

Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus (SDCA)

SUMMARY

1.1. A historical opportunity

Danish diabetology has a leading position internationally in diabetes research and treatment with strong positions in research and a unique treatment tradition. Since the 1930s, the Steno Diabetes Center has been leading in Danish diabetes research and treatment and is acknowledged as a pioneer in the field.

The vision to create a Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus (SDCA) is the result of the longstanding strong treatment and research environment in Denmark, including Central Denmark Region, and a wish to create a new platform in the region to strengthen, continue and further develop the concepts and ideas which will be the core of Danish diabetology in the future.

The ambition is to establish an internationally leading diabetes center, which will play a central role to strengthen the diabetes efforts in Central Denmark Region and nationally. The center will be a specialized knowledge and competence center with a person-centered approach. The center will offer and develop offers at international level within treatment and prevention of diabetes. The center will be one of the leading environments in clinical diabetes research together with Aarhus University, the other Steno Diabetes Centers and other Danish research environments and thus play a pivotal role in diabetes research focusing on new treatment and preventive efforts.

SDCA will be an integrated part of the health efforts in the region and will initiate a strengthened collaboration between relevant stakeholders in the field of diabetes, especially the regional hospitals, municipalities and general practice. The purpose of establishing a Knowledge and Development Unit at SDCA is to generate knowledge and test new models, methods and technologies aiming at creating optimized coherent patient pathways. The ambition is that results will benefit diabetics all over Denmark and in the long term other groups of chronic patients.

The center will be established in a new building at Aarhus University Hospital (AUH) and will offer outpatient, person-centered diabetes treatment of the highest quality and in accordance with modern standards. The center will have user-friendly opening hours and be located with easy access both by public and private transportation and good parking facilities.

The establishment of SDCA is a part of a strategic effort where the Novo Nordisk Foundation (NNF) in collaboration with all the five Danish regions collaborate to further promote Denmark's position as internationally leading in treatment and prevention of diabetes to the benefit of all Danish citizens.

1.2. Vision and objectives

In the summer 2016, a presentation of the visions for SDCA was made to the Regional Council in Central Denmark Region and the board of NNF.

The overall vision is that the establishment of SDCA will contribute to:

- Increase life expectancy and quality of life for all persons with diabetes in Central Denmark Region.
- Curb the growth of new cases of diabetes in Central Denmark Region.

The ambition is that SDCA should make a difference for all persons with diabetes in Central Denmark Region as well as for those who potentially may develop diabetes. As described in the vision, this will be in accordance with a number of objectives:

Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus develops and implements evidence-based treatment at the highest international level.

Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus will offer easily accessible and person-centered treatments of the highest quality to all persons with diabetes in Central Denmark Region regardless of residence. The treatment quality must be supported by highly professional education of both persons with diabetes and healthcare staff. Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus will be the driving force in development, testing and implementation of new, innovative and research-based treatment and preventive efforts to ensure integrated offers at international level to all persons with diabetes in the region.

Efforts of Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus are organised on the patient's terms.

Through active involvement of the individual person with diabetes, a differentiated and individual effort is planned taking the starting point in stage of disease, comorbidity status, life situation, resources, age etc.

To contribute to creating more equality in health and increase the treatment quality for all persons with diabetes in the region, there will be particular focus on vulnerable and exposed groups experiencing challenges in benefitting from healthcare services to obtain a well-regulated diabetes status.

Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus will strengthen a coherent and preventive effort in diabetes.

Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus must contribute to a more coherent diabetes effort through a strengthened collaboration concerning prevention of diabetes, early tracing and treatment between the regional hospitals, municipalities, general practice and other relevant public and private stakeholders. Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus must support the development of a common, data-based population approach to facilitate knowledge and information sharing among health professionals involved in prevention and treatment across sectors to optimize a coherent effort for each individual patient.

Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus will contribute to consolidate and promote Denmark's position in the international elite in clinical diabetes research.

Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus will practice patient-related research at international level by building on already existing and strong research environments at Aarhus University Hospital and Aarhus University as well as research collaborations at the regional hospitals. Moreover, a strong collaboration with the other Steno Diabetes Centers is established as a part of a coordinated national and international effort. The strategic research areas in the region must be further developed and strengthened to maintain the position of Central Denmark Region and Denmark as an attractive collaborator for leading public and private institutions. Furthermore, the professional environments must be strengthened to attract research talents nationally and internationally. Research results will be applied in the treatment of persons with diabetes and will be used by clinicians in the entire region as well as companies developing technologies or products to ease life with diabetes.