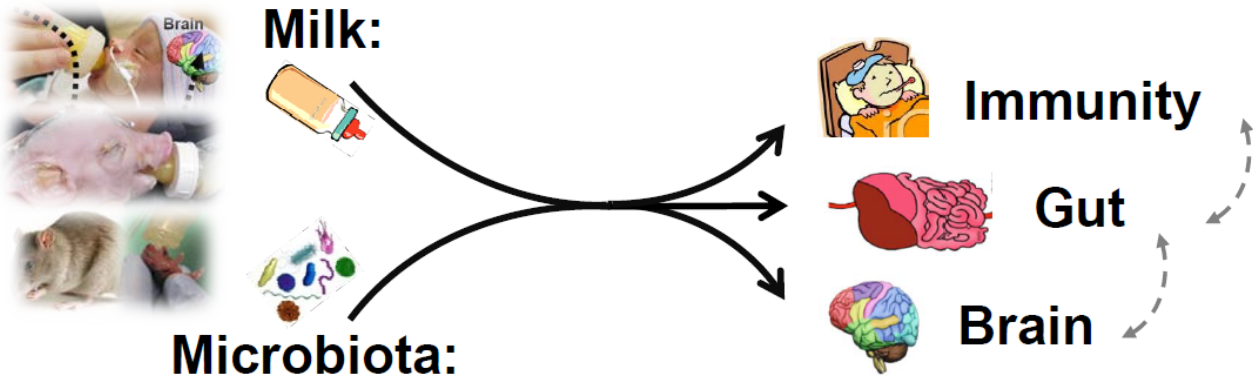


NEOMUNE 2013-2018:

Interventions:

Outcomes:





NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

Contents

WP 1.1: Mode of delivery and gut microbiota in term infants.....	4
WP 1.2a: Breast-feeding and infections in term infants.....	6
WP 1.2b: Maternal antibiotics and term infant gut colonization	8
WP 1.2c: Milk and immunity in children during chemotherapy.....	10
WP 1.3a: Probiotics for term infants	12
WP 1.3b: Bioactive milk formula for term infants	14
WP 1.4a: Donor human milk to preterm infants	16
WP 1.4b: Database of feeding preterm infants	18
WP 1.5: Probiotics, feeding and NEC in preterm infants	20
WP 1.6a: Minimal enteral colostrum for preterm infants	22
WP 1.6b: Probiotics for preterm infants.....	24
WP 1.7: Ethical, social and cultural processes of translational research.....	26
WP 2.0: Development of a preterm pig brain model	28
WP 2.1: Germ-free birth in preterm pigs.....	30
WP 2.2: Anti- and probiotics in preterm and term pigs.....	32
WP 2.3: Enteral and parenteral feeding for preterm pigs	34
WP 2.4: Bioactive formula diets for preterm pigs	36
WP 3.1: Antibiotics in newborn mice.....	38
WP 3.2: Probiotics in newborn mice.....	40
WP 4.1: NEOMUNE administration and dissemination	42
WP 4.2: Scientific meetings and results dissemination	44
WP 4.3: Training and education.....	46

Target area:	WP 1 Infants							WP 2 Piglets							WP 3 Mice				
	1	2a	2b	2c	3a	3b	4a	4b	5	6a	6b	7	0	1	2	3	4	1	2
Preterm newborn							X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Term newborn	X	X	X	X	X	X							X	X				X	X
Delivery & antibiotics		X	X					X						X	X			X	
Pro- & prebiotics					X			X	X		X				X		X		X
Feeding regime & PN	X	X						X		X						X			
Milk composition				X			X	X		X				X		X			
Formula composition						X											X		
Immunity & infection	X	X		X	X	X	X				X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Gut & microbiota	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brain & neurological							X						X	X	X	X	X	X	



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

Guideline to synopses:

The purpose of each synopsis (maximum 2 pages) is to give internal participants and the public a brief overview of the contents in each subproject in the NEOMUNE research platform. In addition, the purpose is to identify relevant synergies among different subprojects. The synopses are dynamic and will be edited annually, as new research potentials and unforeseen challenges develop. As they serve as more detailed project plans, each synopsis has one or more supporting documents (e.g. research protocols, ethical approval protocols, PhD study plans, analytical protocols, NEOMUNE Part Project Agreements etc.). The work package coordinator is the responsible person for these supporting documents. The synopses contain only non-confidential information and will be available to the public and other NEOMUNE participants via the NEOMUNE website.

1. A brief title to show the intervention area and the species (infants, pigs, mice, other), and should as far as possible follow the structure of the original NEOMUNE application. Indicate which other WPs this sub-project acts to support and relate to. Indicate the person in the NEOMUNE Management Group (MG) that is your contact person. 1-2 lines.

2. List key academic personnel (alphabetically by first name) involved in project supervision, execution, analyses and publication (name, title, institution, mail address). Indicate the approximate time allocation from each participant over the project period (proportion of their full-time work allocated to the project - given in parenthesis). This shows the involvement of each listed participant from a minor supervisory/consultancy role (e.g. 5-10%), to major work allocation of that person's work time to that work package (e.g. 30-100%). 3-10 lines.

3. What are the main aim and the sub-aims? Which question(s) shall the sub-project answer? Be specific and focused, and give preferably aims that are measurable. 1-5 lines.

4. Brief scientific background, ending with a central scientific (biological) hypothesis that forms the basis for this sub-project. 5-8 lines.

5. Key (biological) endpoints and analytical methods used to obtain results (including use of specific laboratory equipment if necessary). 5-8 lines.

6. Expected results from the work package project. If possible, include the working title(s) for predicted publications from this subproject. 10-25 lines.

7. Estimate the time frame (put "x" into boxes) for execution of different parts of the sub-project (e.g. planning, sample collection, various analytical tasks, and publication). Be specific by editing the row text to suit the specific task. There may be more time periods for the same task. Add additional lines to the diagram if necessary. 7-15 lines.

8. The NEOMUNE funds pre-allocated to this sub-project (excl. overheads), as indicated in the application, or estimated from negotiations among the specific participant(s) and the NEOMUNE head of project or Management Group. 1 line.

9. A crude estimate of required additional co-funds (expenses not covered by NEOMUNE/ NEOMUNE partners). This estimate arises from predicted total use of personnel, analyses and publication to complete the sub-project. This is especially informative for subprojects for which NEOMUNE only cover a (small) part of the projects costs. 2-5 lines.

10. Indicate any special background or work conditions for the described work package sub-project, relevant to know for other NEOMUNE participants, the public, or the NEOMUNE Management Group, Governing Board (Strategic Advisory Board) or Scientific Advisory Board. Identify special work conditions, particular uncertainties or specific potentials for future development of this subproject. 5-10 lines.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 1.1: Mode of delivery and gut microbiota in term infants

<p>1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergies with WP 1.2b,1.3a,1.3b,1.6,2.2,3.1. MG contact: Dennis Nielsen</p>
<p>2. Key involved personnel, their institution and mail address (project leader + main study site underlined): Dennis Nielsen, Ass. Prof., Dept. Food Science, Univ. Copenhagen, dn@life.ku.dk (5%) <u>Karsten Kristiansen</u>, Prof., Dept. Biology, Univ. Copenhagen, kk@bio.ku.dk. (10%) Josefine Roswall, <u>Univ. Gothenburg and Halmstad Children's Hospital</u>, josefine.roswall@regionhallan.se (20%) Jovanna Dahlgren, Chief Physician, Dept. Pediatrics, <u>Univ. Gothenburg</u>, jovanna.dahlgren@vgregion.se (10%) Søren Sørensen, Prof., Dept. Biology, Univ. Copenhagen, sjs@bio.ku.dk (5%) Wang Jun, Prof., Beijing Genomics Institute, wangj@genomics.org.cn (5%)</p>
<p>3. Main aim / sub-aims:</p> <p>a) To document if delivery method influences infant gut microbiota colonization and composition, short term and more long term</p> <p>b) If a) is verified, to test if cesarean delivery results in a less diverse gut microbiota with less gene richness compared to vaginal delivery</p> <p>c) If a) is verified, to test if gut microbiota colonization, composition and gene richness is related to later obesity development, metabolic syndrome or impaired immunity.</p>
<p>4. Background and a central hypothesis:</p> <p>It is well-known that caesarean delivery is correlated to increased risk of impaired immunity, obesity and metabolic syndrome. Whether the increased risks are due to pre-operative antibiotic use before caesarean section (WP1.2b), due to other maternal risk factors predisposing to caesarean section, to postnatal nutrition (e.g. extent of breast-feeding) or to the caesarean section per se is not explored in detail. Mode of birth (caesarean, vaginal) is therefore hypothesized to exert long term influences on the infant gut microbiota, leading to impaired immunity and to produce excess growth. This hypothesis is supported by a recent study using only a small sample size (Jakobsson et al.; 2013, n = 9 and 15 for caesarean section and vaginal delivery, respectively) and 454/FLX-based 16S rRNA gene amplicon sequencing. This study found that infants born by caesarean section have lower gut microbiota diversity and moderately lower levels of some Th1-associated chemokines (CXCL10, CXCL11). Moreover, the vulnerability in outcomes after caesarian delivery may be related to specific genotypes.</p> <p><i>We hypothesize that delivery-associated gut colonization has long term effects on colonization and development of immunological and metabolic disorders. Subgroups of individuals, with specific genotypes, are more susceptible for altered gut microbiota patterns leading to impaired phenotypes.</i></p>
<p>5. Key analyses and methods:</p> <p>Fecal samples from infants and mothers at 0, 4 and at 12 months after birth are frozen at -80 °C (Halmstad Hospital, n=150 caesarean, n=320 vaginal). Food patterns are recorded. Metagenomic analyses (complete genome sequencing and SNPs for polymorphisms) will show how the infant gut microbiota colonization and development is influenced by delivery method, maternal gut microbiota, food patterns and antibiotics during the first year of life and how this relates to specific human genotypes.</p>
<p>6. Expected results:</p> <p>All vaginal delivered pairs are analyzed but no caesarean pairs are yet investigated. Within the coming year we will have an answer to the question if caesarean delivered children have a less diverse gut microbiota composition and lower gene richness and how this relates to weight development and immunity. In addition to microbial colonization of the gut, other factors such as less breast-feeding in mother-child pairs where caesarian delivery is performed or more overweight mothers asking for caesarean delivery possibly play a role here. Human DNA for candidate genes will be analyzed the coming 1.5 year and correlations to gut microbiota colonization, composition and gene richness will be carried out.</p>



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

7. Estimated time frame																								
Task	2013				2014				2015				2016				2017				2018			
Planning, protocol	x																							
Sample collection	x	x																						
Metagenomics	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x														
Metabolism/growth			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x														
Immunity parameters					x	x	x	x	x	x														
Genotype (in planning)							x	x	x	x	x	x												
Publication(s)										x	x	x	x	x	x	x								

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 1.3 mio DKK
 The amount covers metagenomics analyses in collaboration with Beijing Genomics Institute for this and potential other NEOMUNE projects. Significant co-funding from BGI is required (to be negotiated) and further funding is being sought.

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere: 2.5-3.5 mio DKK
 2013 ALF J Dahlgren 300,000 SEK, Region Halland 300,000 SEK, Svenska Läkaresällskapet 100,000 SEK
 2014 ALF J Dahlgren 300,000 SEK, Region Halland 300,000 SEK, Frimurare 100,000 SEK
 2015 ALF 100,000 SEK, Region Halland 300,000 SEK.
 Co-funding/other sources 0.9-1.9 mio DKK

10. Additional comments:

- All sample collection is carried out by 2013 and the main limitation is sample analysis capacity. The study is partly sponsored from other sources, but NEOMUNE provides supporting funds for microbiome analyses at BGI-Shenzhen and DNA analyses in Copenhagen.
- End-point data (weight development, immunity) etc. will be collected until 3 or 5 years of age
- The project is relevant for the NEOMUNE study parts (infants, pigs, mice) that investigate birth methods/exposure to microorganisms at and after birth, exposure to antibiotics around birth and study effects on gut colonization and immunity.
- The project provides bridging between the -omics analytical capacity at BGI also with other projects in NEOMUNE, particularly the studies being performed in China (WPs 1.3, 1.6). BGI is involved also in WP 2.3 in piglets on the epigenetic characterization of the gut responses to the first feed and microbiota (0.7 mio DKK funds allocated).
- Method(s) for human genotyping not yet fully decided on. Might involve SNP chipping, exome sequencing and low pass whole genome sequencing.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 1.2a: Breast-feeding and infections in term infants

1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergies with WP 1.1, 1.2b, 1.2c, 1.3b, 1.4a. MG: Per Sangild
2. Key involved personnel, their institution and mail address (project leader + main study site underlined): Steffen Husby, Prof., <u>Odense University Hospital</u> , <u>Steffen.Husby@rsyd.dk</u> (15%) Christian Mølgaard, Ass. Prof., NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, cm@life.ku.dk (5%) Nikolas Christensen, PhD stud., Odense University Hospital, xxx@kkk.dk (50%) Signe Bruun, PhD stud., Odense University Hospital, Signe.Bruun@rsyd.dk (50%) Niels Fisker, Physician, Odense University Hospital, niels.fisker@rsyd.dk (15%) Jens Søndergaard, Prof., Inst. Health Services, Odense University Hospital, xxx@kkk.dk (10%) Henrik Christensen, Ass. Prof, Odense University Hospital, xxx@kkk.dk (10%) Niels Wedderkopp, Physician, Inst. Regional Health Research, Odense University Hospital, xxx@kkk.dk (10%)
3. Main aim and sub-aims: a) To examine the pattern of infections in a big unselected cohort of Danish infants. b) To investigate the influence of diet, especially breast feeding, on infections during the first year of life. c) To investigate the influence of social status, number of siblings, use of day care and environmental smoking on infections during the first year of life.
4. Background and a central hypothesis: The early diet may among other factors have a critical role for early and later immunity, gut microbiota and infection resistance. Most information is available from compromised infants, and information from a standard population of Danish term infants is needed. We therefore established an unselected population-based cohort with about 3000 mothers and children, born year 2010-12 in Odense (Odense Child Cohort, OCC, www.odense.dk/subsites2/OdenseBornekohorte). OCC gives a unique possibility to follow and register infections, and possible determinants of infections, during the first year of life and also in later childhood. <i>We hypothesize that infections during infancy is associated with diet (e.g. breastfeeding versus formula feeding), age at introduction of complementary food, and social variables such as parents education, number of siblings, parental smoking and use of day care.</i>
5. Key analyses and methods: Blood samples and questionnaire data are obtained from mothers during pregnancy and from the child at birth, 3 and 18 months of age. Clinical information includes mode of delivery, vaccinations, antibiotics use and medical and hospital visits. Precise data on breast-feeding are obtained from the mothers by weekly SMS contact and health nurse visits. The SMS technology will also be used to obtain information on infections at the individual level. Social information including social status of parent, parental smoking, number of siblings and use of day care is obtained from the Odense Municipality Warehouse Database. Statistical relationships among later infections, mode of delivery, diet and antibiotics use at birth are analyzed by multivariate regression analyses.
6. Expected results: The infection pattern in term infants is mostly due to viral infections. The frequency of infections and hospital admissions depends on social factors including number of siblings, use of day care and parental smoking. Antibiotics use is mainly due to airway symptoms during the first year of life. Breastfeeding decreases the number of infections both in the first and second part of the first year of life.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013				2014				2015				2016				2017				2018			
Planning, protocol			x	x																				
Sample collection	x	x	x	x			x				x													
Analyses 1			x				x																	
Analyses 2			x				x																	
Analyses 3												x												
Analyses 4													x											
Publication(s)											x			x					x					

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 0.8 mio DKK

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere: 5.0 mio DKK
Partly from the Municipality of Odense.

