



## eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday, 22 November 2007

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

Final deadline for editorial changes is Wednesday before publication of eLIFE on Thursday.

Editorial changes may occur in relation to the online newsletter.

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, Communications, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk)

## Life at LIFE

### **UN report on the links between the climate and human development to be presented in LIFE's greenhouses on Tuesday 27 November at 2.00 pm**

Attend the launch of UNDP's Human Development Report 2007/2008, Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world, which this year will be presented in a greenhouse

Invitation: The Human Development Report 2007/2008 investigates the links between the climate and human development. The greatest challenge in relation to climate change is the disparity between the rich countries that have created the problems and the poorest and most exposed that are paying the highest price. Despite disagreements as to the disproportionate distribution of consequences and responsibilities, we have to join forces and find ethical and political ways to handle climate change. UNDP hopes that this year's Human Development Report will provide input to the debate which will put the fight against climate change into a broader perspective, thus making it easier to understand. The launch of the report will be in English.

When: Tuesday 27 November 2007 at 2.00 pm

Where: The Faculty of Life Sciences, the greenhouses, the lecture hall, Rolighedsvej 21, Frederiksberg

- The report will be presented by Veerle Vandeweerd, Director, Energy and Environment Group, UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- The report will be commented on by Peter Stougaard, Associate Professor, Department of Ecology, and John Roy Porter, Professor, Department of Agricultural Sciences, both members of the Faculty of Life Sciences Climate Panel
- Chairman of the meeting: Jørgen Steen Nielsen, environment and climate specialist as well as former editor-in-chief of the daily newspaper *Information*

Registration: Registration is required due to the limited seating capacity. Please send an email stating your full name and title to Stine Junge, [stine.junge@undp.dk](mailto:stine.junge@undp.dk), or call 35467158 by Friday 23 November 2007 at the latest.

Background: The Human Development Report is an important publication that seeks to frame the international debate on development. The report presents facts about and analyses of how the world develops and is a much cited source within global development statistics. The report includes the Human Development Index which measures the average results of 177 countries within three areas which the UNDP collectively defines as human development: Life expectancy, literacy and income. In addition, this year's report will provide examples of how climate change can stop long-term human development and force those most exposed into a downward poverty spiral.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 21 November 2007*

### **Students from Department of Human Nutrition discover dangerous adverse drug effect**

Pernelle Kruse Kristensen, a student at the Department of Human Nutrition at LIFE, has during her internship at Frederiksberg Hospital discovered a novel adverse effect of the Acomplia diet pill which is also sold in Denmark. Through analyses as part of her BSc project, Pernelle has demonstrated that the drug significantly increases the risk of severe depression and suicide. Her discovery has already aroused great interest among leading scientists worldwide, and last Saturday an edited version her findings was published as an article in *The Lancet*, one of the most influential medical journals in the world.

Professor Phillip Mitchell and Professor Margaret Morris from University of New South Wales, Australia, are very excited about Pernelle's discovery: "It is very significant, especially since persons with a predisposition for depression tend to be excluded from such studies," they say.

Arne Astrup, Professor and Head of the Department of Human Nutrition, who has been Pernelle's supervisor and co-author of the article, is also very excited:

"The discovery is an excellent example of how students can make their work known to the entire world where it really makes a difference," he says.

Robin Kristensen from the Parker Institute at Frederiksberg Hospital has participated in the analysis and further development of Pernelle's findings.

So far, the findings have made front-page news in the newspaper *Metroxpress* last Friday and also been published in *Nyhedsavisen*, *24 Timer*, *Urban* and been mentioned on the radio news. On Wednesday the newspaper *Information* will publish an in-depth interview with Pernelle Kruse Kristensen.

