
Medicon Valley
potential

Genmab Integrates AI to Revolutionise Drug Development and Enhance Operations

The Danish biotech company Genmab specialises in antibody therapeutics for the treatment of cancer and other serious diseases. Genmab has over the years grown into an international biotech company with offices in Denmark, China, Japan, the Netherlands, and the United States. The next step is to embed AI in all operations to accelerate getting new treatments to patients.

Hisham Hamadeh is senior vice president and global head of Data Sciences & AI at Genmab, leading a team of data scientists, data engineers, and AI scientists to partner with the enterprise on high-end data analytics, automation, and the provision of AI agentic solutions that can conduct a myriad of tasks. He says:

– We envision AI to be embedded in everything we do with the aim to accelerate the time it takes to go from an idea to a medicine and do so with increased quality and efficiency.

In research, AI is being used not only to help identify appropriate targets from increasingly prolific scientific data, but also to help optimise characteristics of the antibody product concepts that will turn into medicines.

– During the clinical trial phase, AI is being used in patient stratification, optimising trial design, and predicting patient responses. In addition, AI supports our market analysis, identifying unmet needs, and tailoring our strategies to ensure the successful launch and adoption of our medicines by patients at the right time.

The original decision to increase the use of AI at Genmab was a response to the proliferation of data as well as the generational change in technology that put "general - purpose" AI at the fingertips of most people without the need for coding skills. Genmab prioritises solutions that have a combination of large impact and feasibility.

– AI is poised to revolutionise the biopharma industry, in transforming drug discovery and development by helping to analyse vast biological data to identify novel targets, predict promising drug candidates, and even suggest molecular structures. The advent of human-supervised, fully automated labs could shorten the gap between hypothesis and proof-of-concept. In clinical trials, AI will optimise outcomes, patient stratification, and protocols, with digital twins enabling precise simulations of disease progression and treatment responses. The future of AI agents managing these processes end-to-end will be a significant leap forward, promising faster, more efficient drug development, says Hisham Hamadeh.

– However, risks include the need for human oversight to ensure quality in AI outputs, acceptance of new workflows, and the willingness to adopt AI systems. Additionally, attention to context is crucial, as concerns about bias and regulatory hurdles may arise, particularly when AI is used in healthcare or for regulatory purposes.

So what's next in Genmab's pipeline regarding AI? Hisham Hamadeh says:

– We are excited to be taking all our Genmab colleagues on an upskilling journey on the use of AI. We believe in "algorithmic leadership", where people lead both teams and algorithms. By enabling everyone to become citizen AI scientists, subject matter experts can reimagine and improve their processes using tools like LLMs.

Synapse Helps Students Establish Themselves in the Life Sciences

Synapse is a non-profit student organisation, consisting of local hubs. It started in Denmark and is now present in six major university cities in Denmark and Sweden. In Sweden, there are two established hubs in Lund and Stockholm, and an ambassador hub in Linköping. The primary mission is to inspire, connect, and develop.

– We want to make it easier for Life Science students to be informed of their options in the industry, and to help them get a foot in, Felicia Schulz from Synapse Lund says.

The students at Lund University have immense choices when it comes to the Life Science industry, not only in Lund with the established Life Science cluster in and around Medicon Village, but also in the Malmö area with many exciting startups, and even further expanding throughout the Medicon Valley, over to Copenhagen. Felicia Schulz says:

– We want to help them make informed career choices and inspire them to take those steps, for example by connecting them to industry professionals or by boosting their networking skills in our events and workshops. Simultaneously, we aim to create a platform where Life Science companies can meet potential future employees and promote themselves to highly educated students who are about to enter the job market.

Synapse in Sweden collaborates closely with Synapse Denmark. There is a lot of communication between the two national boards, sharing of ideas, tips, or even contacts in the industry, and to overall support each other in growing Synapse as an organisation. But originally, the Swedish branch only had one ambassador to the Danish branch, in Lund.

