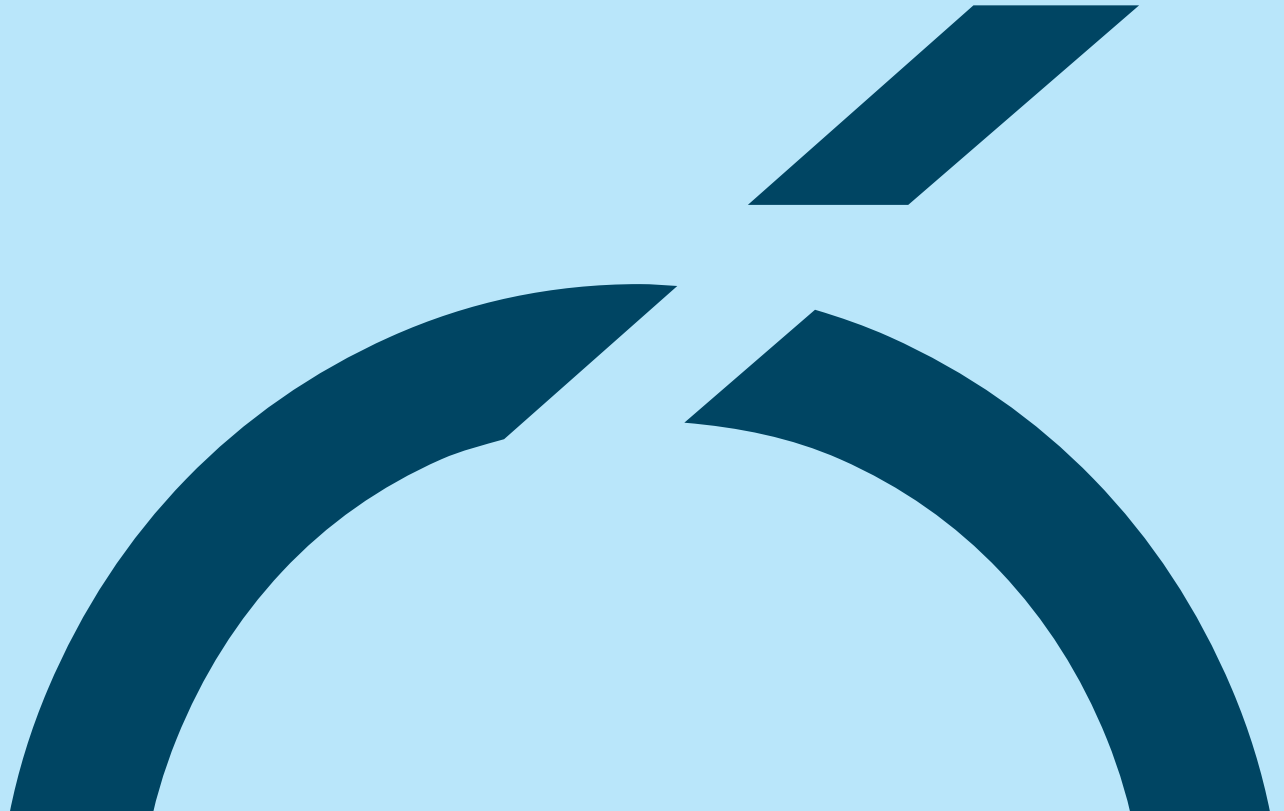
AARHUS
UNIVERSITY

ÓDIN OPEN DISCOVERY
INNOVATION NETWORK
A Novo Nordisk Foundation Sponsored Initiative

ODIN

Open Discovery
Innovation Network



ODIN

UNITES MINDS TO ACCELERATE DRUG DISCOVERY

ODIN breaks down the barriers between industry and academia to support precompetitive research in a collaborative, open environment

ODIN is a three-year pilot project at Aarhus University. The Novo Nordisk Foundation has awarded 54,5 MDKK to establish the network and facilitate co-creation of novel research projects.

Any company or AU academic group is welcome to join ODIN

WHAT IS **ODIN**?

ODIN is an entirely new model for university-industry collaboration that seeks to accelerate drug discovery through an open approach to collective problem-solving and sharing of results.

Without the restrictive framework of patents, ODIN will accelerate collective problem-solving and boost the creativity of the participating university researchers and all interested pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

All parties can source input and partners for new research ideas through the network - and they can even apply for projectfunding from ODIN.

All research within ODIN occurs at the precompetitive stages of **drug discovery** – entirely without IP. The platform is completely open with all knowledge and results shared openly.

ODIN aims to integrate the efforts of academia and industry in developing better research-based building blocks from which to construct innovative drugs and diagnostics*

* ODIN projects with a diagnostic focus must also be relevant to drug discovery and pharma companies - and i.e. have the potential to lead to new therapeutics downstream.