10. Additional comments:

- OCC was established by Odense University Hospital and Odense Municipality in 2010. The two institutions support the continuous collection of data from the Cohort. Collected data from the OCC is stored in the OPEN (Odense Patient Exploratory Network) repository and can in the future be used by other researchers.
- Synergies with other NEOMUNE partners are expected in the area of microbiology and breast feeding in premature infants (WP1.1, 1.2b, 1.2c, 1.3b, 1.4a).



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 1.2b: Maternal antibiotics and term infant gut colonization

1. Related WPs, MG contacts: Synergies with WP 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1. MG: Gorm Greisen, Dennis Nielsen

2. Key involved personnel, their institution, mail address (project leader + main study site underlined):

Dennis S. Nielsen, Ass. Prof., Dept. Food Science, Univ Copenhagen, dn@food.ku.dk (10%, GM analyses)

Gitte Zachariassen, Physician, Odense University Hospital, Gitte.Zachariassen@rsyd.dk (15%)

Gorm Greisen, Prof., Neonatology, Copenhagen University Hospital, Gorm.Greisen@regionh.dk (5%)

Jan Stener Jørgensen, Ass. Prof. Odense University Hospital, Jan.Stener.Joergensen@rsyd.dk (5%)

Nana Hyldig, PhD stud., Odense University Hospital, Nana.Hyldig@rsyd.dk (15%)

Shamrulazhar Shamzir Kamal, PhD stud., Dept. Food Science, Univ. Copenhagen, shamrul@food.ku.dk (35%)

NN, midwife and clinical pharmacologist, Odense University Hospital, xxx@kkk.dk (18%)

3. Main aim and sub-aims:

To document if maternal antibiotics treatment during delivery affects term infant gut microbiota colonization and composition (short and long term). More specifically to document if maternal exposure to antibiotics (cefuroxim) during cesarean delivery influences a) the infant gut bacterial colonization and b) the gut microbiota antibiotic resistance. If influenced short term (10 days), then also long term effects (6 months) will be investigated.

4. Background and a central hypothesis:

Today it is recommended that mothers are given a single prophylactic dose (1500 mg) of cefuroxim shortly before delivery by cesarean section. Cefuroxim readily passes from mother to infant before the umbilical cord is cut. Due to low renal function at birth, it is expected that cefuroxim will not be fully cleared from the infant until after the first 24 h of life. The influence of very early exposure to antibiotics (cefuroxim) on infant gut microbiota is not known. Cefuroxim is known to give rise to bacterial antibiotic resistance.

We hypothesize that early life exposure to antibiotics provided to the mother influences infant gut microbiota colonization (short and long term) and the prevalence of gut microbiota-associated antibiotic resistant bacteria.

5. Key analyses and methods:

A total of 40 mothers scheduled for elective cesarean section will be recruited for the study at OUH during autumn/winter of 2013/2014. The mothers will be randomized and 20 mothers will receive the standard treatment of a prophylactic dose of cefuroxim shortly before cesarean section (group 1) and 20 mothers will receive cefuroxim immediately after umbilical cord clamping (group 2). Blood will be sampled 2-3 times during 24 hours from the infants in group 1 for pharmacokinetic determination of cefuroxim clearance. Fecal content will be sampled 10 days and depending on initial gut microbiota analysis also 6 months after birth from both groups of infants.

a) Cefuroxim clearance (blood) will be determined by the clinical pharmacological department at Aarhus University Hospital.

b) Total fecal DNA will be extracted and gut bacterial composition determined by tagged 16S rRNA gene targeted Illumina (MiSeq) based sequencing.

c) Presence and prevalence of key antibiotic resistance genes in total fecal DNA will determined using targeted qPCR.

6. Expected results:

Pharmacokinetic determination of cefuroxim clearance will reveal how long time after birth the antibiotics remain in the infant body. Gut microbiota analysis will reveal if exposure to antibiotics very early in life influences GM colonization and the prevalence of antibiotic resistance gene markers among the GM members (as determined after 10 days). If gut microbiota is influenced after 10 days, information on more long term gut microbiota composition prevalence of antibiotic resistance gene markers (6 months).



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

Expected publications:

- 1) Very early life exposure to cefuroxim influences infant gut microbiota colonization.
- 2) Very early life exposure to cefuroxim increases gut microbiota prevalence of antibiotic resistance gene markers.

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013		2014		2015	2016	2017	2018
Planning, protocol	x	x						
Sample collection			x	x				
Pharmacokinetics			x	x				
GM composition			x	x				
Antibiotic resistance gene markers				x	x			
Publication 1					x	x		
Publication 2						x	x	

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE:

OUH-based part of study (recruiting, sampling, pharmacokinetics): 0.2 mio DKK
 GM analysis (composition and antibiotic resistance gene markers): 0.15 mio DKK

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere: 1.5 mio DKK

In house staff contributions from the participating institutions; PhD-student Shamrulazhar Shamzir Kamal is carrying out main part of GM analysis and is funded from other sources, MARA-grant.

10. Additional comments:

- If the main hypothesis is proven and it is found that very early life exposure to cefuroxim influences gut microbiota colonization/composition, steps should be taken towards carrying out a new study including a larger cohort and with endpoints aiming to investigate the influence of the changed gut microbiota on long term immune system development.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 1.2c: Milk and immunity in children during chemotherapy

1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergies with WP 2.3, 1.6a. MG: Per Sangild
2. Key involved personnel, their institution, mail address (project leader + main study site underlined): Gunnar Jacobsen, director, Biofiber (colostrum), gja@damino.com (15%) Kjeld Schmiegelow, Prof., Copenhagen University Hospital, kjeld.schmiegelow@rh.regionh.dk (10%) Klaus Müller, MD, <u>Copenhagen University Hospital</u> , Klaus.Mueller@regionh.dk (15%) Malene Cilieborg, post doc, Clinical & Exp. Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, macilie@life.ku.dk (10%) Mathias Rathe, PhD stud., Odense University Hospital, Mathias.Rathe@rsyd.dk (50%) Peder Skov Wehner, Physician, Odense Univ. Hospital, Peder.Skov.Wehner@rsyd.dk (10%) Per Sangild, Prof., <u>Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, NEXS</u> , Univ. Copenhagen, psa@life.ku.dk (10%) René Shen, PhD stud., Clinical & Experimental Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, rlsh@life.ku.dk (30%) <u>Steffen Husby</u> , Prof., Odense University Hospital, Steffen.Husby@ouh.rsyd.dk (15%) Tim Hansen, Biofiber, thh@damino.com (10%)
3. Main aim and sub-aims: a) To test if a diet of bovine colostrum will improve immunity and gut function in children on chemotherapy. b) To support the studies in children with piglet studies on different colostrum and chemotherapy regimens.
4. Background and a central hypothesis: Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) is the most common form of childhood cancer. Cure rates are improving, but the intensity of treatment is limited by toxicity. The toxicity inherent to antineoplastic drugs is often the dose limiting factor rather than their actual antitumor properties or pharmacological effect. In the case of ALL, 2-5% of patients die from treatment related complications, mostly due to therapy-induced toxicity and immune suppression. All actively proliferating tissues are affected by antineoplastic drugs. The rapid proliferation of intestinal mucosal cells makes the gut particular vulnerable to chemotherapy affecting its absorptive, endocrinological, immunological and barrier functions. Gastrointestinal toxicity induced by chemotherapy is likely to play a key role in the pathogenesis of treatment-related complications in chemotherapy treated children. Since the intestinal epithelium is in constant interaction with the gut microbiota it is essential for the maintenance of the immunological balance that the epithelial barrier is intact. Chemotherapy-induced toxicity may disturb this balance through damaging effects on the epithelium leading to translocation of bacterial components. This may result in both infections and systemic inflammatory responses with impact on post-chemotherapy immune recovery. Treatment with broad-spectrum antibiotics is required to reduce the risk of infections, but it is largely unknown if dietary factors may improve recovery from the cancer itself (e.g. leukemia) and chemotherapy-induced gut and systemic complications. The first milk after birth, colostrum, is from nature designed to prepare the immune-compromised newborn mammal to adapt to life ex utero, including the rapid colonization with billions of bacteria along body epithelial surfaces. The child with ALL, further immune-compromised by chemotherapy treatment, is an extreme case of immune deficiency. <i>We hypothesize that bovine colostrum given shortly before and after chemotherapy may protect against gastrointestinal toxicity and thereby reduce associated complications such as infections and inflammation.</i>
5. Key analyses and methods: a) In the ALL patient studies, we investigate the effect of bovine colostrum on infections, gastrointestinal toxicity and systemic inflammation. The study is a randomized, double-blind placebo-controlled clinical study at the two hospital sites. Primary outcomes are days with fever, neutropenia and sepsis. Secondary outcomes are days given antibiotics and in intensive care, as well as clinical and paraclinical measures of gut toxicity and systemic inflammation (faecal calprotectin, blood citrulline, IgA, albumine, neutrophils, LPS). Finally, the faecal gut microbiota in children under chemotherapy is investigated.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

b) In piglet studies, newborn piglets are treated with clinically-relevant doses of chemotherapy (e.g. doxorubicin) and immunity parameters (cytokines, inflammatory lesions, hematology) and gut functions (permeability, enzymes, histology, gut microbiota) are investigated. Subsequently, chemotherapy-treated piglets are fed with varying doses of bovine colostrum during chemotherapy and endpoints are measured.

6. Expected results:

We expect that ingestion of sufficient amounts of bovine colostrum will improve parameters of gut, structure and function and the clinical responses to chemotherapy in both children and piglets.

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Planning of exp., ethical protocols	x																			
Part a) execution, Copenhagen/Odense			x	x	x	x														
Part b) execution, piglet studies	x	x	x	x																
Part a) lab analyses							x	x	x											
Part b) lab analyses					x	x	x													
Part a) publication phase											x	x	x							
Part b) publication phase							x	x	x	x										

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: No specific NEOMUNE funds are allocated

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere:

4.5 mio DKK (university PhD scholarships, Rene Shen, Mathias Rathe, grant from Børnecancerfonden and the Odense University Hospital research fund, involvement of hospital personnel in Copenhagen and Odense). The industrial partner Biofiber Damino supports the work packages focusing on the use of bovine colostrum product in NEOMUNE (WP 1.3c, 2.3, 1.6a) with 1.0 mio DKK in total plus bovine colostrum products.

