



## eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 8 October 2009

Email to the editors: [elife@life.ku.dk](mailto:elife@life.ku.dk)

The final deadline for editorial changes is Wednesday before the publication of eLIFE on Thursday.

The online newsletter may be subject to editorial changes.

As regards links in the newsletter, please refer to the Danish online version at the faculty's website  
[http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life\\_internt/nyhedsbrev.aspx](http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/nyhedsbrev.aspx)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Editor, LIFE Communications, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk)

**The next issue of eLIFE will be published on Thursday 22  
October 2009.**

## Life at LIFE

**A working group recommends:**

**Closer collaboration between PHARMA, LIFE and SCIENCE**

**A new interdisciplinary instrument centre, strategic academic leadership, an international research elite, a collective strategy for the recruitment of new students. These are just some of the recommendations presented in a report on collaborative possibilities and academic synergies between the Faculty of Life Sciences (LIFE), the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences (PHARMA) and the Faculty of Sciences (SCIENCE). The report is the result of enquiries made by an independent working group (the PhLS committee) appointed by the three faculties.**

During this year, the PhLS committee has met with 19 departments at the three faculties. These meetings have identified a number of important challenges and opportunities facing the natural and bio-scientific faculties: Ensuring optimal use of expensive and advanced scientific equipment through collaboration and prioritisation across disciplinary borders. Creating strong and focused research environments by establishing interfaculty

centres – for example in chemistry and plant biology. Increasing student recruitment and academic development by offering interfaculty mobility and interdisciplinary study programmes. Designing an Integrated Science module to ensure coherence across natural science disciplines. For more details on the committee's recommendations, please [download the full report](#).

The report, *Synergies within the natural sciences at the University of Copenhagen. An interfaculty evaluation of barriers and opportunities to improve the quality of infrastructure, research and education* is part of the follow-up on the 2007 merger between the University of Copenhagen, the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, and the Danish University of Pharmaceutical Sciences. In autumn 2008, the deans at PHARMA, LIFE and SCIENCE decided to initiate an enquiry whose main purpose was to identify areas with great synergy potential at the three faculties. To conduct this enquiry, the deans appointed an independent working group chaired by Professor Povl Krogsgaard-Larsen (PHARMA), with Professor Birger Lindberg Møller (LIFE) and Professor Erik Hviid Larsen (SCIENCE) as members.

The deans will now open a debate on the issues presented in the report. The debate will involve academic committees, heads of department, study committees, liaison committees, education councils, and student councils at the three faculties. All students and members of staff are welcome to participate in this debate by submitting comments via mail to [insj@life.ku.dk](mailto:insj@life.ku.dk).

The debating period closes on 16 November, after which the deans will prepare a collective action plan, outlining how to proceed with the report's recommendations.

**Sven Frøkjær**

Dean

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

**Per Holten-Andersen**

Dean

Faculty of Life Sciences

**Nils Overgaard Andersen**

Dean

Faculty of Sciences

### **Full house at Darwin and Ethics lecture**

The latest lecture in the 'Mød Videnskaben' series took place on 7 October at LIFE when Professor Peter Sandøe (LIFE) and Associate Professor Jakob Wolf (TEO) discussed whether Darwinism has changed people's self-perception. The venue was the main lecture hall which was packed with a good-humoured audience.

The event began with rather philosophical presentations by each of the two debaters. Peter Sandøe has a degree in philosophy and Jakob Wolf is a theologian who conducts research in religious philosophy.

Peter Sandøe's view was that Darwin's concept of evolution has changed people's self-perception. Whereas there used to be a strict distinction between people and animals, the post-Origin-of-Species view has been that there is kinship. This is expressed in, among other things, a recognition of the fact that animals can feel pain. Peter Sandøe gave an example of how scientists used to view animals as living 'machines' and, thus, they had no qualms about dissecting them alive without anaesthesia and nailed to a board.