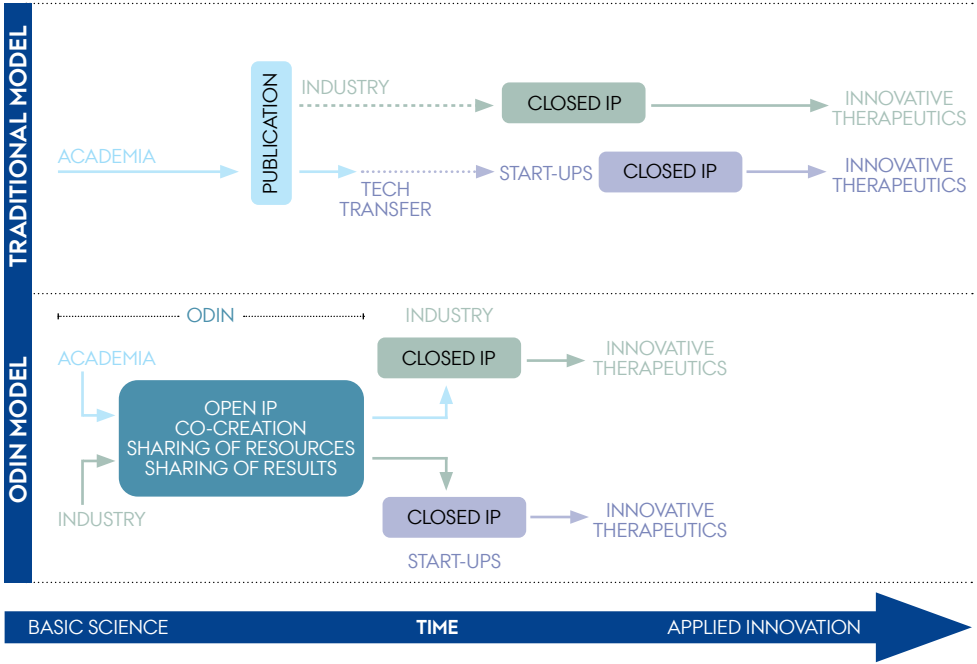
AN OPEN APPROACH TO IP

Research at ODIN occurs in a collaborative, open environment where all research results are made public without prior IP protection. This simplifies the initiation of university-industry collaboration and, by allowing knowledge to be made available to a broader audience, increases and accelerates potential use.

Although ODIN's open results cannot be patented, everyone is free to use these results to e.g. develop products that can be commercially protected.

By removing concerns over IP protection in early stage research, ODIN not only facilitates academic-industry co-creation of projects but also drives open, collective problem-solving across disciplines as well as between university and industry.