10. Additional comments:

- The project was added to the NEOMUNE research platform 1st August 2013. The project contains scientific overlap and synergy with NEOMUNE goals because it aims to improve immunity and gut functions in an immune-compromised human patient population in early life. Further, the project has marked overlap with other NEOMUNE projects in involved personnel, hospital study sites, endpoints and the involvement of the same industrial partner (bovine colostrum supplier, Biofiber). NEOMUNE benefits by attracting synergistic scientific expertise and expanding the clinical implications of similar diet interventions.
- The project is subject to a special collaboration agreement between the participating NEOMUNE partners (Copenhagen University Hospital, Odense University Hospital, Biofiber, Univ. Copenhagen). This agreement, the partner institutions and the scientific goals and endpoints share overlaps with WP 1.6a.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 1.3a: Probiotics for term infants

<p>1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergy with WP 1.1, 1.2a, 1.3b, 1.4b, 1.6, 2.2, 2.4, 4.3. MG: Per Sangild</p>																																																																																																																																																																		
<p>2. Key involved personnel, their institution and mail address (project leader + main study site underlined): Bo Lönnerdal, Prof., Univ. of California, Davies, US, <u>bllonnerdal@ucdavis.edu</u> (5%) Olle Hernell, Prof., Umeå University, <u>Olle.Hernell@pediatri.umu.se</u> (5%) <u>Janet Håkansson</u>, Arla Foods, <u>jahak@arlafoods.com</u> (50%) Mette Bach Christensen, Arla Foods, <u>mette.bach.christensen@arlafoods.com</u> (5%) Preben Bødstrup Rasmussen, Arla Foods, <u>preben.bodstrup.rasmussen@arlafoods.com</u> (5%) Xiaonan Li, Phys., <u>Nanjing Medical Univ., Affiliated Children's Hosp., Nanjing</u>, <u>xiaonan6189@yahoo.com</u> (20%) Yongmei Peng, Physician, <u>Children's Hospital of Fudan University, Shanghai</u>, <u>ympeng99@yahoo.com.cn</u> (20%) Yanqi Li, post doc., Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, Univ. Copenhagen, <u>yli@life.ku.dk</u> (5%)</p>																																																																																																																																																																		
<p>3. Main aim and sub-aims: To evaluate the sensitivity to infections after feeding with an infant formula containing probiotics as compared to an infant formula without probiotics. Target population for intervention and control groups: Healthy full-term infants of mothers who could not or resigned completely from breast-feeding at age 14 ± 3 days. Breast-fed term infants act as reference group. All groups, intervention, control and breast fed, are n = 200.</p>																																																																																																																																																																		
<p>4. Background and a central hypothesis: The main goal of infant formula development is to approach the composition and functionality of breast milk to give formula-fed infants as small a disadvantage as possible compared to breast-fed infants. Breast-fed infants have been shown to have a gut microbiota more dominated by bifidobacteria and lactobacilli compared to formula-fed infants, who have a more diverse microbiota, containing <i>Bacteroides</i>, bifidobacteria, staphylococci, <i>Escherichia coli</i> and clostridia. These observed differences have been suggested to contribute to the lower incidence of infections, allergies and gastrointestinal disturbances in breast-fed compared with formula-fed infants, probably via a maturational effect on the gut and systemic immune systems. If this is the case, it seems reasonable to develop infant formulas to support the establishment of a microbiota, which resembles that of breast-fed infants, for example by adding probiotics. <i>We hypothesize that addition of probiotics will reduce infections in formula-fed infants, via improved composition of their gut microbiota and immunity and in this way make them more similar to breast-fed infants.</i></p>																																																																																																																																																																		
<p>5. Key analyses and methods: The study is a randomized, double-blind, controlled trial with clinical recording of infections episodes (gastrointestinal and upper and lower respiratory infections).</p>																																																																																																																																																																		
<p>6. Expected results: Reduced incidence of infectious episodes (gastrointestinal and upper and lower respiratory infections) in infants fed with infant formula containing probiotics compared with standard formula.</p>																																																																																																																																																																		
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NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 1.3b: Bioactive milk formula for term infants

<p>1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergy to WP1.2a,1.3a,1.4b,1.6a,2.4,4.3. MG contact: Per Sangild</p>																																																																																																																																																																																											
<p>2. Key involved personnel, their institution and mail address (project leader + main study site underlined): Bo Lönnerdal, Prof., Univ. of California, Davies, US, <u>bllonnerdal@ucdavis.edu</u> (5%) Olle Hernell, Prof., Umeå University, <u>Olle.Hernell@pediatri.umu.se</u> (5%) <u>Janet Håkansson</u>, Arla Foods, <u>jahak@arlafoods.com</u> (50%) Mette Bach Christensen, Arla Foods, <u>mette.bach.christensen@arlafoods.com</u> (5%) Preben Bødstrup Rasmussen, Arla Foods, <u>preben.bodstrup.rasmussen@arlafoods.com</u> (5%) Xiaonan Li, Phys., <u>Nanjing Medical Univ., Affiliated Children's Hosp., Nanjing</u>, <u>xiaonan6189@yahoo.com</u> (20%) Yongmei Peng, Physician, <u>Children's Hospital of Fudan University, Shanghai</u>, <u>ympeng99@yahoo.com.cn</u> (20%) Yanqi Li, post doc., Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, Univ. Copenhagen, <u>yli@life.ku.dk</u> (5%)</p>																																																																																																																																																																																											
<p>3. Main aim and sub-aims: To evaluate effects on the immune system after feeding with an infant formula containing an improved Whey Protein Concentrate (WPC). Target population for intervention and control groups: Healthy full-term infants of mothers who could not or resigned completely from breast-feeding at infant age 14 ± 3 days. Breast-fed term infants act as reference group. All groups, intervention, control and breast fed, are n = 200.</p>																																																																																																																																																																																											
<p>4. Background and a central hypothesis: Specific milk proteins have been demonstrated to have antimicrobial activities and can prevent diarrhea in small children. It has also been shown that infants fed with formula with added WPC have reduced frequency of acute otitis media compared with infants fed with a standard formula. <i>We hypothesize that addition of an improved WPC will reduce infections in formula-fed infants, improve their health and make them more similar to breast-fed infants.</i></p>																																																																																																																																																																																											
<p>5. Key analyses and methods: The study is a randomized, double-blind, controlled trial with clinical recording of infection episodes (gastrointestinal and upper and lower respiratory infections).</p>																																																																																																																																																																																											
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<p>8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 5.0 mio DKK Financed entirely by ARLA Foods, no funds from DSF.</p>																																																																																																																																																																																											
<p>9. Estimated budget from elsewhere: 2.0 mio DKK (local doctors and hospital infrastructure). 1.0 mio DKK from synergy with NEOMUNE partners (faecal and plasma sample analyses).</p>																																																																																																																																																																																											



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

10. Additional comments:

- The study outline is published at ClinicalTrials.com. The exact nature of the intervention and the details of the recorded endpoints are kept confidential to the public and to NEOMUNE partners not involved in the study until the results of the study will be published.
- This project is run entirely by the sponsoring industry partner but association with the NEOMUNE network is aimed to provide win-win at many levels. Scientific synergy with other NEOMUNE projects (see point 1) can be reached by sharing/collaborating on:
 - 1) Protocol formation for nutritional studies in Chinese hospital settings (WP 1.6a).
 - 2) Experience in performing clinical studies in China (WP 1.6a, 1.6b, 1.4b).
 - 3) Experience with Danish-Chinese partnerships, scientific, legal, ethical etc. (WP 1.6b, 1.4b, 4.3).
 - 4) Evidence for use of probiotics in newborn infants across the world (WP 1.5, 1.6b).
 - 5) Synergy and information from animal probiotic studies (WP 2.2, 3.2).
 - 6) Possible shared analytical capacity for gut microbiota analyses (WP 1.1, BGI Shenzhen).
 - 7) Possible shared capacity for blood immunity analyses (WP 1.2a, SDU Denmark).
 - 8) Increased networking with Chinese partner institutions and stakeholders (WP 4.3).
 - 9) Joining the NEOMUNE scientific meetings for science and partnerships (WP 4.2).



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 1.4a: Donor human milk to preterm infants

<p>1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergies with WP 1.4b, 1.6a, 1.7, 2.3, 2.4. MG contact: Per Sangild</p>
<p>2. Key involved personnel, their institution and mail address (project leader + main study site underlined): Elisabeth Kooi, Physician, University Medical Center Groningen, e.kooi@umcg.nl (10%) <u>Hans van Goudoever, Prof., VU Univ. Medical Ct./Acad. Medical Ct, Amsterdam, h.vangoudoever@vumc.nl (5%)</u> H. LaFeber, Prof., VU University Medical Center Amsterdam, hn.lafeber@vumc.nl (5%) Ineke van Vliet, Physician, VU University Medical Center Amsterdam, I.vanvliet@vumc.nl (5%) Jan Koper, Physician, University Medical Center Groningen, j.f.koper@umcg.nl (10%) Letty van Toledo, Physician, Academic Medical Center Amsterdam, l.vantolledo@amc.uva.nl (10%) Marijn Vermeulen, Physician, Sophia Children's Hospital Rotterdam, m.j.vermeulen@erasmusmc.nl (5%) Marita de Waard, PhD stud., VU University Medical Center Amsterdam, ma.dewaard@vumc.nl (30%) Stefanie Kouwenhoven, PhD stud., VU Univ. Medical Center Amsterdam, s.kouwenhoven@vumc.nl (5%) Viola Christmann, Physician, Sint Radboud Hospital Nijmegen, v.christmann@cukz.umcn.nl (10%) Willemijn Corpeleijn, PhD stud, VU Univ. Medical Center Amsterdam, we.corpeleijn@vumc.nl (5%)</p>
<p>3. Main aim and sub-aims Aim: To determine whether (supplemental) human donor milk has beneficial effects (in terms of reduction of infectious episodes and mortality) when compared to (supplemental) preterm formula during the first 10 days of life in very low birth weight (VLBW) infants. Sub-aims: To determine if early use of donor milk results in a more diverse intestinal colonization, earlier attainment of full enteral feeding, reduced number of days on parenteral nutrition, similar growth rate, similar bone density and improved Bayley Scores of Infant Development III at 2 years, compared with infants fed preterm formula.</p>
<p>4. Background and a central hypothesis: Feeding own mother's milk (OMM) to preterm neonates is thought to have important beneficial effects for VLBW infants when compared to formula feeding. Short-term effects seem to include a reduction in the incidence of sepsis and necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC). Neonatal sepsis, occurring in 20-60% of VLBW infants, is a major contributor to neonatal morbidity and mortality and compromised long term neurodevelopmental outcome. Unfortunately, it has proven to be very difficult to provide OMM within the first few hours and days of life as the onset of lactation is often delayed after preterm delivery. <i>We hypothesize that a diet completely consisting of human milk (OMM and/or donor milk) during the first 10 days of life reduces the incidence of sepsis/NEC and/or mortality in VLBW infants.</i></p>
<p>5. Key analyses and methods: Blinded randomized controlled multicenter study, conducted in 5 Dutch hospitals. Infants with a birth weight <1500 grams will be included after obtaining informed consent. The intervention starts when the first enteral nutrition (MEF) is given according to the local protocol. If milk of the own mother is available this will always be used first in both groups. If milk of the own mother is not available, or the volume is not sufficient, infants in group A will receive donor milk and infants in group B will receive infant formula. The study intervention ends at day 10 of life and OMM or donor milk will not be fortified during these days, to avoid introduction of cow's milk protein before day 10 of life. Data on the primary and secondary endpoints will be collected until 60 d of age. We consider a reduction in the combined incidence of serious infections and/or NEC and/or death from 40% in the control group to 25% in the donor milk group to be clinically relevant.</p>
<p>6. Expected results: Data will be collected on the incidence of the combined outcome of serious late-onset infections (sepsis/meningitis and NEC) and/or death occurring between age 72 hours and 60 days. Additionally, the</p>



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

composition of fecal microbiota (first stool and stool at days 10 and 30), time to full enteral feeding, days on parenteral nutrition, weekly growth rate (body weight, length and head circumference), bone density by ultra sound and Bayley Scores of Infant Development III at 2 years of age will be determined. We will determine differences in these outcomes between VLBW infants fed with a diet completely consisting of human milk and VLBW infants (partly) fed with formula during the first 10 days of life.

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2011				2012				2013				2014				2015				2016			
Planning, protocol	x	x	x	x																				
Sample collection					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								
Data analyses															x	x								
Analyses feces									x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								
Publication(s)																	x	x						

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 1.0 mio DKK

Also used to support participation and consulting in WPs 1.4b, WP 1.6a and WP 1.6b.

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere: 0.8 mio €

Mead Johnson Nutritional.

10. Additional comments:

- There is important scientific synergy to a number of other NEOMUNE projects on feeding preterm infants or preterm pigs (see section 1). As such, there is a possibility to make use of shared analytical capacity and/or knowledge sharing in the areas of gut microbiota, immunity, metabolism and brain-related endpoints. Possible analyses of samples within the NEOMUNE network will be determined after completion of the intervention studies.
- The Amsterdam group has intensive experience on nutrition research in preterm infants and in using pigs as models for infants. The leader of the Amsterdam group is a central opinion leader for nutrition in preterm infants via ESPGHAN. Central role in leading WP 1.4b.
- The Amsterdam group is important in planning the NEOMUNE intervention studies on preterm infants in China and is already leading infant nutrition studies in China.
- The Amsterdam group may be important as a training site for researchers from elsewhere in NEOMUNE, including WP 1.7.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 1.4b: Database of feeding preterm infants

1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergies with WP 1.4-6, MG contacts: Per Sangild, Gorm Greisen

2. Key involved personnel, institution and mail address (project leader + main study site underlined):

Aiping Lu, Physician, Shenzhen Luohu People's Hospital, lhyylap@163.com (5%)
Aloka Patel, Physician, Rush Medical Center, Chicago, Aloka_Patel@rush.edu (5%)
Chunyi Zhang, Physician, Guangdong Prov. Women and Children's Hospital, chunyi.1224@163.com (5%)
Frank Bloomfield, Prof., University of Auckland, f.bloomfield@auckland.ac.nz (5%)
Gorm Greisen, Prof., Neonatology, Copenhagen University Hospital, Gorm.Greisen@regionh.dk (5%)
Hans van Goudoever, Prof., VU Amsterdam, Acad. Medical Centre, h.vangoudoever@vumc.nl (5%)
Janet Berrington, Chief Physician., Newcastle Neonat Service Hosp, j.e.berrington@newcastle.ac.uk (5%)
Jiaping Mei, Physician, Shenzhen Women and Children's Hospital(s), mjp104478@163.com (10%)
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Yanwei Liu, Physician, The First Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen Univ., zhaa97@163.com (5%)
Zhongqian He, Physician, Shenzhen Nanshan People's Hospital, porplus@126.com (5%)
Zhu Yanna, Ass. Prof., Maternal and Child Health, Sun Yat-sen University, zhuyn3@mail.sysu.edu.cn (15%)

3. Main aim and sub-aims:

Aim: To provide insight in nutritional practices and use of anti-/probiotics in preterm infants < 1500 grams in various hospitals and multiple countries around the world. This baseline information will then constitute the basis for intervention studies in the near future.

