



**MBG Research Committee meeting – 12 August 2025, 10:00-11:30**

**Location: 1872-547**

**Attendants:** Torben Heick Jensen (THJ), Anne Færch Nielsen (AFN), Claus Oxvig (CO), Rune Hartmann (RH), Daan van Aalten (DvA), Gilles Vanwalleghem (GV), Bjørn Panyella Pedersen (BPP), Tinna Stevnsner (TVS), Jens Stougaard (JS)

**Not attending:** Jørgen Kjems (JK), Inge Danielsen (ID), Mikkel Heide Schierup (MHS)

**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. Summary of recent applications: *19 applications for Lundbeck Experiment, 6 applications for postdoc/project grants in Plant Science and Biotech (NNF), 2 applications for Villum Ascending Investigator*
  - b. Upcoming funding deadlines: *The new NNF-backed PhD academy DARA will have its first application round at the end of August. MBG's PIs will be asked to inform AFN about applications to their lab to keep track of applications from MBG.*
  - c. Continued process for MBG's research evaluation: *Following the written self-evaluation report submitted in May and the visit by the external evaluation panel in June, the Dean's office will meet with MBG's management team on 3 September. The meeting is meant to outline MBG's plan and priorities in implementing the suggestions made by the external panel. As a preparation for this meeting, the self-evaluation report and panel recommendations will be shared with MBG's group leaders. The sections should discuss the report and recommendations internally and send their comments to AFN.*
- 4. Ongoing recruitment**
  - a. *MBG sent out job offers for the faculty position in Molecular Medicine or Molecular Biology in early July, but one of the candidates has declined the offer since she had accepted an offer from another university. It has been decided to offer the position at MBG to another candidate instead.*
- 5. Plan for upcoming recruitment at MBG**
  - a. *The committee discussed opening new faculty positions within the areas of Proteomics and Plant Science. The Proteomics call should open soon to allow interviews to take place in December 2025. The Plant Science call will open towards the end of 2025 or early 2026. AFN will work with CO, THJ and the respective search committees of the two positions to phrase job postings.*
- 6. Proposals for NAT's pipeline for pitching ideas to the private foundations**
  - a. *No suggestions from MBG at this stage. Researchers from MBG are part of a proposal submitted by Chemistry*



**7. Suggestions for AU honorary doctorate 2026**

- a. No suggestions from MBG in this round*

**8. Process for applying for Investigator grants (non-tenure)**

- a. The MBG Young Investigator Symposium has been put on hold in 2025 due to our ongoing recruitment for faculty positions. In addition, the investigator grants available to establish new groups at MBG have been undermined by inflation over the last 10 years, making it harder to start a lab with a 5-year investigator grant as the only funding.*
- b. We are frequently contacted by people (both internal and external) who want to apply for an investigator grant with MBG as the host. Therefore, we need a transparent and systematic process for evaluating these in the absence of the Young Investigator Symposium. In addition, it is important that interested candidates know that MBG cannot offer employment beyond the 5-year grant period, and that an investigator grant is not a step towards permanent employment at MBG.*
- c. AFN presented an updated process in which interested applicants first meet with CO to discuss the conditions MBG can offer. Following this, and if it is still relevant, the applicant's CV and research plan are sent to the research committee, which will decide if MBG can host the applicant. The committee agreed to this process and highlighted the importance of making it transparent to both PIs and junior researchers. AFN will present the revised process for applying for Investigator grants at the next group leader meeting.*

**9. AOB**