But even though we feel a kinship, we still have difficulty considering individuals from other species as being just as significant as ourselves. That is why animal testing is considered acceptable if it saves lives. Peter Sandøe concluded his lecture with a declaration that there is no plan in the universe for us. We just are!

The natural process of evolution in nature is not something Darwin discovered. It was already well-known, responded Jakob Wolf in his presentation. What is special about Darwin is his theory of natural selection, which reduces living nature to unconscious and lifeless mechanisms and accidents. If we want to take an ethical view of the treatment of humans and animals, our focus should not be on Darwin. Rather, we should view it from a scientific, phenomenological angle.

"We must not kill for fun," Jakob Wolf said, "there must be a good reason to kill. We may do it anyway, but we shouldn't."

Humans and animals have their own significance – that is not Darwin's doing! But there is a hierarchy of significance in nature. A mosquito, a cat, a human do not possess the same ethical significance!

"We attribute ethical significance to nature's being; but the ethical significance is not an expression of a random choice," according to Jakob Wolf.

After each debater had the opportunity to speak, the floor was opened to debate with the audience, where Jakob Wolf, in particular, was challenged.

The 'Mød Videnskaben' lecture series is organised jointly by the University of Copenhagen and the Danish daily *Politiken*.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 8 October 2009*

### **Night of Culture at Frederiksberg Campus: A barrage of the senses**

Experience the smell of dead animals; shiver at the sight of a two-headed pig foetus; take a relaxing stroll across campus through the atmospherically lit garden to the sound of Liquid Rockz' evolutionary music; bombard your senses again with impressions and knowledge as you meet researchers, students and an entire symphony orchestra on the way to enjoying a serving of free soft-serve ice cream in the Experimental Dairy – a must for most of the people attending the Night of Culture at LIFE.

The Night of Culture at LIFE will be on 9 October, 6-10 pm.

[See the schedule of events here.](#)

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 6 October 2009*

### **Taastrup Campus Plan – Dialogue Day 2 (note new date)**

Come out on Thursday 29 October, 10.30 am-1 pm to hear about the further development of the Taastrup Campus Plan – a process that is already in full swing.

The first dialogue meeting resulted in some very informative material which has formed the basis for the preparation of the programme that Schønherr Landskab will present to anyone interested on Dialogue Day 2. The meeting will be held in the Innovation Room at the University Hospital for Large Animals – entrance from Højbakkegård Allé.

Lunch will be served to everyone in attendance.

Programme for Dialogue Day 2 with the presentation of the Development Plan, including the results of Dialogue Day 1 and future visions:

- Presentation of the results from Dialogue Day 1 and visions
- Discussion
- Conclusion

**Louise Brask Nielsen, Campus Service LIFE, [lbn@life.ku.dk](mailto:lbn@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 6 October 2009*

### **Opera tickets for the Annual Commemoration**

The University of Copenhagen will be celebrating its foundation at the traditional Annual Commemoration held on Thursday 12 November 2009. Employees and students can buy tickets for the gala performance which will be attended by the University management, the Danish royal family and representatives from research councils, foundations, the business community and ministries. This year's performance will be Donizetti's opera 'Lucia di Lammermoor', based on the novel by Sir Walter Scott, at the Opera House at 7:30 pm.

There are three categories of tickets, all at a 25 per cent discount off the original price:

Category C tickets (1st, 2nd, 3rd balcony): DKK 340

Category D tickets (2nd, 3rd balcony): DKK 220

Category S tickets (standing, 3rd balcony): DKK 70

Tickets can be reserved on a first come, first served basis and collected in calendar week 43. Max. 2 tickets per person.

How to reserve ticket(s):

You must send an email to [aarsfest@adm.ku.dk](mailto:aarsfest@adm.ku.dk). It is important that you write your name, phone number, number of tickets (max. 2) and ticket category in the subject field.

All emails containing these details will be answered within five working days.