Sub-aims: 1) to determine possible associations between nutritional practices and clinical outcomes. 2) to relate different practices to biological and cultural factors (in connection with WP 1.7); 3) To calculate actual energy and protein intake and to compared this with (local) recommendations; 4) To determine changes in feeding practices over time.

4. Background and central hypotheses:

Poor nutrition and impaired growth of premature infants is associated with adverse consequences in the long term. Over the last decades knowledge on nutrition of preterm infants has accumulated and clinical guidelines on nutritional requirements have been regularly revised. Nevertheless, the exact nutritional needs of VLBW infants remain uncertain. In addition, extra-uterine growth restriction is still the rule rather than the exception in VLBW infants and is associated with impaired neurocognitive development later in life.

We hypothesize that 1) the time to achieve full enteral feeding (TFF, in this study set at 120 mL/kg/d) differs widely among hospitals, and variation in TFF is associated with type of diet and antibiotics use; 2) infants in units that achieve enteral feeding 120mL/kg/day earlier achieve higher body weight at the end of follow-up when corrected for GA and weight at birth; 3) differences in feeding practice is not significantly associated with differences in major neonatal morbidities.

5. Key analyses and methods:



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

Collection of retrospective and prospective data from 17 hospitals worldwide into a web-based database. The participating hospitals will enter the data of eligible infants from 1 January 2011 to 15 September 2013, retrospectively, and from 16 September 2013 to 15 September 2014, prospectively. Formation of the web-based database is led by Marita de Waard and Hans van Goudoever. Marita and Yanqi Li will lead the communication with hospitals, collection of data, and data analyses.

6. Expected results:

The database collects data from preterm infants <1500 g from the first day of birth to 37 weeks gestational age or discharge, whichever comes first, in the 17 participating hospitals. The data include timing and composition of parenteral and enteral nutrition, growth, timing and determination of administered antibiotics and probiotics, protein and energy intake, incidence of NEC stage II or III, duration of admission in hospital and maternal data.

Each parameter will be compared among hospitals to investigate whether they differ and correlations among parameters will be done to identify relationships between nutritional and –biotics practices and clinical outcomes. The observational data will provide indirect evidence for the optimal feeding regimen and will constitute a basis for identifying the most important variables that affect clinical practices in different parts of the world.

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013			2014			2015			2016			2017		
Planning, database development	x	x	x												
Data entry			x	x	x	x									
Data analyses in each hospital						x	x	x							
Overall collective data analyses							x	x	x	x					
Publication(s), individual hospital*							x	x	x						
Collective overall publication(s)*									x	x	x				

* Data are allowed to be analyzed in individual hospitals for their internal use or publishing on local or international journals. To retain the novelty of the overall collective data, comparison of data among different hospitals is not allowed until after the publication of the overall collective data.

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 0.4 mio DKK

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere: PhD/post doc salaries (3 yrs, 30%, Marita, Yanqi): 0.9 mio DKK
Support from local hospital sites (man power to collect data, 16 x 5% salary): 0.5 mio DKK

10. Additional comments:

- The personnel who perform the data entry are provided by each participating hospitals.
- The data base work is also instrumental in letting people come together and discuss the rationale for the clinical procedures taking place at different hospitals and in different countries.
- Regarding the authorship for future collective publications, we propose that we include everyone who contributes to the database work as the author. On the publication, the names of 1-3 junior authors (who contribute the most) are shown and the rest is shown as the Database group. An author list allowing 50 names with an alphabetical ordering is used to specify the Database group, and in this way every author can be indexed in pubmed.
- Base on this database work, we are discussing with SYSU about further collaborations to 1) follow-up the growth and brain development of infants recruited in this database from selected hospitals (e.g. FWCH) for up to two years; 2) investigate whether different feeding practices for preterm infants among different hospitals in east and west are related to cultural factors. These two side-projects are at very preliminary stage and depend on whether we can get extra budget. Zhu Yanna and her colleagues at SYSU aim for applying Chinese funds in 2014 in collaboration with NEOMUNE.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 1.5: Probiotics, feeding and NEC in preterm infants

<p>1. WP (related WPs, MG contact): WPs 1.4b, 1.6a, 1.7; 2.2, 3.1, 3.2. MG contact: Gorm Greisen</p>
<p>2. Key involved personnel, institutions, mail address (project leader + main study site underlined): Elisabeth Lyore, Physician, Neonatology, Copenhagen University Hospital, elisabeth.lyore@regionh.dk (10%) <u>Gorm Greisen</u>, Prof., Neonatology, Copenhagen University Hospital, greisen@rh.dk (10%) Irina Lambæk, Physician, Neonatology, Copenhagen University Hospital, irinakirill@hotmail.com (10%) Karen Krogfelt, Prof., Dept. Microbiology, Statens Serum Institut, kak@ssi.dk (5%) Sandra Meinich Petersen, Phd stud., Copenhagen University Hospital, sandrameinich@gmail.com (60%)</p>
<p>3. Main aim and sub-aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To examine the periodicity of the NEC rate at Copenhagen University Hospital 2. To describe the epidemiology of NEC at the national level 3. To describe the association between gut microbiota and NEC 4. To examine the effect of routine use of probiotics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. on the rate of NEC b. on the fecal microbiota 5. To develop early diagnostic tools to discriminate simple feeding intolerance from early NEC.
<p>4. Background and a central hypothesis:</p> <p>NEC is one of the four major neonatal morbidities in preterm infants. NEC has high mortality and carries a high risk of long term consequences in the form of short bowel syndrome and neurological deficit. NEC is probably caused partly by too aggressive enteral feeding and bacterial overgrowth. Clinically, it is difficult to balance the risk of NEC with the nutritional needs of the small, preterm infant.</p> <p><i>We hypothesize that:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>The incidence and mortality of NEC is stable in absolute terms but decreasing when corrected for gestational age and weight at birth</i> b) <i>The use of probiotics is associated with lower risk of NEC and probably with a 'better' gut microflora</i> c) <i>A composite index of clinical and biochemical biomarkers is useful to discriminate simple feeding intolerance from early NEC</i>
<p>5. Key analyses and methods:</p> <p>Collection of routinely recorded clinical data. Re-assessment of clinical X-rays. Access to local and national databases. Statistical analysis. DNA analysis of stool from cohorts of preterm infants from Copenhagen and Newcastle. Prospective study of preterm infants at high risk of NEC.</p>
<p>6. Expected results:</p> <p>Confirmation or rejection of hypotheses (A-C)</p>



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013				2014				2015				2016				2017				2018			
1+2+4a. Data analysis			x	x																				
1+2+4a Publication					x	x																		
3+4b DNA analysis					x	x																		
3+4b Data analysis							x	x																
3+4b Publication									x	x														
5. Data collection					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x												
5. Data analysis																x								
5. Publication																x	x							
Publication(s)							3			2						2+								

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE:

1.2 mio DKK (0.67 MD PhD + tuition + annum)

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere:

0.7 mio DKK (analytical costs 0.3, contribution from senior researchers 0.4). Additional funds will be required to perform all the indicated tasks and further support will be applied for (e.g. task 5).

10. Additional comments:

- This work package has synergies with ongoing projects at Copenhagen University Hospital and Statens Serum Institute, as well as collects new data from patients at Copenhagen University Hospital.
- The depth of the gut microbiota analyses (various levels of conventional and/or molecular techniques) will be decided upon depending on the quality of the samples collected in relation to the hypothesis and the funding available at the time of sample collection completion. Collaboration with other partners will be added as judged appropriate (BGI Shenzhen, Newcastle, Univ. Copenhagen).
- The data collected may influence the possible choice and the mode of probiotic interventions for preterm infants in WP 1.6b.
- The key institution is part of WP 1.4b (data base project) and part of this WP will relate to observations collected for the overall international data base (NEC, probiotics use, antibiotics).



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 1.6a: Minimal enteral colostrum for preterm infants

1. WP (related WPs, MG contact person): Synergies to WPs 1.4a,2.3. MG contacts: Per Sangild, Gorm Greisen

2. Key involved personnel, their institution and mail address (project leader + main study site underlined):

Gorm Greisen, Prof., Neonatology, Copenhagen University Hospital, Gorm.Greisen@regionh.dk (10%)

Gunnar Jørgensen, director, Biofiber (colostrum product), gja@damino.com (15%)

Hans van Goudoever, Prof. Vrei Univ. Amsterdam Medical Center, h.vangoudoever@vumc.nl (5%)

Per Sangild, Prof., Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, psa@life.ku.dk (10%)

Rene Shen, PhD stud., Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, rlsh@life.ku.dk

Sandra Meinich Petersen, PhD stud., Copenhagen Univ. Hospital, sandrameinich@gmail.com (30%)

Tim Hansen, Biofiber, thh@damino.com (5%)

Xuqiang Ye, Physician, Foshan Women and Children's Hospital, Foshan, China, 164005455@qq.com (30%)

Yanna Zhu, Ass. Prof., Dept. Maternal & Child Health, Sun Yat-sen Univ., China, zhuyn3@mail.sysu.edu.cn (5%)

Yanqi Li, post doc, Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, yli@life.ku.dk (10%)

3. Main aim and sub-aims:

a) To investigate the safety, tolerability and preliminary effects of bovine colostrum, used as the first enteral diet for preterm infants at 1000-1800 g body weight.

b) To assess the feasibility of study procedures, including recruitment rates, parental consent, adherence, sample collection, clinical routines, observing adverse effects.

c) To facilitate the determination of the primary endpoint and sample size for a future larger randomized, controlled trial with bovine colostrum administration.

d) To perform a randomized, controlled trial investigating bovine colostrum versus donor milk or formula.

4. Background and a central hypothesis:

Minimal enteral nutrition (MEN) is a widely used method where small volumes of milk are fed within the first few days after birth with the purpose to promote gut maturation and to supplement nutrients and energy. It is assumed that MEN feedings allow more rapid advancement to full enteral feeding (EN, e.g 120-160 ml/kg/d) and weaning from parenteral nutrition (PN). It remains unclear what milk diet is best when mother's own milk is not available. Mother's milk is superior to infant formula in promoting feeding tolerance, body growth, intestinal function, and NEC resistance in preterm infants. Feeding with human donor milk is also believed to be beneficial, relative to formula, although this pasteurized milk obtained from mothers later in lactation may be less beneficial, relative to the first mother's milk, the so-called 'colostrum'. Maturation and NEC-protective effects of bovine colostrum have been documented in preterm pigs when bovine colostrum is used as the first diet after birth.

We hypothesize that bovine colostrum, used as MEN for preterm infants, is safe and helps to provide nutrients and improve gut maturation in preterm infants, when enough mother's milk is not available.

5. Key analyses and methods

Phase a: Pilot study to test safety/tolerability of bovine colostrum, and feasibility of study procedures (n=20).

Phase b: Randomized controlled study, fully powered to detect differences in primary endpoints (n≈150)

Phase a will be run both at Copenhagen University Hospital and at Foshan Woman's and Children's Hospital.

Study site(s) for phase b is to be decided. Diet interventions for a maximum of 10 days. Control group: Donor milk or infant formula supplemented to mother's own milk. Intervention group: Bovine colostrum supplemented to mother's milk or infant formula as needed.

6. Expected results

We expect to document whether bovine colostrum can be used as a beneficial first enteral diet for preterm infants that have limited or no access to mother's own milk. Results include clinical neonatal outcomes (time to



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

full feeding, feeding intolerance, combined incidence of serious infections/NEC, days of hospitalization, anthropometry data, days to regain birth weight, days on PN, and stool characteristics) as well as paraclinical outcomes (plasma citrulline, lactase activity, intestinal permeability, fecal microbiota composition, and fecal bacterial fermentation.

