



# VILLUM FONDEN

## Research Strategy and programmes

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Professor Thomas Sinkjær, Director of Science

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# Outline

- Introduction to VILLUM FONDEN
- Introduction to the curiosity driven research strategy
  - VILLUM Young Investigator Programme (YIP)
  - VILLUM Investigator Programme (VIP)
  - VILLUM Experiment
  - VILLUM Outreach Programme

# Our ownership – history

- THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS are comprised of the two non-profit, private charitable foundations VILLUM FONDEN (established 1971) and VELUX FONDEN (established 1981).
- Both foundations were created by Villum Kann Rasmussen - the founder of VELUX® and other companies in the VKR Group.
- VILLUM FONDEN is a majority shareholder in the VKR Group.
- The overall purpose of the foundations is to pursue activities of benefit to society.



Villum Kann Rasmussen 1909-1993

In 2015 the two foundations gave joint grants of more than DKK 800 million (approx. 120 M USD) to scientific research, environment, culture and social activities.



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# VILLUM FONDEN supports

VILLUM FONDEN supports curiosity driven research within technical and natural sciences at Danish universities and research institutions.



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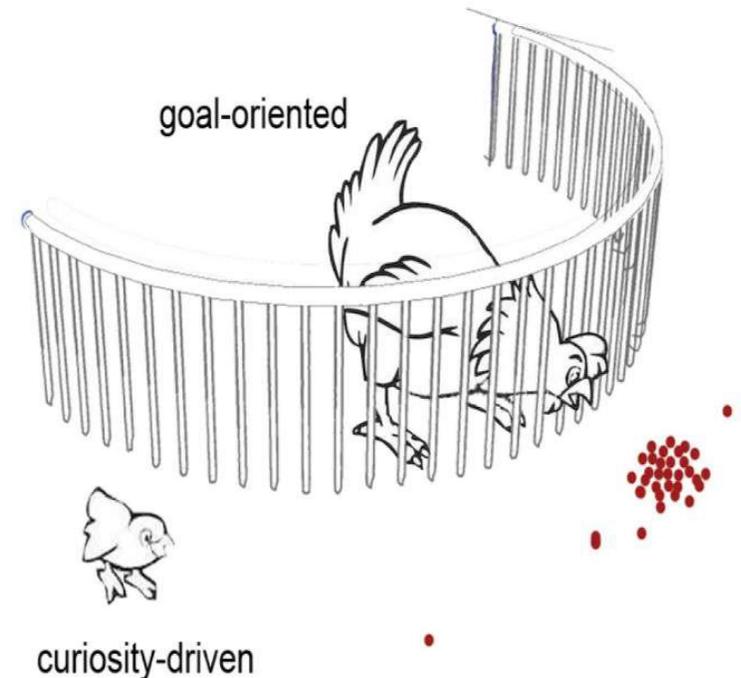
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# Curiosity driven research

VILLUM FONDEN has the ambition to support people and ideas with characteristics such as:

- Challenges conventional wisdom;
- Paradigm shifting;
- New frontiers;
- Unpredictable results;
- Appears risky;
- Unattractive to most funders;
- Creative;
- New and different;
- Often interdisciplinary.

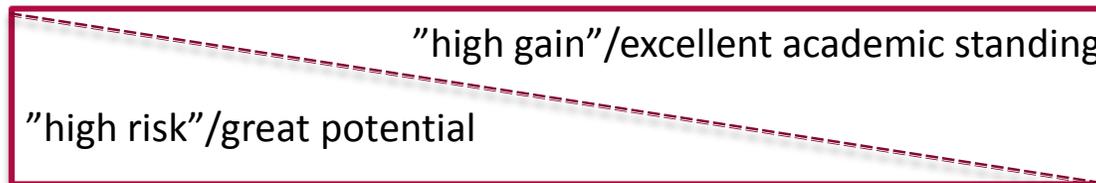


# What's the business plan?

- Hire excellent scientists who are knowledgeable, curious, and passionate about their **own ideas**.
- Offer them top quality human and physical infrastructure
- Provide them the opportunity to take risk
- Protect their freedom to think
- Show interest in the funded researchers framework conditions
- Keep it simple and lean



# Focus on the researcher



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# How do we find the talented researcher?