For more information, contact Arne Astrup at [ast@life.ku.dk](mailto:ast@life.ku.dk) or Pernelle Kruse Kristensen at [pernelle@dsr.kvl.dk](mailto:pernelle@dsr.kvl.dk)

*By Katherina Ludvigsen, Communications*

*Guðrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 20 November 2007*

### **Once upon a time two French students arriving til Copenhagen...**

We came at the Faculty of Life Sciences thanks to the Erasmus program, which is an international student's exchange organisation. We chose this destination for many reasons. First your university is well-considered in France. Moreover we were attracted by the Scandinavian countries considered as economic and social model in Europe. Doing a Master in Agriculture in France (at ESA), we wanted to discover a country in advance on the environmental aspects such as wind mills and all renewable energies... Furthermore Denmark is the world reference in term of animal production [with the Brittany in France (!)].

Your welcome was great. From the first to the last day we had been warm welcome received. Our weekend trip was a nice memory and allowed us to know all the members of "Erasmus family". We really appreciated not only the Danish way of life but also the different cultures of many international students.

The courses that we had were interesting. The educational system is different than ours. In France, we have much more subjects, times of class but we have less time for reading of course books.

Besides we were doing an internship in the Department of Agricultural Sciences Crop Science on Bambara groundnut. The latter is African crop growing in semi arid area for subsistence farmers. It has many advantages, as its high nutritional properties, its dry resistance, its pest and diseases tolerance, and its low nitrogen requirements. In Taastrup, we did different experiments [no experiences!] in greenhouse and in growth chamber, as Genetic characterization of 100 Bambara groundnuts landraces from Tanzania and as The Effect of the photoperiod on the growth development and on the yield of Bambara Groundnuts.

After the semester we did a field trip to Tanzania for 2 month, where we conducted field trials and farmer interviews as a part of our training. The trip was organized by LIFE and we are very happy for the support received.

Claire Hamonic and Cyrille Dieryck, École Supérieure D'Agriculture (ESA), Angers, France





*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 16 November 2007*

## Announcements

### **Abildgaard Honorary Symposium and reception for Professor Annette Flagstad, Tuesday 11 December at 10.00 am to 5.00 pm**

The Research Graduate School KLINIK hosts the Abildgaard Honorary Symposium and a reception for Professor Annette Flagstad.

“From dog clinic to university hospital and research graduate school: A window to pathology mechanisms and application-oriented veterinary medicine research.”

[See programme here](#)

The symposium will be held in connection with the retirement of veterinary surgeon, Professor Annette Flagstad, Department of Small Animal Science. Everybody is welcome. Participation in the event is free. If you want to participate (including lunch), please register with Lillian Nielsen, Department of Small Animal Science, [imh@life.ku.dk](mailto:imh@life.ku.dk) or on tel. 35 38 29 28.

The symposium will be held in the main lecture hall.

After the symposium, a reception will be held in the Senate's conference room.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 20 November 2007*

### **Opening ceremony at LIFE: The Danish National Research Foundation Centre CARB, Monday 3 December at 2.00-4.00 pm in lecture hall 3-02**

Lectures and reception at LIFE on the occasion of the establishment of the Danish National Research Foundation Centre CARB, Monday 3 December at 2.00 pm in lecture hall 3-02. The official opening will take place on Tuesday 20 November.

The Department of Natural Sciences has entered into interdisciplinary collaboration with the University of Aarhus, with support from the Danish National Research Foundation, to investigate the communication between plants and bacteria, leading to symbiosis and nitrogen fixation. The centre is headed by Professor Jens Stougaard, University of Aarhus. For a considerable time, Professor Knud J. Jensen has conducted research into bioorganic chemistry and nanobioscience, which forms the basis for the collaboration.

To celebrate the Department of Natural Sciences' share in the new CARB centre, Professor Jens Stougaard and Professor Knud J. Jensen will hold informal lectures on 3 December, followed by a reception.

