MBG Research Committee meeting – Thursday 16 November 2023, 14:00-15:30

Location: 1872-547

Attendants: Torben Heick Jensen (THJ), Anne Færch Nielsen (AFN), Mikkel Heide Schierup (MHS), Claus Oxvig (CO), Esben Lorentzen (EL), Poul Nissen (PN), Inge Danielsen (ID)**,** Rune Hartmann (RH), Tinna Stevnsner (TVS), Daan van Aalten (DvA), Jens Stougaard (JS), Charlotte Rohde Knudsen (CRK)

Not attending: Erik Østergaard Jensen (EØJ), Jørgen Kjems (JK)

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. New grants for research infrastructure from NNF. *The foundation has announced a smaller grant for instrument development, Exploratory Research Instrumentation, of DKK 2-7 million. The large Research Infrastructure grant (DKK 5-25 million) is still offered and core facility managers are now eligible to apply for infrastructure grants in their own name. The research committee discussed if applications should be coordinated/approved at department level. The conclusion was that this should not be mandatory but that coordination within the department – and within AU – will likely be viewed positively by the foundation. AFN will ask MBG's PIs to inform her about planned applications.*

    b. New limit on existing funding for NNF Hallas-Møller grants. *Applicants for Hallas-Møller Emerging Investigator, Hallas-Møller Ascending Investigator and Distinguished Investigator in Bioscience and Basic Biomedicine cannot have more than DKK 4 million in funding per year from other grants (only counting grants where the applicant is the main applicant). AFN will mention this in an email to the senior scientific staff.*

    c. New AIAS-AUFF fellowships. *10 fellowships of 2 years available within AIAS. Applicants cannot have resided in DK for more than 12 months when applying.*

    d. Nominations for AU awards. *The committee discussed possible nominations for AU prizes in research and outreach.*

4. **Recruitment plan for MBG**

    a. MBG's current and future teaching requirements. *CRK presented the current course overview and teaching plan. There are several planned retirements, which will stretch the teaching capacity. CRK sees future limitations in teaching of Biochemistry and Cell Biology in addition to Biomedicine. Field suggestions for recruitments: Biochemistry, Cell Biology, Molecular Medicine, Immunology, Microbiology*

    b. 5 min presentation from each section. *A slide of suggested topics from each section is included at the end of the minutes. Several overlaps, especially in microbiology and quantitative biology. THJ and JS summarised the decision from the last research committee meeting to post two positions (possibly within the same job posting) in early spring of 2024 and two more*

towards the end of the year. The current round of calls is intended to bring new, complementary research topics and expertise to the department.

c. General discussion of topics for future recruitment. *There is a general agreement in the committee that MBG wants to use the upcoming recruitments to supplement its current research activities with topics that are not necessarily strongly represented at the department today. The committee discussed pros and cons of broad calls, including the challenge that a broad call may invite applicants in fields that are already strong at the department. The decision was to announce two positions in a single broad call (e.g., biomedicine/molecular cell biology) and list examples of areas where we are particularly interested in recruiting applicants. The call text should make it clear that we are hiring two people, that we want to complement our existing activities and that more job postings are in the pipeline. In addition, the committee discussed what criteria to use (e.g. number of total and shortlisted applicants) to ensure a sufficiently high quality of the recruitment process.*

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

6. **AOB**

7. **Next committee meeting**

Suggested recruitment areas from the sections

RNA

Neurobiology

Virology/Immunology

Microbiology/Bacteriology

Fundamental biological problems 'solved' by computational (AI) approach

Proteins

In silico prediction of protein (macromolecular) interactions/complexes/pathways

AI-driven design of proteins and nucleic acids

Bacteria-phage interactions

Plants

Molecular microbiology

High-end cellular and single-molecule imaging

Molecular design of crops for the green transition

Artificial intelligence in molecular and synthetic biology

Cellular Health, Intervention and Nutrition

Genomics in cellular homeostasis

Mammalian molecular physiology and tissue homeostasis

Cell communication in health and disease

Neurobiology

Molecular and circuits neurobiology

BiRC

Deep learning approaches to cell biology

Evolutionary and experimental cell biology using model systems such as yeast and E coli

Bioimaging

Somatic evolution