Research Strategy 2013-2016

Contents:
1. Introduction
2. Recruitment, retention and development of researchers
3. Education for researchers
4. Research infrastructure
5. Additional focus areas
   a. Increase levels of national and international research funding
   b. Interdisciplinary focus
   c. Ethics of research
   d. Dissemination of research

Introduction
SCIENCE’s strategy for research highlights the three main focus areas which will be prioritised in the coming period:

- Recruitment, retention and development of researchers
- PhD studies
- Research infrastructure

These three focus areas contribute towards the achievement of the objectives outlined in both SCIENCE’s and the University of Copenhagen's overall strategies.

The strategy was approved by SCIENCE's Management Team based upon deliberations in the Faculty's management and the Faculty's Research Committee.

Recruitment, Retention and Development of Researchers
SCIENCE aims to be synonymous with world class research environments which are both international and innovative.

It is therefore crucial that SCIENCE recruits and retains excellent researchers and the next generation of talented researchers through, for example, a targeted and strategic approach to recruitment as well as by outlining a clear career path for researchers at the Faculty.

At the same time we wish to encourage mobility amongst our researchers and research students through short or long-term research stays abroad with a view to developing new skills and knowledge.

The Faculty has therefore set itself the following objectives:

- Offering a coherent career plan for exceptional young researchers – tenure track
- Working strategically with search and scouting
- Recruiting permanent academic staff on the background of the departments research strategies and multiannual employment plans
- Increasing incentives for staff mobility.
**Education for Researchers**

Through PhD studies, the Faculty is able to ensure that the best research contributes towards wider growth in society, when PhD students are employed in private and public entities. Quality must be a key word in the recruitment of PhD students and their education. SCIENCE wishes to support PhD students’ knowledge of their future labour market as well as their ability to navigate in this context.

The Faculty has therefore set itself the following objectives:

- Increasing the level of focus on recruitment of PhD students
- Enhancing the number and the quality of the PhD courses offered
- Simplifying and clarifying the 4+4 programme as well as the implementation of the 3+5 programme
- Sharpening focus on the competences and responsibilities of supervisors
- Strengthening the international dimension, including opportunities for cooperation on double and joint degrees, as well as international course catalogues in selected focus areas.
- Creating an overview of PhD graduates’ career paths
- Increasing the Faculty’s proportion of ITN and NordForsk initiatives.

**Research Infrastructure**

The Faculty shall focus on durable infrastructure in all areas and levels, including apparatus, in relation to modern buildings, laboratories, data, field stations, test areas etc. The Faculty shall ensure state-of-the-art facilities for its core activities.

Academic priorities and investments in relation to research infrastructure must be seen in the context of the Faculty’s merger, just as there must be coherence in the development of new buildings in the coming years. The Faculty has already several pressing needs in relation to infrastructure, which will need to be prioritised in the near future, for example NMR, MAX IV and ESS. An important element here is the need to ensure the necessary financing and placement of new NMR-equipment, which forms the core of several of the Faculty’s research areas.

The Faculty has therefore set itself the following objectives:

- Develop a SCIENCE-plan for research infrastructure, including:
  - Establishing principles for prioritising and coordinating at the Faculty level with a view to ensuring an appropriate investment strategy.
  - Support the development of a collective UCPH strategy for research infrastructure, including:
    - Establishing principles for prioritising and coordinating at the UCPH level
    - Establishing an optimal method for handling infrastructural needs of interdisciplinary importance, for example UCPH’s joint core facilities.
  - Develop overall principles for organisation, leadership and practical operation of infrastructure with a view to ensuring effective use, ongoing updates and sustainable financing.
  - Support a dialogue across UCPH, with other Danish universities and with relevant ministries in relation to coordinating national infrastructural needs.
  - Develop an outline of existing infrastructural needs.
- Identify needs for new research infrastructure as well as updating existing infrastructure on an ongoing basis.
- Develop guidelines for safe processing and storage of data.

**Additional Focus Areas**

In addition to the main focus areas outlined above, the Faculty has several additional areas which it plans to actively address:

- Increase levels of national and international research funding
- Interdisciplinary focus
- Ethics of research
- Dissemination of research

**Increase levels of national and international research funding**

External sources of research funding are a fundamental condition for all researchers at all departments. The competitive strategic research funds, are seen as a means to solve societal challenges, and can contribute towards increased recognition of research in society as well as be an important measure of research’s level in an international context.

The Faculty has therefore set itself the following objectives:

- Develop more proactive support mechanisms of researchers opportunities for increased levels of external financing, including participation in Horizon2020
- Prepare and develop professional support of researchers and research environments, from an initial idea to project completion on an ongoing basis
- Establish at least 5 new Centers of Excellence before 2015
- Obtain at least 16 ERC grants

**Interdisciplinary focus**

The most important incentive for increased interdisciplinary research is financing of interdisciplinary research projects, both internally at the University of Copenhagen, for example through the 2016 fund and outside of the University, where DSF’s strategic plan Forsk2020 and the EU’s Horizon 2020 highlight an interdisciplinary approach as a prerequisite for solving the significant societal challenges.

The Faculty has therefore set itself the following objectives:

- Stimulate increased interdisciplinary cooperation through the development of a new approach to the Faculty’s interdisciplinary centers.
- Stimulate increased participation in interdisciplinary projects under Forsk2020 and Horizon 2020
- Share experiences from participation in the 2016 fund.

**Ethics of Research**

Good and clear guidelines for ethical research and good academic practice are a prerequisite for a strong international reputation and the ability to handle difficult situations.

The Faculty has therefore set itself the following objectives:
- Outline and describe existing international guidelines
- Develop shared norms and rules
- Establish an ad hoc working group to evaluate teaching and continuing education regarding ethics and good academic practice.

Dissemination of Research

The Faculty wishes to be visible in international research contexts and networks, in order to attract the best researches and obtain new international research funding. SCIENCE shall therefore focus on its international research profile through increased and targeted participation in international research and dissemination activities.

The Faculty has therefore set itself the following objectives:

- Focus on a strong and outward looking communication of research
- Increased participation in international research cooperation and increased visibility of this participation
- Increased participation as evaluators of international programmes
- Increased participation in international academic networks and projects
- Strengthen the Faculty's efforts regarding education and continuing education in terms of research dissemination
- Develop guidelines for open access