



**MBG Research Committee meeting – 26.08.2024, 12:30-14:00**

**Location: 1872-547**

**Attendants:** Torben Heick Jensen (THJ), Anne Færch Nielsen (AFN), Mikkel Heide Schierup (MHS), Claus Oxvig (CO), Rune Hartmann (RH), Tinna Stevnsner (TVS), Daan van Aalten (DvA), Jens Stougaard (JS), Jørgen Kjems (JK), Gilles Vanwalleghem (GV)

**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. AFN summarized recent grant applications from MBG. RH emphasized the need to get the fundamentals right for DFF immunology applications. MBG will organize a group leader meeting focused on grant writing with local members of DFF and ERC evaluation panels*
  - b. EOJ gave an update on the ongoing MBG recruitments. The next round of recruitments will be initiated shortly after the current round is finalized.*
  - c. Results of recent BiRC recruitments: Juraj Bergman starts as a tenure-track assistant professor 1 Sep, Thomas Bataillon starts as a full professor 1 Sep, Bjarni Vilhjalmsson starts as a shared professor at BiRC/BSS from 1 Oct. BiRC is planning to initiate a new recruitment round.*
- 4. News from NAT research committee:**
  - a. NAT's research committee has recommended the appointment of two half-time positions for AU's new Senior Distinguished Innovator program. The purpose and function of the role is very open and can be modelled to fit the local needs. The Senior Distinguished Innovator's role is related to activities in the Kitchen.*
  - b. NAT has decided to fuse its research committee and industry committee, and the committee discussed if MBG should do the same. The decision was to keep the two committees separate at MBG since the research committee's focus on recruitment and funding is a poor mix for a joint committee for research and industry. MBG will look to iNANO for inspiration on how to use the industry committee more actively.*
  - c. NAT has established a taskforce to develop new large-scale research infrastructure. The committee discussed that it will be important to coordinate this at university level to avoid duplicating existing services.*
- 5. Project supplement and consequences for research budgets**
  - a. AFN gave an overview of the new agreement on project supplement between the Danish universities and the Danish private foundations. In grants covered by the new agreement, a project supplement of DKK 250.000 per scientific employee (research assistant, PhD student, postdoc) will be paid to the department to cover the indirect*



*costs of hosting the research project. AFN has circulated a set of guidelines to the senior PIs and will be available for any questions about the new agreement.*

- b. Costs for salary (VIP and TAP), travel, project-related reagents and consumables etc can still be budgeted as direct expenses. The foundations also support user fees for local core facilities, but the accessibility and pricing structure of the core facility should be clear from the department's website.*

**6. MBG nominations for AU honorary doctorate 2025**

- a. The committee discussed the two suggestions for nominees that came in from the sections. Both researchers are scientifically excellent, but one has a stronger connection to MBG/AU and was therefore favoured by the committee.*

**7. Young Investigator Programme**

- a. The committee discussed how MBG can help the young investigators find a good job after their time at the department. A suggestion was made to look at MPI and EMBL for the type of support they have in place for group leaders who leave at the end of their junior contracts.*

**8. Upcoming funding deadlines**

**9. AOB**