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Paris



DANISH DELEGATION VISIT TO STRASBOURG UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS

**SMART HOSPITAL: INNOVATIONS FOR
A RESILIENT HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

September 12, 2025

**Transforming health systems through Franco-Danish
collaboration and innovation**





DANISH DELEGATION VISIT TO STRASBOURG UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL SEPTEMBER 12, 2025 – SMART HOSPITAL: INNOVATION FOR A RESILIENT HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

TRANSFORMING HEALTH SYSTEMS THROUGH COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION

The hosts

Samir Henni, General Director CHRU Strasbourg - **Louise Villeneuve**, Site Director - **Alexandra Jullieron**, Secretary General CHRU Strasbourg - **Catherine Fernandez**, Medical Manager and Geriatric Assessment: Consultation, Day Hospital and Mobile Teams - **Gabriel Nisand**, Head of Public Health, Occupational Health and Hospital Hygiene Unit - **Laurent Karmusik**, Director of Information Systems - **Alain Pradignac**, Professor and Hospital Nutritionist - **Sarah Hustache**, Director of Clinical Research and Innovation - **Armelle Drexler**, Director of Medical Affairs - **Michel Kindo**, Head of Cardiovascular Surgery, Transplantation and Cardiac Assistance Department - **Vincent Laugel**, Head of Pediatric Neurology / Director of Pediatric Center for Clinical Investigation Department - **Sylvie Rossignol**, Pediatric Endocrinologist and Diabetologist - **Dr Armelle Pinot**, Emergency Medicine - **Dr Marc Scherlinger**, Rheumatologist - **Julien Pottecher**, Interim Head of Anaesthesia/Intensive Care and Perioperative Medicine Department - **Olivier Englander**, Deputy Head of Innovation and Support Department & Head of Innovation - **Nicolas Lefebvre**, Head of Infectious and Tropical Diseases and Internal Medicine Unit and Director of Crisis Management Unit

The Danish delegation

Jakob Hendel, Deputy Director, Amager-Hvidovre Hospital - **Carsten Dirksen**, PhD, Associate Professor, Endocrinologist and Expert in Clinical Obesity Management - **Philippe Jørgensen**, CEO Cortrium - **Fabien Capitain**, Commercial Director France, Cortrium - **Théo Klargaard**, Public and Governmental Affairs Director, Novo Nordisk - **Louis-Marie Pons**, Head of Prevention and Patients Associations, Novo Nordisk - **Thomas Juhl Olesen**, Consultant, Ward 24/7 - **Sophie Labrosse**, Health Attaché, Royal Danish Embassy Paris - **Annette Bertelsen Arbes**, Team Lead Healthcare, Royal Danish Embassy in Paris - **Clémence Barnault**, Health Advisor, Royal Danish Embassy in Paris - **Berit Frederiksen Leloup**, Senior Advisor Tech and Digitalisation, Royal Danish Embassy Paris

OBJECTIVE

On Friday, September 12, 2025, Strasbourg University Hospital hosted a Danish delegation as part of an innovation day organized jointly with the Embassy of Denmark. This event was directly linked to the commitment reaffirmed by the French and Danish Ministers of Health in April 2025 to build more resilient health systems together. Its purpose was to provide a platform for knowledge exchange and dialogue among Danish and French healthcare leaders, clinicians, and industry experts, enabling them to explore innovative ways to address shared challenges such as attractiveness of healthcare professions, the rise of chronic diseases, and comorbidities driven by demographic trends. With a focus on innovation, the day also aimed to promote new technologies as enablers towards efficiency in patient care and to strengthen resilience in the face of unforeseen crises.



A strong Franco-Danish cooperation context

The day opened with a reminder of the Declaration of Intent uniting France and Denmark in the health sector, with the goals of drawing lessons from the management of health crises, advancing digitalisation, and addressing chronic diseases. These commitments were reaffirmed last spring during the Danish State visit to France, with a particular emphasis on strengthening hospital resilience and improving patient pathways.

The Strasbourg University Hospitals, a key player in the territorial health organisation

Mr. Samir Henni, Strasbourg CHRU Director started the day by highlighting the territorial organisation of healthcare within the Alsace region, with Strasbourg playing a major and central role thanks to 5 hospitals, 2 maternity wards, a logistic centre, a healthcare laundry facility, an archive center and 16,000 professionals. Among Strasbourg University Hospital's missions, a strong importance relies on research as underlined by:

- Its renowned university teaching 1,700 students a year;
- A strong European cooperation with Freiburg and Basel involving 15,000 scientists and 100,000 students;
- 4 Nobel Prizes

Key insight

Health democracy is one of the core missions of the hospital in its regional role, despite the regional disparities in healthcare coverage across the Grand-Est.

Amager-Hvidovre Hospital and patients' involvement

The Amager-Hvidovre Hospital near to Copenhagen covers an uptake of app. 560.000 patients e.g., almost the same number of patients as CHRU Strasbourg. However, it's organised differently and has relatively fewer beds. Hence, in Denmark, outpatient care has increased significantly the past years. Furthermore, since 2022, the Amager-Hvidovre Hospital retains responsibility for treatment for 72 hours after the patient is discharged. The purpose is to create smoother transitions between sectors and open direct communication between the hospital and the municipal healthcare professionals. The recent healthcare reform (voted in November 2024) will extend this responsibility delay to 96 hours and will also apply to patients discharged from psychiatric care.