– Back then, naturally, Synapse Sweden was heavily dependent on Synapse Denmark, which was already well-established at the time. However, over time, we noticed that things that work at Danish universities are not necessarily as effective in Sweden, so, in many cases, we adapted our own ways of operating. Nowadays, Synapse Sweden is an autonomous organisation. Of course, we continue to share the same Synapse mission at all hubs across Sweden and Denmark, and the collaboration is strong. For example, between Lund and Copenhagen, from time to time we enable students from one city to attend events in the other by organising free transport, often kindly sponsored by the MVA , says Felicia Schulz.

Collaboration is highly regarded among students

Even though Medicon Valley is one of the biggest Life Science clusters in the Nordics, the term may not be as well known. Felicia Schulz explains:

– My impression is that most students in Lund actually don't know what the Medicon Valley is when they are first starting out. In this regard, improvements can be made in educating students. This is also part of what we do in Synapse, and of course all Synapsees (what we call our active members), as well as students in the community we build around Synapse, get to know the term Medicon Valley and learn about the MVA.

She continues:

– Nevertheless, I believe that the current generation of students actually sees the countries of Denmark and Sweden as very connected. They perceive crossing the border to be a very real option, with a significant number of students in Lund doing their theses or internships in Copenhagen and commuting. Overall, collaboration is highly regarded in the new generation, with many Life Science students actively seeking out international experiences, especially within the EU and most definitely between Sweden and Denmark.

In Stockholm, the network includes students from all three major universities; the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm University and KTH. Felicia Schulz says of the Lund hub:

– Here, we are planning to expand towards Malmö to include Life Science students from Malmö University. We are always open to collaborating with new Swedish universities and to welcoming motivated ambassadors to our community. As a student organisation, we often have a lot of turnover, so it's important to allocate people and time to looking at the bigger picture, and implementing new ideas to adapt to the constantly changing student environment and Life Science ecosystem.

Open Lab South Supports Innovation and Collaboration

Open Lab South makes expertise, laboratories, and equipment available to support innovation in small and medium-sized companies, as well as their collaboration with academia.

Open Lab South is a collaboration between Biofilms Research Center for Biointerfaces (BRCB) at Malmö University, Food and Pharma at Lund University, Medeon Science Park and SmiLe Venture Hub. The purpose of the

project is to make expertise, laboratories, and equipment from the partners available, and, through this, support innovation in small and medium-sized companies. The Open Lab South-project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund until end of 2026.

Cecilia Cederfur is project manager at Open Lab South. As a scientist with a PhD from the Medical Faculty at Lund University, she now has the privilege of supporting innovation in small and medium-sized companies and helping them collaborate with academia.
She says:

– Open Lab South is a platform where companies from different areas can meet and interact.

Through Open Lab South, companies get easy access to expertise, available instruments, training, advice, and possibilities for collaboration with scientists. It can be an advantage for companies to not have to buy expensive instruments if they are not using it often. At our homepage openlabsouth.se you can read about the available equipment and find contact information.

A wide range of innovative activities

Open Lab South was, previously known as Open Lab Skåne, was founded in 2017. Cecilia Cederfur says:

– We have grown and developed alongside our collaborative partners. Medeon has joined as a new partner in the project and offers cell labs and related equipment. We also work on offering an entry for companies to pre-clinical research and developing a digital portal for companies to access resources for growth and innovation.

Full of innovative businesses, Open Lab South is buzzing with activities, Cecilia Cederfur says.

– We are proud of the innovative companies we collaborate with. Companies such as Zelmic, Imagene-IT and CR Competence use Open Lab to answer scientific questions and for product development. There have been many kinds of companies here. Activities have spanned a wide range, from the development of pharmaceutical formulations and dental implants to smart food labels, water purification systems, and nutritional broth.

Fall 2024 at Open Lab South:

October 22-23: Biofilms Research Center for Biointerfaces' 19th annual workshop. This year, two days will be dedicated to biobarriers, lipids in the skin barrier, models of skin and mucosa, aspects of drug delivery, and host-microbiota interactions.

