

Inaugural lecture on "Heart Hormones & Cardiovascular Endocrinology"

By Professor Jens Peter Gøtze

Friday 23 February 2018 at 14:00

Jens Peter Gøtze was recently appointed Professor in Cardiovascular Endocrinology at the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen.



Cardiovascular disease remains a major health issue in the world. Increasing age and improved treatment of other diseases means that the prevalence of chronic heart failure will continue to rise. The heart muscle not only works as a muscular pump and an electrical pacer; the heart is also an endocrine organ. Cardiac natriuretic peptides regulate its workload by stimulating natriuresis, by vasodilation, and by inhibiting other hormonal axes. Recent clinical data has shown that treatment aiming at increasing endogenous concentrations of natriuretic peptides is followed by longer life-span and improved heart function in patients suffering from chronic heart failure. Also in hypertension and diabetes, cardiac natriuretic peptides seem to come with a hitherto unexplored potential for treatment.

Professor Jens Peter Gøtze's research vision is a consolidation of cardiovascular endocrinology as a cross-functional discipline starting with innovative biochemical and molecular methods for relevant peptide systems. The work is based on biochemical methodology, experimental models for human heart disease, and final tests in clinical studies. The subject is per definition cross-functional and requires close collaboration with basic scientists and clinicians. The overall target is to contribute to a new understanding of the endocrine connections between organs in human heart diseases, and of the possibilities for new diagnostic and therapeutic initiatives.

