

Job description

Position as Professor in Medical Microbiology

Department of Clinical Research, Faculty of Health
Sciences, University of Southern Denmark and
Department of Clinical Microbiology, Odense University
Hospital

September 2024

1. The vacant position

The vacant position is a combined post as a professor in medical microbiology and molecular biologist in the Department of Clinical Microbiology at OUH.

The time is allocated with 75 % to the university (professor) and 25 % to molecular biologist duties.

The employment is limited to a period of five years with the possibility of prolongation.

1.1. Qualifications and expertise

The applicant must be qualified as a biologist, molecular biologist or similar with a special interest and documented experience in medical microbiology research in collaboration with clinical hospital departments.

The applicant is expected to have solid experience with establishing and using in vitro and in vivo infection models and laboratory-based research in both viral and bacterial infections.

We are looking for an excellent researcher who can manage and reinforce the department's basic microbiological research activities and bridge the department's research from basic science to clinical science to industrial research.

The applicant must be well qualified and have a strong research profile in the areas mentioned above. Commitment to teaching and the ability to lead a research group, including experience with attaining funding and supervision of master's students, PhD students, and postdocs/postgraduates, are required.

Emphasis will be on the applicant's ability to document original scientific production at an international level within the area of translational and cross-disciplinary microbiology.

The applicant must submit the following documents in order to be considered for the position:

- An application
- A detailed CV
- Degree certificates (including PhD diplomas) (combined as one single PDF file)
- A teaching portfolio which details the candidate's prior teaching experience, teaching skills, and teaching philosophy
- A research plan which details the candidate's ideas and plans for her/his future research work
- References if available
- A complete and numbered list of publications
- 10 scientific peer-reviewed publications which the candidate considers as most important for the position. Please note that one PDF file must be attached for each publication

Furthermore, the candidate must have a successful record in obtaining research funding, in practice experience with international research collaboration, experience as a research leader and effective oral, written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills.

Documented experience as Head of Research, head of large research projects, head of teaching, and other administrative jobs will be an advantage. The applicant is expected to be qualified in academic teaching as an associate professor or equivalent.

1.1.1. Obligations

The professor's obligations will primarily be:

- To liaise between the OUH department and collaborators at SDU as part of the OUH/SDU "Connected in Health" strategy to combine forces across these two institutions, with the aim to place OUH at the forefront of health technology innovation.
- To contribute to the development and impact of the Research Unit of Clinical Microbiology at SDU and OUH
- Research related to clinical and medical microbiology in a cross-disciplinary context
- Research related to establishing and using in vitro and in vivo infection models
- Laboratory-based research in viral infections

The candidate will be responsible for the department's experimental virus laboratory. Knowledge and experience related to coordinating experimental virological work are required.

The professor handles qualified supervision, teaching and/or research tasks. The position also includes exams for relevant students and supervision at postgraduate education.

The candidate is expected to contribute to the department's fundraising strategy and strengthen the success of the department in attracting funding for PhD projects, larger consortium projects, and potentially, the establishment of centres in collaboration with SDU, other OUH departments, and national and international partners.

1.1.1.1. Research

The professor is expected to contribute to further developing the research strategy and profile of the department with special emphasis on hospital-acquired infections and conducting cutting-edge research in novel assays, innovative and explorative diagnostics platforms, and material novel technologies aiming to prevent hospital infections or improve treatment.

The professor is expected to increase the research activity and participate in further scientific development in the fields both nationally and internationally. The Dept. of Clinical Microbiology has a special inter-institutional collaboration with SDU. It is expected that the candidate will engage in strengthening this collaboration with the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, expanding to other faculties at SDU, including the Department of Physics, Chemistry and Pharmacy, and the Technical Faculty. Also, profiling the field in the public eye will be an important task. Finally, the professor is expected to supervise postdocs, PhD-students and pre-graduate students.

1.1.1.2. Teaching

The professor is expected to engage in teaching (including an obligation in terms of examination) at the Faculty of Health Sciences.

1.1.1.2.1. Planning

The Head of Research is responsible for planning the teaching within the department. At the Department of Clinical Microbiology, this responsibility is delegated to a present clinical professor. All professors are expected to plan their own teaching.

1.1.2. Other obligations

The applicant is expected to front medical microbiology also in the public debate. Moreover, the applicant is expected to perform public duties, *i.e.* to chair commissions and boards etc.

1.1.3. Management and administration

The professor is expected to:

- Perform evaluations of other researchers at the Faculty of Health Sciences
- Actively participate in and chair committees and councils, etc., at the Faculty of Health Sciences and at other universities, locally, regionally, and nationally

1.2. University position

The position as professor is affiliated with the [Research Unit of Clinical Microbiology](#) at the Department of Clinical Research.