Read more and register here:

November 27: Seminar focusing on food science, the supporting research infrastructures that are available and how Open Lab South can support companies within this context.

Read more and register here:


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OPEN LAB

Fotograf: Pierre Ekman

Cities for Better Health

The burden of chronic diseases, including obesity, cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes, is increasing every year. In response to this concerning trend, the Cities for Better Health programme focuses on creating healthy places to make it easier for people to eat healthy, be active and achieve well-being and good health.

The strategy

Cities for Better Health is a public-private partnership committed to addressing chronic diseases. We are a global network that helps build impactful prevention partnerships at the city level and gather compelling evidence for action in more than 50 vibrant cities across the globe.

Our ambition is to promote health equity in cities, expand prevention efforts and address barriers to health for vulnerable populations and children.

Our approach is holistic, creating sustainable public-private partnerships that bring together motivated actors from multiple sectors with a focus on the primary prevention of chronic diseases.

Our primary focus is on vulnerable populations who are at a disadvantage from a resource and disease risk perspective, including low socioeconomic communities. We also prioritise children through early intervention and childhood obesity prevention in vulnerable communities.

Why cities?

- Cities are the main stage for driving change in chronic disease prevention and represent a significant opportunity for long-term impact.
- Cities have health inequities and are home to signifi cant vulnerable populations.
- City leaders are at the forefront of many global policy agendas, pushing for change, taking innovative action and seeking international learnings.

Now is the time to act if we are to create the conditions in cities that support healthy living.

Three core themes

Cities greatly influence how people live, work and play. Not everyone can access fresh and affordable food or find safe places to walk and play. We address three core themes to drive health equity and enable all citizens to make healthy choices.

Create healthier food environments in cities

Taking action to ensure that healthy foods are available, affordable and appealing for vulnerable populations and children.

Make more physical activity accessible and enjoyable

Taking action to ensure that urban activity and mobility are available, accessible and appealing to vulnerable populations and children.

Mobilise sustainable financing for primary prevention in cities

Taking action to unlock sustainable financing in health and primary prevention to reduce health inequity.

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Gladsaxe Municipality Offers a Prolific Environment for Life Science Companies

Gladsaxe Kommune is a municipality within the Greater Copenhagen Region, where four prominent Life Science companies have their headquarters: Novo Nordisk, AGC Biologics, Zealand Pharma, and Novonesis. What has made Gladsaxe the Life Science "place to be"?

To attract Life Science companies, Gladsaxe has a partnership with Copenhagen Capacity and is a member of Medicon Valley Alliance.

– We are also continuously positioning and communicating Gladsaxe Muncipality through various channels and platforms in the region, as well as hosting international delegations in order to share experience and inspiration from a municipality in a significant Life Science cluster, says Karen Brosbøl Wulf, business manager and leader of Gladsaxe Business City. Her job is, together with a team of people from various industries and sectors, to support and assist companies, ensuring that interactions and processes between the municipality and companies are smooth and generate value.

– It is essential for us that companies located in Gladsaxe experience that they are part of a dynamic and sustainable municipality with innovative partnerships, excellent service, and support for both Danish and international companies. We see great value in and prioritise partnerships highly – both across sectors and between businesses and the municipality – on all three bottom lines. We believe that the best solutions are those we create together – especially when new solutions are needed, Karen Brosbøl Wulf says.

The three bottom lines she refers to are People, Profit, and Planet, within which Gladsaxe works with five strategic priorities: Sustainable Development, Green Transition, Diverse and Lively Business Districts and Town Centres, Workforce of the Future, and Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Convenient location for companies

Gladsaxe's geographical location close to Copenhagen, the highway, public transportation systems and the airport adds a dimension of convenience for companies. Karen Brosbøl Wulf and her colleagues help companies find the right location for them.

– It is key to us to provide excellent business services and support, she says.

– We are aware that recruiting a specialised workforce and achieving the necessary staffing levels can be challenging. We are working closely with educational institutions from primary school and onwards on various initiatives to create internships and provide the students with practical experience.

