



**MBG Research Committee meeting – Wednesday 11 October 2023, 14:30-16:00**

**Location: 1872-447**

**Attendants:** Torben Heick Jensen (THJ), Erik Østergaard Jensen (EØJ), 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), Daan van Aalten (DvA), Jens Stougaard (JS)

**Agenda:**

- 1. Approval of the agenda – the agenda was approved.**
- 2. Approval of minutes from the previous committee meeting – the minutes were approved.**
- 3. Announcements**
  - a. Two MBG researchers have been chosen for DFF's academic councils: *Rune Hartmann for FSS and Simona Radutoiu for FTP*
  - b. Outcome of Young Investigator Symposium 2023: *5 of the 8 participants in the online symposium were encouraged to submit a full grant application to set up a research group at MBG. The YIS committee is looking for additional committee members to better reflect the topics and nationalities represented at MBG. PN mentioned that Dandrite would be happy to join the YIS committee.*
  - c. *A YIS participant from 2022 is invited for interview for a Villum Young Investigator grant.*
  - d. *The Novo Nordisk Foundation has restructured their talent programme: The Young Investigator Award is discontinued, and the Laureate Research Grant will only be awarded once per year.*
- 4. News from the Research Committee at NAT (Torben Heick Jensen)**
  - a. *The faculty expects to have a new vice dean for research by January 2024.*
  - b. *The recent meeting in NAT's research committee was focused on the upcoming department evaluations. A working group is discussing the format for the evaluations to make sure the process is seen as constructive for all. MBG will be evaluated in 2025.*
  - c. *The five largest private Danish foundations (Novo Nordisk, Villum, Lundbeck, Carlsberg and LEO) and the Danish universities are working on a new model to better cover the indirect costs associated with externally funded research projects. The final model is pending approval by the different partners but will most likely replace the current bench fee model (used by NNF and LEO) and simplify the application process across the five foundations.*
  - d. *EØJ attended the recent AUFF meeting at Sandbjerg. The main instruments (including NOVA) will continue in their current form and AUFF is considering a format where their grants include overhead.*
- 5. Recruitment plan for MBG (Erik Østergaard Jensen)**



- a. *The improved financial situation at NAT and at MBG has made it possible to open more positions and at an earlier stage than anticipated at the beginning of the year. EØJ presented a plan to open 10 permanent positions at MBG over the next 3 years. Four of them will be posted in 2024.*
  - b. *The committee discussed the pros and cons of posting all 4 positions at once vs 2 in winter/spring and 2 in summer/autumn. The conclusion was that a 2-and-2 model is better for the recruitment process and for securing sufficient start-up support for the new groups. The jobs will be posted with a six-month interval. The positions will be posted as associate professor/tenure-track assistant professor to widen the pool of potential applicants.*
  - c. *The committee discussed possible topics for the job postings based on previous experience and the latest recruitment plan from 2021. PN mentioned that Dandrite has had good experience with very broad job titles (e.g., neuroscience) and then with examples of more specific areas mentioned in the job posting text. There was a general consensus for this approach and the committee agreed that strong search committees will be crucial as well.*
  - d. *Several factors play into the topic areas for the job postings (research gaps, teaching needs, funding opportunities) and the research committee members were encouraged to consult with their sections for broad feedback before final decisions are made. The teaching situation at MBG has changed since the latest recruitment plan was made in summer 2021 – particularly given recent and planned retirements of PIs with a heavy teaching load as well as the merger of the two educations in Molecular Biology and Molecular Medicine – and this should also be considered when posting job positions.*
  - e. *The committee agreed to revisit the discussion at a later meeting after the different sections and the education committee have been consulted. The head of the education committee will be invited to join the next meeting in the research committee.*
- 6. Success rates for research applications (Anne Færch Nielsen)**
- a. *This point was skipped due to time limitations.*
- 7. Upcoming funding deadlines (Anne Færch Nielsen)**
- 8. AOB**
- a. *MHS: Niklas Elmkvist, new PI at Computer Science, is looking for project collaborators in molecular biology/bioinformatics. MHS will invite him to visit MBG to give a seminar and meet interested PIs.*

**9. Next committee meeting**

*16 November 2023, 14.00-15.30*