How to collect and pay for your ticket(s):

Reserved tickets can be collected on Monday and Tuesday 19-20 October from 12 noon until 6 pm at Studenterrådet (United Student Council – FSR), Fiolstræde 10, second floor.

Unclaimed tickets will be sold on Wednesday 21 October from 12 noon until 6 pm on a first come, first served basis.

Tickets must be paid for in cash and a University ID card or student ID card must be shown upon purchase.

Read more about the Annual Commemoration at: [www.event.ku.dk/aarsfest](http://www.event.ku.dk/aarsfest).

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 6 October 2009*

## Announcements

### **'Use Absalon actively in your teaching' and other IT courses offered during the autumn interim week**

In the interim week of 2-6 November, the IT Learning Center will be offering a new course on Absalon in addition to a variety of other IT courses.

See the overview and register at <http://www.itlc.life.ku.dk/kurser>.

All courses are for staff, and participation is free of charge.

The courses being offered are:

#### **- Using Absalon actively in your teaching (offered in the interim week + 13 and 27 Nov.)**

The course is for lecturers who want to use Absalon's advanced functions, such as the test tool, the grade book and the e-portfolio. The course is based on your needs and ideas and uses presentations and exercises to show how you can use Absalon in your teaching.

The objective is to provide you with an overview of your options and enable you to use Absalon actively when you teach.

#### **- Converting your lecture or demonstration to Absalon**

The course teaches participants how to convert a PowerPoint presentation into an interactive and live film with sound and video.

#### **- From CampusNet to Absalon**

The course is aimed at lecturers and other staff members who are used to using CampusNet, but who need to learn the basic functions in the new system in connection with the switch to Absalon.

#### **- Communicating online with video, sound and file-sharing**

Adobe Acrobat Connect can connect you with partners and students via webcams and headsets on you PC or MAC, but it comprises a number of cooperation tools as well.

As a supplement, courses in **PowerPoint – beginner** and **PowerPoint – advanced** will also be offered.

Register at this email address: <http://www.itlc.life.ku.dk/kurser>

**Søren Larsen, IT Learning Center, [larsen@life.ku.dk](mailto:larsen@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 7 October 2009*

### **Climate Lecture no. 22: Finding the Right Trousers**

Climate lecture no 22: *Finding the Right Trousers: Beyond the Kyoto Architecture*. Lecture by Professor Steve Rayner from the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society at University of Oxford. Time and place: 18 November 2009, 2-3.30 pm – Ceremonial Hall, Frue Plads.

Come join us when Professor Rayner lectures on subjects such as the Kyoto protocol, carbon trading and climate policy making.

This Climate Lecture revolves around the problems of the conceptual architecture of the Kyoto policy strategy and touches upon the processes behind climate policy and policy making.

Professor Rayner combines some of the arguments from 'The Wrong Trousers' and 'Time to Ditch Kyoto' with thoughts on socio-technical lock-in and the implausibility of carbon trading achieving the desired outcome in the time-frame available. In this context, he will also comment on the governance of geoengineering.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 7 October 2009*

### **KUeren**

The latest issue of *KUeren* is out – [read it here](#).

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 7 October 2009*

### **Café Væksthuset offers take-away**

If you are organising a meeting, an academic event, a staff party or a similar event – then use LIFE's Café Væksthuset.

Café Væksthuset offers a take-away service to LIFE's associations and departments at a 35 per cent discount.

Choose between:

- Salad with/without meat
- 2 types of sandwiches
- Soup of the day

Place your order at [cafe@dsr.life.ku.dk](mailto:cafe@dsr.life.ku.dk) and pick it up during the Café's opening hours.

As a new initiative, Café Væksthuset now sells Café gift vouchers.