Attracting international competence is a big part of the success of the Gladsaxe Life Science sector, Karen Brosbøl Wulf says.

– Gladsaxe Municipality is the municipality in Denmark with the highest proportion of international employees; a significant part of those are employed in the Life Science sector. In order to associate the internationals to the municipality and to the companies, Gladsaxe Municipality has a strong focus on helping and initiating activities to make new international employees feel welcome and settle in Gladsaxe.

Novo Nordisk, AGC Biologics, and Zealand Pharma are the biggest Life Science companies in the area, but not the only ones. Karen Brosbøl Wulf says:

– One of the advantages of gathering several Life Science actors, and especially significant actors, is that many subcontractors also want to locate close by to get close to their customers, which is also the case in Gladsaxe, meaning more companies and more employees. Another advantage is that when you have several actors gathered in the same place, you can collaborate on agendas and challenges, which many of them have in common. One example from Gladsaxe is that some of the Life Science companies have expressed interest in working together on getting more qualified employees, e.g. laboratory workers. Gladsaxe Municipality has therefore established a partnership/collaboration between an educational institution and Life Science companies on creating more internships for laboratory workers.

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The Novo Nordisk Foundation Quantum Computing Programme Aims to Revolutionise Medical Diagnostics

The Novo Nordisk Foundation Quantum Computing Programme (NQCP) represents a landmark initiative aimed at transforming computational capabilities and scientific research. Backed by a substantial DKK 1.5 billion grant from the Novo Nordisk Foundation, and with a 12-year time horizon, this program is located at the Niels Bohr Institute at the University of Copenhagen. The primary objective is to develop a fault tolerant quantum computer by 2034, which could revolutionise fields such as Life Sciences, where complex problems require immense computational power.

Programme goals and impact

Quantum computing harnesses the principles of quantum mechanics to perform calculations at unprecedented speeds. This leap in computing power holds significant promise for tackling global challenges like climate change and advancing green technologies. In Life Sciences, quantum computing could revolutionise drug development, epidemiology, genomics, and neuroscience by enabling precise modelling of quantum mechanical systems that classical computers struggle to handle.

Collaborative efforts

NQCP involves collaborations with leading universities and industries worldwide, including partners from the United States, the Netherlands, Canada, Sweden, and Denmark. This international cooperation integrates diverse expertise, fostering a robust ecosystem for quantum computing research and development.

The role of the Niels Bohr Institute

The Niels Bohr Institute was the birthplace of quantum mechanics 100 years ago, and today the institute remains an international epicentre for quantum research and development. Being located in historic buildings at this estemeed institution allows NQCP, to leverage the deep knowledge and expertise built up by the institute over the last century.

Jan W. Thomsen, professor at the Niels Bohr Institute, COO at NQCP and quantum coordinator at the University of Copenhagen underscores the ambition of NQCP:

– NQCP is the largest and most ambitious quantum computing programme in the Nordics. The programme is designed for impact across the quantum computing stack. Copenhagen is now a powerhouse for quantum materials development and an attractive place to conduct world-class quantum research and development.

For more information, visit the NQCP page at the University of Copenhagen, the Novo Nordisk Foundation project page.

DIASENSE Uses Quantum Sensing to Accelerate the Search for Cures to Neurodegenerative Diseases

DIASENSE is developing a Quantum Diamond Magnetic Microscope for neuroscientists to explore causes of neurodegenerative diseases and accelerate the search for cures.

Christian D. Nielsen, CEO, and Alexander Huck, CSO, are two of DIASENSE's co-founders. Huck is also an associate professor in DTU Physics' Quantum Physics and Information Technology (QPIT) section.

Christian D. Nielsen says:

– DIASENSE is developing a Quantum Diamond Magnetic Microscope for neuroscientists to explore causes of neurodegenerative diseases and accelerate the search for cures.