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013			2014			2015			2016			2017		
Planning of exp., ethical protocols	x	x	x												
Phase a) execution, Copenhagen				x	x	x									
Phase a) execution, Foshan				x	x	x									
Laboratory analyses, Copenhagen							x	x	x						
Laboratory analyses, Foshan							x	x	x						
Publication from both phase a)										x	x				
Planning of experiments, phase b)							x	x							
Phase b) execution, Copenhagen (?)										x	x	x	x		
Phase b) execution, Foshan (?)										x	x	x	x		
Laboratory analyses, Copenhagen (?)													x	x	x
Laboratory analyses, Foshan (?)													x	x	x
Publication from phase b) (?)														x	x

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE:

Phase a) 0.6 mio DKK (PhD, post doc salaries, Yanqi Li, Sandra Meinich)

Phase b) 1.0 mio DKK (PhD, post doc salaries, Yanqi Li, Sandra Meinich)

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere:

Phase a) 0.6 mio DKK (Zhu Yanna, Yanqi Li, PhD students, MSc students, hospital personnel)

Phase b) 1.0 mio DKK (Zhu Yanna, Yanqi Li, PhD students, MSc students, hospital personnel)

10. Additional comments:

- Ethical approval of the studies will be applied for in both Denmark and China. The exact planning of Phase b will depend on the results from Phase a. If results from Phase a are not promising, then Phase b will be cancelled.
- A large effort is involved in securing that the product, powered bovine colostrum, can meet current legislation for use as infant formula. The investigators work with Biofiber to secure this.
- Very close collaboration between Copenhagen University Hospital and Foshan Women's and Children's Hospital, China.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 1.6b: Probiotics for preterm infants

<p>1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergy with WP 1.3a, 1.4b, 1.5, 2.2, 3.2. MG contact: Gorm Greisen</p>
<p>2. Key involved personnel, their institution, mail address (project leader + main study site underlined): Dorthe Eskesen, Chr. Hansen, DKDOE@chr-hansen.com (5%) <u>Gorm Greisen, Prof. Neonatology, Copenhagen University Hospital</u>, Gorm.Greisen@regionh.dk (10%) Hans van Goudoever, Prof., Vrei Univ. Amsterdam Medical Center, h.vangoudoever@vumc.nl (5%) Jiaping Mei, Physician, Shenzhen Maternal and Children's Hospital, mjp104478@gmail.com (5%) Per Torp Sangild, Prof., Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, psa@life.ku.dk (5%) Sandra Meinich Petersen, Physician, Copenhagen University Hospital, sandrameinich@gmail.com (20%)</p>
<p>3. Main aim and sub-aims: To plan and possibly initiate a large-scale randomized clinical trial in newborn infants with probiotics in China. a) To explore the ability of Chinese hospitals and their interest b) To develop a protocol c) To organize the trial</p>
<p>4. Background and a central hypothesis: Probiotics have been shown to reduce the incidence of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) and overall mortality in infants with birth <1500 g and/or gestational age <32 weeks. This has been demonstrated in systematic meta-analysis covering more than 15 randomized trials and more than 2,500 infants. Several large trials are at present awaiting conclusions. While probiotic use in clinical routine is far from universal, its use is increasing, and a standard large-scale placebo-controlled trial runs the risk of becoming ethically difficult within such a trial's lifetime. However, there are several problems and questions that remain unanswered before use of probiotics can be recommended as part of standard clinical care for preterm infants. In previous studies, many different probiotic strains, or combinations of strains, have been used in many different concentrations. In most trials, probiotics have not been given during the first days of life and there may or may not be an advantage in allowing spontaneous bacterial colonization take place prior to introduction of probiotics. Finally, the interactions between probiotic effects and the timing, dose and type of antibiotics given to preterm infants have not been investigated. Clearly, this WP cannot answer all these important questions. The choice of intervention in this WP shall, after careful evaluation of a) already ongoing international trials, b) current practice at NEOMUNE hospitals (WP 4.1b), and c) supporting evidence from NEOMUNE animal model studies (WP 2.2 and WP 3.2), be built on the following hypotheses: 2. <i>The clinical effects of 10^9 and 10^{10} CFU per day do not differ.</i> 3. <i>Initiation of probiotics administration on day one, prior to the spontaneous colonization of the gut improves the clinical outcome.</i> 4. <i>The clinical effects of probiotics are more pronounced following use of antibiotics for preterm infants.</i></p>
<p>5. Key analyses and methods: Primary outcome is survival of preterm infants without NEC at 37 weeks of gestational age. Blinded allocation. 2 x 2 factorial design (dose and time). Large scale, pragmatic design. External monitoring.</p>
<p>6. Expected results: - A trial with probiotics in preterm infants that is ready to start. The results from such a study may be generalizable to other types of probiotics and other types of patients. - Results concerning the time, dose and interaction with antibiotics are relevant for assessing the risk of side effects (probiotic overgrowth or inappropriate immune stimulation) in particularly vulnerable infants. For such results, this WP may have to rely partly on the NEOMUNE animal studies for translational conclusions,</p>



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

considering the size of this task as clinical infant studies.

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013			2014			2015			2016			2017		
1. Exploring data base information			x	x	x	x	x	x	x						
2. Evaluation of pig model studies					x	x	x								
3. Evaluation of mouse model study					x	x	x								
4. Protocol formation							x	x	x						
5. Organization of clinical study									x	x					
(6. Clinical trial in preterm infants)									x	x	x	x	-	>	
(7. Analyses of results)														x	x
8. Publication									x	x					x

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE:

3.0 mio DKK (financed by funding from Chr. Hansen A/S)

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere:

3.0 mio DKK (university and hospital partners, internal staff and equipment). Co-funding from other NEOMUNE projects (e.g. animal studies)

10. Additional comments:

- This WP is closely linked with other WPs (mostly WP 4.1b, 2.2, 3.2) that are initiated at the start of the NEOMUNE period to maximize knowledge transfer to this WP before the project plans are fixed. Considering the extensive NEOMUNE network in this area, there will be ideal conditions for formulating a clinical trial that answers the most important question at the time of initiation.
- The total scale and nature of proposed clinical trial is heavily dependent on sponsoring from relevant industry partner(s) and the amount of funds spent during the planning phase for the trial.
- While the costs of the planning phase for this project (see above Gantt diagram) are mainly covered by funds from elsewhere in NEOMUNE, some funds may be allocated also from this project.
- The main outcome of this WP is to make the protocol. The actual clinical trial is not budgeted.
- Differs from original plan with Hans, which included a control group without probiotics.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 1.7: Ethical, social and cultural processes of translational research

<p>1. WP (related WPs, MG contact persons): WP 1.4b,1.5,1.6; MG: Gorm Greisen and Per Sangild</p>
<p>2. Key involved personnel, their institution, mail address (project leader + main study site underlined): Gorm Greisen, Prof., Neonatology, Copenhagen University Hospital, Gorm.Greisen@regionh.dk (5%) Lene Koch, Prof., Prof., Ct. Med. Sci. Tech. Studies, Univ. Copenhagen, leko@sund.ku.dk (5%) <u>Mette N. Svendsen</u>, Ass. Prof., Ct. Med. Sci. Tech. Studies, Univ. Copenhagen, mesv@sund.ku.dk (15%) Mie S. Dam, PhD stud, as above + Copenhagen Univ. Hospital, mda@sund.ku.dk (100%) Per Sangild, Prof., Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, psa@life.ku.dk (5%)</p>
<p>3. Main aim and sub-aims: With the overall purpose of exploring the ethical, social and cultural processes of translational research in NEOMUNE this work package sets out to map the moral reasonings and organizational frameworks that are mobilized and affect possibilities for translation between animals and infants in experimental and clinical research settings in Denmark, Holland and China. The following research question is guiding the enquiry: What moral reasonings are mobilized and what social responsibilities are negotiated in NEOMUNE activities and how do these reasonings and negotiations form the translational activities of NEOMUNE?</p>
<p>4. Background and a central hypothesis: Dialogue between experimental animal studies and clinical studies in Europe and China is a critical component of achieving both scientific and clinical goals in NEOMUNE. However, prior social science studies on translational medicine have shown that the relationship between laboratory and clinic is often complicated by unexpected results, epistemic disagreements and differences in experimental cultures of biologists and clinicians trying to make sense of cross-species comparisons. In NEOMUNE the international context may further complicate the translational processes. <i>We hypothesize that different sets of norms and practices shape translational processes and set out to study how this happens in NEOMUNE, focusing on the interface between clinical and laboratory studies in Denmark, Holland and China. This study will enable analyses of the moral reasoning and social responsibilities negotiated in the translational activities of NEOMUNE.</i></p>
<p>5. Key analyses and methods: Overall WP 1.7 takes a qualitative approach to the scientific activities in NEOMUNE, drawing methodologically and theoretically on anthropology, sociology and public health. The study of moral reasonings and social responsibilities actualized in NEOMUNE will be undertaken through multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork where NEOMUNE activities are situated. This is primarily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEOMUNE project meetings • The Danish perinatal pig laboratory at the University of Copenhagen (4 weeks) • Neonatal intensive care units at hospitals in Denmark, Netherlands and Southern China (10 weeks) • The data collection methods are participant observations and open-ended semi-structured interviews (approx. 20) primarily with researchers and clinicians involved in NEOMUNE
<p>6. Expected results: By an investigation of the collaborations between the experimental pig studies and randomized clinical trials in NEOMUNE, WP 1.7 will enable analyses of how negotiations and trade-offs between clinical, scientific, economic and political rationales take place. The WP will result in three scientific publications and the facilitation of cross-disciplinary reflection on the concept and practice of translational medicine thereby contributing to the social robustness of the NEOMUNE centre.</p>



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013			2014			2015			2016		
Planning, protocol	x	x										
Fieldwork (data collection)		x	x	x	x	x						
Translation between experimental pig work and NICU				x	x	x						
Moral reasoning, social responsibilities of transl. res.						x	x	x				
Practice of clinical trials in NEOMUNE								x	x			
Publication(s)						x	x		x			

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 1.6 mio DKK

PhD scholarship for Mie S. Dam.

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere:

0.5 mio DKK by co-financing from collaborating partners with salaries paid from elsewhere.

10. Additional comments:

- NEOMUNE contains different interfaces between species, nations, scientific disciplines and public and private partnerships, more than may be covered in one Ph.D. project.
- While WP 1.7 takes a specific focus on the relationship between animal laboratory and human clinic, it only covers the role of industry and the general public in relation to this specific part of the translational processes.
- We will attempt over the course of the project to apply for supplementary funding that will enable analyses of many other aspects and allow maximal translation from basic biological research, over clinical studies to applied effects at the societal and commercial levels.
- The PhD stud. in this project will be based formally at Copenhagen Univ. Hospital, but the daily work place will be at the work place of the main supervisor, Centre for Medical Science and Technology Studies.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 2.0: Development of a preterm pig brain model

1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergies with WPs 1.4a, 2.1-2.4, 3.1. MG contact: Thomas Thymann

2. Key involved personnel, their institution, mail address (project leader + main study site underlined):

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Anders Bergström, post doc, Clinical & Exp. Nutr., NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, adbe@food.dtu.dk (70%)
Anders Sørensen, Res. Ass., Clinical & Exp. Nutr., NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, andsorensen@gmail.com (20%)
Anne Kvistgaard, Arla Food Ingredients, anne.staudt.kvistgaard@arlafoods.com (5%)
Anne Mette Plomgaard, PhD stud., Neonatology, Cph. Univ. Hosp., annemetteplomgaard@hotmail.com (10%)
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Viorica Braniste, post doc, Karolinska institute, viorica.braniste@ki.se (5%)

3. Main aim and sub-aims:

The primary aim is to develop a clinically-relevant preterm pig brain model of preterm human infants. We will identify and describe functional and structural neurodevelopmental differences between preterm- and term-delivered piglets e.g. by using a series of *in vivo* methodologies and approaches traditionally used by neonatologists, chosen to maximize the translational value to preterm human infants. We also aim to relate any neurobehavioral and –functional deficits and/or delays with various relevant brain and gut structural, cellular and molecular endpoints within the first 3-4 weeks of life. Of these, the most sensitive endpoints will serve as key outcome parameters in subsequent interventions.

4. Background and a central hypothesis:

The pig is emerging as a valuable animal model of humans in biomedical research related to both neuroscience and to gastrointestinal diseases. Our group has >10 yrs experience with preterm pig models of gastrointestinal disorders such as necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a prevalent disease in preterm delivered infants which is associated with an increased risk of suboptimal neurodevelopment. Humans and pigs are thought to share similar brain growth and development patterns. A growing awareness of the important interplay between the early milk diet, the gut and the brain, and their possible interdependence during postnatal development, has prompted us to expand our research to investigations of brain maturation in the preterm pig model. This preterm pig model may be used to develop diet and feeding regimens that optimize brain development in the most vulnerable newborn infants.

We hypothesize that prematurity in pigs is associated with functional and structural neurodevelopment deficits and delays that reflect those observed in preterm infants.

5. Key analyses and methods:

A comparison of newborn caesarean-delivered preterm (~90% gestation) and term piglets that are initially raised in our neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and subsequently (after ~10 d) transferred to our pediatric unit for longer-term rearing (~25 d). We assess brain function, structure and development at various levels and



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

at all stages of postnatal development that are accessible to us. The following brain related endpoints are assessed for their suitability for further use in the final preterm pig model. **Functional:** Basic motor functions (eye lid opening, first walk/stand, development of suckling reflexes), total activity in home cage, general movement analysis (balance and coordination), locomotion, basic electro-cortical activity by electroencephalography (EEG), and cognitive performance (learning and memory in a novel visual delayed non-match to sample behavioral assay). **Structural:** neuronal proliferation, blood brain barrier maturation, microglia phenotyping and cytokine expressions, concentration and/or localization of neurotransmitters, receptors and trophic factors (e.g. serotonin (5-HT), N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor, brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), and others) in different brain regions, brain weight and structural magnetic resonance imaging (volumetric analyses and myelination) and stereology (volume and surface area of cerebral cortex) in preterm vs. term delivered piglets. Standard gut analyses, including gut microbiota.

6. Expected results:

We will develop a preterm pig model with a high translational value that will be used in subsequent intervention studies. We expect this work to facilitate advancements in pediatric research within this field by providing a novel diet-sensitive model of brain development and maturation in weak newborns.

Predicted publications:

- 1) Feasibility of using preterm pigs as model for early brain development.
- 2) A visual delayed non-match to sample task for cognitive assessments in preterm and term pigs.
- 3) Brain prematurity in preterm and term pigs. Cognitive, functional and structural neurodevelopment and associations with early nutrition.
- 4) Longitudinal EEG and MRI in preterm and term piglets.
- 5) The gut microbiota in preterm and term pigs and associations with brain maturation.

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013			2014			2015			2016			2017			
Planning, protocols	x	x	x													
Study execution and sample collection		x	x	x												
Activity, locomotion, balance			x	x	x											
General movement analyses		x	x	x	x											
EEG brain analyses		x	x	x												
Cognition tests		x	x	x	x	x										
Neuronal proliferation/apoptosis			x	x	x											
Blood brain barrier		x	x													
Cytokines, neurotransmitters (5-HT)					x	x	x									
NMDA receptor, BDNF growth factors					x	x	x									
MRI, volumetric, myelination	x		x		x											
Publication 1				x	x	x										
Publication 2					x	x	x	x								
Publication 3					x	x										
Publication 4+5					x	x	x									

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 2.6 mio DKK

Mainly derived from contributions from ARLA Food Ingredients and Danone allocated for 2013 and 2014.

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere:

2.0 mio DKK (co-financing from numerous collaborating institutions and partners, sample analyses etc.)