Café Væksthuset

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 6 October 2009*

### **The 'Velvet Revolution' in Czechoslovakia – A Personal Story**

Meet the Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Denmark, Mr Zdenek Lycka, when he tells his personal story of how life was 'behind the Wall' in Czechoslovakia during the 1980s. Mr Lycka was one of the active participants in the rebellion against the Communist regime. His first encounter with the regime was in 1981, and he participated in many demonstrations in the streets of Prague, finally leading to the collapse of the regime with the 'Velvet Revolution' that took place on 17 November 1989.

Time and place: 17 November, 4-5.30 pm, Munkekælderen, University of Copenhagen (enter from Frue Plads)

For more information, see <http://event.ku.dk/tjekkiet1989/english/> and please register here.

For further information, please contact Charlotte Brix Andersen, [chba@adm.ku.dk](mailto:chba@adm.ku.dk), 3532 4104

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 5 October 2009*

### **1989: Fall of the Berlin Wall – A European Conversation**

1989 was the first successful German revolution. What did it mean to Germany and Europe?

Join us as we mark the pivotal year with two of the key actors at the time:

- The President of the Federal Republic of Germany (1984-1994) Dr Richard von Weizsäcker
  - The Danish Foreign Minister (1982-1993) Uffe Ellemann-Jensen
- in conversation with Pro-rector Lykke Friis.

The event is free of charge, but registration is necessary.

Time and place: Friday 9 October, 11.30 am-1 pm in the Ceremonial Hall, University of Copenhagen (enter from Frue Plads)

Information and registration: <http://event.ku.dk/1989>

Contact: Head of Section Astrid Gufler, [asg@adm.ku.dk](mailto:asg@adm.ku.dk), 3532 4784

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 5 October 2009*

## **Seminar: Agribusiness and Economic Development**

On 30 October 2009, LIFE will focus on agribusiness with the 'Agribusiness and Economic Development' seminar. The speakers will be coming from LIFE's partner university Sokoine University of Agriculture, the Confederation of Danish Industries, Cornell University, FAO, Danida, MYC4 and LIFE.

Come and take part in the debate on agribusiness and the follow-up on the [Africa Commission's recommendations](#). [See the detailed programme here](#).

The seminar is free and open to everyone, but registration is required. The seminar will be in English.

Registration: Send an email by 15 October to [ah@life.ku.dk](mailto:ah@life.ku.dk) stating your title, name and institution.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 5 October 2009*

## **CIP Symposium 2009**

English as the medium of instruction in higher education: Attitudes, challenges and quality assurance – Friday 13 November, 12-5 pm, room 21.0.54, Building 21, Faculty of Humanities, Karen Blixens Vej 1, 2300 Copenhagen S.

Invitation to the 2nd annual symposium hosted by the Center for Internationalisation and Parallel Language Use (CIP).

Registration required by 9 November to [cip@hum.ku.dk](mailto:cip@hum.ku.dk) – [see the invitation in English here](#).

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 5 October 2009*

## **Get your project under control! Register for LIFE's project manager course**

'I have used the experiences and competencies I gained on the project manager course in the preparation of research end education applications with several partners.'

Associate Professor Peter E. Holm, IGM

In the hands of two extremely competent instructors and together with a group of other committed LIFE colleagues, you will work with a variety of project management tools. The course will sharpen your skills as a manager in relation to project participants, project owners and other project stakeholders.

[Read more about the course and register here](#) (in Danish).

**Karen Vestergaard Petersen, HR, [kvp@life.ku.dk](mailto:kvp@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 2 October 2009*

# Education

## **What is a good poster?**

The DIA Student Chapter is hosting a free course and conference on poster production on Tuesday 10 November 2009, 5-8 pm, in the Benzon auditorium, FARMA, Universitetsparken 2. Register by email to [diastudenterchapter@gmail.com](mailto:diastudenterchapter@gmail.com) by 2 November at the latest.

[See the programme here.](#)

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 7 October 2009*

## **Web pages for new PhD students at LIFE**

On the recently launched PhD website, new PhD students at LIFE can find useful information about accommodation, library facilities, health and insurance issues, the staff portal, language training programmes etc.