## "Project" application

Academic quality, originality and feasibility of the proposed research project.

Scientific results, collaborations and awards previously received.  
Applicant's talent as an independent researcher and research leader.

## "Talent" application

Scientific results, collaborations and awards previously received.  
Applicant's talent as an independent researcher and research leader.

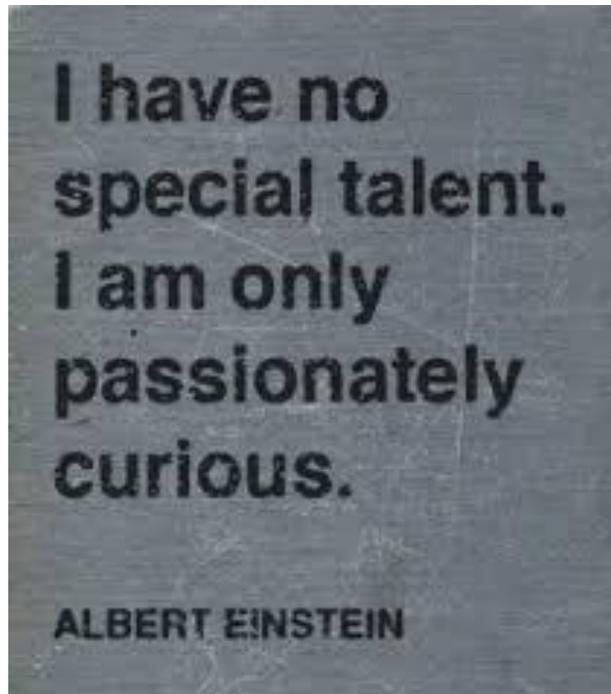
Academic quality, originality and feasibility of the proposed research project.

# VILLUM Young Investigator Programme (YIP)

- The aim of VILLUM Young Investigator Programme is to fund particularly talented younger researchers in technical and natural sciences.
- Applicants are selected on the basis of their independent research accomplishments, creativity, and potential to become leaders in the scientific community through their contributions to their research fields.
- Applicants must have a clearly defined research goal for the next five years and the research must be of such scope that it requires the formation of a research group.
- ***A typical applicant is below 40 years of age and will at the time of application be an experienced postdoctoral researcher, assistant professor or associate professor. Associate professors must have no more than two years' standing. Leaves of absence will be taken into account.***
- The granted amount is DKK 7-10 million to cover a research period of up to five years.
- In 2016 we expect to be able to award grants to 15-20 Young Investigators, with research to commence in early 2017.

# How do we find the talented VILLUM Young Investigator?

Application – two steps and one interview!



- A. Summary of the application
- B. Scientific achievements/discoveries
- C. Research funding
- D. Lectures, conferences and research stays
- E. Supervision
- F. Scientific honours
- G. Other important issues
- H. Planned research
- I. Institutional affiliation and recruitment
- J. Collaborations
- K. Reference list

# How do we find the young talented researcher?

## VILLUM Young Investigator

- **CV including a bibliography** of research publications and a list of current research support.
- **Budget form.** The VILLUM Young Investigator grant is large and flexible. Applicants may apply for DKK 7-10 million for a period of up to five years, including a 15% overhead to the host institution.
- **Letter of support.** A letter must be supplied from the institution expected to host the VILLUM Young Investigator demonstrating its support and recognition of the application.
- **It is mandatory that you provide us with your ORCID** (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) which assures that you have a unique ID in our application system. You can obtain your ORCID from [orcid.org](https://orcid.org)