10. Additional comments:

- Development of the preterm pig brain model is a high-risk, high-priority NEOMUNE study part. Maximal effort is put into this project during the first 1½-2 years because it forms a foundation for later parts of NEOMUNE (e.g. WPs 2.3, 2.4 and some human studies).
- Refinement of the model continues beyond the initial test phase.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 2.1: Germ-free birth in preterm pigs

1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergies with WPs 1.1,1.2b,1.5,2.1-4,3.1. MG contact: Thomas Thymann

2. Key involved personnel, their institution and mail address (project leader + main study site underlined):

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Thomas Thymann, Ass. Prof., Clinical & Experimental Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, ttn@life.ku.dk (20%)
NN, PhD or post doc, Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen (50%)

3. Main aim and sub-aims:

The main aim is to determine if delayed microbial colonization after preterm birth, has effects (beneficial or detrimental) on gut-, immunity and brain development.

4. Background and a central hypothesis:

Timing of the first exposure to gut microbes is believed to be important for maturation of gut, immunity and brain. The links between microbiota and gut, brain and immunity may be direct or indirect, but the recent finding that gut microbial colonization affects brain maturation and motoric control in mouse pups supports direct links. It is very important to document these fundamental effects in an animal model that more closely resemble human infants. This effect of early colonization could be particularly important after preterm birth when immunity, gut and brain are vulnerable to insults due to immaturity.

We hypothesize that immunity, gut and brain functions are dependent on timing of microbial colonization after birth (immediate versus delayed).

5. Key analyses and methods:

Preterm pigs are derived by cesarean section. Half of the newborn pigs are kept in conventional incubators while the other half is kept in germ-free isolators for up to 7 days before they are conventionalized. Key analyses include open field test as well as structural, functional, microbiological and immunological parameters of the developing gut and brain. Specific endpoints include immunological parameters (goblet/leucocyte cell counts, tissue gene expression and protein content of cytokines), gut parameters (digestive enzymes, cell cycle, histology, microbiota composition, short chain fatty acids) and brain parameters (morphology, blood brain barrier)

6. Expected results:

We expect to consolidate the notion that the timing of microbial colonization impact on gut and brain development. This project provides important mechanistic information for further clinically-relevant studies. Artificial rearing under germ-free conditions cannot be expected to be of direct translational value. However, germ-free rearing during the initial 7 days after birth enables us to determine whether late colonization is beneficial with regards to clinical and organ functional endpoints. Provided that we can substantiate the beneficial effects of delayed colonization, it creates the scientific rationale for studying how colonization can be delayed/inhibited under more clinically relevant conventional conditions.

Predicted publication: The effects of delayed microbial colonization and early life enteral nutrition on gut and brain development.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Planning, protocol		x	x	x	x	x														
Sample collection							x	x												
Behaviour							x	x												
Microbiota comp. and SCFA									x	x										
Goblet/leucocyte cell count									x	x										
Mucus production									x	x										
Cytokines									x	x										
Histology									x	x										
Blood brain barrier proteins									x	x										
Publication(s)											x	x	x	x						

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 1.8 mio DKK

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere: 0.3 mio DKK

Self-financing (i.e. university funded salaries) and collaboration with SPF Vejen, Denmark (intellectual and practical support from a commercial supplier of germ free pigs).

10. Additional comments:

- Germ free experiments are considered high-risk as contamination of the isolator can occur after even the smallest breach. We collaborate with experienced personnel to minimize this risk. The model may be refined after the first series of experiments, but is unlikely to become a routine experimental animal model. In the event that the experimental periods of earlier WP's within WP2 are extended, WP2.1 will be postponed.
- The protocol may be supplemented also with a diet-intervention, formula versus colostrum under both germ free and conventional conditions.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 2.2: Anti- and probiotics in preterm and term pigs

1. Related WPs, MG contact: Synergy with WP 1.3a,1.4b,1.5,1.6b,WP3. MG contact: Thomas Thymann

2. Key involved personnel, their institution and mail address (project leader + main study site underlined):

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Thomas Thymann, Ass. Prof., Clinical & Experimental Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, ttn@life.ku.dk (20%)

3. Main aim and sub-aims:

The main aim is to assess the effect of probiotics supplementation on postnatal immunity, gut and brain development. In this context we want to assess if the effect is a) dose-dependent, b) dependent on timing of first inoculation, c) dependent on use of antibiotics, d) dependent on degree of maturity.

4. Background and a central hypothesis:

Postnatal gut colonization starts immediately after birth and is influenced by environmental bacteria. Probiotics supplementation may be a way to manipulate the early colonization to prevent gut disease. Addition of probiotics to milk feedings has been speculated to promote colonization of beneficial gut bacteria, suppress pathogens and stimulate immune development. However, the current level of evidence limits widespread use of probiotics, especially for vulnerable newborn infants as their potential positive effects are currently not predictable enough. We speculate that the unpredictable effects of probiotics are in part due to the highly variable use of neonatal antibiotics that may hamper the probiotic effect. Also the timing of probiotics inoculation after birth may influence how well they establish and display their beneficial effects. A major factor that influences the gut microbiota, is the use of antibiotics. Antibiotics are essential to prevent and treat infections, especially for the weakest newborn infants. Preventive antibiotics treatment around birth may prevent neonatal infections, but the effects on immune, gut and brain maturation are not well known. Both positive and negative effects have been demonstrated. The interaction between antibiotics and probiotics in newborn (preterm and term) infants remains unknown despite its potential high importance for clinical outcome for infants. *We hypothesize that antibiotics will initially benefit the immature immunity, gut, and brain via the reduced bacterial load, and that subsequent probiotics used at the optimal time, dose and strain combination will improve maturation.*

5. Key analyses and methods:

In experiment 1 preterm piglets are derived by cesarean section and reared in incubators. All pigs are provided with total parenteral nutrition for 2-3 days via the umbilical artery. After this they are gradually transitioned to full enteral nutrition with milk formula. Five different doses of a selected probiotic will be given daily starting immediately after birth. In experiment 2 we take the optimal dose from exp. 1 and inoculate preterm piglets either immediately after birth, or 3 days after birth. Half of the pigs from each group will be exposed to antibiotics treatment (e.g. Ampicillin, Gentamycin, Metronidazol and to a less extent Vancomycin) (2X2



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

factorial design). The study duration will be up to 12days depending on their clinical status. Endpoints include clinical assessment, growth velocity, diarrhea scoring and NEC symptoms. Tissue samples and samples from the gut luminal content are collected and analyzed (proinflammatory cytokines, gene expression, mucosal digestive function, microbial composition, SCFA). Brain endpoints include open field test and BBB.

In Experiment 4, probiotics intervention is studied in term piglets in collaboration with Aarhus University, Foulum. Half of the piglets in 2 litters of term piglets are inoculated with probiotics either immediately after birth or 3 days after birth. Clinical and laboratory endpoints as mentioned above.

6. Expected results:

We expect to determine how profound manipulation of the gastrointestinal microbiota during early postnatal colonization can impact on gut and brain development. Secondly we expect to determine any dose-response effect seen after administration of various levels of probiotic administration. We expect to determine the optimum level and optimal timing under the given experimental conditions.

Predicted publications:

- 1) Optimal dosing and timing of probiotics supplementation in early life.
- 2) Antimicrobial effects in early life and subsequent recolonization with selected probiotic strains.

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013			2014			2015			2016			2017		
Planning, protocol			x												
Sample collection				x	x										
Clinical/ behaviour				x	x										
Growth				x	x										
Cytokines					x	x									
Gene expression					x	x									
Mucosal digestive func					x	x									
Microbial comp					x	x									
BBB					x	x									
Publication(s)								x	x	x	x				

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE:

2.5 mio DKK, derived from the KU-SCIENCE NEOMUNE budget (Thomas Thymann). 500,000 DKK, derived from the AU NEOMUNE budget (Charlotte Lauridsen).

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere:

0.5 mio DKK is achieved by self-financing (i.e. university funded salaries) and collaboration with antibiotics and probiotics partners.

10. Additional comments:

- This WP relates closely to WP2.1 and WP3 on the experimental side. All these WPs represent profound experimental manipulation of the gastrointestinal flora just after birth. Relative to WP2.1 (germ free conditions), WP2.2 represents a more clinically relevant model. All the animal studies are meant to rely on clinically relevant situations for infants (e.g. WPs 1.2b,1.4b,1.5) and the possible interventions for infants (WPs 1.3a,1.6b).
- It will be a challenge to choose the optimal product(s), timing and doses of both antibiotics and probiotics. Clearly it is impossible to test all clinically-relevant combinations. We will focus on products, timing of administration and doses that are currently used in the neonatal clinics around the world. The results from WP 1.4b (data base work) will help to determine this.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 2.3: Enteral and parenteral feeding for preterm pigs

1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergies with WPs 1.4,2.1-4,3.1. MG contact: Thomas Thymann

2. Key involved personnel, their institution and mail address (project leader + main study site underlined):

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3. Main aim and sub-aims:

The aim is to identify optimal feeding regimens (enteral and/or parenteral) within the first weeks after birth using the preterm pig model, i.e., when to feed, how much to feed, and which diet? Focus is on the transition to natural, unmodified enteral milk diets, such as bovine colostrum, human donor milk and porcine amniotic fluid. To identify the optimal timing, nature and amount of parenteral nutrition is an associated goal.

4. Background and a central hypothesis:

The first milk after birth promotes intestinal growth, bacterial colonization and immune maturation in weak newborns. Enteral feeding may however predispose to harmful inflammatory lesions, especially using large feeding volumes and suboptimal diets. Thus parenteral nutrition is crucial to promote adequate growth and development before full transition to enteral nutrition can be implemented. For both enteral and parenteral nutrition, there is much debate about the optimal diet composition, time and amount of feeding for preterm infants. In this project we investigate some *intact natural perinatal diets* and how these should be fed in association with parenteral nutrition to promote optimal immunity, gut and brain maturation. Newborn, caesarean-delivered preterm pigs on parenteral nutrition are fed graded doses (minimal enteral nutrition, MEN) during the first one or two weeks after birth. Each of the experimental diets will be compared with a corresponding diet of preterm infant formula, or no feeding at all (total parenteral nutrition, TPN). Separate studies on the timing, amount and nature of parenteral nutrition may be added.

We hypothesize that feeding small amounts of colostrum, human milk or amniotic fluid, as enteral adjuncts to parenteral nutrition within the first week, improve immunity, gut and brain functions in preterm neonates.

5. Key analyses and methods:

Study 1: Preterm pigs fed bovine colostrum or human milk for 11 days are compared with pigs fed formula.
Study 2: Preterm pigs fed 10-60 mL/kg/d bovine colostrum for 5 days are compared with pigs fed formula.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

Study 3: Preterm pigs fed porcine amniotic fluid are compared with pigs not fed any enteral diet for 5 days.
 Study 4: Preterm pigs fed total parenteral nutrition with improved fatty acid or amino acid composition.
 Human milk is obtained from a local donor bank, amniotic fluid from caesarean section on sows, bovine colostrum from the company Biofiber Damino, also delivering product for corresponding infant studies.
 Manipulations of the composition of the parenteral nutrition will be done in collaboration with Fresenius Kabi.
 Immunity endpoints: Immune genes, immune proteins (bovine IgG in plasma/feces), inflammation, NEC.
 Gut: Histology, digestive enzymes, tight junction proteins, permeability, FISH microbial analyses of tissue and high throughput sequencing fecal analysis, food passage.
 Brain: Wet weight, BDNF, apoptosis, total activity levels, sucking reflexes, open field test, activity test, EEG.

6. Expected results:

The results will document whether bovine colostrum and human milk is better than preterm infant formula in improving growth and development of preterm pigs as models for infants. It will also provide information about apparent safe and efficacious volume of feeding. Finally, the results will help to improve the regimen for parenteral nutrition as a life-saving therapy for preterm infants necessary during the gradual transition from parenteral to enteral nutrition after birth. This information will be important for interpretation of the corresponding infant studies (WP 1.4a, 1.6a). The results will also show preliminary evidence for possible use of amniotic fluid in preterm infants. If beneficial for growth and development, this may lead to pilot studies on feeding human amniotic fluid to preterm infants as part of NEOMUNE.

Predicted publications:

- 1) Minimal enteral nutrition with human donor milk or bovine colostrum in preterm pigs
- 2) Minimal enteral nutrition with amniotic fluid improves growth and development in preterm pigs
- 3) Parenteral fatty acids influences immunity and brain outcomes in preterm pigs

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Planning of experiments, protocols	x																			
Study 1 execution	x	x	x	x																
Study 2 execution	x	x	x																	
Study 3 + 4 execution	x	x	x						x	x										
Study 1 immunity analyses				x	x	x														
Study 1 gut analyses				x	x															
Study 1 brain analyses			x	x	x															
Study 2+3 immunity analyses				x	x															
Study 2+3 gut analyses			x	x																
Study 2+3 brain analyses			x	x	x	x														
Study 4 analyses											x	x	x							
Publication				x	x	x								x	x	x				

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 2.0 mio DKK

Running costs for pig experiments and analyses, FISH analyses, immune gene analyses

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere: 1.8 mio DKK

PhD stipends for Rene Shen and Stine Petersen, post doc salary for Mette Ø, product donations BioFiber and Fresenius Kabi.