Please visit our New at LIFE page at: [http://www.life.ku.dk/English/Maalgruppe/Employees/phd\\_intra.aspx](http://www.life.ku.dk/English/Maalgruppe/Employees/phd_intra.aspx)

**Jeppe Berggreen Høj, Study and Students' Affairs, [jebh@life.ku.dk](mailto:jebh@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 6 October 2009*

## **Network for nature, humans and society**

Seminar in a new network for students and PhD students interested in understanding the relationship between nature and humans in the landscape, Thursday 29 October 2009, 3-7 pm, at Roskilde University.

[See the invitation and programme here.](#)

Register with Andreas at [anaach@ruc.dk](mailto:anaach@ruc.dk), Stig at [roar@ruc.dk](mailto:roar@ruc.dk) or Kenneth at [kthrane@ruc.dk](mailto:kthrane@ruc.dk).

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 6 October 2009*

## **JobLab LIFE – kick-starts your career**

Job searches, company visits and systematic competency and career clarification. These are just some of the activities that the Student Services now offers to graduate students through JobLab LIFE – a ten-day course focusing on the transition from the academic world to the labour market.

### **Tools and overview of career prospects**

The JobLab course focuses on providing you with:

- Tools that you can use in connection with your MSc thesis and when looking for a job, and that enable you to give your thesis a strategic career-oriented angle
- An overview of the job market for LIFE graduates
- A better understanding of your own competencies and a clearer idea about your career wishes
- The opportunity to meet and learn more about different companies and prospective employers

The overall objective is to give you an overview of the career prospects inherent in your degree.

### **Workshop-based course**

JobLab is a workshop-based course with the active involvement of the participants. You will work with, among other things:

- Topical cases from companies which bring your professional skills into play and to which you must propose a solution to the company in question
- Job-seeking tools and strategies
- Practical tools for project management, systematic idea generation, networking and oral communication

You will also be offered individual coaching concurrently with the course.

### **A good career start**

Arent Josefsen who is the Director General of the Danish Food Industry Agency and Chairman of LIFE's panel of employer representatives for primary production, biology and biotechnology, says:

"This initiative has my whole-hearted support. It is a good opportunity for students to target their efforts during the final stage of their studies and learn more about their own competencies and opportunities in the labour market.

As an employer, the Danish Food Industry Agency recruits new graduates on a regular basis. We place special emphasis on the applicants being full of ideas and innovative as well as having excellent analytical skills, when we hire new graduates.

In my opinion, the JobLab course will gear LIFE students to getting their careers off to a good start."

### **JobLab LIFE starts in Block 2**

The first JobLab course begins in Block 2. Are you an MSc student at LIFE and are you preparing for – or have just started working on – your thesis, then JobLab may be for you. The course days will be spread out over an extended period of time so that you can coordinate them with your thesis work.

LIFE has applied for and received funding for the JobLab project from the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, which earmarked funding last spring for a pool for universities interested in launching special initiatives to promote the transition from graduate school to employment.

[You can read more and register at JobLab LIFE](#) (in Danish).

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact Student Services on 3533 3533 or at [studenterservice@life.ku.dk](mailto:studenterservice@life.ku.dk).

**Alexander Lindskov Hansen, Study and Students' Affairs, [studenterservice@life.ku.dk](mailto:studenterservice@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 2 October 2009*

## **Staff news**

**Farewell reception: Merete Balle, Pharmacoconomist, Veterinary Pharmacy**

At the end of October 2009, Merete Balle will be retiring after more than 40 years at the Veterinary Pharmacy. Hospital Pharmacist Henning Willads Petersen is hosting a farewell reception on Tuesday 27 October, 2-4 pm at Ridebanevej 7. [See the invitation here](#) (in Danish).

