



23. AUGUST 2016

## MEMORANDUM

**Re:** Memorandum on UCPH Arctic initiatives

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### *Abstract*

Arctic research has been conducted at UCPH for more than a century. Today's research is characterized by new approaches to work in the Arctic and collaboration towards shared strategic objectives. Areas driving future Arctic research are:

- Climate change,
- natural resources,
- people and society,

and, not least, interaction among the three areas – both scientifically and socially.

UCPH's vision for our Arctic work is fueled by the university's desire to generate research that is of societal benefit and contributes to solving global challenges faced by society. As such, Arctic initiatives will focus on ways for society to benefit from the various areas of research.

### *Overall points of reference*

The strategic reference points for Arctic initiatives reflect two key elements of UCPH's Arctic research:

- "Adaptation", a reflective element that is retrospective and relates to the consequences of climate change, and
- "Sustainable development", a forward-looking perspective.

Above all, there will be a focus on the **forward-looking perspective** – new opportunities for people and businesses, and how we can influence positive development trajectories – that increases the potential for new collaborative projects between companies and public authorities.

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### *Strategic aims*

With its combined Arctic work, UCPH seeks to,

- strengthen already excellent research
- strengthen interdisciplinary research
- develop Arctic education partnerships
- establish strong collaborative ties with the world at large
- increase the focus on innovation and international cooperation to promote growth and prosperity
- continue developing efficient, modern infrastructure

### *Facts about Arctic research at UCPH*

Through its historic relationship with Greenland, Denmark is in a unique, strongly situated relationship with the North Atlantic, and thereby, Arctic research. This platform has enabled UCPH to construct exceptional Arctic-oriented research environments that address science, society, health, theology and the humanities.

As such, UCPH as a whole is firmly positioned with regards to excellent Arctic research. And, there remains great potential to further develop cross-disciplinary Arctic research collaboration, both within UCPH and alongside outside partners.

UCPH houses three Centres of Excellence, under the Danish National Research Foundation, where Arctic research is conducted. There is also a wide range of groups, large and small, that work with Arctic research.

UCPH is the only University in Denmark to offer a bachelor's and master's degree in Greenlandic language, culture and society. The University is also home to the Greenland Perspective initiative, whose work addresses the development of new business opportunities in Greenland. Finally, UCPH has a PhD school that focuses on Arctic culture and cultural relations.

The University operates three research stations in Greenland: the East Greenland Ice Core Project (EGRIP) located atop the Greenland ice sheet, Arctic Station in Disko Bay and Sermilik Station in Southeast Greenland.

Additionally, UCPH is significantly engaged with health sciences research in the Arctic via the Department of Epidemiology Research, Danish National Serum Institute (SSI), Section for Greenland Research.

## *Research areas and contact info*

UCPH's Arctic research portfolio is quite broad, but weighted towards the natural sciences. Arctic research is focused around:

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***Natural and life sciences research*** in the monitoring and modeling of Arctic climate, ecosystem structure and function, the environmental impacts of resource exploitation, as well as the consequences and potential of climate change for industry, environment, agriculture and society.

- [Center for Permafrost](#): Bo Elberling
- [Centre for Ice and Climate](#): Dorthe Dahl-Jensen
- [Centre for GeoGenetics](#): Eske Willerslev
- [Arctic Station](#): Bo Elberling and Morten Rasch
- [EGRIP](#): Dorthe Dahl-Jensen
- [Greenland Perspective](#): Minik Rosing
- [The importance of hunting and small-scale fishing for household economics](#): Martin R. Nielsen

***Social Science research***, including anthropological, economic, sociological and political research into how people and society respond to a changing climate, ongoing developments in the Danish Commonwealth, development of Greenlandic society, as well as Arctic security policy, governance and sustainability.

- [The NOW Project](#): Kirsten Hastrup, Janne Flora and Astrid O. Andersen
- [Arctic Politics](#): Uffe Jakobsen, Olaf Corry, Camilla Sørensen, Marc Jacobsen and Naja Grauengaard
- [The Centre for Military Studies](#): Kristian Sjøby Kristensen and Bertel Heurlin
- [Asia in a Changing Arctic](#): Aki Tonami and Geir Helgesen

***Legal research***, with a focus on rights and responsibilities vis-a-vis commercial activities in the Arctic, as well as the cultural components of law. The research focuses on the exploration and exploitation of natural resources, maritime transport and the relationship between public and private sectors.

- [Centre for Enterprise Liability \(CEVIA\)](#): Vibe Ulfbeck and Lone Wandahl Mouyal.
- [Centre for Studies in Legal Culture](#): Hanne Petersen

***Health sciences research*** in epidemiology, public health and prevention, infectious diseases, cancer, hereditary diseases and genetic epidemiology,

telemedicine, pharmacology, as well as the consequences of climate change for animals, people and their interaction in the Arctic.

- Epidemiology, infectious diseases, cancer and genetics: Mads Melbye and Anders Koch (epidemiology)
- Public health and prevention: Bo Danielsen (Odontology)
- Hereditary diseases and telemedicine: Hans Eiberg (liver diseases among pregnant women), Hadden (ear-nose-throat diseases) and Henrik Lund-Andersen (eye diseases and telemedicine)
- Pharmacology: Anna Jäger
- Climate change and Arctic mammals: Anders Miki Bojesen

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Contact: Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, email@sund.ku.dk

Website: <http://healthsciences.ku.dk>

**Humanistic and theological research** in language, archaeology, history, literature, art, minority and post-colonial studies, and cultural and anthropological studies.

- [Eskimology and Arctic studies](#): Frank Sejersen, Søren Thuesen and Naja Trondheim
- [Saxo Institute](#): Mikkel Sørensen and Søren Rud
- Minority studies: Kirsten Thisted
- Theological/ecclesiastical history research: Sven Rune Havsteen