

Søren Tvorup Christensen
Professor
Cell Biology and Physiology
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Employment

Professor

Cell Biology and Physiology
København Ø
1 Jan 1999 → nu

Personal Data

Born: Sept. 25th, 1966, Frederiksberg, Denmark

Nationality and personal status: Danish. Married, four children

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Academic Employments and Appointments

2014-	Full Professor in Cell Biology, Department of Biology, University of Copenhagen (UCPH), DK
2005-2013	Associate Professor WSQ, Department of Biology, University of Copenhagen (UCPH), DK
2000-2005	Assistant Research Professor, August Krogh Institute, UCPH (2000-2002) & Associate Research Professor (Skou Stipend), August Krogh Inst., UCPH, DK
1998-2000	postdoctoral fellow, Albert Einstein College of Medicine (AECOM), NY, USA
1998	postdoctoral fellow, Aberdeen University, Scotland, UK
1996-1998	postdoctoral fellow, The Panum Institute, UCPH, DK
1994-1995	Visiting PhD-student, Aberdeen University, Scotland, UK
1994	Visiting PhD-student, Univ. of California (UCSB), CA, USA and Medical Coll. of Georgia, USA
1993	Visiting PhD-student, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary
1992	Visiting student, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany

Education and Academic Qualifications

1995	PhD in Molecular Biology, Dept. of Molecular Biology, SDU, Odense, DK
1992	MSc. in Cell Biology, Dept. of Medical Biology, DU, Odense, DK
1990	BSc. in Biology, Odense University, DK

Scientific Focus Areas

The goal of our research is to understand the molecular mechanisms of assembly, maintenance and function of motile and primary cilia. These organelles play vital roles in the development of mammals and in the etiology of diseases, including congenital heart disease, cystic diseases and cancer. In order to study these ciliopathies, my work includes in vitro cell culture studies to understand the mechanisms in sorting, targeting and trafficking of receptors to the primary cilium, and how localization of receptors to the membranes of the cilium and the ciliary pocket critically coordinate a variety of signaling pathways, such as PDGFR α , Hedgehog, TGF β , Wnt signaling in cell migration, cell cycle control and stem cell differentiation during development and in tissue homeostasis. These studies are combined with collaborative work in mutant zebra fish and mouse models in order to classify new genes, required for ciliary assembly and function in heart and brain development.

Bibliometrics

h-index: 40; i10-index: 74; 6276 citations (per August 27, 2019)

Academic Work and International networks

My research group collaborates with a series of highly esteemed laboratories in the States and in Europe for exchange of students, ideas and data, critical for a successful research environment and scientific development. External reviewer for several international grant giving institutions (2006-), including Netherland Organization for Research (NL), The Royal Society of New Zealand MARSDEN FUND for Biomedical Sciences (NZ), Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowship (UK); external reviewer for national and international PhD theses and several academic position applications with tenure track (2008-) at UMASS (USA), Albert Einstein College of Medicine (USA), University of Bayreuth (Germany), Indiana University - Perdue University Indianapolis (USA). Scientific referee for PhD thesis and qualifying PhD thesis (2007-) (University of Southern Denmark, Odense, DK). In three separate rounds I have assessed PhD applications for obtaining Faculty scholarships at Faculty of Science, UCPH.

2018	co-organizer of the international EMBO meeting on cilia (October 2-5, 2018), Copenhagen
2013-2018	Steering group member and WP-leader for the UCPH Excellence Program (2016 Funds): Global genes, local concerns: Legal, ethical and scientific challenges in cross-national biobanking and translational exploitation.
2013-	Academic Editor for PLOS Biology
2011-	Sectional Editor for the Journal Cilia.
2010-2013	Partner in Nordic Cilia and Centrosome Network (Nordforsk).
2008	Editorial board for the Journal Cell Biology International (CBI).
2004-	Developing and coordination of courses at Univ. of Copenhagen; currently teaching in five courses on both Bachelor and Candidate levels, including Developmental Biology, Cell Biology, Signal Transduction and laboratory courses in Experimental Cell Biology.
2001-	Reviewer for Nature, Science, Cell, Current Biology, EMBO Journal, PLOS Biology, Cilia, CBI, Molecular Biology of the Cell, European Journal of Cell Biology, Experimental Cell Research, PLoS ONE, Acta Protozoologica.

Leadership Experience, Projects and Funding

Has extensive experience in leading and managing major research projects; is currently co-heading the Cilia Group at the Department of Biology, Univ. of Copenhagen. Steering group member of the UCPH Excellence Program for Interdisciplinary Research and WP-leader on functional analysis of novel candidate disease genes in congenital heart defects and microcephaly (2013-2018). During the last 10 years, my lab has been funded by grants from UCPH Excellence Program for Interdisciplinary Research, Independent Research Fund Denmark (FSS and FNU), The Velux Stiftung, The Danish Cancer Society, The Lundbeck Foundation, The Novo Nordisk Foundation, The Danish Heart Association.

Presentations

>85 invited talks and symposia, including Gordon conferences, FASEB meetings, ERA-EDTA Congress, EB meetings (American Association of Anatomists) and ASCB meetings (American Society of Cell Biology). Selected international invited talks (2013-):

2019	Seminar talk, Uppsala University (Sweden)
2018	PDGF meeting, de Duve Institute, University of Louvain, Brussels (Belgium)
2018	EMBO workshop on cilia, Copenhagen, (Denmark)
2017	FASEB meeting: The Biology of Cilia and Flagella, Scottsdale (USA)
2017	Signalling and cilium seminar, Institute of Genetic Medicine, Newcastle University (UK)
2017	Cilia in Health and Disease Seminar, AECOM, NY (USA)
2016	ASCB meeting, Technological and Biological Frontiers in Signalling and Differentiation, San Francisco (USA)
2015	5th Internatl Caesar Conference: The Omnipresent Cilium - Structure, Signalling, and Motion, Bonn (Germany)
2015	Molecular Physiology Colloquium, Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz (Germany)
2014	FASEB meeting: Polycystic Kidney Disease: From Molecular Mechanism to Therapy (Italy)
2014	CILIA2014 (European Cilia networks), Paris (France)
2014	Molecular Mechanisms in Disease Forum, Centro de Estudos de Doenças Crónicas, Lisbon (Portugal)
2014	Symposium: ciliary signalling, Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Lisbon (Portugal)
2013	FASEB meeting: Biology of Cilia and Flagella, Niagara Falls, NY (USA)
2013	Nordic Cilia and Centrosome Network 3rd annual meeting, Stockholm (Sweden)

Supervision of Students

Supervised/supervising >50 bachelor students, >60 master students, 18 PhD students and 10 post docs.