Our microscope will utilise colors centers in synthetic diamonds to image magnetic field induced by electrical activity at the neuronal level. The instrument will bring the needed sensitivity, bandwidth, and spatial resolution to visualise the operation of regions in live tissue, ultimately, to observing a neuron fire and the signal propagating along the neuronal network. Being able to observe this will bring pioneering new insights into the workings of neurodegenerative diseases and their possible treatments.

He continues:

– We have conducted a proof-of-concept for applying quantum sensing to neuroscience. We did this in collaboration with a neuroscience research group at the University of Copenhagen (UCPH). This interdisciplinary collaboration has been very fruitful, and we will continue the collaboration all the way to the commercial introduction of the magnetic microscope.

Alex Huck, Ulrik Lund Andersen, Christian D. Nielsen

Superposition and entanglement

Alexander Huck explains how DIASENSE works with quantum sensing:

– The core competence of DIASENSE is in the field of quantum sensing, utilising distinct quantum physics properties like superposition and entanglement. Because these properties are fragile, we can use them to perform precise measurements of physical parameters like magnetic fields which are generally very difficult to measure. Quantum sensing forms one pillar within quantum technologies with already proven achievements in biological, chemical and medical sciences. The technologies offer immediate application and innovation, addressing current scientific and societal needs with economic benefits as recognised internationally in the European Flagship programme.

Alexander Huck sees several very promising technologies within quantum sensing:

– For example based on optical, atomic, or solid-state technologies. For quantum sensing in our work, we utilise synthetic diamond material doped with nitrogen atoms. Together with a missing carbon atom in the diamond, these form nitrogen vacancy colour centers (NV diamond), achieving an unprecedented combination of sensitivity, bandwidth, and spatial resolution to magnetic fields. Simplified, we condition the diamond colour center with green light from a laser, thereby encoding the strength of magnetic field into the brightness of fluorescence from the colour centers that can be imaged with a camera.

– With the current applications, we have just seen the first glimpses of the boundaries that quantum sensing will move. For each step we take, we gain inspiration to new uses of the technology and new application areas where we can make a significant impact. This is happening all over the quantum-sensing industry.

Copenhagen is a significant hub

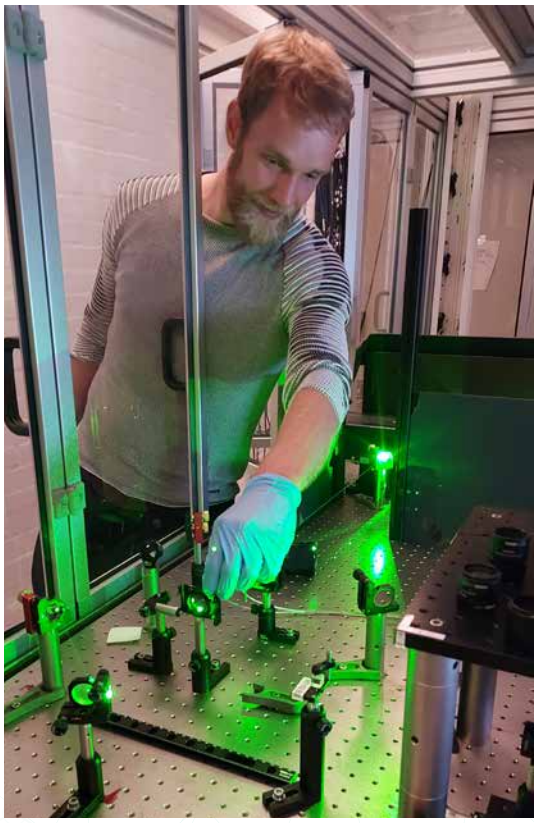
Copenhagen has become a significant hub in the quantum area due to a combination of robust research, innovation-friendly policies, and strategic infrastructure.

Christian D. Nielsen sees several reasons to the area's success.

– Central to this development are two prominent research groups within quantum physics with, among other topics, specialisation in quantum sensing: QPIT at DTU and Quantop at the Niels Bohr Institute at UCPH. We have based our technology, in particular, on research conducted by QPIT, underscoring their substantial contributions to the field. The city's universities, especially DTU and UCPH, play a pivotal role in this ecosystem. These institutions prioritise encouraging innovation and supporting spinouts, as exemplified by DTU Skylab, the innovation hub of DTU, which has provided invaluable support to our endeavors.

