

# 2021

## Highlights from the Annual Report

Click [here](#) for the full report

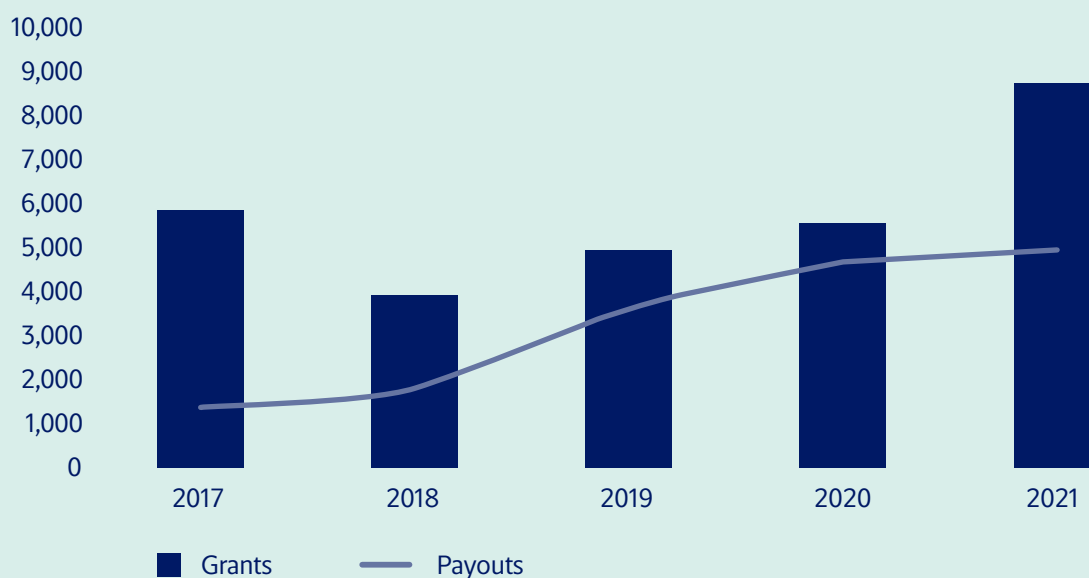
# 2021

The Novo Nordisk Foundation received **2,911 applications**  
and awarded **617 grants**

**DKK 8.8bn** (EUR 1.182m) awarded  
**DKK 4.8bn** (EUR 645m) paid out  
(highest annual grant and payout in the Foundation's history)



Grants and payouts of the Novo Nordisk Foundation, 2017-2021 (DKK million)







*2021 has been a transitional year. Several events impacting the world have been agenda-setting, not just for our grant awarding but also for our coming strategy. In response to the coronavirus, the Foundation has increased its focus on themes such as equity in health and pandemic prevention and preparedness. And with the global climate crisis, the urgency of accelerating the green transition is becoming more and more apparent. We continue to see scientific discovery and innovation in the life sciences as a key driver in the effort to create a sustainable future.*

*While Denmark continues to be a centre of gravity for our activities, more and more of the initiatives we support also involve research collaborations on an international scale.”*

*On behalf of the Board of Directors*

**Lars Rebien Sørensen, Chair**  
**Marianne Philip, Vice Chair**



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*In 2021, the Foundation awarded a total of DKK 8.8 billion in grants, an increase from DKK 5.54 billion the previous year. Its payouts rose from DKK 4.6 billion in 2020 to DKK 4.8 billion in 2021. In 2021, the Foundation received an impressive number of high-quality applications for ambitious and innovative projects. A total of 2,911 applications were submitted, of which 617 were awarded a grant.*

*With the launch of two international research centres, the Foundation intensified its support of research collaborations across disciplines that seek to tackle major societal challenges. At the same time, it reflects our continued ambition of supporting innovation and development of scientific discoveries into specific products and solutions for the benefit of people and society.”*

**Mads Krogsgaard Thomsen, CEO**



# Amounts granted in 2021 by grant-giving areas



# Highlights from Novo Holdings' Annual Report 2021



Portfolio companies

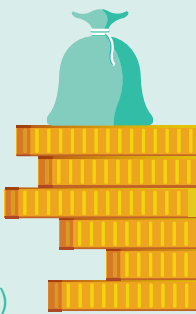
**697** DKK bn  
(EUR 94bn)

Total investment assets

**12%**

Total 5-year average return  
on the Investment Portfolio

Investment Portfolio  
**182** DKK bn  
(EUR 25bn)



Deployed into  
life sciences

**14** DKK bn  
(EUR 2bn)



**15%**

Return on Life Science Investments

**17%**

Return on Capital Investments

Total Income and Return

**37** DKK bn  
(EUR 5bn)





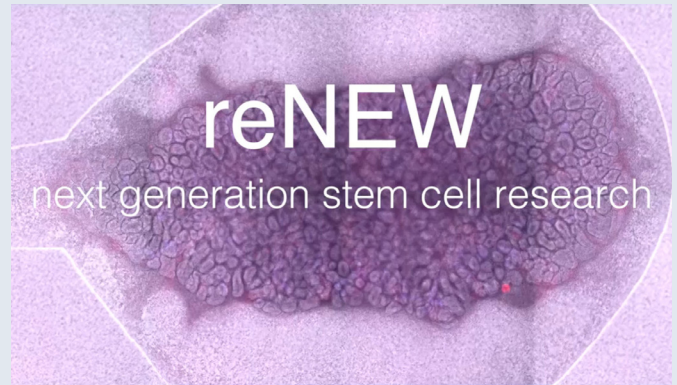
***In 2021, the Novo Nordisk Foundation launched two major research centres which aim for research excellence through partnerships between internationally leading research institutions.***



### **Novo Nordisk Foundation CO<sub>2</sub> Research Center**

DKK 630 million (EUR 84.7m) was awarded for the establishment of the Novo Nordisk Foundation CO<sub>2</sub> Research Center, based at Aarhus University and involving six satellite institutions worldwide and collaborating industry partners.

The ambition is for the centre to become a powerhouse in the struggle against the global climate crisis and to bring together international researchers across disciplines and sectors in pursuing a common goal of finding methods that can reduce the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.



### **Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Stem Cell Medicine (reNEW)**

An unprecedented grant of up to DKK 2.2 billion (EUR 300m) from the Novo Nordisk Foundation over a 10-year period has enabled the establishment of a major international research centre focused on stem cell medicine.

The Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Stem Cell Medicine (reNEW) is based on a consortium of three institutions and hosted by the University of Copenhagen. The ambition is to pave the way for future stem cell-based treatments, leading to curative therapies for chronic diseases.