

Chair's Report 2026

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this year's general assembly, just over six months since we last held a general assembly of the Danish Epidemiological Society in Odense in December 2025.

This will be the first general assemble held in English as we announced last year. The assembly as well as the meetings and general information from DES is now fully in English to make them accessible to colleagues in Denmark who do not speak Danish.

The general assembly is normally held annually; however, this year we have chosen to hold it earlier in the spring, as this makes it logistically easier to establish the new board and present the financial statements without undue delay. We have also chosen this timing as the assembly has traditionally been held in the spring but was postponed by six months in the year 2024 when NordicEpi took place.

Composition of the Board

At the general assembly on December 3rd 2025, Julie Werenberg Dreier, Gro Askgaard, and Oleguer Plana-Ripoll stepped down from the board whereas, Stine Schramm, Katrine Grau, Amalie Timmermann and I, Terese Høj Jørgensen, were not up for election.

Stine Schramm stepped down as Chair and I, Terese Høj Jørgensen, was elected as the new Chair. Frida Richter Hansen, Reimar W Thomsen, and Sandra Feodor Nilsson were elected as board members.

Lau Caspar Thygesen was re-elected as auditor, while Henrik Støvring was not up for election.

At the constitutive board meeting in December 2025, roles within the board were assigned. Amalie Timmermann was elected vice-chair, Frida Richter Hansen was elected as Treasurer, Reimar W Thomsen, who serves as the board's medical member, was elected Secretary, and Sandra Feodor Nilsson was elected as editor of DES Orientering.

Maria Nørredam, who is studying public health science at University of Southern Denmark, has been the society's student assistant since November 15th 2025. Maria has chosen to step down from the position by the end of August this year. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very sincerely thank you for her work. Maria has been an important contributor to the board's work and has demonstrated a high level of professionalism, structure, and flexibility. We wish her all the best going forward.

The board has therefore appointed a new student assistant as of August 1st 2026, Frida Wibroe, who is studying public health science at University of Copenhagen. On behalf of the board, we would like to warmly welcome Frida. We look forward to working with her.

This year, two board members are stepping down: Stine Schramm and Katrine Grau. On behalf of the remaining board members, I would also like to thank you for your contributions during your time on the board. It has been a true pleasure working with you. Especially, I would like to thank Katrine for large contribution and many years serving as the society's treasurer and Stine for her enormous work as vice-chair and chair of the Society as well as her huge contribution as the chair of the 11th Nordic Epi Conference held by the Society in Copenhagen back in 2024.

Overall, we have a very strong collaboration within the board, and I would like to thank all board members for their contributions over the past half year.

Meeting Activities

Board Meetings and Other Internal Meetings

The board meets monthly via Teams. The January 2026 board meeting was held as a full day in person meeting at the University of Copenhagen, with a focus on planning the coming year's member meetings, potential initiatives to engage younger researchers and generally how to engage with the members and the broader society with an interest in epidemiology.

In addition, several committee meetings have been held, including planning groups for member meetings both related to today's meeting and the meeting in the fall as well as meetings to update our webpage.

Member Meetings

This is the first meeting since the last general assembly in December 2025. On the 2nd and 3rd of December 2025, we organized a Winter Meeting at H.C. Andersen Comwell in Odense, focusing on causal inference and target trials. In connection to the Winter Meeting, we held a meeting on an ongoing debate on vaccine research methods. This meeting was held in collaboration with The Danish Statistical Society. The meeting was very well attended, with more than 140 participants registered.

Today we have held a meeting on Bayesian Methods and tomorrow we will have a hands-on workshop on this topic.

Later this year on September 22nd and 23rd, we will host a 2-day meeting at Nyborg Strand on Modern Methods in Epidemiology: mediation, decomposition and target trial emulation.

The program includes a session on DAGs and mediation analyses, featuring confirmed speakers Long Nguyen (University of Copenhagen) and Gemma Hammerton (Bristol Medical School, UK). A session on decomposition techniques will be led by Sam Harper (McGill University, Canada). The meeting will also highlight early career researchers through presentations and the Schroll Prize 2026.

On the second day, the focus will be on causal inference frameworks, including a session on the causal roadmap by Maya Petersen (University of California, Berkeley, USA). Another session will address target trial emulation from a critical perspective, with contributions from Uffe Heide-Jørgensen (Aarhus University) and Irene Petersen (University College London and Aarhus University).