Christian D. Nielsen concludes:

– Copenhagen also benefits from the emergence of startup incubators and accelerators with a keen focus on quantum technologies, recognising and realising their potential. Additionally, the establishing of quantum hubs within or near Innovation District Copenhagen allows quantum companies - whether startups or established, national or international - to thrive in close proximity to the research communities of UCPH and DTU. BioInnovation Institute Deep Tech Lab – Quantum is currently accelerating DIASENSE.



Marvin Holten

DIASENSE's other co-founders are Ulrik Lund Andersen, professor and leader of QPIT, serving as scientific advisor, and Marvin Holten, quantum scientist, who will lead the implementation and technical development.

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Life Science Academy for Startups Empowers Innovation

The global market for Life Science and welfare technology solutions is growing rapidly as a result of a growing middle class, more elderly citizens, and an increase in lifestyle and chronic diseases.

Life Science Academy is a three year project co-founded by the EU-programme Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak, which supports joint projects in the southwest of Scandinavia that promote the development of social innovation, green economy, transportation, and employment.

Randi Grundal Jensen

The ÖKS region has a common position of strength within Life Science, and if this common area of strength is supported, Scandinavia can become a showcase for innovative health solutions for the benefit of growth, employment, exports, and public health in the entire area.

– Life Science Academy for Startups is a game-changing initiative. Armed with years of experience in Life Science and business development, we aim to empower startups in the Life Science sector by addressing their unique challenges and providing concrete skills and resources to unlock their growth potential. Looking beyond boundaries, our vision involves establishing a collaborative startup initiative that brings together Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, providing seamless access to a diverse array of skills and facilities, says Christine Dahlman Jacobsen, project manager at SmiLe Incubator.

Life Science Academy for Startups is a collaboration between the Danish Technological Institute, Erhvervshus Sjælland, FIERS, Högskolan Halmstad, Knowledge Hub Zealand, Medicon Valley Alliance, SmiLe Incubator, the Life Science Cluster, the Danish Technological Institute, and the University of Southern Denmark. Life Science Academy for Startups is co-founded by Interreg- Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak.

Product and business development programme for startups

This project offers a 360-degree product and business development programme for startups within Life Science and health innovation. It includes several phases with a 360-degree analysis, training camps, personalised coaching, and connections to physical facilities, investors, and specialists across Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. The goal is to support startups in making an early and structured effort in each stage of the product development phase. The project aims to strengthen the innovation capacity of startups in the ÖKS area, by ensuring that marketable products are fully developed, which in the long term creates increased survival, growth, and scalability among participating startups.

– Life Science Academy aims to empower innovation, overcome challenges, and accelerate the transition of groundbreaking Life Science ideas into market-ready products, says Christine Dahlman Jacobsen.