1.2.1. Reference

The professor refers to the departmental management. Regarding research and teaching, *i.e.* university aspects, the professor refers to the Head of the Department of Clinical Research through the Head of Research of the Research Unit of Clinical Microbiology. Organisational matters in relation to clinical microbiology at Odense University Hospital have to be coordinated with the Research Unit of Clinical Microbiology. The professor will be a member of this group.

Employment as a professor requires successful evaluation by an expert panel consisting of a professor from the Department of Clinical Research taking on the role of chairman and two external professors.

2. Odense University Hospital (OUH)

OUH is one of Denmark's largest hospitals and the only one having all medical specialities collected under one roof.

The hospital comprises the units in Odense, Svendborg and Nyborg, which share the same board of directors. In total, the staff comprises about 11,000 persons. (See [Key Figures](#).)

A new university hospital is currently being built and is expected to be finished shortly after 2026. The new hospital will be located adjacent to the current main campus of the University of Southern Denmark. This co-location of the two institutions is unique in Europe and will facilitate the cooperation between the clinical departments and faculties of the University of Southern Denmark.

Further information:

- [OUH's website](#)
- [OUH's organisation](#)
- [Research Strategy 2021-2025](#)

3. The Hospital Department

Please refer to the [department's](#) website for more information.

3.1. Clinical Specialties and Expertise

The Department of Clinical Microbiology provides services in clinical microbiology.

Geographically, the department provides services at OUH, on Funen, and in the rest of the Region of Southern Denmark.

3.2. The Research Unit for Clinical Microbiology

Please refer to the [Research Unit's website](#) for more information.

In addition to this new position, two clinical professors are affiliated with the research unit. Research is encouraged in all fields within clinical and medical microbiology. The research unit has a tradition for research in infection control, clinical application of new technologies and materials, antibiotic treatment, and register-based research. Research by nurses and laboratory technicians is prioritised.

The Research Unit for Clinical Microbiology aims at expanding collaboration with local, regional, national, and international researchers. This includes collaboration with microbiologists at SDU's Campuses and strengthening translational research in advance of the establishment of New OUH at the location.

The Research Unit of Clinical Microbiology is an integrated part of the Department of Clinical Microbiology at OUH with a smaller secretarial/technical staff and close collaboration with the laboratory.

3.3. Management and organisation of the department

The department is managed by two Heads of Department, consultant Anette Holm and Chief biomedical scientist Pia Steinicke.

The department comprises medical staff (consultants, senior registrars, and junior doctors), molecular biologists, bioinformatics, other academics, biomedical scientists, infection control nurses, and secretaries.

The research unit is a staff function to the departmental management.

3.4. Catchment area and regional functions

In accordance with the plans issued by the Danish National Board of Health, the department provides all services on the local level (population approximately 220,000) and all services at the regional level (population approximately 1,2 million).

3.5. Highly specialised functions

The department conducts one highly specialised function: interpretation and consultancy related to infections in transplanted patients.

3.6. Teaching

The department teaches both pre- and postgraduate students at the University of Southern Denmark in clinical and medical microbiology and infectious diseases.

All professors and associate professors are formally obligated to contribute to teaching.

3.7. Research

The unit's research aims to optimise the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious diseases with special emphasis on surveillance and control of the spread of pathogenic microorganisms and microorganisms that are difficult to treat. The development of methods to prevent the emergence of antibiotic resistance and hospital infections are fundamental elements. Much of the research has a translational aim where results are used directly in practical and concrete initiatives such as better and faster diagnostic analyses, effective intervention in outbreaks, and better antibiotic treatment.

The research unit is headed by associate professor Marianne N. Skov.

The research unit collaborates with several other units and departments at OUH, several departments at SDU, and regional hospitals, and it has national and international contacts.

4. Faculty of Health Science

The [Faculty of Health Science](#) is one of five faculties at the University of Southern Denmark.

The faculty offers a grand variety of bachelor- and master's programs. (For further details, please see [Programmes](#)).

5. Department of Clinical Research

The [Department of Clinical Research](#) comprises [>45 research units](#) based on departments at Odense University Hospital and Mental Health Services in the Region of Southern Denmark. (For more information about the department's research, please see [SDU's Research Portal](#).)

The department's staff teach at all the programmes offered by the Faculty of Health Sciences, however, primarily in medicine. (Read more about the department and its key figures [here](#)).

6. Living and working in Denmark

The [International Staff Office](#) (ISO) at SDU provides a grand variety of services for new employees, guests and people who are considering applying for a job at the University of Southern Denmark.