Please be aware that there is early bird registration until July 15th.

Meetings with International Societies

DES is a national member of the International Epidemiological Association (IEA) and a board member of the IEA European Federation (IEA-EEF). Following a period of inactivity within the IEA, its president has last year-initiated efforts to reactivate activities. I, Terese Høj Jørgensen, will be meeting with the IEA in connection the European epidemiological conference in London in September. The meeting is open to everyone attending the conference.

In addition, the German society has last year contacted DES regarding the establishment of a European epidemiological collaboration. Reimar W Thomsen has taken over from me in participating in these meetings on behalf of DES. He will provide further details later in the agenda.

NordicEpi, which was held in Copenhagen in 2024 and organized by DES, is a Nordic conference held every second year. NordicEpi 2026 was hosted by the Norwegian Epidemiological Society together with the Nordic Pharmacoepidemiological Network (NorPEN) in Tromsø on June 3-5th 2026. Stine Schramm and I, Terese Høj Jørgensen, served as DES representatives on the scientific committee.

Other international and external Meetings

In 2026, the society has also been involved in the National Partnership for Health Data, where Sandra Feodor Nilsson has taken over from Stine Schramm and serve as DES representative. However, there has not been any meeting in this forum since the last general assembly.

Sandra Feodor Nilsson is also representing DES in the reference group for the cohort *Better Health in Generations*. One meeting has been held so far in 2026.

Members, e-mails, Website, and Social Media

As of the end of June 2026, the society has 456 members, an increase from 432 members at the last general assembly back in December 2025.

In the spring of 2026, we held a name competition to find a new English name for our newsletter now that we were transitioning to English. We received a lot of good suggestions. At a DES board meeting, we elected the new name to be EpiLines – The DES newsletter. Congratulations to Kasper Kjersgaard Mortensen (AU) og Mattias

Højgaard Toftholm (SIF) for winning the competition and getting a free spot for this meeting.

Since the last general assembly in December 2025, the newsletter was published 5 times. Members are encouraged to submit suggestions for themes or contributions to the news letter. We are also happy to share information about relevant meetings of interest to Danish epidemiologists.

The society's website is continuously updated by our student assistant and primarily serves as an information channel for events and activities, meeting registration, and includes the board intranet. Members are encouraged to submit job postings, courses, conferences, and similar content via the society's email address.

The society's LinkedIn profile (*Danish Epidemiological Society*) is managed by all board members. We also encourage members to tag the society or share content with us that they would like us to share. Many thanks to Amalie Timmermann, who is the main coordinator and who will provide a few updates later.

Schroll Prize for Excellence

At the Winter Meeting 2026, the society awarded the Schroll Prize for Excellence for the sixth time. The award was given to Anne Helby Petersen from University of Copenhagen.

We are, at the moment, calling for new nominees with a deadline on August 21st and we encourage all our members to already now consider suitable candidates for nomination this year.

DES honorary members

At last year's general assembly, two new honorary memberships were awarded to Professor Emerita Thorkild IA Sørensen and Professor Emeritus Torben Jørgensen, respectively. This year, the board has not received any nominations. Nominations can be submitted continuously throughout the year, with review taking place annually in February.

Other Activities of the Board

The board also works actively to ensure good conditions for members and that epidemiological perspectives are represented in relevant contexts. We regularly nominate members for committees and advisory bodies

We have since December 2025, provided input to the vision for the Danish Heart Foundation Research initiative and made a re-nominated of a member to the Danish Medicines Council's expert committee for pediatric infectious diseases. We are currently in the process of making a nomination to the Independent Research Fund Denmark.

Concluding Remarks

In closing, I would like to thank you all for the past six months during which I have had the privilege of serving as Chair of DES.

My sincere thanks go to all members for your strong support and engagement, particularly through your participation in our events. I would also like to thank the board for an excellent and constructive collaboration.

I very much hope to continue serving as Chair for the coming year.

With these words, I will conclude and, on behalf of the board, express that we look forward to continuing our work to strengthen the conditions for epidemiological research in Denmark.

Terese Høj Jørgensen, PhD, Associate Professor, Chair
Danish Epidemiological Society