# VILLUM Young Investigator Programme (YIP) Committee



**Prof. Bart de Moor**  
KU Leuven

Field: Electrical Engineering



**Prof. Birthe Kragelund**  
KU

Field: Biomolecular Sciences



**Prof. Dorte Juul Jensen**  
DTU

Field: Materials Science



**Prof. Emeritus Finn Surlyk**  
KU

Field: Geology



**Prof. Frede Blaabjerg**  
AAU

Field: Electronics, Energy

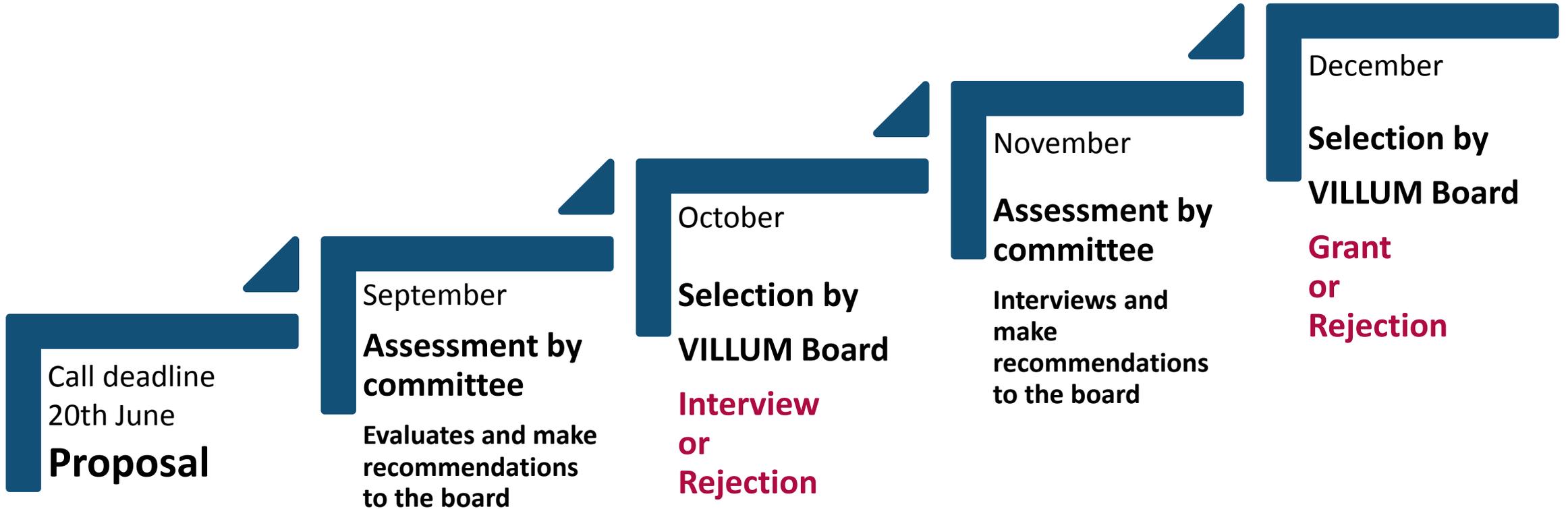


**Prof. Henrik Bruus**  
DTU

Field: Biophysics

# VILLUM Young Investigator Programme (YIP)

## Process 2016: Assessment and Selection



# VILLUM Investigator Programme (VIP)

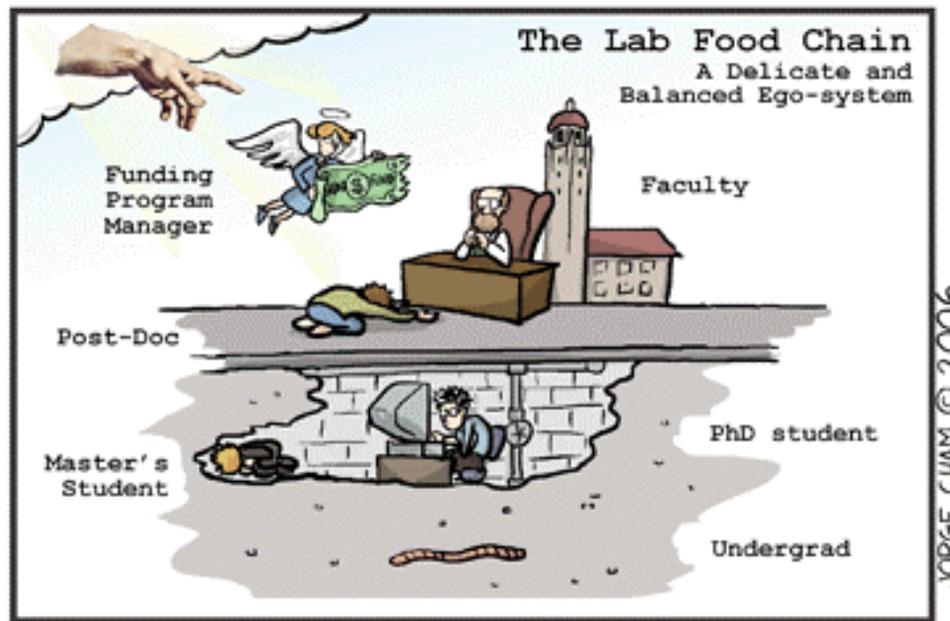
- The purpose is to support researchers who have the potential of contributing significantly to Danish research within the technical and natural sciences.
- Only researchers who have shown extraordinary originality and delivered impressive results may obtain financial support.
- Financial support is granted for 6 years. At the end of the grant periode or later, a grantee may reapply for support on an equal footing with other applicants.
