As university academics we have many duties. We have to conduct research, teach and interact with society. Academic group leaders have to spend a great deal of time ensuring there is enough funding for everyone in the group. Salaries, equipment, consumable goods, rent, etc. have to be covered. In fact, we pay for almost everything with external grants today.

But can you envisage what it would be like to do research in paradise? Can you imagine a place where there is no need to apply for grants; the word rent is unheard of; you have access to all the equipment you need, your salary and those of six coworkers are covered; you do not need to teach; your administrative duties are negligible; you are surrounded by several bright groups working on research issues close to your interest. You are thinking of Janelia Farm in Virginia.

Let me quote their home page “Lab heads will be provided with whatever is required for their work, including space, equipment, reagents, and shared resource lab usage, so that their science will be limited only by their creativity and effort.” (see http://www.hhmi.org/janelia/)
I came across Janelia Farm when reviewing a grant application. The applicant was going to collaborate with someone who worked at a farm.

“A farm! What on earth is this?”, I thought. So I visited the home page!

Janelia Farm is an intriguing new effort launched by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The buildings cost 500 million USD and were opened in 2006. They will host 300 scientists. These comprise 24 research group leaders (3-7 people /group) and 20 fellows (2-3 per group) who are interested either in neuronal networking or modern imaging techniques. They also include up to 100 visiting scientists and a few senior fellows (e.g. Sydney Brenner) to join. The groups are served by several core facilities that offer every conceivable technology and are staffed by skilled experts.

Janelia Farm represents an unusual concept in many ways. The founders have tried to pick the best features of certain creative research environments that have had documented success (e.g the MRC LMB, Cambridge, UK, which has generated numerous Nobel prizes). Consequently, the groups at Janelia Farm are small. They are expected to energetically interact with each other. There are numerous informal meeting places. The group leaders are expected not to attend too many conferences, but must spend at least 75% of their time at the Farm, and preferably work at the bench for some of this time. Interestingly, Janelia Farm is placed in the beautiful and inspiring countryside, away from the distractions of a large city, but still relatively close to Dulles International Airport to provide easy access for visitors. There is a modern conference facility on the Farm. Visiting scientists are offered accommodation on campus. The scientists and their families are provided with child daycare, a large fitness center, organised weekend social events, a convenience store etc. There are no teaching duties. Committee work is minimized. Not only is external funding unnecessary, but it is actually prohibited! Thus, no one working at Janelia Farm is allowed to accept any external funding! The group leaders should focus entirely on creative research. They are encouraged to undertake high-risk projects and are not expected to constantly report back on their progress, but are given at least 5 years to demonstrate creative work.

I am sure that many of you share my feeling that Janelia Farm could be an amazing environment to work in. Nevertheless, it could be criticized for the isolationistic and almost “sect-like” philosophy. It is located away from the rest of society. The extreme focus on two research areas means it does not offer the stimulation of a broad, multi-disciplinary university. The lack of teaching also adds to the isolation. The unusual name can even make one think of the hippie-cult community.
called The Farm, which was started in the US in the 1970’s! All my objections, however, are probably just a way for me to handle my jealousy over what appears to be a fantastic place!! I dreamt about Janelia Farm this past weekend and on Monday I woke up to the reality of signing bills in LUPIN and a rental contract for my lab at BMC. But thinking about Janelia Farm also made me consider even harder how we as group leaders can make our own research environments as exciting and creative as possible, within the existing financial restraints.

As I come to the close of my period as head of department I am happy to announce some good news. Using some residual funds left over from the pre-2005 era, we will devote 23,000 SEK to technical and administrative staff, so that they can organize their open day and special education efforts during the rest of the year. We will boost the travel grant fund for doctoral students with an equal sum. In addition, this autumn our department will provide three young scientists with grants of 250,000 SEK each. The grants should be used either for a doctoral student, post-doc or the salary of the young scientist him or herself. The grants will be awarded after external review, based on a short research program (3 pages), CV, and a statement of what the grant will provide in terms of added value to the group. The idea is to award these grants to young scientists who do not have tenured positions and are running an independent group or in the process of setting one up. The deadline for application will be September 15th, and the new department leadership will announce detailed rules in early August.

I now wish Gunilla (and her deputies) the very best for the future! I will enjoy working as a group leader under her leadership. As I sign off, I want to let you know that being head is not only hard work, but can also be a lot of fun. We are blessed with staff that both are hard working and have a great sense of humour. I will definitely miss working closely with them!

Finally, I wish you all a happy midsummer!

Patrik Brundin, Head of department
(for another week!)

Deadline EU Applications
The second call for the Health programme is now launched, Call identifier: FP7-HEALTH-2007-B
The call text and the updated workprogramme can be downloaded from this website:
The Guide for Applicants has not yet been updated but there will be no significant changes - apart from the dates and financial figures - from the Guide for the first call. The structure of proposals and the proposal forms will be exactly the same.

If a group wishes to send draft proposals to be commented by Gavin Thomson please cc to Research Services Office (RSO). Projects to be coordinated by Lund University must be processed by RSO and we kindly ask you to contact us well in advance.