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 7 October 2009*

## Research

### **News Dating for researchers and journalists**

The Experimentarium is offering a new course for journalists and researchers who would like to learn about each other's work and about how they can work together to produce the best communicative product.

The journalists will learn to gain an overview and understanding of the researchers' working conditions and be provided with the tools to interview researchers and to break down material that is heavy and difficult to understand in order to communicate it in the most appropriate manner. Theories and tools will be tested in practice in the form of interview exercises with the PhD students attending the course. The interview exercises should result in a news article.

For more information, please visit the [Experimentarium website](#) (in Danish).

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 7 October 2009*

### **UNIK new strategy in the fight against lifestyle diseases**

With a UNIK grant of DKK 120 million from the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, the University of Copenhagen is launching its largest-ever research initiative, [Food, Fitness & Pharma](#), aimed at understanding, preventing and treating lifestyle diseases.

#### **Lifestyle diseases are a global threat**

In the past 10-20 years, the prevalence of obesity and type 2 diabetes has increased dramatically. Obesity-related diseases are now considered by the WHO to be one of the largest global health problems. Not only do obesity and type 2 diabetes reduce quality of life, they also significantly increase the risk of e.g. serious cardiovascular disease. Thus, the socioeconomic consequences of the obesity epidemic are massive. A number of researchers from the University of Copenhagen are now joining forces in a major, interdisciplinary research initiative – [Food, Fitness & Pharma](#) – to gain a better understanding of the causes of lifestyle diseases and to develop new methods of preventing and treating these diseases.

#### **Pioneering collaboration**

Food, Fitness & Pharma has received a five-year UNIK grant of DKK 120 million from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. The UNIK grants were launched in 2008 as a new funding tool offered in open competition among the universities in Denmark.

"We are talking about a pioneering form of collaboration in which researchers from 17 departments at six faculties must join forces in new synergy-promoting constellations and with interdisciplinary approaches," says Thue W. Schwartz, Professor of Molecular Pharmacology.

“The new partnerships will focus on, among other things, integrating knowledge from areas such as socioeconomics and food technology with knowledge from biomedical areas such as genetics, epidemiology, muscle physiology, pharmacology and bariatric surgery,” explains Thue W. Schwartz, who will be heading the new research initiative.

### **Fruit of a successful merger**

In addition to research teams from the Faculty of Life Sciences and the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, which were integrated with the University of Copenhagen in the 2007 University Merger, researchers from the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Law will also be participating in the Food, Fitness & Pharma venture.

“The unique collaboration and the major grant of DKK 120 million are the fruit of a successful merger in which we established an environment that can bring many research disciplines together. Not only does bringing researchers from different disciplines together form a basis for unique innovation, the collaboration itself also increases the chances of attracting large, national and international research grants, where interdisciplinarity is an unavoidable requirement today,” says Rector Ralf Hemmingsen, from the University of Copenhagen.

### **Website**

[www.ku.dk/foodfitnesspharma/](http://www.ku.dk/foodfitnesspharma/)

### **Facts about the obesity**

Obese people have a very high risk of developing type 2 diabetes. They are also at risk of developing cardiovascular disease, stroke, hypertension, gallstones, osteoarthritis, breathing difficulties and cancer. At the same time, obese people are subject to a variety of social prejudices leading to discrimination of adults in the labour market and bullying of children at school. And yet, the obesity rate continues to rise. If this trend continues, there will be upwards of 300,000 morbidly obese people in Denmark by 2015. And almost as many will have undiagnosed type 2 diabetes. Studies show that there are 1 billion overweight people in the world today, and that 300 million people are morbidly obese. It is particularly alarming that the obesity epidemic is hitting children hard, both globally and in Denmark where one in five children are overweight today.

### **Facts about Food, Fitness & Pharma**

The aims of the Food, Fitness and Pharma programme are to study health-promoting foods, optimise recommendations for physical activity and diet, find new and effective strategies for lifestyle changes and establish a basis for new and improved pharmaceuticals.

