



Curriculum Vitae

Thomas Bjørnholm



Born May 29, 1960

Married to Berith Bjørnholm (1987)

Children: Katrine (1990), Josefine (1994) and Jonatan (1997)

Current position

2018 Executive Chief Scientific Officer at VILLUM FONDEN and VELUX FONDEN ([THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS](#)), Tobaksvejen 10, DK-2860 Søborg, Denmark

Selected academic experience and positions

2010 Pro-rector for Research and Innovation and Deputy Rector, University of Copenhagen

2005 Professor of Materials Chemistry, University of Copenhagen

2001 Founding Director of the Nano-Science Center, University of Copenhagen

2000 Professor (5 y. appointment) of Materials Chemistry, University of Copenhagen

1997 Visiting Professor, University of Texas at Austin

1992 Associate Professor, Chemistry Department, University of Copenhagen

1989 NATO Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, San Diego

Education

1990 Lic.Scient. (PhD) in Materials Chemistry, University of Copenhagen

1986 Cand.Scient. in Chemistry and Physics, University of Copenhagen

Elected memberships of scientific organizations

- The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters (2004 -)
- The Danish Academy of Technical Sciences, ATV (2003 -)
- The Danish Natural Science Academy (1993 -)
- The Danish Board of Technology (2005-2008)
- The Danish Natural Science Research Council, FNU (2005 - 2009)

Research awards, board memberships and other activities (selected)



- Principal investigator for Center of Excellence in Synthetic Biology supported by the Danish Ministry of Science and Technology by a UNIK grant (2009 – 2010)
- Principal investigator for Sino-Danish Center of Excellence in Molecular Nanoelectronics supported by the Danish Basic Research Foundation (2009 – 2015)
- Recipient of “STAR Program of Excellence” in ‘Single molecule nanoscience’ from Univ. of Copenhagen (2008-12)
- Knighted by the Danish Queen (Ridder af Dannebrog, 2014)
- Head of Copenhagen Graduate School for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology supported by the Danish Research Councils (2003 – 10)
- Recipient of “Direktør Ib Henriksen Fondens” Prize, 250.000 DKK (2004)
- Recipient of Ellen and Niels Bjerrum’s prize and gold medal (1999)
- Evaluator for numerous international funding bodies and prize committees.
- Member of 6 EU projects. Coordinator of FP7 project “SINGLE”
- Danish representative in the European Commission Program Committee for Nanotechnology “NMP” (2007)
- Board member of: Symbionfonden (chairman, 2016-18), Copenhagen Capacity (2013-), Copenhagen Science City (chairman, 2010-18), Sino-Danish Center for Education and Research (vice chairman, 2016-18), Sonning Prize Committee (2010-18), Copenhagen Bio Science Park (COBIS, 2011-18), “Vækstforum Hovedstaden samt forretningsudvalg” (2011-18), “Bikubens Kollegiefond” (2014-), “Københavns Erhvervsråd” (2014-18), Venture Capital Company “CAT Management” (2007-2008), HEED Diagnostic (2013-14), Presidium of the Danish Academy of Technical Sciences (2016-), Committee of Science Policy at the Royal Danish Academy of Science and Letters (2016-), Committee of Science Policy and Innovation at the Confederation of Danish Universities (chairman, 2017-18)
- INSEAD “Challenge of Leadership” Graduate (2013)
- Chairman of the University of Copenhagen Alumni Association (2010 – 2016)
- Organizer of numerous international conferences and workshops including co-hosting the NanoTechnology in Northern Europe (NTNE) Conference in Copenhagen (2008), and chairing the 10th European Conference on Molecular Electronics (Copenhagen, 2009)
- Member of VL-Group 4 (2016 -)

Leadership

- As Research Director of the VILLUM FONDEN I support excellent research in technical- and natural science in Denmark.
- As Pro-rector I had the overall responsibility for research and innovation across all disciplines at the University of Copenhagen. Since 2010 excellent research has propelled the University of Copenhagen into the international top.
- As board member of various organisations I connect university research and innovation to society.
- As Founding Director of the Nano-Science Center at the University of Copenhagen I have experience as leader of several hundred students and researches excelling in research and education transcending the classical scientific disciplines.

Research interests

Molecular electronics, supramolecular chemistry, bio-nanotechnology, Langmuir-Blodgett films, nanochemistry. Major achievements include the first measurement of the nanoscale dewetting of



extended hydrophobic surfaces in water (*Phys. Rev. Lett.* **90**, 086101 (2003); P. Ball, News & Views, *Nature* **423**, 25-26 (2003)) and the first measurements of a single π -conjugated organic molecule in a single electron transistor device visiting a number of distinct redox states (*Nature* **425**, 698 – 701 (2003)). About a decade of work related to supramolecular assembly of electronic nanostructures at the air-water interfaced was reviewed in an invited feature article for Chemical Communications (*Chem. Commun.* **14**, 1812-1823 (2005)). More recently work has focused on single molecule electronics (*Nature Nanotechnology* **4**, 551-556 (2009)) and single molecule kinetics as well as nanobiotechnology and synthetic biology.

Innovation

As Pro-rector I have been instrumental in improving the innovation pipeline at the University of Copenhagen. I have chaired the development of the University of Copenhagen's contribution to the Greater Copenhagen innovation ecosystem including the collaboration in "[Copenhagen Science City](#)" and between the Danish Technical University and Copenhagen Business School. Several large public-private partnerships have been established as part of the vision of an "OPEN" innovation ecosystem including Beijing Genomics Institute and Microsoft. In 2017 the University of Copenhagen was listed by Nature index as number 13 in the world in terms corporate collaborations (*Nature* **552** (2017)). The Nano-Science Center was focused on research and innovation, and a number of successful companies and collaborations were initiated from this center.

Invited scientific lectures

\approx 100 at international conferences, \approx 100 at universities and other research institutions, \approx 50 for the general public.

Supervision of PhD and master students

\approx 20 PhD and \approx 20 master students have graduated with me as the main supervisor during the period from 1994 – present. \approx 20 Post Docs have been trained by me.

Publications, teaching and outreach

Since 1986, \approx 200 publications have been accepted for peer reviewed international journals including six contributions to Science or Nature journals. In addition, about 16 papers have been published in conference proceedings, 4 as book chapters, 2 patents and \approx 27 in more popular journals. Science citation index indicates \approx 7000 citations of the work since 1988 ($H = 46$). More than twenty years of experience as a teacher in undergraduate and graduate courses. More than 300 interviews and contributions to newspapers, radio and television. Development of an experimental High School outreach program in nanoscience. Presentation of research across the entire University of Copenhagen ([link](#)).

Personal links: [Google Scholar](#), [LinkedIn](#)