Your Address
Many people waste time unnecessarily because of misleading Lucat information. If you do not have the correct room number registered in Lucat, your internet connection or new computer will not function. If your house and floor data are incorrect, your incoming mail will end up in the wrong place. Even grant money is sent to the wrong department. There are also important security issues. BMC needs to know who is supposed to be where in case of emergency. If you have moved during the last year, please check your data here http://lucatuppdatera.lu.se/LucatWeb/MainServlet?task=goto_personal_update or ask Gyn.Nilsson@med.lu.se or Lisette.Eklund@med.lu.se to help you. Do not forget to tell them about when you move office!

New Look
The main web site for our department has got a new look, Visit it! http://www.med.lu.se/expmed

All our newsletters are now available at http://www.med.lu.se/expmed/aktuellt/emv_newsletter_2007.

There is a separate page that presents the interviews Portrait of a Scientist http://www.med.lu.se/expmed/aktuellt/medarbetarportraett

More changes will follow on our web sites during the summer.

Portrait of a Scientist - Cecilia Lundberg

Cecilia, or Cilla as most people call her, is our new Deputy Head of Undergraduate Education from July 1st.

- I am looking forward my future function and I see this as a strategic and visionary task. Teachers need feedback just as other professionals. I would like to see more support and STIMULATION for our teachers. What are your expectations regarding your teaching efforts, both in terms of the rewards for the students and for yourself? This is an important question to ask yourself.

Cilla has earlier been involved in educational administration as a Deputy Head of the postgraduate education in the Physiological Department, and "studierektor" for the Biomedical Program.
One can say that for Cilla, it was difficult not to become a researcher.
- Both my parents are medical doctors and clinical researchers so I was not offered examples from other professions. I early understood that the research part of their careers was what they found most stimulating.
- Before I started my medical studies I worked for some time as a lab technician in the US. I came into contact with brain diseases like epilepsy and Parkinson's and implanted electrodes in rats' brains. I also wanted to become both a practitioner and a clinical researcher, and after six terms on the medical program I started my postgraduate education. After a stay at the neonatal section of the hospital my inclination for the brain was reinforced, I was excited by brain development and actually never returned to the medical program. I grew up to a Ph D in Anders Björklund's group and defended my thesis in 1996. With a five year funding I was about to leave for Harvard Medical School when I met the man of my life. We built up a trans-atlantic relationship, and were happy that the grant clearly stipulated that I should bring my freshly acquired knowledge back to Sweden.
- What he is doing? He is a clinical researcher of course!
- We have two daughters, two and five years old and both work more than full time. I feel it is much worth that we have such a thorough understanding for each other's working conditions and demands set on us. We support and encourage each other.

Cilla returned from the US with an exciting new cocktail of stem cells and viral vectors, she started setting up her own research group.
- I need to have strategies. In recruiting collaborators I try how the candidates' competence will diversify and complete our team. To succeed in research, you have to be patient and persevering, as results can take long time and funding can be difficult if your project is not in a fashionable area. You need strategic planning and be capable of deciding to freeze a project for some time if it is not fruitful. New results in other areas can make you navigate the project in another direction, just as funding can become more opportune later.

What about life outside the scientific world?
- If I was forbidden to stay in research I would like to work with management, problem-solving for large groups of people. Here is the strategic Cilla popping out again.
- I am a social nerd. Apart from research I enjoy horse-riding, being active physically, spending time in our summerhouse on Österlen with family and friends. When I was a student I contributed to the spex (students' farce) culture as a designer and tailor. My job was to make the actors' costumes. Sewing is very creative but unfortunately, I do not have time for new textile projects, although I am still sewing rat brains. And my viral vectors will hopefully be used in future medication for all kinds of brain diseases and damages. The treatment will be designed specifically for the patient - tailormade!

We congratulate
- Fredrik Leeb-Lundberg who has received a prestigious grant of 100.000 euros from the European
Foundation for the Study of Diabetes. His project is called "Metabolic and vascular consequences of signalling through the G protein-coupled estrogen receptor GPR30".

Contest for best paper written by a young researcher during 2006-2007. Three external referees ranked the applications and the 100 000 SEK prizes went to:

- Maria Gomez: "High Glucose Activates Nuclear Factor of Activated T Cells in Native Vascular Smooth Muscle"
- Maria Björkqvist: "Progressive alterations in the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis in the R6/2 transgenic mouse model of Huntington’s disease"
- Madeleine Durbeej-Hjalt: "Laminin a1 chain improves laminin a2 chain deficient peripheral neuropathy"

**Article on creative working conditions**

Read an interview in the latest number of Forskning & Medicin with Patrik Brundin on creative working conditions: [http://forskningmedicin.vr.se/knappar/tidigarenummer/innehallnr22007/spontanomatenskaparkreativklimat.4.aac1aa51.132473084980001218.html](http://forskningmedicin.vr.se/knappar/tidigarenummer/innehallnr22007/spontanomatenskaparkreativklimat.4.aac1aa51.132473084980001218.html)

**Midsummer celebrations in Lund**

(from SDS, note that this text is in Swedish. It describes where and how you can celebrate midsummer.)

*Kultures Östarp.* Kl 14, midsommarstången kläss. 15, dans och uppvisning av Tornabygdens folkdanslag.


Summer Schedule for Kansli and Signatures

A Prefekt will be available for signatures at least once a week during summer. Contact someone at the Kansli, see summer schedule here: [http://www.med.lu.se/expmed/kontakt/kansli](http://www.med.lu.se/expmed/kontakt/kansli)