Purpose

Our purpose is to improve and promote the prevention and treatment of muscle and joint disease, and in particular, investigate the role played by exercise and physical activity.

Mission

We strive for research excellence in the domain of muscle and joint disease, specialising in the following research areas:

- The injured and impaired joint
- Systematic reviews (methodological development)
- Patient-reported outcomes (methodological development)

The common theme is to determine how exercise and physical activity can enhance musculoskeletal health.
Vision for 2018

We are regarded by our peers and funding agencies as an internationally leading group in our chosen areas of research.

Definition of success

To realise this vision, we will have achieved the following:

- Increased community awareness of the benefits of accessing early care to improve musculoskeletal health.
- Our research results influence evidence-based practice and clinical guidelines, which in turn impact on the quality of musculoskeletal care.
- We have participated in the development of clinical guidelines at national and/or international levels
- Increased collaboration with the primary care sector and implementation of early care.
- Our research focus is on multidisciplinary approaches.
- The group is comprised of national and international senior researchers, post docs and PhD students, employed at SDU or engaged in international exchange.
- We maintain a good publication rate in the Research Unit, where manuscripts are accepted by high calibre journals.
- We enjoy a positive work environment conducive to high productivity and teamwork.
- PhD students drive and own their own PhD projects within a safe and supportive environment where academic discourse and critical thinking is encouraged to help students evaluate their own projects and performance and thus become competent and independent researchers.
- Our students maintain a relationship with the Research Unit, either as post docs or as alumni interested in following the impact of musculoskeletal research on clinical practice.

Strategic priorities

Four strategic priorities will help to position the Research Unit for on-going success:

1. Raise awareness of the impact (burden of disease) of muscle and joint disease on society,
2. Increase dissemination and implementation of evidence-based prevention and treatment for muscle and joint disease,
3. Build capacity in involving end users in FoF research activities, and
4. Improve the administrative and financial support for the Research Unit.