



## **MBG Research Committee meeting - Friday 03 March 2023, 13:00-14:30**

Location: 1872- 547

**Attendants:** Torben Heick Jensen (THJ), Erik Østergaard Jensen (EOJ), Rune Hartmann (RH), Anne Færch Nielsen (AFN), Mikkel Heide Schierup (MHS), Tinna Stevnsner (TVS), Claus Oxvig (CO), Esben Lorentzen (EL), Jens Stougaard (JS)

### **Not attending:**

Daan van Aalten (DvA), Jørgen Kjems (JK), Poul Nissen (PN), Inge Danielsen (ID)

### **Agenda:**

- 1. Approval of the agenda – approved.**
- 2. Approval of minutes from the previous committee meeting – approved.**
- 3. Announcements**
  - a. Success rates for research applications autumn 2022 (Lundbeck, NNF, Carlsberg, AUFF, ERC)
    - i. The success rates are similar to previous years. MBG's researchers have sent fewer applications to NNF project grants in Bioscience and Basic Biomedicine in the last two years. The committee discussed that this could be explained by more people holding larger NNF grants but emphasized that one can still apply for NNF projects while holding another NNF grant. The committee also noticed that we could be more active in applying for ERC funding.
  - b. Plans for MBG/BiRC Young Investigator Symposium 2023
    - i. This year's symposium will be held 2-4 October, the registration deadline will be end of August. A flyer to advertise the symposium will be sent out in May.
  - c. Update on AU Honorary Doctorate 2023.
    - i. The university board has decided that NAT (and MBG's) nominee will receive an honorary doctorate in September 2023
  - d. Mentoring for MBG Young Investigators
    - i. The MBG Young Investigator Programme includes tenure-track assistant professors, assistant professors with their own career grant and newly hired Dandrite group leaders. As part of the programme, each young investigator is offered a meeting with members of the research committee twice per year. The committee discussed the format and scope for these meetings.
  - e. Nominations open for AIAS associate fellowships



- f. RSO offers support as usual until further notice.
  - i. In 2022, AU management decided that the research support office should primarily focus on EU and IFD applications, but so far, no deadline has been set for the transition. This means that Mikkel Kongsbak will continue to be at MBG Thursdays 9-12 and to provide support for research budgets (across all funding agencies) until further notice.

#### **4. News from the Research Committee at NAT (*Torben Heick Jensen*)**

- a. New call for D NRF Centres of Excellence announced (deadline 04 Dec). NAT will organize pitch sessions in August or September, MBG will organize local pitches before summer and possibly again in autumn.
- b. The faculty wishes to support entrepreneurship at department level. This is already happening at MBG with mutual benefits to the start-up companies and the department. The research committee discussed that MBG will be happy to host more start-ups; EOJ is in a working group looking at start-up facilities at AU.
- c. MSCA success rates at NAT. The RSO offers a master class for MSCA candidates; particularly useful for people who are not already at AU when they apply.

#### **5. Upcoming funding deadlines (*Anne Færch Nielsen*)**

- a. ERC Advanced – five planned applications from MBG
  - i. JS pointed out that ERC allows the main applicant to apply for their own salary.
- b. DFF Sapere Aude – three planned applications from MBG
  - i. The call text specifies that the grant should cover a research group (PI + two other people). Without significant co-funding from the host institute, this makes it difficult to view Sapere Aude as an initial starting grant for new group leaders at MBG. The committee agreed to monitor how the call text is administered by the Research Council.
- c. Lundbeck Ascending Investigator
- d. Villum Experiment
  - i. The Villum foundation now phrases their scope by using ERC panels, which makes it clear that molecular and cell biology projects are eligible for support (applications within ERC panels L1, LS2, LS3, LS8 are supported).
- e. Marie Curie-master class – internal nomination of candidates at MBG by 15 Mar
- f. D NRF centers – plan for initial pitch at MBG
  - i. Several researchers at MBG have expressed interest in applying for D NRF Centers, the committee encourages multiple applications from the department. Pitch sessions with the research committee at MBG will be



arranged for the individual applicants (and participation is not mandatory for sending in an application). It is also perfectly fine to pitch early and immature ideas that may need a bit more time to develop.

- g. General discussion of research application strategy at MBG
  - i. The committee encourages everyone to freely decide, which grants they apply for.
- h. Filing and registration of research applications
  - i. **All research applications of > 50.000 DKK** need to be registered in ReAp (also the rejected ones). This is an important budgeting tool for the faculty, a direct line of communication with the finance department for MBG and a very useful way to evaluate success rates across different foundations (to focus our efforts on the right calls). MBG's researchers should send all submitted applications to AFN and she will happily add them to ReAp.
  - ii. All outgoing research applications also need to be added to AU's filing system Workzone. This is a requirement by law that AU must meet. The application text, budget and relevant email correspondence are stored confidentially (only accessible to the main applicant, the MBG secretariat, the project finance officer and the research support office). AFN takes care of filing research applications in Workzone. An email explaining the process for registration in ReAp and Workzone will be sent to the senior PIs.

## 6. Evaluation of internal peer review for grant applications

- i. The committee discussed the current system and found that it works well. Both junior and senior group leaders benefit from internal feedback on their applications prior to submission. In addition, it's helpful to talk to MBG's representatives in the different foundation committees, as there may be specific attention points that are not obvious from the call text.

## 7. AOB

## 8. Next committee meeting

- a. May 2023