- Grant amount is DKK 20-40m/6 yrs, including startup expenses. Open for applicants from Denmark and abroad. Call for proposals every two years.
- VIPs may choose to be based on their present host institutions (if they apply from Denmark) or to move to another host institution in Denmark.
- Part of the grant should be spent on relieving researchers from administrative burdens (i.e. by employing a secretary, PA or the like).

# How do we find the talented VILLUM Investigator?

Application – two steps.

Three peer reviews and one interview.

- A. Summary of the application
- B. Scientific achievements/discoveries
- C. Research funding
- D. Invited and keynote lectures
- E. PhD students
- F. Scientific honours
- G. Other important issues
- H. Ongoing and planned research
- I. Research Environment
- J. International collaborations and recruitment
- K. Reference list



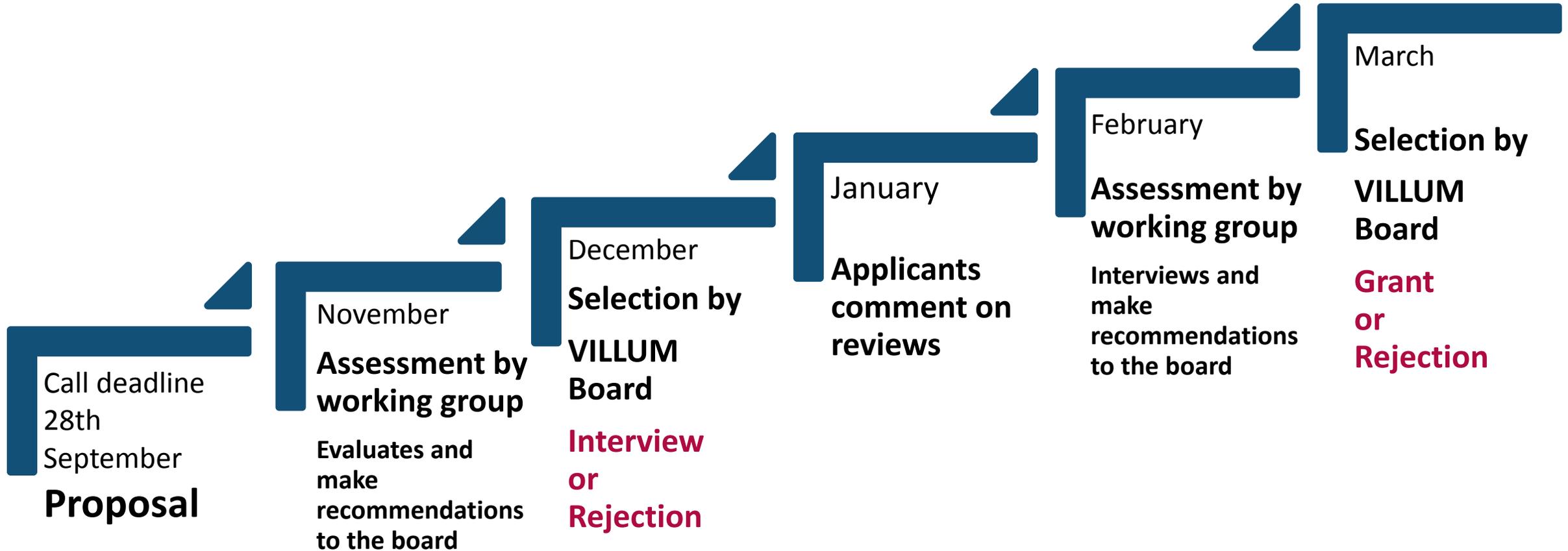
# Research Committee for Technical and Natural Sciences, assessing the VILLUM Investigator Programme (VIP)