Key insight

Solving hospital challenges requires a shift in mindset, addressing issues not only within the hospital but also beyond its walls - patients and engineers (through the newly established Danish Technical University Hospital collaboration) can help the hospital solving problems. Patients must be in the centre of their own care pathways; in the sense that they should be more involved and autonomized with treatments and monitoring and reporting of vital signs.

Innovative practices serving patients first as well as healthcare staff

Several pilot projects using minimally invasive cardiac surgery have highlighted the benefits of enhanced recovery after cardiac surgery (ERAS), demonstrating not only a reduction in post-operative complications and a shorter length of stay, but also lower overall healthcare costs and improved patient satisfaction. In Strasbourg it reduces the rehospitalisation to 4%, while it stands to 20% elsewhere. The Pr. Kindo argues that this kind of innovation results in a cultural change by uniting teams, improving planning and anticipation of obstacles.

Key insight

The ERAS approach presents in Strasbourg contributes to better outcomes for patients while supporting healthcare professionals in delivering more efficient care. Article 51* experimentations aim also to permit a better collaboration and continuum between hospital, municipalities, and regional authorities.

The importance of health data for Strasbourg University Hospital to improve resilience

Strasbourg University Hospitals are developing since 2019 a comprehensive health data warehouse aiming (EDS) to become a key player for any project requiring the secure exploration or use of these data. This project is part of the wider interregional hub – PAISaGE- within the Grand-Est Region along 6 others university hospitals in order to harmonise data and achieve interoperable data warehouses. The ultimate goal would be to be able to use linked data between the city and the hospital as well as contributing to the national Health Data Hub.

At the Strasbourg University Hospitals, care, research and business continuity plans are currently being developed by the IT teams to address cyber risks and ensure resilience in the event of an attack on hospital information systems.

At Hvidovre-Amager Hospital the organisation of cybersecurity and IT is different as it is the Region who is responsible of this area and handles it for all the hospitals in the region.



Workshop 1

How to use digital tools to create better working conditions and patients flows?

- **Innovation for a more resilient hospital care**

In the context of a double demographic pressure from the concurrent challenges of an aging population that requires more healthcare services and a shrinking workforce to provide those services, the hospital environment needs innovation. Discussions included the processes, challenges and best practices for the implementation of innovative tools and organisation. Two questions arose specifically, referring to the need for coordination as well as the need for clarifying the new responsibilities. During this workshop, participants were able to discover and engage in discussion on two innovative solutions from Danish companies:

- *Cortrium: an ECG solution making ECG easier to use – from recording to the final analysis – allowing healthcare professionals to gain time*
- *Ward 24/7: allowing a continuous 24/7 observation of high-risk patients with real-time alarms through innovative machine learning algorithms in a Clinical Support System (CSS).*

Workshop 2

Improving the management of obesity: a health and social necessity?

- **Approaches to obesity care: shared perspectives**

As prevention is municipalities competence in Denmark the discussion focused on the management of obesity as close as possible to patients in Denmark, particularly by involving a transversal approach (health, education, sport, city...). The city of Strasbourg is following this intention through Cities for Better Health. In France, on the other hand, specialised centers for obesity (CSOs), existing since 2012, represent the way obesity care is managed. The transition period between childhood and adulthood in the treatment of obesity was also discussed. Finally, the availability of anti-obesity treatments is eagerly awaited by both healthcare professionals and patients, although the question of their financing raises the current blind spot regarding the associated costs of comorbidities for society (€B 12.7 in 2024 estimation Asterès). The political awareness seems to move slowly towards a better recognition of this chronic disease in France, a road map on obesity care is expected and the idea of Pré-ALD could be included in the next social security financing bill to allow patients with high chronic risk and comorbidities to experience an early care scheme.

- *LightCOM is a research project supervised by Dr Carsten Dirksen (Lighthouse Consortium on Obesity Management). It consists on a Danish-British partnership bringing together universities, hospitals and local authorities to offer innovative solutions and treatments to people suffering from severe obesity.*
- *Cities for Better Health™ is a prevention program launched within 50 cities worldwide by Novo Nordisk, convinced that diabetes and obesity are complex diseases. Since 2020, a coalition of 14 partners, including the Strasbourg University Hospital are acting towards the most at-risk populations to reduce prevalence of these in the city of Strasbourg.*



Final conclusions

Mr. Henni concluded the session by stressing that the two hospitals share a lot of the same challenges and can win by sharing experiences. It appears that collaboration and coordination are key for development and implementation of digital solution as well as to answer to all types of crises, with the common purpose of strengthening European health system resilience.

Main areas for future dialogue were identified

- 1. Crisis management: we must be ready for any unforeseen crises.**
- 2. Therapeutic innovations are key and for innovation to succeed, the patient needs to be involved at the center of its own healthcare.**
- 3. The increasing use and production of data creates both opportunities and challenges: attracting private companies as partners, while also addressing the need for staff training, data security, and new ways of working.**
- 4. The ERAS approach presents in Strasbourg contributes to better outcomes for patients while supporting healthcare professionals in delivering more efficient care. Article 51 experimentations aim also to permit a better collaboration and continuum between hospital, municipalities, and regional authorities.**

**Article 51 is an experimental measure enshrined in law, which allocates funding to certain projects before considering their nationwide roll-out. The aim of Article 51 is to promote innovative organisations that contribute to improving patient care, the efficiency of the healthcare system, access to care and the pertinence of healthcare product prescriptions.*

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