### Programme

- 2.00-2.10 Welcome, Susanne Sørensen, Head of Department
- 2.10-2.40 Professor Jens Stougaard, Carbohydrate signals and receptors in symbiosis
- 2.45-3.15 Professor Knud J. Jensen, Bioorganic Chemistry and Nanobioscience

Knud J. Jensen, Department of Natural Sciences

**Knud J. Jensen, IGV, [kjj@life.ku.dk](mailto:kjj@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 20 November 2007*

### **Junior Researcher Forum: Merete Fredholm: From phenotype to genotype in animals. A shortcut to knowledge, Thursday 29 November at 5.15 pm at DVJB**

Come and hear an exciting lecture on how you work with genomic research in domestic animals. About the molecular mechanisms and mutations responsible for hereditary diseases. About research into the genomes of domestic animals as a shortcut to knowledge – and also about hereditary diseases in humans. Examples and perspectives.

Junior Researcher Forum, 29 November at 5.15 pm at the library, DVJB.

From phenotype to genotype in animals. A shortcut to knowledge  
Merete Fredholm, Professor, Genetics & Bioinformatics

After the lecture, there will be an opportunity to discuss what you have heard!  
Everybody is welcome. Refreshments in the form of pizza and beer/soft drinks will be served.

**Knud Høgsberg, DVJB, [knh@life.ku.dk](mailto:knh@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 19 November 2007*

### **Seminar: NMR of peptides – Monday 26 November at 3.00 pm in lecture hall 3-02**

Dr Oliver Zerbe, University of Zürich, Institute of Organic Chemistry:

NMR of peptides - Folding of PYY in water and when bound to membranes - implications for recognition of its GPCR.

Monday 26 November at 3.00 pm in lecture hall 3-02, Faculty of Life Sciences.

Sponsor: Section for Organic Chemistry and the Danish Chemical Society

[www.oci.uzh.ch/group.pages/zerbe](http://www.oci.uzh.ch/group.pages/zerbe)

**Knud J. Jensen, IGV, [kjj@life.ku.dk](mailto:kjj@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 16 November 2007*

## Education

### **Toms Gruppen A/S and LIFE enter into agreement under the Danida Public Private Partnerships (PPP) programme on PhD study programme in the quality and aroma of cocoa beans**

Toms Gruppen A/S has donated a scholarship to Margaret Owusu from Ghana who embarked on a 3-year PhD study programme on the quality and aroma of cocoa beans on 15 October 2007 at the Department of Food Science at the Faculty of Life Sciences. The donation from Toms Gruppen makes up half the scholarship, and the other half is ensured via the PPP agreement between the Faculty of Life Sciences and Danida. Read more about the PPP agreement [here](#).

Associate Professor Mikael Agerlin Petersen from the Department of Food Science will be her supervisor. Mikael Agerlin Petersen says about the programme: "Cocoa is a product connected with considerable professional challenges, as there are many factors influencing its quality. As this project provides an excellent opportunity to work with cocoa in detail, we at the Faculty of Life Sciences really look forward to working closely together with a large Danish company and a PhD student from Ghana with in-depth knowledge of the area."

Co-supervisor on the project will be Hanne Heimdal who is heading the quality and environment department at Toms Gruppen A/S. Hanne Heimdal says about the collaboration: "The PPP programme provides Toms Gruppen with an excellent opportunity to have relevant research conducted at a fair price. Moreover, a project like this fits nicely into our Corporate Social Responsibility strategy, as the Ghanaian PhD student will be able to take more knowledge about one of the major Ghanaian crops, cocoa beans, back to Ghana when the project is completed."

Read more about the PPP agreement of the Faculty of Life Sciences at:

[http://www.life.ku.dk/om\\_KVL/internationalisering/opp.aspx](http://www.life.ku.dk/om_KVL/internationalisering/opp.aspx)

*Mikael Jørgensen*

**Mikael Jørgensen, Internationalisation and Developing Countries, [mij@life.ku.dk](mailto:mij@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 21 November 2007*

### **Get a personal mentor from the Alumni Pilots**

All MSc students are encouraged to apply for a personal mentor under the "Alumni Pilot" mentor programme.

