



Chairman's Corner:



During these challenging times, I hope you and your loved ones are well and keeping safe.

Beyond the significant impact of COVID-19 on our normal lives, the effect on our industry is enormous and recovery likely to take a long time. Many companies have had to postpone or cancel clinical studies, laboratories are not operating, many people have been in or are going through quarantine and employees are furloughed. All together this means that milestones are not being met, collaborations with international partners are being delayed and funding is more difficult to obtain.

Unfortunately, there has been little help in the relief schemes, such as salary reimbursements presented by the government and parliament. This is because the schemes are largely directed at companies that are able to demonstrate a decline in income due to the impact of COVID-19.

DANSK BIOTEK is working hard to ensure that our biotech industry has the support it deserves, and that companies have access to funding in these very trying times. We are therefore extremely appreciative that the government and all parties in parliament have taken several steps in order to secure liquidity for growth companies, including biotech companies:

- The annual payment of the tax credit scheme (skattekreditordningen) will be paid in full in June instead of November, securing much needed liquidity
- Vækstfonden will introduce a match funding scheme directed at both start-up and venture investments. Vækstfonden will be able to distribute DKK 1.5 billion in loans for start-ups, DKK 700 million in loans for venture companies. In addition, the fund will receive DKK 1.2 billion for new investments, to be deployed in 2020
- The innobooster program will receive an additional DKK 350 million for innovation projects in SMEs, all to be deployed in 2020. Innobooster requires two-thirds funding from the other sources, so this will ensure that more than DKK 1 billion will be invested in R&D by companies in Denmark

These financial mechanisms provide security and peace of mind for the entire Danish start-up environment and especially the biotech community. However, our work in DANSK BIOTEK to secure the best possible framework conditions for biotech companies in Denmark is far from done. We believe that a stimulus package will be presented soon to cover the economic downturn. During the financial crisis following 2008-09 market crash, the Danish life science sector was, to a large extent, responsible for overturning the economic deficit and providing much needed export profits and tax payments that pulled Denmark out of the crisis. Our aim at DANSK BIOTEK is to lobby for a stimulus package that appreciates the massive potential in the life science sector and particularly the biotech segment.

I hope that it is apparent to our politicians that a healthy and thriving life science industry is key to getting Denmark safely through the COVID-19 crisis, not only financially. Biotech companies are

the primary source for the development of future treatments and vaccines for the corona virus and for future pandemics, which we all know will happen.

If you have any questions regarding the public relief programs, have any political questions or suggestions for further stimulus packages, please contact our political liaison in Dansk Erhverv, Morten Engsbye at +45 4187 0823 or moe@danskerhverv.dk.

Earlier in April, long-time bell-weather of Danish biotech, Symphogen was acquired by Servier. The deal is testament to the strength of Symphogen's antibody therapeutic capabilities as Servier expands its presence in the oncology field. As Symphogen will operate as a standalone organization within Servier and maintain its headquarters in Ballerup, we anticipate the company will continue to inspire success throughout the Danish biotech industry. It's good to see that the strong support that Symphogen has enjoyed over the years from very patient investors, led to a successful exit and a new beginning for the company's many talented scientists.

Prior to the Symphogen news, Azanta was acquired by Dutch specialist pharmaceutical company Norgine. Azanta's portfolio of products, including one for labour induction and a radiosensitizer for the treatment of head and neck cancer patients undergoing primary radiotherapy, further strengthens Norgine's position as a leading European specialist pharmaceutical company. Azanta has in many ways pursued an alternative strategy to most biotech companies, by avoiding venture investors and prioritizing providing early access to their products as a source of financing. It's always encouraging when companies pave new ways and achieve both clinical and financial success.

These acquisitions are a sign that our sector is continuing to thrive, signalling that our innovation and capabilities in drug discovery and development can compete on the world stage.

As a natural consequence of COVID-19, DANSK BIOTEK too has had to postpone meetings and member events. This also affects our planned Annual Members' Meeting and the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which were originally scheduled for May 7. We had a very interesting line up of Danish and international speakers in place offering an exciting program for the afternoon, but obviously travel bans prevent execution of the event. Subject to our Articles of Association, we will however conduct the AGM per capsulam, for which a Notice to Convene has been distributed to all members. The agenda can be found here: <https://danskbiotek.dk/events/dansk-biotek-annual-general-meeting-may-7th-2020/>

We will be back with new events and industry meetings, when the world is more normal than at present.

Keep safe and sane!

Hans Schambye, Chairman, DANSK BIOTEK

[Read more news at www.danskbiotek.dk](http://www.danskbiotek.dk)

All members are welcome to submit news and press releases to DANSK BIOTEK, which we publish at www.danskbiotek.dk. Topics of relevance are financing rounds, licensing deals, mergers and

acquisitions, research and development news, people news, etc. As a member, feel free to submit your news to office@danskbiotek.dk.

Would you like to receive the newsletter from DANSK BIOTEK?

The newsletter from DANSK BIOTEK is published 3-4 times a year. Several members forward the newsletter to colleagues and non-members, by which we are pleased. However, if you as a recipient wish to receive the newsletter directly, please sign up for the newsletter [here](#).

If you wish to unsubscribe from the newsletter, please send an email to office@danskbiotek.dk.

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