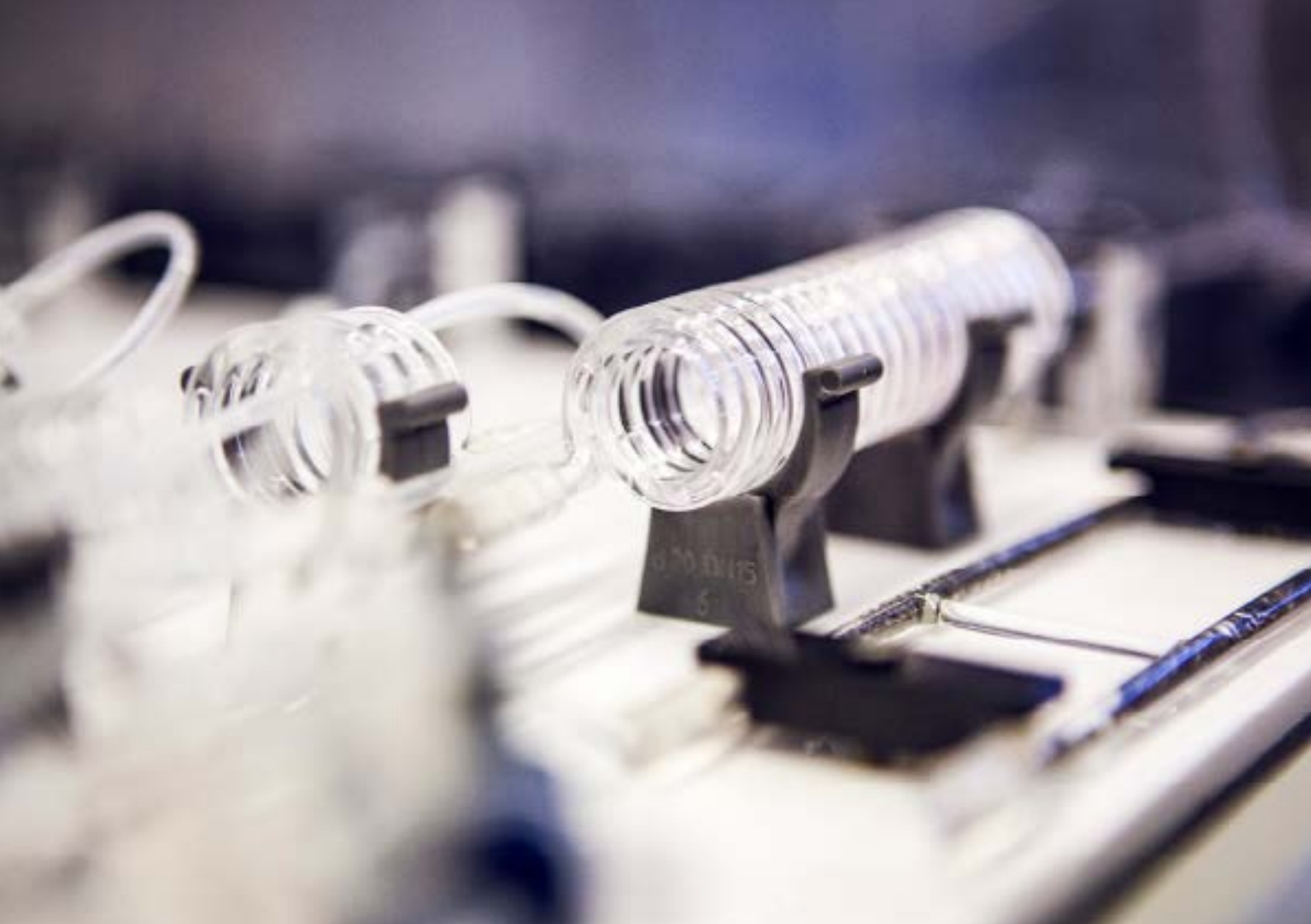
AN OPEN APPROACH TO IP / MODELS



ODIN **OFFERS:**

- a platform to foster collective problem solving between industry, academia and the clinic, through an open and structured ideation process,
- peer review and funding of the best pre-competitive, open project proposals, *
- a way for industry partners to source input from non-obvious partners or disciplines in the ODIN community, thus expanding and accelerating R&D,
- open access to data, results and research tools created in the ODIN research projects, so that any company or researcher can use or re-purpose them,
- the means to pursue new avenues of research in academia by collaborating and co-creating with industry,
- opportunities to address complex problems that can only be tackled through collaboration with diverse partners,
- reduced time and effort for negotiating contracts and IP rights for very basic research and precompetitive discoveries, allowing partners to focus on the science and learn from each other,
- decreased development costs with accelerated termination of non-viable projects.

* Only the academic component of the joint research projects can receive funding.



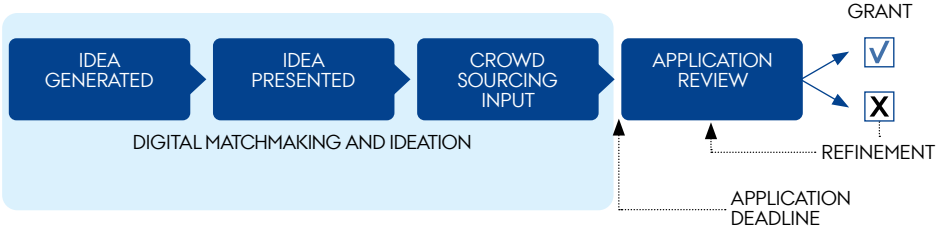
HOW ODIN **WORKS**

Any company and Aarhus University researcher or clinician can propose new project ideas in ODIN. The platform provides a digital matchmaking site, where members must upload ideas for new projects, look for partners, and give input to others.

The ODIN secretariat also hosts structured ideation events, where parties can pitch ideas and source input on already formed projects ideas from non-obvious sources, such as disciplines outside of one's usual circle.

Through a web-based platform, the most promising project ideas are taken through to written applications for funding. A Project Review Committee, consisting of representatives from both academia and industry, assesses these proposals with the aid of ad hoc international peer reviewers.

Funded projects share their data and results across the network through an open data structure (at Zenodo) and through open publishing in journals.



IN ORDER TO RECEIVE FUNDING, **PROJECTS MUST:**

- be relevant to **drug discovery** in general and fall within the topics "**biomarkers**" and/or "**target validations**"
- include and be relevant to both academic and industry partners and have the potential to eventually lead to closed research and innovation projects,
- be of excellent scientific quality and be truly novel
- be of general interest by not addressing too narrow and/or company-specific needs,
- be precompetitive, fundamental research (up to TRL level 3),
- show a clear benefit from an open approach and demonstrate that the research would not be possible under a traditional, closed approach,
- ideally have partners or contributions from more than one AU faculty,
- share intermediate scientific outputs and results openly within the ODIN community throughout their duration, just as they must open their results to the public through publications,
- be cost effective and have a budget and timeline proportionate to the proposed aim, activities, and expected output.

JOIN US

ODIN operations are coordinated by a Secretariat based at Aarhus University under the auspices of a Steering Group balanced between leading academics and top industry representatives, as well as advisors from other international open innovation/open science initiatives.

Several international pharmaceutical companies have already joined forces with three faculties at Aarhus University as part of ODIN and other companies are welcome to join the network.

For more information on ODIN, please visit www.odin.au.dk

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