

A rising star: A young Danish eye doctor honored with three prestigious awards in 2021

In 2021, our young Danish colleague, Yousif Subhi (32), received three awards for his research: the Bagger-Sørensen Fonden Young Researcher Award, the VELUX Foundation 40-year Anniversary Award, and the Danish SOE Lecture 2021. Yousif is a resident ophthalmologist at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen and an external Associate Professor at the University of Southern Denmark. His research is focused on clinical studies and evidence synthesis in ophthalmology, with an emphasis on chorioretinal diseases.



“I did my PhD on age-related macular degeneration and immunological aging. Under the supervision of Prof. Torben Lykke Sørensen in Roskilde, we did some amazing studies. Shortly after my PhD, my mother unfortunately received a hematological cancer diagnosis, and I experienced the frustrations of patients and relatives first hand. That experience changed me in several aspects, including as a clinician and as a researcher. I shifted my focus from translational to clinical research. I want to help the patients in our clinic today. I am not interested in mechanisms that holds potential for therapy in 10–20 years. I want to know: What is the best treatment now? How do we best advise our patients today? Evidence synthesis and clinical research methods are my methods to answer these questions,” explains Subhi.



The Bagger-Sørensen Fonden Young Researcher Award is an annual award in clinical and basic medicine given to a Danish researcher under the age of 40. The nominee is selected by an independent committee based on research content and bibliometric analysis. The award includes a personal gift of 100,000 DKK.

The Bagger-Sørensen Fonden Young Researcher Award was presented by the Board President Claus Bagger-Sørensen (left) and included a bag with gum as a reference to the Bagger-Sørensen company history of gum production.

The VELUX Foundation 40-year Anniversary Award was given to one senior scientist (Prof. Jens Folke Kiilgaard) and one junior scientist (Yousif Subhi) by an independent committee. The awards are given for a significant research contribution and engagement in the development of the specialty. The junior scientist award includes a personal gift of 50,000 DKK and a research grant of 125,000 DKK.

The VELUX Foundation 40-year anniversary was live-streamed, where Yousif explained his work and motivation. The award also included a vase from the Swedish artist Bente Brosbol Hansen.



The SOE Lecture is given in every European country by a talented young researcher selected by the national ophthalmological society. The award includes a presentation at the next SOE conference.