

Notes from Scientific Council (SC) meeting

Date: 22.3.2024, 1 PM - 6 PM

Present on-site (no titles, randomly ordered): Martin Kváč, Vladimír Hampl, Ivan Čepička, Julius Lukeš, Petr Kopáček, Martin Palus, Martin Kolísko, Alena Zíková

Excused: Petr Horák

Guests: Miroslav Oborník (Director of the Institute), Ivan Fiala, Ryan Rego

Agenda:

1. Meeting with the heads of the laboratories Laboratory of Molecular Ecology of Vectors and Pathogens and Laboratory of Arbovirology.
2. Selection procedure for the head of the new laboratory of Fish Immunology and Evolution of Macromolecular Complexes
3. Discussion on the Institute structure, mission and conditions for opening new laboratories

Program:

13:00 - 14:00 - discussion with Martin Palus

14:00 - 15:00 - discussion with Ryan Rego

15:00 - 15:15 - familiarization with the materials of the candidates

15:15 - 16:00 - presentation by Ondrej Gahura about his scientific plans, visions and funding of his potential group

16:00 - 16:45 - presentation by Tomáš Korytář about his scientific plans, visions and funding of his potential group

17:00 - 18:00 - discussion approaches on how the institute opens and evaluates labs

18:00 - minutes, end of the meeting

Notes:

1. Meeting with Martin Palus

MP summarized the history of his laboratory, financial and personnel aspects. MP critically evaluated his activities, highlighted the positive points of his activities (maintenance and development of research projects, active collaboration with D. Růžek's lab, excellent funding of the lab, success of grant applications), but also the weaker aspects of the last

years (problems with filling the positions with adequate and experienced staff, delays in data publication due to the large number of collaborations). MP suggested whether the institute could establish an Instrument Maintenance position that would be responsible for maintaining the instruments, servicing them and training new users. The SC supports this idea, although it leaves its implementation entirely in the hands of the Institute's management.

2. Meeting with Ryan Rego

RR summarized the history of his appointment, financial and personnel aspects of his laboratory. RR highlighted the strengths of his lab, which lie in the well-developed network of collaborations that enable him to apply for various grant funding, in Martin Strnad's position as an experienced scientist, and in the fruitful and intensive collaboration with the Institute's Laboratory of Electron Microscopy. He considers the unrealized potential in terms of students to be a weakness of the laboratory, as the laboratory lacks PhD students. The SC Council will recommend to the institute management to support the RR lab financially if it finds suitable PhD candidate(s). Staff development of this lab should be a priority for the Institute management. The SC recommends that the institute leadership reviews the use of technical positions in the lab so that they better align with the visions of the PI, who is primarily responsible for the lab and the projects that are funded by the lab grants.

3. Selection procedure for the Head of the Laboratory of Evolution of Macromolecular Complexes

The position was opened within the scope of the authority of the Director. Only one applicant, Ondřej Gahura, applied for this position.

OG clearly outlined several research directions that the SC members felt were strong, internationally competent and while feasible. The SC also recognized the numerous international collaborations that OG has been able to establish, as well as its strong background in structural data analysis, a capability that will benefit a number of the Institute's laboratories. OG also presented his vision for the financial support of the lab for the next 5 years as well for staffing of the lab. The SC will recommend to the institute management to offer the position to OG.

4. Selection procedure for the Head of the Fish Immunology Laboratory

The position was opened within the scope of the authority of the Director. A total of four applicants applied for the position. After a detailed reading of CVs and cover letters, the committee selected one applicant to present his/her vision and scientific directions. The

selected candidate, Tomáš Korytář, presented his vision for the financial and staffing of the laboratory to the SC. He clearly outlined several research directions. The SC appreciated the extent of the laboratory's scientific efforts, which consist of both basic and applied research. SC also appreciates TK connections leading to the Faculty of Fisheries as a potential source of students and staff. The SC will recommend to the institute management to offer the position to TK.

5. Discussion on the internal organization of the institute, formation of new laboratories and evaluation of existing ones.

The SC members believe that the opening of new laboratories is fully within the competence of the Institute Director. The opening of new laboratories is then discussed with the SC with regard to the prospects of such a laboratory in terms of funding, staffing and scientific direction. If a new scientific direction is being formed at the institute, its leader who receives a grant and establishes a smaller group has the option of becoming a head of his/her working group within the original laboratory or approaching the institute management or a member of the SC directly. They will further review the proposal and critically evaluate the applicant's experience, CV and the perspective of his/her scientific direction.