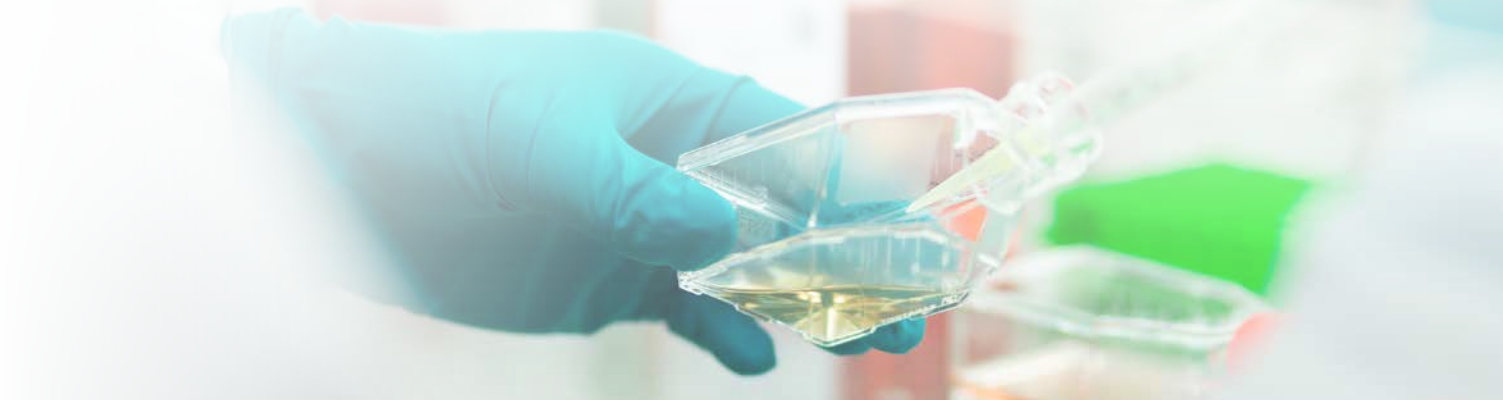
– My hope is that the startups participating in the project will have a greater success rate because they gain access to a business development programme that meets their needs, but also gives them access to 11 partners' networks across Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, which will potentially give them easier access to the right specialist, business partner, investor, etc., says Randi Grundal Jensen, project manager at Erhvervshus Sjælland.

Read more:

www.lsacademyforstartups.eu or www.linkedin.com/company/life-science-academy-for-startups

Randi Grundal Jensen

At Servier, we believe that research has the power to drive innovation, which is why we engage in an open and collaborative approach to research and development.



We are committed to working with our partners to play our part in improving healthcare now and in the future. For science. For patients.

Servier's vision: Governance and R&D commitment

Servier's governance model, led by a non-profit foundation, is perfectly suited to the long-term perspective required for research and development. We invest more than 20% of our revenue from brand-name medicines in R&D each year.

We have chosen to focus our R&D efforts on therapeutic areas where medical needs remain considerable and are not yet tackled through the increasingly targeted approach of precision medicine. We focus on oncology with more than 70% of our R&D budget. Our R&D model is based on a number of core elements to drive progress and therapeutic performance.

Patient-centered innovation in oncology

Because we put the patient at the heart of everything we do in R&D, we focus on translational medicine. This collaborative approach serves to better understand disease and accelerate the transition of drug candidates to the various clinical phases. In particular, it relies on the use of innovative biomarkers that provide information on the effect of treatment on disease for different groups of patients.

Pioneering next-generation antibody therapies

Symphogen is the Antibody Center of Excellence within the Servier Group. We are primarily focused on oncology and immuno-oncology. We have a highly efficient antibody discovery and research platform, supported by comprehensive early development capabilities.

Our antibody platform delivers antibodies with unique functionalities providing best or first-in-class potential as combination or mono therapy. Our approach and capabilities are well suited for combination therapies, which are at the core of future cancer treatment.

We advance superior antibody therapeutics to improve the lives of patients

Our R&D model is based on cross-functionality and collaboration with Servier's other research centers: the R&D Institute at Paris-Saclay, a scientific hub that aims to host nearly 25% of all scientific research activities in France, our R&D center in Boston dedicated to oncology and the Servier Research Institute of Medicinal Chemistry in Buda-pest, specialized in medicinal chemistry.

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NLSDays Brings Together the Nordic Life Science Sector Every Fall

"The event is crucial, both now and in the future."

Nordic Life Science Days (NLSDays) is a premier venue for networking and business development among Life Science companies across the Nordic countries. Held annually in the fall, this year's edition took place in Malmö.

Marjo Puumalainen, programme director for the event, explains:

– NLSDays is the largest Life Science partnering event in the Nordics. Every year, we bring together Nordic and international Life Science experts under one roof to foster business opportunities and explore the latest industry trends. Since its inception in 2013, the conference has grown steadily and is now a well-established and highly attractive platform for the industry.

