



Jesper Fisker

CEO of the Danish Cancer Society

Professional experience

CEO

The Danish Cancer Society

2018 – current

Jesper Fisker leads Denmark's largest health NGO, with about 400,000 paying members in a country of just 6 million (around 1 in 10 adults of the population). He drives the organisation's work across research, prevention and patient and relative support, as well as advances cancer control agendas nationally, in Europe and globally. He actively engages in the organisation's strong civil society backing, where a large network of volunteers forms a core pillar, contributing to local activities, patient support, fundraising and awareness efforts. He oversees the Danish Cancer Institute, the organisations world class research centre with strong international collaborations, which had total expenditures of EUR 31.1 million in 2025. He is also engaged in the Danish NCD Alliance supporting its work on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in East Africa.

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Education in Denmark

2011–2018

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of the Interior and Health in Denmark

2011–2011

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Social Affairs in Denmark

2010–2011

Professional experience

Director General The Danish Health Authority	2007–2010
Director General Health and Care Administration, Copenhagen Municipality	2003–2007
Municipal Chief Executive Hillerød Municipality	2000–2003
Director of Social Services Brøndby Municipality	1995–2000
Deputy Head of Social Services Rødovre Municipality	1993–1995
Researcher The Danish Institute of Governmental Research	1987–1993

Selected board and committee roles

Board Member Board of Danish Patients An umbrella organization consisting of 109 patient and relative associations in Denmark, representing a total of 900.000 individual members.	2025 – current
Chair National Danish Health Structure Commission Appointed by the Government of Denmark to lead a comprehensive reform effort to shape the future organisation of the national health system. This work focused on prevention, diagnostics, treatment, equal access and digitalisation. The recommendations led to Denmark's biggest healthcare reform in a quarter century and are currently being implemented.	2023–2024
Steering Committee Member The Cancer Patient's House in Nuuk, Greenland	2022 – current

Education

1994 PhD in Public Administration University of Copenhagen
1987 MSc in Political Science Dept. of Political Science University of Copenhagen

Recognitions

Knight First Class of the Order of the Dannebrog
(Kingdom of Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands)

About the Danish Cancer Society



Danish Cancer Institute research report 2025



Selected board and committee roles

Chair

2020 - current

Board of The LIFE Foundation

A Danish non-profit foundation with the mission of strengthening the interest and aspirations of children and youths in science and technology to support future skills in society. They develop and provide free STEM learning resources for schools.

Steering Committee Member

2020 - current

European Fair Pricing Network (EFPN)

Working to promote fair pricing and access to essential cancer medicines in collaboration with WHO and EU stakeholders.

Board Member

2018 - current

Board of the Nordic Cancer Union

Representing Denmark in a longstanding Nordic partnership committed to joint research and advocacy.

Chair

2018 - 2026

Board of the University College Copenhagen

One of Denmark's largest higher education institutions. The University College Copenhagen provides practice-oriented higher education and applied research to educate frontline professionals, who work directly with citizens in the welfare and healthcare systems.

Chair

2008-2009

The Governmental Committee on the Future of General Practitioners

Board Member

2007-2010

The World Health Organisation's Executive Board, representing Denmark

Chair

2000-2003

The National Council for Public Health

Chair

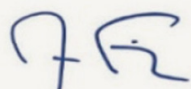
1997-2000

The Association of Social Directors in Denmark

About me

I've spent most of my life working to make health systems fairer and more human, from the halls of government to the heart of civil society. Whether shaping national health reforms or building global partnerships, I've learned that real progress in cancer control depends on trust, collaboration, a shared belief that everyone deserves equal access to care — and a good sense of humour.

Outside of work, I try to practice what I preach about balance by cycling everywhere, even on the days when it pours. I'm married and have three daughters, who make sure I keep perspective and remember what matters most in life. I spent much of my childhood living in Greenland, which might explain both my love of nature and my aversion to fish — ironic, since my last name literally means "fish" in Danish. When I have a quiet moment, you'll often find me reading Murakami, who reminds me that life, like health systems, is rarely linear but always interconnected.



Jesper Fisker

