



News from the chair

As a newly established entity, the ability to meet face-to-face, interact and share ideas are fundamental tools to shape the content and strategy of our research network. We are therefore excited for the prospects of activities and meetings that lie ahead after the summer as outlined below. But we do not come unprepared, during the last year we have generated an interdisciplinary network with engaged and motivated members and have generated measurable synergistic output such as new interdisciplinary collaborations and grants. New initiatives such as a PhD course in “Clinical and Epidemiological Aspects of Nutrition and Obesity” are being formed and through the network, you are invited to engage in these activities and help shape the outcome. These days, I am finalizing the vision and strategy statement for our network and, therefore, I am happy to receive your inputs and ideas for what should define the work that lies ahead. So with the best wishes for summer that lies ahead, I hope you will participate in our upcoming activities and help us to substantiate food and nutrition research at Health.

Niels Jessen

Annual meeting postponed until 13 October 2021

The annual meeting for the Food and Nutrition Network, which was originally planned for May 2021, has been postponed to 13 October due to COVID-19. We have prioritised to have a face-to-face meeting that allow informal communication, as we believe that informal interaction promotes networking and collaboration across disciplines. Check out our [website](#) for updates and registration.

Site visit at Department of Forensic Medicine | September, 2021

The Food and Nutrition Network invites all members to join the first network site visit hosted by the Department of Forensic Medicine. At the site visit, you will hear researchers from the departments Bioanalytical Research Unit present their research followed by a guided tour round the department. You will also have the chance to meet other network members over a cup of coffee and learn about the possibilities for collaborating with Bioanalytical Research Unit. Information about the bioanalytical research unit is available at the [Bioanalytical Unit website](#). The site visit is the first in a



series of events where you will have the chance to meet and network with other Food and Nutrition Network members.

Date and time: September 15, 2021 @14:30 – 16:00

Location: Department of Forensic Medicine, Palle Juul Jensen's Boulevard 43, 8200 Aarhus N (Entrance D2, Aarhus University Hospital)

Registration: at <https://events.au.dk/sitevisitforensicmedicine2021> no later than September 1, 2021

Inputs for new PhD courses requested

The Food and Nutrition network invites all interested members to propose new PhD courses within the areas of food and nutrition. Don't hesitate to come forward with your suggestions, even though you do not have content for a full PhD course. We welcome both half- and full-ideas! The steering committee will facilitate the process by combining the suggestions for PhD courses received. Therefore, if you find that a course is missing in the [Health PhD catalogue](#), [the national PhD catalogue](#) or you have suggestions for new content and/or course leaders, please send your suggestions to ape@au.dk.

Why engage? First and foremost, engaging in the development of new PhD courses provides you with a unique opportunity to connect with new people and grow your research network.

Proposed course: Professor [Jens Meldgaard Bruun](#) and MD, PhD [Sigrid Bjerger Gribsholt](#) have proposed a new PhD course within "Clinical and Epidemiological Aspects of Nutrition and Obesity". Please let us know if you have any suggestions for speakers, subjects, and if you would like to contribute to this course.

Ongoing food and nutrition research at AU Health

PhD and Doctor of Dental Surgery [Lene Baad-Hansen](#) from the Department of Dentistry and Oral Health has been appointed professor from April 2021. [Read more about her research](#) in orofacial pain and the nutritional effects of reduced mouth and jaw function.

Clinical Professor [Hendrik Vilstrup](#), Clinical Associate Professors [Karen Louise Thomsen](#) and [Christian Lodberg Hvas](#), and senior researcher [Sidsel Støy](#) from the Department of Hepatology and Gastroenterology at AUH and AU have received a grant of 13 million DKK from the Novo Nordisk Foundation. [Read more about the grant](#) given to a treatment trial with faeces-microbiome

transplantation, where cirrhosis patients have their sick intestinal bacteria replaced by those from healthy donors.

Professor [Robert Fenton](#) from the Department of Biomedicine has received a [Distinguished Investigator Grant of almost DKK 10 million](#) from the Novo Nordisk Foundation to study whether a potassium-rich diet consisting of e.g. bananas, fish and avocado can help improve cardiovascular health.

Webinar series “New ways to prevent obesity in children and teens”

In May 2021, the Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus organized in collaboration with “Vidensråd for Forbyggelse” an online webinar series that focused on obesity among children and teens. [Listen to the recorded webinars](#) (in Danish) with leading obesity experts, who give their views on the causes of obesity and discuss the barriers to healthy food choices as well as new ways to prevent obesity in children and adolescents.

Current funding opportunities for food and nutrition research

The Novo Nordisk Foundation “Exploratory Interdisciplinary Synergy Programme” call. Application deadline is 19 August 2021:

[Exploratory Interdisciplinary Synergy Programme](#)

The Tryg Foundation supports health research. Application deadline is 1 September 2021:

[Call – Safety, Health and well-being](#) (in Danish)

The Novo Nordisk Foundation “Steno Collaborative Project Grants” call. Application deadline is 2 September 2021:

[Steno Collaborative Project Grants](#)

The Novo Nordisk Foundation “Non-diabetic endocrinology – collaborative project grants” call. Application deadline is 22 September 2021:

[Non-diabetic endocrinology – collaborative project grants](#)

Upcoming internal network events

September 15, 2021	Site visit at Dept. of Forensic Medicine – Bioanalytical Research Unit, AU
October 13, 2021	Annual meeting for the Food and Nutrition Network
November 22, 2021	Site visit at Dept. for Public Health – Section for Sport Science, AU

Relevant external events

June 15, 2021

Free online Sport Nutrition Webinar “[Performance for athletes: getting the edge](#)” hosted by ESNS – European Sport Nutrition Society

Happy summer holidays – stay healthy



The Food and Nutrition Network would like to share and promote all relevant news and activities within the network via our newsletter.

We therefore encourage you to submit any input and news of interest to the network (e.g. publications, grants, conferences, seminars, open positions) to Anja Einholm ape@au.dk. Deadline for input to the next newsletter: **22 August 2021**
