

## Editorial

Fourteen years ago, I played a small part in the establishing of the nanoscience degree programme at the University of Copenhagen. By pure chance I ended up as one of the student supervisors welcoming the first class of students at the Nano-Science Center. I was a second-year chemistry student at the time, vaguely familiar with the nanoscience concept and highly contemptuous of all scientific fields, bar my own. My attitude towards other disciplines and interdisciplinary fields of study such as nanoscience has changed somewhat since 2002.

In this inaugural issue of UCPH Nanoscience – a student research journal most of the content is written by first-year nanoscience students. These students will come to master a truly interdisciplinary field of study, enabling them to link chemical, medical, physical and biological research, thus creating something new and valuable. This is no mean feat. I often compare learning a scientific discipline to that of leaning a new language and the complete cultural heritage of a country utterly foreign to you. The nanoscience students learn four disciplines simultaneously.



**Picture** Professor Thomas Bjørnholm, director of the Nano-Science Center from the inauguration in 2001 to 2010, and to a large degree responsible for building the group of world-leading researchers that are part of the Nano-Science Center today. The picture was taken when Thomas Bjørnholm lead the team of researcher who were the first to study a single-molecule transistor.

Science students are introduced to their new ‘language’ by a native guide. Chemists are taught by chemists, that in turn were taught by chemist and who were brought up in a chemical tradition. The nanoscience students have no guides; they have to manage on their own. Surprisingly they do manage, and not only do they manage, they do very well and are highly sought after in research laboratories across the university and by companies such as Novozymes and Haldor Topsøe.

While the nanoscience tradition is still in the making, the students cope well by learning from their peers. To facilitate this process, new students must have access to the work of previous generation of students, which to me is the main purpose of this journal. For the Nano-Science Center faculty, this journal may nurture new interdisciplinary research projects and help improve consistency in the degree programme.

In the early years of the Nano-Science Center, the director, Professor Thomas Bjørnholm, succeeded in the colossal task of building a common nanoscience identity among the faculty. A group of people from diverse backgrounds and placed in different parts of the university. Today, the Nano-Science Center is an established unit.

Our task is to sustain the nanoscience students in building a nanoscience identity and a nanoscience tradition. It is my hope that this journal will be part of the tradition and will aid the students in broadcasting the winning nanoscience identity, and sharing it with the coming generations of students.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Just Sørensen".

Thomas Just Sørensen  
Editor-in-chief