	<p><b>Prof. Anja Boisen</b> DTU</p> <p>Field: Nanotechnology</p>		<p><b>Prof. Poul Henrik Damgaard</b> NBI - KU</p> <p>Field: Physics</p>		<p><b>Prof. Björn Ottersten</b> KTH/Univ. Luxembourg</p> <p>Field: Wireless communications, signal processing</p>
	<p><b>Prof. Peter Landrock</b> Chairman, Cryptomathic A/S</p> <p>Field: Mathematics, Computer Science</p>		<p><b>Prof. Anne S. Meyer</b> DTU</p> <p>Field: Biochemistry, Enzymes</p>		<p><b>Prof. Guy B. Marin</b> Univ. Gent</p> <p>Field: Chemistry</p>

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# VILLUM Investigator Programme (VIP) Process 2016/2017: Assessment and Selection



# VILLUM Experiment

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ekspert antagelser!**

- AIM : to fund extra ordinary research ideas/hypothesis
- For bold ideas that have difficulty fitting into the conventional peer-review funding system. Is open to active researchers of any age, the grant amount is expected to be within the range of DKK 1-3 million, and the timeframe within 1-3 years.
- Approach:
  - A grant should be given to an applicant whose ideas challenge the norm and who has the potential to substantially change the way we think about an important subject.
  - The selection will be based on a short outline of the research idea (2 pages), a CV and a short video presentation.
  - Selection will be based on the intellectual depth of the proposed ideas, their originality and potential.
- Provisional commencement of this programme is ultimo 2016.

# VILLUM Research Outreach

- The object is to promote youth interest in science and technology and safeguard the new generation's general, technical and natural science education. The aim is to enable them, through the scientific process, to engage critically and creatively in knowledge-building and development in Denmark.
- There is a patent need in society to secure the platform for and quality of science education from secondary-school to university-level.

## **Two focus areas:**

1. Establishment of research projects to support an evidence-based approach in designing projects with the purpose of promoting youth interest in and education within science and technology.
  2. Funding for outreach projects. We wish to support established outreach projects with a purpose consistent with that of VILLUM FONDEN and which have already documented valuable impacts and are now ready to be taken to the next level. Only in exceptional cases will VILLUM FONDEN consider funding new outreach projects.
- Provisional commencement of this programme is ultimo 2016.

# The Secretariat at VILLUM FONDEN



**Professor Thomas Sinkjær**  
Director of Science



**Lars Arnskov Olsen**  
Senior Adviser, Head of  
Programme



**Michel M. Kristensen**  
Senior Adviser, Head of  
Programme



**Karen Skytte Larsen**  
Senior Adviser

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