

# THE DANISH HEART FOUNDATION'S FIVE RESEARCH TOPICS

The Danish Heart Foundation calls for applications within the five research topics announced below. The following eligibility criteria must be met within all five topics:

- The research project is of high international standard.
- The research project is conducted in well-established research environments, led by established researchers with documented track records.
- It is possible to apply for DKK 3 to 10 million from the Danish Heart Foundation.

## **1. Health promotion in adolescents**

The Danish Heart Foundation calls for ideas for research projects that investigate how frameworks that ensure, that more adolescents have a healthy diet, are protected from tobacco and nicotine products and/or get more exercise into their everyday life are created.

*Eligibility criteria:*

- The project can focus on one or more of the following topics:
  - Digital marketing of unhealthy foods and/or unhealthy food environments
  - Protection of adolescents from tobacco and nicotine products
  - Promotion of exercise in adolescents and/or prevention of inactivity
- The project must focus primarily on adolescents aged approximately 12-18 years. It is not expected that the project will focus on the entire age group, but that the target group will mainly be defined in this age group or relevant arena for the target group.
- The project can be an intervention or point towards an intervention/possibility of intervention. It must therefore be made probable that the knowledge gained from the project at a later stage can contribute to a sustainable intervention.
- The long-term perspective of the project must be to achieve an effect on a population level in Denmark. I.e., it must be clarified that the project or a future intervention can be upscaled in a sustainable manner.
- The Danish Heart Foundation will look favorably upon projects that include a perspective on inequality and aim for permanent and sustainable effects on the society structures (on the systems).
- The Danish Heart Foundation receives ideas for projects within all relevant professional disciplines.

## **2. Prevention of cardiovascular disease in people at high risk**

There is a very high prevalence of risk factors for cardiovascular disease in the Danish population. Amongst a significant part of the population, there is an accumulation of multiple preventable risk factors (e.g. tobacco, physical inactivity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol etc.)

The Danish Heart Foundation calls for ideas for research projects that investigate how an improved risk profile for people at high risk of cardiovascular disease can be ensured.

*Eligibility criteria:*

- The project must focus on prevention among adults with one or more significant preventable risk factors for cardiovascular disease, e.g. tobacco, physical inactivity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, loneliness, dissatisfaction etc.
- The project must generate knowledge about one or more of the following topics:
  - systematic identification of people at high risk of cardiovascular disease (i.e. adults with one or more significant preventable risk factor)
  - methods to motivate, recruit as well as possibly retaining of individuals to participate in differentiated interventions
  - interventions of high quality focusing on improving their individual health risk profile
- The project can be aimed at initiatives in, e.g., primary healthcare (general practice), municipal health services, workplaces etc.
- The project must include an intervention or contribute to the design of an intervention. In addition, the choice of risk factor(s) must be based on existing evidence. The project must be realistic within the existing framework for e.g. the primary healthcare system (general practice), municipal healthcare services, workplaces etc.
- Focus on inequality (e.g. social, geographical, gender-based, ethnic) as well as efforts that can help to equalize these differences will weigh in the assessment.
- The Danish heart Foundation receives ideas for projects within all relevant professional disciplines.

The following project ideas are not accepted:

- Research projects that focus on development of new methods for diagnosis.
- Research projects dealing with development of pharmacological treatment and new use of medicine for preventive treatment.
- Research projects that deal with medical management of side effects of treatment methods.
- Research projects exclusively focusing on patient-oriented prevention or rehabilitation of patients with known cardiovascular disease.
- Research projects that are exclusively based in the hospital sector.

### **3. Research in acute cardiovascular disease**

The Danish Heart Foundation calls for ideas for research projects within research of acute cardiovascular disease.

*Eligibility criteria:*

- Research in patients with acute cardiovascular diseases in the prehospital phase and the subsequent immediate treatment of acute cardiovascular disease. This can e.g. be research projects focusing on:
  - early identification of symptoms of acute cardiovascular disease
  - visitation and transportation of patients with acute cardiovascular disease
  - the acute treatment and diagnostics in the prehospital phase and in the hospital, e.g.:
    - triage
    - diagnostic methods to assist risk stratification of patients, e.g. ultrasound, CT-scan, biomarkers etc.
    - minimize unnecessary delays in acute treatment
    - care-related treatment measures in the acute phase, which support an optimal treatment course

- the optimal course for clinical treatment and care
- The project must be patient oriented.

The following project ideas are not accepted:

- Research projects that simply map or observe the problem.
- Research projects with a main focus on patients with stroke.
- Research projects which are fundamental research, animal experiments or experimental research.

#### **4. Decreased mental well-being in relation to cardiovascular disease**

The Danish Heart Foundation calls for ideas for research projects that investigate prevention, identification, and treatment of decreased mental well-being in relation to cardiovascular disease.

*Eligibility criteria:*

- The project must focus on prevention, identification, and/or treatment of decreased mental well-being in relation to cardiovascular disease (including congenital heart disease) among adult patients and/or their relatives for example symptoms of anxiety and depression, excessive thoughts, difficulty sleeping or loneliness.
- The project must answer at least one of the following questions:
  - how can the development of decreased mental well-being in relation to cardiovascular disease be prevented or reduced?
  - which intervention or treatment can help patients with cardiovascular disease and/or their relatives with decreased mental well-being in relation to cardiovascular disease?
- The project must investigate specific interventions to prevent, identify or treat decreased mental well-being in relation to cardiovascular disease. The Danish Heart Foundation emphasizes that it should be possible to implement the results of the research project in the established health care system.

The following project ideas are not accepted:

- Research projects which simply map or observe the problem.

#### **5. Digital solutions for diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of cardiovascular disease**

The Danish Heart Foundation calls for ideas for research projects that generate knowledge about digital solutions within diagnostics, treatment and rehabilitation of cardiovascular disease.

*Eligibility criteria:*

- The project must focus on technological and digital solutions within diagnosis, treatment, and/or rehabilitation of cardiovascular disease.
- The project must focus on physical and/or mental health. Furthermore, the project must focus on one or several of the following:
  - novel technological and digital solutions e.g., the use of artificial intelligence (AI)
  - implementation and/or dissemination of existing technological and digital solutions for the benefit of patients with cardiovascular disease

- the response of patients, relatives, and health care professionals to digital solutions and how they can support patients in their daily lives and improve their insight and involvement in their disease and treatment course
- data sharing and interaction between healthcare professionals and across sectors for the benefit of cardiovascular patients
- the interaction between digital solutions and the organization of the healthcare system in terms of achieving the best results from technological and digital solutions
- The project idea must include arguments for how the results of the project can be implemented and possibly scaled up to bigger/other target groups.
- The Danish Heart Foundation will look favorably upon projects with a great innovative potential.