The 2024 event was held on September 18–19 in Malmö, featuring two days of engaging content focused on topics such as AI in the Life Science industry, commercialisation of new drugs, the investment climate in the Nordics, the latest success stories in Nordic health tech, and licensing deals.

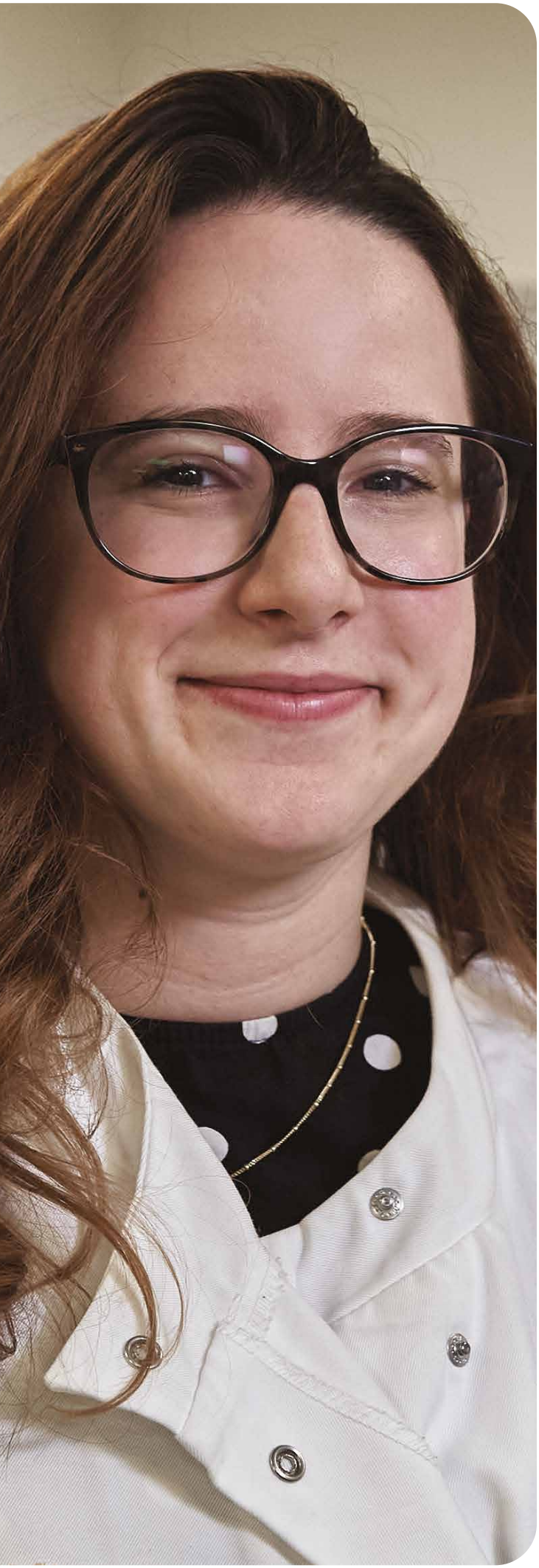
Puumalainen highlights some of the new additions to this year's programme:

– New content this year included workshops on generative AI, changes in health technology assessments, and ATMPs in the Nordics. We also featured regional presentations spotlighting Skåne, Göteborg, France, and the Netherlands. Life Science investors gathered at the VIP investor dinner, while high-potential Nordic startups showcased their solutions during the Nordic Star Pitch Competition. Academic research was also in focus during poster presentations.

The programme director also emphasises the ongoing significance of the event:

– The Nordic Life Science industry is growing rapidly, and it's clear that we need a dedicated space to showcase Nordic companies to international investors and pharmaceutical giants. The competition in the Life Science sector is fierce, and with the relatively small size of the Nordic countries, collaboration is key. The future of Nordic Life Science and NLSDays looks bright as long as we continue to work together, Marjo Puumalainen concludes.

Read more at: www.nlsdays.com



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Medicon Valley Alliance

mva@mva.org

mva.org

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contact@copcap.com

copcap.com

MEDEON

medeon@medeon.se

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