10. Additional comments:

- The results serve as proof-of-concept for pilot infant studies with bovine colostrum, and to support possible pilot intervention studies with human amniotic fluid for human infants (WP 1.6a). The experiments will also support scientific evidence for use of human donor milk (WP 1.4a and WP1.4b).
- The work related to the composition of parenteral nutrition will be run with the industrial partner Fresenius Kabi and may run partly in collaboration with Children's Nutrition research Center in Houston (Prof. Burrin) and Aarhus University (Ass. Prof. Charlotte Lauridsen), both of which have activities effects of the fatty acid composition on immunity, gut and brain endpoints.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 2.4: Bioactive formula diets for preterm pigs

1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergy with WPs 1.3b,1.4a,2.1-2.3. MG contact: Thomas Thymann

2. Key involved personnel, their institution and mail address (project leader + main study site underlined):

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3. Main aim and sub-aims:

The benefits of breast-feeding may be explained by absorption of milk bioactives present in natural milk. We aim to use the established preterm pig model (WP 2.0), coupled with the experience from WPs 2.1-2.3, to test the effects of selected compounds and milk diets provided by the NEOMUNE partners ARLA FI and Danone. The compounds will be selected based on their potential effects on immunity, gut and brain endpoints.

4. Background and a central hypothesis:

While specific milk components have long been hypothesized to have important immune effects, firm evidence of effects in sensitive newborn infants is not available. Using diet- and microbiota-sensitive preterm pigs, we investigate how milk formulas enriched with selected milk bioactives affect immune, gut and brain maturation. It is not possible to investigate all relevant milk bioactive components in pigs. The choice and number of interventions will rely on further discussions with our partners, as guided by both scientific rationale, the model development phase (as described in WP2.0) and financial constraints. Specifically, for the brain functional and structural endpoints, the exact nature/timing of the functional tests and their structural correlates will be defined in WP2.0 studies (the model development phase).

We hypothesize that feeding milk formula diets containing specific bioactive components will improve immunity, gut and brain maturation, as tested in the preterm piglet model.

5. Key analyses and methods:

Preterm pigs are derived by cesarean section and provided parenteral nutrition and minimal enteral nutrition with either formula or formula enriched with bioactive compounds. Following 5-10 days they are gradually weaned off parenteral support. After transition to full enteral nutrition both groups are bolus-fed up until day 21 using an automated milk feeding system. On postpartum days 5 and 10 (or as early as possible), all pigs are subjected to an open field test to document motor skills and explorative behavior. Additionally, cognitive function is assessed on postpartum days 10, 12 and 14 using VDNS. The extent to which microbial composition and other endpoints related to gastrointestinal function will be studied, depends on the nature of the selected bioactive compounds. Likewise, the exact choice of endpoints related to brain function will be determined when the model development phase (WP2.0) has been completed.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

6. Expected results:

We expect to test the effect of two bioactive compounds/diets from each of the partners ARLA FI and Danone. The results will provide the best available evidence for the effects of these selected compounds/diets in a preterm neonatal animal model. We expect to produce four scientific manuscripts, one for each of the tested compounds.

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Planning, protocol							x	x												
Sample collection									x	x	x	x								
Open field test									x	x	x	x								
Cognitive test									x	x	x	x								
Clinical assessment									x	x	x	X								
BBB													x	x						
Brain and gut histology													x	x						
Gut microbiota													x	x						
SCFA													x	x						
Cytokines													x	Xx						
Gut digestive function													x	x						
Publication(s)																	x	x	x	x

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 3.2 mio DKK

The budget for WP2.4 is mainly derived from our industrial partners (ARLA FI and Danone), with the remaining part from the DSF funds of NEOMUNE.

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere:

0.6 mio DKK is supplied as university self-financing, 1.7 mio DKK from other sources, 1.0 mio DKK from personnel and product resources supplied by our industrial partners.

10. Additional comments:

- The exact choice of endpoints in WP 2.4 will have to await the results of the model development phase in WP 2.0. The industrial partners will be given priority for further use of the preterm pig brain model beyond the described project phase, according to separate contracts.
- While brain endpoints are the main priority in this WP, also gut and immunity endpoints will be recorded if this is relevant and economically feasible. Contribution from ARLA Foods amba will in part support these analyses for interventions of interest for this company.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 3.1: Antibiotics in newborn mice

1. Related WPs, MG contact: Synergies with WPs 1.1,1.2b,1.4b,1.5,2.2,3.2. MG contact: Hanne Frøkiær

2. Key involved personnel, their institution, mail address (project leader + main study site underlined):

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Thomas Thymann, Ass. Prof., Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, Univ. Copenhagen, ttn@life.ku.dk (5%)

3. Main aim and sub-aims:

To obtain a thorough understanding of the influence of the microbiota on early events in immune development of importance for establishment of long term immunity. This will be done by treatment of different antibiotics (e.g. Ampicillin, Gentamycin, Metronidazol and to a less extent Vancomycin) and at different perinatal periods. The studies will provide key basic knowledge to support and guide the pig and human infant studies.

Sub-aims are:

- To evaluate variations in early hematopoietic events after antibiotics-induced variation in gut microbiota.
- To evaluate how variations in early hematopoietic events affect the establishment of adaptive immunity.
- To establish an influenza challenge model to test long term immunity effects of perinatal antibiotics.
- Evaluate how variations in early hematopoietic events affect propensity to infectious diseases later in life.
- To identify key genes/molecules/cells that can be used as markers in pig and human infant studies.
- To evaluate how variations in early hematopoietic events affect specific parameters in brain development.

4. Background and a central hypothesis:

We and others have previously demonstrated that the microbiota plays a key role in establishment of early hematopoietic events, i.e. differentiation of HSC into myeloid derived suppressor cells and other neutrophil-like cells, of importance for development of adaptive immunity and accordingly may influence long-term immunity, e.g. resistance towards viral infections and development of autoimmune diseases. In addition, a diverse microbiota accelerates the development/maturation of the gut epithelium and the kinetics of the epithelial maturation may be determined by the composition of the gut microbiota postpartum, which in turn may be a key determinant for development of mucosal and systemic immunity. Despite many studies of the effects of antibiotic treatment in early life, the effects on the very early events in immunological maturation have not been addressed.

We hypothesize that peri-/postnatal treatment with antibiotics will decrease the diversity of the microbiota and this will impact the early hematopoiesis and, accordingly, maturation of the immune system causing a weak or skewed immune system with less resistance towards infections and higher risk of autoimmune disease development.

5. Key analyses and methods:

Perinatal antibiotics treatment of dams and offspring mice: To eradicate major populations of the gut microbiota, dams are treated with e.g. vancomycin, gentamycin or ampicillin during gestation until few days after birth or treatment is initiated few days postpartum.

Flow cytometry: to investigate the proportion and composition of CD11b+ cells in spleen during the first weeks of life.

Microscopy: to assess the efflux of differentiating HSC from liver and influx of cells to spleen and other organs.

RT-PCR: to assess effects of microbiota on maturation of gut epithelium and cell migration in liver and spleen



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

(up- and down regulation of chemokines, specific enzyme markers such as arginase, elastase).

16s sequencing and RT-PCR of gut contents.

ELISA: e.g. cytokine/chemokine measurement of ex vivo stimulated spleen cells to assess the responsiveness to microbial stimuli.

Western blotting: e.g. assessment of enzyme (elastase, myloid peroxidase) production in cells.

Optical Projection Tomography Scanning: to assess localization of HSC in liver, spleen and gut and to identify cells in different organs expressing specific proteins, e.g. Cxcl2R.

6. Expected results:

- Establishment of mechanisms involved in the early maturation of the mucosal and systemic immunity.
- Demonstration of a link between perinatal events involving the microbiota and early hemapoietic events and resistance towards e.g. viral infection later in life (microbial resistance?).
- Establishment of an influenza challenge mouse model.
- Identification of key markers of early life immune maturation (e.g. specific cell populations in blood, +/- expression of certain genes, e.g. in the brain).

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Planning, protocol			x	x																
Sample collection			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								
Flow cytometry of spleenocytes			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x										
OPT of spleen, liver, gut, brain				x	x	x	x	x	x	x										
16s sequencing/rtPCR gut microbiota					x	x	x	x	x											
rtPCR, microscopy, ELISA etc				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								
Publication work(a)						x	x													
Publication work (b+c)										x	x	x								
Publication work (d)													x	x	x					

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 3.5 mil DKK

Running costs, phd student, lab/animal tech.

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere: 1.5 mill DKK

Salaries Hanne Frøkiær, Axel Kornerup, Stine Metzdorff, Dina Malling, Dennis Nielsen, equipment.

10. Additional comments:

- This work may provide important knowledge to support pig studies, particularly for longer time-frame outcomes that the pig model may not be able to focus on, and might also lead to insight of value for preterm infant treatment/feeding.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 3.2: Probiotics in newborn mice

<p>1. Related WPs, MG contact: Synergy with WPs 1.3a,1.4b,1.5,1.6b,2.2,3.1. MG contact: Hanne Frøkiær</p>
<p>2. Key involved personnel, their institution,mail address (project leader + main study site underlined): Axel Kornerup Hansen, Prof., Dept. Veterinary Disease Biology, Univ. Copenhagen, akh@sund.ku.dk (5%) Dennis Nielsen, Ass.Prof., Dept. Food Science, Univ. Copenhagen, dn@life.ku.dk (10%) Eva Fuglsang, PhD stud., Dept. Veterinary Disease Biology, Univ. Copenhagen, efu@sund.ku.dk (70%) <u>Hanne Frøkiær</u>, Prof., <u>Dept. Veterinary Disease Biology</u>, Univ. Copenhagen, hafr@sund.ku.dk (25%) Stine Metzdorff, post doc, Dept. Veterinary Disease Biology, Univ. Copenhagen, broeng@sund.ku.dk (20%) Thomas Thymann, Ass. Prof., Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, Univ. Copenhagen, ttn@life.ku.dk (5%) Gorm Greisen, Prof., Neonatology, Copenhagen Univ. Hospital, Gorm.Greisen@regionh.dk (5%)</p>
<p>3. Main aim and sub-aims: We aim to establish whether administration of probiotic bacteria peri- and postnatally will accelerate maturation of the gut epithelium and affect early hemapoiesis. Sub-aims are: a) To identify relevant probiotic bacteria or mixtures hereof. b) To test whether administration of probiotics may compensate for effects of antibiotics treatment on development of the immune system.</p>
<p>4. Background and a central hypothesis: If perinatal antibiotic treatment of mice as anticipated shows to compromise immune development due to a decrease in the diversity of the microbiota and/or the absence of specific genera, one way to compensate may be administration of one or more probiotic strains during antibiotics treatment. <i>We hypothesize that administration of probiotic bacteria from birth, especially concomitant with antibiotic treatment may lead to a faster maturation of GI epithelium and well-balanced maturation of immunity.</i></p>
<p>5. Key analyses and methods: Perinatal antibiotics and probiotics treatment of dams and offspring mice. To eradicate major populations of the gut microbiota, dams are treated with an antibiotics, identified in WP3.1 as a potent manipulator of immune maturation, perinatally, and probiotics are administered concomitantly. Flow cytometry: to investigate the proportion and composition of CD11b+ cells in spleen during the first weeks of life. Microscopy: to assess the efflux of differentiating HSC.from liver and influx of cells to spleen and other organs. RT-PCR: assess effects of microbiota on maturation of gut epithelium and cell migration in liver and spleen (up- and down regulation of chemokines, specific enzyme markers such as arginase, elastase). 16s sequencing and RT-PCR of gut contents ELISA: e.g. cytokine/chemokine measurement of ex vivo stimulated spleen cells to assess the responsiveness to microbial stimuli. Western blotting: e.g. assessment of enzyme (elastase, myloid peroxidase) production in cells. Optical Projection Tomography Scanning: to assess localization of HSC in liver, spleen and gut and to identify cells in different organs expressing specific proteins, e.g. Cxcl2R.</p>
<p>6. Expected results: To establishment if probiotic administration early in life improves immune development in antibiotic treated mice pups.</p>



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013			2014			2015			2016			2017			2018			
Planning, protocol							x												
Sample collection								x	x										
Flow cytometry								x	x										
OPT-scanning								x	x										
16s seq/rtPCR											x	x							
rtPCR, microscopy, etc											x	x							
Publication work												x	x						

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 1.2 mio DKK

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere: 0.4 mio DKK
Salaries and equipment.

10. Additional comments:

- These activities will be based on results from WP 3.1. Therefore, protocols and planning are initiated late in project.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 4.1: NEOMUNE administration and dissemination

1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergies with WPs 4 and WP 1.7. MG contact: Stine Bering, Per Sangild

2. Key involved personnel, their institution and mail address (project leader + main study site underlined):

Agnes Wold, Prof., Univ. Gothenburg, agnes.wold@microbio.gu.se, (5%, SAB)
Anders D. Andersen, post doc, Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, Univ. Copenhagen, adan@life.ku.dk (5%)
Ann Cathrine Støy, post doc, Veterinary Institute, DTU, acfst@vet.dtu.dk (20%)
Birthe Høgh, Prof., vice-chancellor of Research, Univ. Copenhagen, bhogh@sund.ku.dk (5%, GB)
Björn Weström, Prof., Univ. Lund, bjorn.westrom@biol.lu.se (5%, SAB)
Christina Kelager, secretary, Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, Univ. Copenhagen, kelager@life.ku.dk (15%)
Denise Kelly, Prof., Univ. Aberdeen, D.Kelly@rri.sari.ac.uk (5%, SAB)
Dennis Nielsen, Ass. Prof., Dept. Food Science, Univ. Copenhagen, dn@life.ku.dk (10%, MG)
Erik B. Madsen, vice-chancellor of Innovation and Business, Univ. Copenhagen, proem@science.ku.dk (5%, GB)
Frank Bloomfield, Prof., Univ. Auckland, f.bloomfield@auckland.ac.nz, (5%, SAB)
Gorm Greisen, Prof., Neonatology, Copenhagen University Hospital, Gorm.Greisen@regionh.dk (10%, MG)
Hanne Frøkiær, Prof., Veterinary Disease Biology, KU-SUND, Univ. Copenhagen, hafr@sund.ku.dk (10%, MG)
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Per Sangild, Prof., Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, Univ. Copenhagen, psa@life.ku.dk (30%, MG)
Stine Bering, Ass. Prof., Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, Univ. Copenhagen, sbs@life.ku.dk (30%, MG)
Thomas Thymann, Ass. Prof., Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, Univ. Copenhagen, ttn@life.ku.dk, 10%, MG)
Yanqi Li, post doc, Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, Univ. Copenhagen, yli@life.ku.dk (5%)

MG = Management Group; SAB = Scientific Advisory Board; GB = Governing Board.