The offer is intended as an activity which will take place concurrently with your studies. A breathing hole that provides overview, mapping of your competences and new angles on your first job and, hopefully, more energy!

Students will be matched with graduates who already have busy careers and some experience from the labour market within a relevant field. At the same time, students will get sparring about their future career plans and help with creating new networks.

All students, irrespective of study programme, are welcome to apply. The application deadline is 21 November.

Read more at <http://alumni.ku.dk/mentorprogram/>

**Tania Schwartz, Alumni Secretariat, [tasc@adm.ku.dk](mailto:tasc@adm.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 16 November 2007*

## Staff news

### **Farewell reception: Professor Annette Flagstad, Department of Small Animal Science, Tuesday 11 December at 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm in the Senate's conference room**

To celebrate the retirement of Professor Annette Flagstad at the end of the year, the Department of Small Animal Science will be hosting a farewell reception on Tuesday 11 December at 2.30 to 5.00 pm. The reception will be held in the Senate's conference room, Bülowsvej 17.

Everybody is welcome.

Kind regards,

Department of Small Animal Science

Hans Henrik Dietz

Head of department

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 20 November 2007*

### **LIFE's web editor says farewell**

Web editor [Martin Sandgaard](#) from LIFE's Communications Department will be leaving on 1 December for new job with Siemens Wind Power in Brande in Central Jutland where he will be involved in setting up a new communications department for one of the world's major wind turbine manufacturers.

Communications hopes to be able to present a new web editor early in the new year.

In the meantime, any web-related questions should be addressed to the remaining SiteCore Support team, [web master Jesper Bøgeskov](#) and [Linda Bæk Hansen](#), IT

*Martin Vang Sandgaard Jensen, [mje@life.ku.dk](mailto:mje@life.ku.dk) – latest update 15 November 2007*

## Research

## **The Danish National Research Foundation Centre for Carbohydrate Recognition and Signalling (CARB): Interdisciplinary collaboration between the Department of Natural Sciences and the University of Aarhus with support from the Danish National Research Foundation**

The Department of Natural Sciences has entered into interdisciplinary collaboration with the University of Aarhus, with support from the Danish National Research Foundation, to investigate the communication between plants and bacteria, leading to symbiosis and nitrogen fixation. The centre is headed by Professor Jens Stougaard, University of Aarhus. For a considerable time, Professor Knud J. Jensen has conducted research into bioorganic chemistry and nanobioscience, which forms the basis for the collaboration.

### **CARB: Centre for Carbohydrate Recognition and Signalling**

The CARB centre is affiliated with the Department of Molecular Biology at the University of Aarhus, but also involves a number of research laboratories at universities in Denmark, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

The aim of the centre is to determine structural requirements for recognition of complex polysaccharides and the role of ligand-receptor interactions in the relationships between different cells and organisms. Characterisation of such cellular communication systems is important for understanding factors determining pathogenesis of microorganisms as well as immune responses, symbiosis and cell-to-cell signalling involved in the development and functioning of multicellular organisms.

The centre aims at understanding the interactions between cells and organisms by investigating the role of cell wall glycans and polysaccharides exposed on cell surfaces, and polysaccharide signal molecules secreted as part of a complex interaction between organisms. The centre focuses on interdisciplinary approaches for understanding biological recognition and response processes at the molecular level.

The opening ceremony at LIFE of Danish National Research Foundation Centre CARB will be held on Monday 3 December at 2.00-4.00 pm in lecture hall 3-02. The official opening will take place on Tuesday 20 November 2007.

