



**MBG Research Committee meeting – 15 December 2025, 14:15-15:45**

**Location: 1870-547**

**Attendees:** Torben Heick Jensen (THJ), Anne Færch Nielsen (AFN), Mikkel Heide Schierup (MHS), Claus Oxvig (CO), Rune Hartmann (RH), Daan van Aalten (DvA), Bjørn Panyella Pedersen (BPP), Tinna Stevnsner (TVS), Jens Stougaard (JS),

**Guest:** Gregers Rom Andersen (GRA)

**Not attending:** 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 summarised upcoming funding deadlines in January, mainly focused on NNF's Investigator grants (5 applicants for Emerging, 3 applicants for Ascending, 2 applicants for Distinguished)*
  - b. *Information about the upcoming call for DNRF centers of excellence will be sent out in the beginning of 2026 (application deadline in September)*
- 4. Summary of the annual strategy meeting with the Dean's office**
  - a. *CO summarised the topics discussed at the annual strategy meeting with the Dean's office, including the new section names (Molecular Health and Bioinformatics & Computational Biology), plans for core facilities, new strategic centers and increased collaboration and sharing across MBG. The management team has prepared a table listing MBG's planned follow-up actions following the panel recommendations, and this table was subsequently sent to the research committee.*
  - b. *MHS summarised the status for computational activities at MBG and NAT. BiRC has good experience with shared affiliations as a driver of collaboration and MHS suggested that a similar model could be used across NAT/AU to integrate data science more broadly. The research committee also discussed if activities related to computational biology should be promoted separately from 'classic' bioinformatics data analysis.*
- 5. Ongoing recruitment**
  - a. *Faculty position in proteomics: Following interviews in early December, the hiring committee agreed to offer the position to a very strong candidate. The candidate has tentatively accepted, pending final salary negotiations.*
  - b. *Faculty position in Bioinformatics: The candidate who accepted the position in early November has changed her mind and declined the position due to personal difficulties.*
  - c. *Faculty position in Molecular Biology and Molecular Medicine: One candidate has been offered a position and is still considering. The research committee discussed candidates*



*for the other position in the call and agreed on a candidate who will be offered a tenure-track position at MBG.*

- d. The planned faculty positions in Molecular Health and Plant Biology will be posted in January. The faculty position in Bioinformatics will be reposted since the preferred candidate turned down the offer.*

#### **6. NAT's pipeline for pitching ideas to the private foundations**

- a. The research committee discussed a proposal from Stig Uggerhøj Andersen (on behalf of the plant section) to pitch a Center for Legume Science and Innovation to the private foundations. The committee supported the idea and agreed to forward it to NAT's research committee in January.*

#### **7. Core facilities and services at MBG – current and future – appendix 2+3**

- a. GRA visited the meeting to propose a new facility at AU/MBG to develop, test and produce AI-designed antibodies. GRA sees a large potential user base at AU (and beyond) and MBG has an advantage in the field due to the strong tradition for structural biology. The facility would need support for equipment and personnel (wet lab + dry lab) and GRA plans to approach private foundations for support.*
- b. The committee discussed the overall setup and the potential benefit to MBG (training, education, research) as well as possible funding strategies. The committee supports GRA's continued work to find interest partners across AU and explore different funding models.*
- c. NAT model for facilities: The Dean's office has asked the departments to provide a status update for existing and planned core facility by the end of March (since core facilities need to meet certain requirements). AFN and THJ will coordinate the process at MBG.*

#### **8. AOB**