3. Main aim and sub-aims:

Main aim: To develop effective management and leadership of NEOMUNE over the 6-year project period.

- To maintain effective and open leadership via the Management Group (MG) and the Head of Project (HP).
- To obtain maximal inspiration and guidance from the Governing Board (GB) – the strategic advisory board.
- To obtain maximal inspiration and guidance from the Scientific advisory Board (SAB).
- To secure good working collaboration with associated industrial partners.
- To secure the frame for the work relationships, in part by appropriate scientific, legal and ethical contracts.
- To secure optimal and timely scientific reporting to the Danish Research Councils.
- To secure optimal and timely financial reporting to the Danish Research Councils.
- To secure adequate communication to NEOMUNE participants and to the public (e.g. NEOMUNE website).
- To solve unforeseen scientific and/or managerial conflicts and challenges in NEOMUNE.
- To apply for funding that aims to expand the present activities and extend NEOMUNE beyond 2018.

4. Background and a central hypothesis:

The scientific and administrative leadership in NEOMUNE is divided among partners, affiliated partners and collaborators, as indicated in the original application. While NEOMUNE may provide the main funding for some projects, for others it only constitutes a small part of the total project expenses. NEOMUNE is a dynamic research platform that incorporates and integrates with new synergistic projects as these become apparent. The NEOMUNE research platform aims to expand the total number of interventions, sample analyses and research outputs from studies that are not entirely financed by NEOMUNE.

The NEOMUNE Management Group (MG) is the main leadership group and represents the main work areas from infants (coordinated by GG), pigs (TT) and mice (HF) to the important milk and microbiota analyses (DN).



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

The program head (PS) is supported by an academic secretary (Stine Bering) and a technical secretary (Christina Kelager). A Governing board (GB) is formed to enable to the greatest possible long-term, strategic impact of the project (“strategic advisory board”). It will handle the major strategic decisions regarding a) project leadership and partner structure, b) long-term financial considerations, c) ethical and legal challenges, d) infrastructure, and e) legal contracts among universities, hospitals, industries. A Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) is formed to provide critical inputs into the scientific quality of NEOMUNE at all work package levels. Based on an annual progress report by the MG, the GB and SAB are invited to give critical comments to work at all levels (rationale, protocols, analyses, interpretation, publication, societal effect, leadership structure).

Leadership philosophy in NEOMUNE. To maintain creativity, enthusiasm and focus on results, research groups are given freedom to work within the given framework defined by NEOMUNE and its MG. The projects that are financed to the largest degree by NEOMUNE have the greatest responsibility to adhere closely to NEOMUNE strategies. In close connection with the GB, SAB and MG, the HP will assist in adapting work plans for the best possible NEOMUNE outcome. We are aware of both potentials and limitations of working closely with industry partners in NEOMUNE. The working relationship is guided by separate contracts (Part Project Agreements) with each industrial partner on specific parts of the project. Just as important, it is based on respect for the complementary values of university, hospital and industrial partners.

We hypothesize that pro-active management and leadership, good communication and adequate trust-building among university, hospital and industry partners in NEOMUNE lead to a lasting research and societal outcome.

5. Key analyses and methods:

- Frequent meetings for the MG board, with minutes published at NEOMUNE website.
- Contact with the SAB and GB at least once annually.
- Formation of legal contracts among partners.
- Initiate the annual scientific meetings.
- Scientific reports to the Danish Research Councils.
- Financial reports to the Danish Research Councils.
- Maintenance of the NEOMUNE website.

6. Expected results:

- High research output and societal implications of NEOMUNE.
- A reasonable degree of satisfaction among NEOMUNE participants, individuals and institutions.
- A long term impact of the collaborations in NEOMUNE, beyond the project period.

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013				2014				2015				2016				2017				2018			
MG meetings	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
MG meeting with GB		x	x	x	x				x				x				x				x			
SAB contact		x			x				x				x				x				x			
Scient. report to DSF					x				x				x				x				x			
Financial report to DSF					x				x				x				x				x			
Platform contract sign		x																						
Sub-project contracts			x	x	x																			

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 3.0 mio DKK

20-30% salaries for academic administrator, administrative post doc, secretary and HP.

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere: None

10. Additional comments:

- The total budget for WP 4.1 should be seen in connection with the budgets for WPs 4.2+4.3



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 4.2: Scientific meetings and results dissemination

1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergies with WPs 4. MG contact: Stine Bering

2. Key involved personnel, their institution and mail address (project leader + main study site underlined):

Ann Cathrine Støy, post doc, Veterinary Institute, DTU, acfst@vet.dtu.dk (10%)
Christina Kelager, secretary, Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, Univ. Copenhagen, kelager@life.ku.dk (15%)
Dennis Nielsen, Ass. Prof., Dept. Food Science, Univ. Copenhagen, dn@life.ku.dk (10%, MG)
Gorm Greisen, Prof., Neonatology, Copenhagen University Hospital, Gorm.Greisen@regionh.dk (10%, MG)
Hanne Frøkiær, Prof., Veterinary Disease Biology, KU-SUND, Univ. Copenhagen, hafr@sund.ku.dk (10%, MG)
Per Sangild, Prof., Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, psa@life.ku.dk (20%, MG)
Stine Bering, Ass. Prof., Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, sbs@life.ku.dk (20%, MG)
Thomas Thymann, Ass. Prof., Clinical and Exp. Nutr., NEXS, Univ Copenhagen, ttn@life.ku.dk (10%, MG)

3. Main aim and sub-aims:

- a) To secure effective exchange of scientific ideas within the NEOMUNE field and help steer the subprojects.
- b) To secure effective results dissemination (scientific and/or societal) from NEOMUNE projects, press contact.
- c) To maximize synergy among individuals, groups and institutions/companies/hospitals within NEOMUNE.

4. Background and a central hypothesis:

NEOMUNE will seek international exposure and impact by hosting a common partner meeting once per year. Most often this will be held as a satellite meeting to the annual congress of one of two relevant European scientific societies (ESPR or ESPGHAN). In addition to this larger platform meeting, involving researchers and stake holders at all levels, the MG arranges one general scientific meeting that involve the current main research leaders and representatives of GB and SAB, aimed to evaluate the overall research. All university-, hospital- and company-based key personnel, and the SAB, are expected to join at least one main platform meeting per year.

In addition to the general scientific assemblies, sub-meetings are held for clusters of projects (NEOMUNE subgroups, see section 7 below)) within NEOMUNE. The MG groups take the initiative to formation of such clusters and each group is responsible for reporting back to the MG on both scientific and administrative issues. Scientific results, both positive and negative, will published in international, recognized journals with relevant review competence and readership. Where relevant, we will aim to co-publish results on the same intervention from different study levels (infants, pigs, rats, isolated cells). We also seek to co-publish natural and social science results in the same scientific (review) papers. The NEOMUNE website will play a central role for results presentation, using public open access, and sections closed to the public.

We hypothesize that a minimum two personal meeting encounters for key researchers, and one meeting encounter for the other researchers, are necessary for NEOMUNE project coherence and research output.

Subgroups of project clusters are encouraged to arrange separate meetings as required and report to the MG.

5. Key analyses and methods:

- a) Effective platform meeting organization initiated by the MG.
- b) Effective sub-group meeting organization initiated by the subgroup leaders.
- c) Evaluation of meetings by the MG and the sub-group leaders.
- d) Appropriate and adequate use of the NEOMUNE website.
- e) Coordination, control and evaluation of public press about NEOMUNE.

6. Expected results:

Effective and enjoyable meetings that maximize use of time/money and increase NEOMUNE research output
Adequate and effective communication of NEOMUNE results to the scientific community and to the public



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

7. Estimated time frame

Task	2013			2014			2015			2016			2017			2018		
NEOMUNE general meetings	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x			x		x	x		x
*Group infant probiotic (GG)	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x
Gr. infant birth, AB, GM (DN)	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x
Group pig anti/probiotics(TT)	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x
Group mice anti/probiot.(HF)	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x
Group piglet gut-brain (AA)	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x

* The indicated frequency of sub-group meetings is shown only as a guideline for expected meeting intervals

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 0.5 mio DKK

Mainly to cover platform meeting expenses and invitation to GB and SAB members.

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere: 0.5 mio DKK

Local administrative support not funded by NEOMUNE.

10. Additional comments:

- The NEOMUNE research platform consists of a large, diverse number of core participants from hospitals, universities and industries. As such, it cannot be expected that the platform meetings will be able to cover all aspects of the research. Focus is placed on forming scientific subgroups in NEOMUNE, and corresponding subgroup meetings. Subgroups are dynamic and meant to connect research areas that are relatively closely connected in scientific methodology and research questions.



NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

WP 4.3: Training and education

<p>1. Related WPs, MG contact person: Synergies with WP4.1, 4.2. MG contact: Per Sangild, Gorm Greisen</p>																																																																					
<p>2. Key involved personnel, their institution and mail address (project leader + main study site underlined): Christina Kelager, secretary, Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, Univ. Copenhagen, kelager@life.ku.dk Elin Skytte, personal coach, Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, els@life.ku.dk (5%) Gorm Greisen, Prof., Neonatology, Copenhagen University Hospital, Gorm.Greisen@regionh.dk (5%, MG) Mie Seest Dam, PhD stud., Dept. Public Health, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, mda@sund.ku.dk (5%) <u>Per Sangild, Prof., Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, psa@life.ku.dk (5%, MG)</u> Stine Bering, Clinical and Experimental Nutrition, NEXS, Univ. Copenhagen, sbs@life.ku.dk (5%,) Zhu Yanna, Ass. Prof., School of Public Health, Sun Yat-sen University (5%)</p>																																																																					
<p>3. Main aim and sub-aims: a) To provide appropriate general scientific training for young researchers (PhDs, post docs) in NEOMUNE. b) To provide appropriate leadership training for young researchers (PhDs, post docs) in NEOMUNE. c) To provide possibility for personal counseling and support for all researchers in NEOMUNE.</p>																																																																					
<p>4. Background and a central hypothesis: NEOMUNE facilitates training for many young investigators across wide scientific disciplines, and in new collaborative networks that hopefully exceed the NEOMUNE project period. NEOMUNE makes deliberate attempts to place younger researchers, with limited training in leadership positions where they develop leadership skills (e.g. as project leaders, or as part of MG and NEOMUNE subgroups). Careful supervision is required and/or personal counseling is the natural responsibility of a well-functioning research team. Besides the PhD students specifically sponsored by the NEOMUNE funds, the project will create training possibilities for a number of other PhD students and young researchers. To obtain and maintain enthusiasm for biological research, it is important that young scientists are able to put their own scientific method and understanding into a greater methodological and scientific perspective. Working with scientists from other fields (even across the domains of natural, social and human science) and across countries, make it clear that the basis of scientific epistemology differ widely. PhD students will be encouraged to participate in the 6 ECTS PhD course in “Food, Medicine and Philosophy in East and West” (http://www.courseinfo.life.ku.dk/Kurser/phd_fmp.aspx; lead by PS) and in a 2 ECTS course in Pediatric Research (lead by GG). These courses will train students to know the potentials and limitations of research methods directed towards infants and children. The course will seek to place maximal focus on aspects that are relevant for NEOMUNE. <i>We hypothesise that careful attention to the widely differing career and personal goals of younger researchers will enable NEOMUNE to foster mature researchers and good leaders with personal integrity.</i></p>																																																																					
<p>5. Key analyses and methods: a) A PhD course in Pediatric Research will be offered to PhD students. b) A PhD course in Food, Medicine and Philosophy in East and West will be offered to PhD students. c) Younger investigators will be encouraged to form young investigator subgroups. d) Younger investigators will be offered personal coaching, by a certified coach.</p>																																																																					
<p>6. Expected results: Development of mature researchers that become not only good researcher but also good research leaders</p>																																																																					
<p>7. Estimated time frame</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Task</th> <th colspan="3">2013</th> <th colspan="3">2014</th> <th colspan="3">2015</th> <th colspan="3">2016</th> <th colspan="3">2017</th> <th colspan="3">2018</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pediatric Research course</td> <td></td><td>x</td><td></td> <td></td><td>x</td><td></td> <td></td><td>x</td><td></td> <td></td><td>x</td><td></td> <td></td><td>x</td><td></td> <td></td><td>x</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FMP PhD course</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>x</td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>x</td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td>x</td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>													Task	2013			2014			2015			2016			2017			2018			Pediatric Research course		x			x			x			x			x			x		FMP PhD course				x						x							x	
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NEOMUNE research platform – work package synopses

8. Estimated budget from NEOMUNE: 0.25 mio DKK

9. Estimated budget from elsewhere: 0.5 mio DKK

Funding sought from external sources and internal university co-funding.

10. Additional comments:

- Basic science researchers in NEOMUNE are encouraged to become familiar with clinical routines at hospital partners in NEOMUNE.
- Clinical staff related to NEOMUNE hospital departments are encouraged to become familiar with the scientific routines of basic science partners in NEOMUNE.
- The exchange of researchers among different NEOMUNE labs constitutes an additional important training activity. Specific university-university collaboration agreements will be sought between specific partners (e.g. Univ. Copenhagen, Sun Yat-sen University).
- NEOMUNE researchers are encouraged to take part in academic teaching activities when this is NEOMUNE-relevant and possible within the set time as defined by the research plan.