Read the press release at <http://www.mb.au.dk/da/om/global/nyt/2007/carbindvielse>

CARB's website: <http://www.carb.dk/indexdk.asp>

**Knud J. Jensen, Department of Natural Sciences, [kjj@life.ku.dk](mailto:kjj@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [glb@life.ku.dk](mailto:glb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 20 November 2007*

### **Programme of Excellence scientists at LIFE: Jacob Weiner, Department of Ecology, and Sven Bode Andersen, Department of Agricultural Sciences**

Professor Jacob Weiner, Department of Ecology (head of project) and Professor Sven Bode Andersen, Department of Agricultural Sciences, receive funding under the Programme of Excellence with their application: "Evolutionary Agroecology: Developing high-density communal crop plants for weed suppression and increased sustainability."

Read the summary in the online version of eLIFE. An article in Danish about the Programme of Excellence will be published later this year.

## Background

In order to strengthen basic research, the University of Copenhagen has set up a Programme of Excellence where scientists have been given the opportunity, via the university's faculties, to apply for up to DKK 5 million a year for up to five years for research projects in existing or new scientific areas. In early November, the Rector's Office completed the evaluation of the applications for the Programme of Excellence.

On 1 June 2007, the eight deans received 111 applications, of which eight came from other Danish and foreign universities.

The deans began assessing all applications received, and based on these assessments, the deans selected a total of 48 applications which they sent to the Rector's Office on 14 September 2007.

On 29 and 30 October 2007, ten independent international and professionally wide-ranging referees met in Copenhagen for a two-day seminar headed by the Rector's Office to review the 48 applications. Based on their advice to the Rector's Office, 20 applications will receive funding under the Programme of Excellence.

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 20 November 2007*

## Grants

### **Henrik Tofte Jacobsen's foundation – deadline Monday 17 December**

Of the interest accrued from Henrik Tofte Jacobsen's foundation, a grant of DKK 100,000 is available for allocation. The grant will be awarded in connection with Henrik Tofte Jacobsen's birthday on **Thursday 21 February 2008**.

The purpose of the foundation is to support research, education, communication and supplementary training within horticulture at the Department of Agricultural Sciences.

A reasoned application must contain all information needed to assess the relevance of the application as well as the applicant's CV. The application form can be submitted from the Faculty's website.

The deadline is **Monday 17 December 2007 at 12 noon**. The application must be submitted to the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Study and Students' Affairs, Bülowsvej 17, Frederiksberg C.

**Annette Guildal, Study and Students' Affairs, [ag@life.ku.dk](mailto:ag@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gjb@life.ku.dk](mailto:gjb@life.ku.dk) – latest update 20 November 2007*

### **Abildgård Symposiums – financial support for the holding of scientific symposiums on veterinary medicine – the application deadline is Monday 10 December**

The board of the foundations *Abildgårdfonden* and *Overdyrlæge Hans A. Madsen og Hustrus Fond* hereby invites applications for financial support for the holding of scientific symposiums in **2008** within the veterinary medical area. The symposiums will be held within the framework of LIFE and should result in the publication of a symposium report.

The application must contain a description of the research area covered by the symposium and its connection to LIFE as well as ideas for a programme. A detailed budget, a short CV and the applicant's publication list must also be enclosed.

It is possible to apply for funding of the following expenses:

- Travel and accommodation expenses for invited lecturers
- Rent of rooms and equipment
- Food
- Publication of symposium report

Applications must be received by *Legatadministrationen* (the Foundation Administration), Study and Students's Affairs, by **Monday 10 December 2007 at the latest**.

Applications are evaluated according to the scientific level of the symposiums and their connection to the veterinary research areas of LIFE.

The financial basis of the present application round is **DKK 125,000** which is expected to be divided between at least two symposiums.

**Annette Guildal, Study and Students' Affairs, [ag@life.ku.dk](mailto:ag@life.ku.dk)**

*Gudrun Lau Bjerno, [gib@life.ku.dk](mailto:gib@life.ku.dk) – latest update 20 November 2007*

## Research funds etc.

See the online version at

[http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life\\_internt/nyhedsbrev/forskningsmidler.aspx](http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/nyhedsbrev/forskningsmidler.aspx)

Here you will find all calls with active links.