

Møtereferat, Research Committee meeting, February 10th

Til stede: Veerle Jaspers, Sanna Majaneva, Lena van Giesen, Atle M. Bones, Martin Kuiper, Martin Wagner, Christophe Pelabon, Aline Magdalena Lee, Anastasiia Ivanova, Maja Caroline Haaker, Henrik Jensen

Forfall: Glaucia Moreira Fragoso, Daniela Sueldo, Inka Anglade, Siv Anina Etter

Kopi til:

Gjelder: Research Committee

Møtetid: 10/2-2022, 1400-1435 Møtested: Zoom

Signatur:

1) INTPART applications evaluation

Only one INTPART project application was submitted to Kjetil and Henrik before the deadline. This was the application for the project "BIOSCAN-DYNAMICS" lead by Bernt-Erik Sæther (CBD, IBI) and Torbjørn Ekrem (VM). The network described in the proposed project will connect research at CBD and the national research infrastructure Norwegian Barcode of Life (NorBOL) at VM with internationally leading groups that use molecular tools to analyze and monitor biological diversity. Hence, "BIOSCAN-DYNAMICS" fits well with the strategies of both IBI and NV, and will be an important component of the future Gjærevollsenster.

The RC recommends that IBI supports the INTPART project application "BIOSCAN-DYNAMICS".

2) How can we improve our scientific and administrative support for RCN (and ERC) applications?

The new feedback system (consisting of a review panel within IBI comprising post-docs, associate professors, and professors) had 12 people signed up as evaluators and four submitted proposals (out of 20 project applications submitted to the Research Council of Norway (RCN) for the 2nd of February 2022 deadline). Each applicant thus received feedback from three internal reviewers at least once. The general response from the applicants was that the feedback they received was very helpful in improving their applications.

The RC discussed ways to improve the administrative support and feedback system for future rounds of project applications to the RCN. Key points from this discussion were:

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- The peer review system should have better participation among especially more senior staff members. Incentive to increase the participation as reviewer could be additional funding for research.
- The workflow and time schedule for the internal reviewer feedback system should be made clear in a process chart/document that includes clear deadlines for the different parts of the project application and multiple rounds of feedback. This will give applicants clear deadlines that should increase their ability to better prioritize research grant work and also give motivation to start working on their projects earlier. Such a document and a plan for its implementation should be ready when the successful 2nd February applications are published in September.
- The general information about project economy and budgeting should improve. In this regard it would be useful to have an early meeting (well before Christmas) where the IBI economists explain to potential RCN applicants the budget requirements and any special NTNU rules for various budget posts, such as salary levels and overhead requirements etc.

3) Any other business (AOB)

- **External funding opportunities overview**

We need (better) systems to scan for, identify and inform potential applicants about external funding opportunities other than NFR and ERC calls.

One possibility could be to have a shared file where we list potential sources of funding and who has experience with them (both successful and rejection). As the funding opportunities change the list must be updated. This would benefit everyone, both established researchers at IBI and newcomers.

An alternative and/or complementary system could be based on funding possibilities lists that are sent regularly by email to researchers at the department. This is similar to what is done at e.g. the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, NTNU. Such a system could be run by some person in the administration (at NV-faculty or IBI level) with the appropriate expertise who scans for funding opportunities and project calls. Alternatively, we (NV/IBI) could buy this kind of service from a professional service provider, such as for example *Research (as done by e.g. Dept. of Environmental Science at Stockholm University).

Veerle and Henrik will bring this up in the Leader group, and suggest that first, we invite a person from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences to explain their system.

- **External funding without overhead**

Can we apply for external funding that does not allow for overhead costs? One such example is [NovoNordisk](#), which has grants targeted to Scandinavia and covers many topics that are relevant for researchers at IBI.

Henrik will check with Kjetil whether applying to such funding agencies is OK.