



MBG Research Committee meeting – Monday 4 September 2023, 13:00-14:30

Location: 1872-547

Attendants: Torben Heick Jensen (THJ), Erik Østergaard Jensen (EOJ), Anne Færch Nielsen (AFN), Mikkel Heide Schierup (MHS), Claus Oxvig (CO), Esben Lorentzen (EL), Jørgen Kjems (JK), Poul Nissen (PN), Inge Danielsen (ID), Rune Hartmann (RH), Tinna Stevnsner (TVS)

Not attending:

Daan van Aalten (DvA), Jens Stougaard (JS)

Agenda:

- 1. Approval of the agenda** - approved
- 2. Approval of minutes from the previous committee meeting** - approved
- 3. Announcements**
 - a. MBG has been asked to provide a document outlining the department's funding strategy that will form part of NAT's funding strategy for 2024-2026. AFN and THJ will prepare a draft and circulate it to the research committee by email.
 - b. The deadline for MBG/BiRC Young Investigator Symposium was 31 Aug and the committee has received 19 applications.
- 4. New from the Research Committee at NAT**
 - a. No recent meetings since a new vice-dean for research has not yet been hired.
- 5. Presentation of BiRC's research profile**
 - a. MHS gave a general presentation of the organization, teaching, infrastructure and research activities at BiRC.
 - i. BiRC hosts the GenomeDK platform (2 employees) jointly funded by NAT, HE and Aarhus University Hospital. GenomeDK is ISO-certified and therefore supports handling of patient data.
 - ii. 5 senior PIs fully employed at BiRC, 5 part-time senior PIs employed at BiRC 20% of their time, 1 full-time secretary.
 - iii. PhD students at BiRC are enrolled via Computer science to ensure a strong connection with the informatics/mathematics part of bioinformatics. This will continue after the merger with MBG.
- 6. Job openings at BiRC**
 - a. BiRC had two job openings for senior scientific staff planned before the merger with MBG and these jobs will be advertised in autumn 2023. The job postings will be very broad since BiRC has previously had very good experience with open calls. Since BiRC is now a part of MBG, the hiring committee for the positions will include members from both BiRC and MBG.



- b. The research committee discussed how to achieve the best possible synergy for future recruitments to MBG, BiRC and DANDRITE. As a follow-up, the committee decided to revisit MBG's recruitment strategy at the next meeting in November.

7. Visit from Michael Møller Hansen from AUFF

- a. Postponed due to a last-minute cancellation.

8. Success rates for research applications

- a. No relevant data at this point

9. Upcoming funding deadlines

- a. DNRF process plan. Pitches at NAT ongoing for applicants who signed up before summer. The general deadline to sign up for RSO support for help with budget and application text for DRNF centers is 22 September. Anyone can sign up for RSO support with an idea, also applicants who did not take part in the NAT pitches.
- b. NNF Challenge call 2024. The topic calls were discussed, and they are further from MBG's focus than previous years.

10. AOB

- a. Future research support. The faculty will hire two new funding advisors to take over the tasks left open by the recently announced restructuring at AU's research support office. Among other things, the new funding advisors will support applications to the private Danish foundations (NNF, Lundbeck, Villum, Carlsberg) in collaboration with AFN.

11. Next committee meeting

- a. October/November 2023