The research can be divided into four general areas:

- [Food, Gut Hormones and Pharma](#) – Studying the release of hormones in relation to foods and diet as a platform for, among other things, the development of new pharmaceuticals that can mimic the outcomes of gastric bypass surgery that is effective in treating type 2 diabetes
- [Fitness and Muscles](#) – Finding and characterising the mechanisms behind the health-promoting effects of exercise.
- [Genetics and Epidemiology](#) – Finding the genetic explanations for why some people are at greater risk of developing obesity or type 2 diabetes.
- [Socioeconomics and Psychology](#) – Understanding the causes of an unhealthy lifestyle and linking them to the individual's difficulties in breaking unhealthy habits and investigating historical, current and ethical aspects of social attempts to regulate lifestyle.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 7 October 2009*

### **New online course can prevent food scandals**

Unfortunately, when Danes buy meat and fish in the supermarket, they may also be bringing mould, viruses and bacteria home with them. One example of this is the latest food scandal in which a number of supermarkets with their own butcher sections have relabelled meat and fish to hide exceeded sell-by dates. A new online course for people in the food sector may help prevent these kinds of scandals. The course has been developed by researchers at LIFE.

[See the press release](#) (in Danish).

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 5 October 2009*

## Grants

### **Want to study in the USA? The Madison Viking WAA/Viking Summer Scholarship – application deadline: 8 November 2009**

Applications are now being accepted for scholarships for summer school studies in 2010 at the esteemed University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA (all lines of study).

The scholarship is awarded by the Brittingham Viking Organization, a Scandinavian-American non-profit organisation that gives one Danish student every year the opportunity of studying in the USA. In 2010, BVO will be granting a scholarship worth approx. USD 8,000 to cover tuition fees, insurance, accommodation etc.

[Read more here](#)

Deadline for applications: Sunday 8 November 2009

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 7 October 2009*

### **University of Copenhagen joint scholarship – application deadline Thursday 16 November**

The joint scholarship is a collection of several small scholarships that are announced together. It is not possible to apply for them separately, i.e. you may only apply for them jointly as one scholarship. If you are eligible for the joint scholarship, you will receive a grant from the individual scholarships according to a special allocation process. Several of the small scholarships prioritise specific types of applicants, e.g. Højesteretsdommer Eyvind Olrik's scholarship for talented and needy law students who have successfully completed their undergraduate studies.

On the application form, please tick the 'Fælles legatet' box if you want to apply for the joint scholarship. The joint scholarship may only be applied for when announced on either the [website](#) (in Danish) or in the *University Post*. There, you will find a list (PDF) of the scholarships included in the joint scholarship. Please remember that it is not possible to apply for specific scholarships individually.

The application deadline for the University of Copenhagen scholarships, which are applied for jointly once a year, is 16 November 2009 at 12 noon. Applications will not be accepted after this time.

Bachelor, Master and PhD students enrolled at the University of Copenhagen may submit applications.

The application form can be [printed from here](#). On the application form, please tick the box for the joint scholarship.

Last year, a total of DKK 709,000 was awarded in grants of at least DKK 5,000 each (not necessarily of equal size).

Applicants who do not receive a response by 1 March 2010 have not been considered for a grant.

Send applications to:

University of Copenhagen

Vejledning & Optagelse (Guidance & Admissions)

Fiolstræde 1

DK-1171 Copenhagen K

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 6 October 2009*

### **Travel Grants for Master's Students**

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs hereby invites applications for travel grants for Master's Students at Danish Higher Education Institutions in support of thesis work relevant to Danish Development Assistance.

The deadline for applications in 2009 is Monday November 2 at 12 noon.

More information: [http://www.dfcentre.com/?Research\\_Projects:Travel\\_Grants](http://www.dfcentre.com/?Research_Projects:Travel_Grants)

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## **Research funds etc.**

See the updated information on the Research & Information website.