

Date: 30 January 2023 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Venue: 1513-435 (Department of Chemistry – “at Ove’s”)
Topic: Research Committee at Nat – 1st meeting 2023

Participants: David Lundbek Egholm/DLE (NAT, chair), Angela Fago/AF (BIO), Kurt Vestergaer Gothelf/KVG (iNANO), Brad K. Wray (MATH), Ove Christiansen/OC (CHEM), Søren Munch Kristiansen/SMK (GEO), Thomas Poulsen/TP (CHEM), Torben Heick Jensen/THJ (MBG), Astrid Klingen/ARK (NAT, minutes)

Cancelations: Anders Møller/AM (CS), Steen Hannestad/SH (PHYS)

Guest: Merete Bilde/MB (CHEM) for item 2

Minutes

In italics: background information shared with the agenda.

Attachment 1, 2, etc. refers to documents circulated with the agenda.

Highlighted: Items for follow up in local committees

12:30 – 12:35 (5 min)

1. Welcome and approval of agenda

DLE opened the meeting and welcomed all participants, in particular AF and TP (new chairpersons for the research committee at BIO and CHEM, respectively). The agenda was approved.

12:35 – 12:50 (15 min)

2. New Research at CHEM by OC

TP and MB presented recent research activities at CHEM (slides attached).

12:50 – 13:15 (25 min)

3. DNRFF Centers of Excellence – preparations for 2023 call

DNRFF (Grundforskningsfonden) has announced to publish a call for Centers of Excellence in May this year, with a tentative deadline in December. The committee will exchange experiences and “good practice” from their respective department, related to pre-selecting ideas and developing them into successful proposals.

DLE introduced the item. How do we best prepare for round 1 of the upcoming DNRFF call for Centres of Excellence? What processes are established at the departments? How to support or supplement these processes at faculty level – to what extent have the cross-departmental pitch sessions proven useful?

The committee members shared with each other the following pieces of inspiration from the departments’ local processes:

- Arrange local pitch session up front (before the faculty level pitch sessions).
- Invite one-pagers to be discussed in the local research committee.
- Make direct contact to potential key scientists to motivate / enable involvement of new colleagues.
- Ask all scientific staff for their availability/interest to either contribute to or lead a proposal (draft mail from OC shared with all members after meeting).



- Peer review the actual proposal documents.
- Start the process early, i.e., even before the call gets published.
- Avoid submitting too many proposals from one and the same department: successful applications have a distinct centre of gravity and represent at strategic priority for the department.
- Invite for resubmission where relevant – most proponents from the 2021 round have been in contact with the foundation after receiving the rejection letter and can thus assess whether resubmission is relevant or not.

The committee members suggested the following activities at faculty level (where relevant in collaboration with the Research Support Office):

- Arrange cross-departmental pitch session shortly after the summer break.
- Devise and circulate a process plan.
- Update and circulate recommendations concerning co-funding. Generally speaking, the co-funding requirements have become less rigorous, and Centres of Excellence are an economically favourable type of grant for the departments.
- Contact the foundation and explore “current trends” in its board.

13:15 – 13:40 (25 min)

4. Entrepreneurship and collaboration with industry

Nat has an ambition to motivate and enable more colleagues to involve with entrepreneurship and collaboration with industry. Which barriers need to be removed, which positive effects need to be communicated? The committee will exchange experience and provide advice to the faculty management.

DLE introduced the item. Enabling and motivating more involvement with the private sector, including entrepreneurship, is a strategic priority for Nat. The committee was therefore asked for immediate feed-back, mostly concerning internal barriers for this type of activity. The local committees will be asked to follow up at a later stage.

