

08 November 2014

Dear colleagues,

I attended the annual meeting of the Danish National Research Foundation (DNRF) where the 12 new Centres of Excellence (CoE) was represented (the 12 centre leaders now call ourselves the "DNRF Class of 2014 – see brochure). Several of the other new CoE has activities that we can potentially cross-fertilise. Also meet many of the CoE centre leaders from previous years (there is app 100 such centres at any given time point) – again inspiring. Our main hypothesis (i.e. shared set of factors from host genome, microbiota and immune function explains the variation in presentation of the infectious phenotype in the immunocompromised host) lead to number of positive reactions from disciplines as varied as physicists, engineers, mathematicians, and marine biologists – will not be surprised that our research and that of others convergence across disciplines. They felt the vision of PERSIMUNE was bold and very ambitious – i.e. using an entire hospital as research platform for basic research ! Another take-home message was that a DNRF CoE strives towards excellence, and papers in Science and Nature is the norm – no surprises here. Quite appropriately, the title of the welcoming talk to the 12 new CoE centre leaders was "*Living Up to Expectations*" and provided by Professor Bo Brummersted (DNRF CoE center leader of the Center for Materials Crystallography).

Below is the status on progress of forming the PERSIMUNE CoE:

Planned opening is 1st February 2015 – **tentative date for official opening is 4th February** (I hope that our international collaborators can come on this date – we plan to have the inaugural bioinformatics group meeting on that day as well). Please reserve the date.

Contract negotiations are progressing. RegionH's legal department have cleared the contract. I have had a preliminary and productive meeting with Jannik Hilsted (medical director of Rigshospitalet). He continues to strongly support the vision, and he was positive on my proposal for co-financing, and there are activities underway to secure physical space for the CoE. Next follow-up meeting with Jannik is in coming week.

News on working groups:

1. Thanks to many of you feeding back on which working groups you would like to join, and also for some of you providing nominations for others. **For those that have not yet feed back (see mail below for details)– please do so by 12th November.**
2. Happy to introduce dr Henrik Ullum that will be leading the biobank working group within the CoE. As details on tasks for this group in mail below. Would be good if more of you got involved in that working group.
3. I will initiate planning of the inaugural meeting of the "Clinical data capture and analysis" working group this coming week, and have asked dr Marie Helleberg to lead that group. I need on representative for each of the clinical departments that will join the CoE to become member of this group – one of the key elements to be resolved is operational case definitions of the various infectious phenotypes in a way that allows for electronic identification of a brutto list of events (while ensuring complete ascertainment) that can then been reviewed by other means to generate a netto list of events. This group also need to agree on a common LABKA package of lab assessments (+ samples for biobank) that will be started to be collected – as part of routine care - on entire cohort beginning next year when the CoE is launched.

Finally, happy to announce that dr Andreas Rostved (department C – supervisor Allan Rasmussen) received a 3 year stipend to further explore the mechanisms explaining the ability of day 10 post liver transplantation MELD score levels to predict 1 year survival – one of our first xPPF's. Consideration of the possibilities to engage the bioinformatics, immunology and imaging groups in his work will be explored.

Will be back in 2 weeks with next update. In the meantime, please contact me if you have comments or questions.

Thanks,

Jens