The committee highlighted the following:

- Division of labour between “Enterprise and Innovation” (E&I) and the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) is unclear.
- The TTO is a severe bottle neck for many processes, also for more simple matters. Hiring external resources can be a means of (economic) damage control. Obvious improvements do otherwise include establishing a queuing-system and making more information accessible online.
- It is worthwhile communicating both rules (what is allowed) and personal experiences (what can realistically be achieved) with respect to AU employees’ involvement in a spin-out.
- For international staff, strings attached to work permits might be an issue – ARK will follow up.
- If departments want to work strategically with start-ups, they need to provide a workspace buffer. This is a major challenge for most if not all departments but hosting start-ups can also be a source of income for a department.

- The rule and regulations related to hosting a start-up on-site are not transparent and still (too?) complex.
- Public funding bodies such as the Danish Nature Agency or Danish Business Authority, are increasingly inquisitive concerning possible conflicts of interest due to involvement with private companies. Conflicting incentives need to be addressed.
- Local work shops mandated by the dean, conveying good advice from both success and failure, could be a valuable means of motivating / enabling colleagues at the departmental level. MBG already runs a seminar series showcasing start-ups.

13:40 – 13:55 (15 min)

5. News from members

- *DLE: Establishment of FISU (Research Information Security Committee @ Nat)*
By the end of last year, the Faculty Management Teams at Nat and Tech closed Nat-Tech IDM committee and established Nat Research Information Security Committee. The new committee will deal with questions related to information security and data management, connecting departments and AU's committees (Central information security committee, and Open Science Forum). Nat's data management co-ordinator Rasmus Handberg will participate in the meetings. Nat's data management forum will continue serving as a more informal sparring group, as long as necessary.
- *DLE: MSCA master class 2023*
Invitations have been shared; the process is the same as last year. There are about two spots per department, and the local research committees are again asked to rigorously assess and rank their candidates.
- *DLE: Innomissions pool 2 and Grand Solutions calls*
The four Innomission consortia have published their calls for "pool 2" projects with deadlines in March/April, and a thematically broad Grand Solutions call is expected to be published before the summer break. It seems worthwhile for many departments increasing their activity with respect to Innovation Fund Denmark.
- *BKW: Villum Young Investigator grant to Coriana-Gabriela Ciobataru (MATH).*
- *SMK: Major investment from Poul Due Jensen Foundation into spin-out from GEO (AarhusGeoInstruments).*

13:55 – 13:55 (0 min.)

6. Written briefings

Attachment: Minutes from last meeting (approved)

Attachment: Upcoming funding deadlines

13:55 – 14:00 (5 min.)

7. AOB

Next meeting: Thursday 23 March 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Farewell and thank you to Ove and Michael.

CENTER FOR CHEMISTRY OF CLOUDS (C3)

A new Center of Excellence at the Department of Chemistry,



Merete Bilde

**Physical
Chemistry**



Marianne Glasius

**Analytical
Chemistry**



Tobias Weidner

**Surface
Chemistry**



Jonas Elm

**Computational
Chemistry**



Ove Christiansen

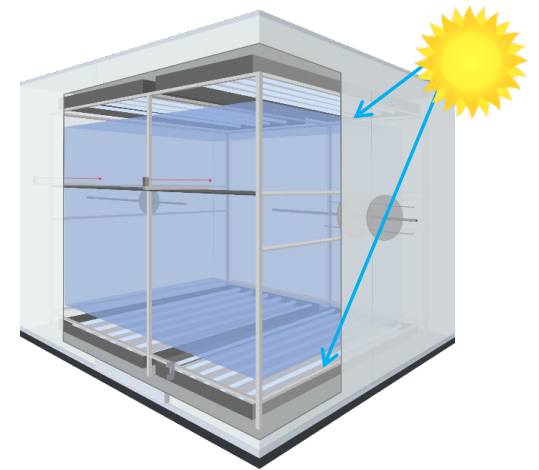
**Theoretical
Chemistry**

Experimental

**Theoretical or
Computational**

Danmarks
Grundforskningsfond
Danish National
Research Foundation

AURA: Aarhus University Research on Aerosols



A simulation chamber to study processes in the atmosphere

Temperature control -16 to 25 °C

