News from the Advisory Committee’s meeting on November 12th, 2007

Agenda

1. introduction meeting for new PhD students
2. meeting with the Dean
3. information from the Executive Group

1. There are several admissions ongoing, probably six new persons during autumn term. We will have an introductory meeting for new-comers right after this Advisory Committee’s next meeting on December 17th.

2. Jorien, Marloes and Ayse represented the PhD Students of EMV at the meeting with the Dean and Deputy Deans on Friday 9th of November. The discussions concerned teaching for non Swedish-speaking students. Approximately 10 persons at EMV now and hey would like to teach. It would be enough to organize a PBL tutor course for spring. Ayse will send a short mail to the Dean to follow up the question.

3. Hindrik informed on the planned re-organization of the faculty. There will be no major reorganization from January 1st as planned, although all departments will have “institutionsstyrelse” a departmental board instead of today’s “prefektstyre”. We do not know if the Advisory Committees will remain. The members will be elected by the whole staff, and these members will nominate a new prefekt. The nominee must be approved on by the Dean. The PhD Students and the Undergraduate Students should elect representatives together and the Department must not interfere with their election. Eva says the Medicinska Doktorandrådet (MDR) will have a meeting on the subject on Thursday this week already. There is an official time schedule to respect for elections. More information is to find here http://www.med.lu.se/expmed/aktuellt/val_av_institutionsstyrelse

Hindrik’s research group moves to Clinical Sciences in Malmö from January. There will be a new Deputy Head for Postgraduate Education. A new Deputy Head cannot be appointed before we have the Departmental Board and new “prefekt”. Therefore the usual annual big meeting for all PhD Students of EMV will probably not take place until February 2008.
Hindrik also says results have become official from the Faculty/ALF funding for 2008.

In November the Faculty presents a data base for study plans. The first studyplan is the one from the time of admission, then it should be updated annually as today. The email address of the student will be activated in the data base from admission to make sure everybody will be on the emailing list.

Present at this meeting were Eva, Marjan, Lena, Ayse, Gyn and Hindrik. Minutes written by Gyn.
Next meeting will take place on **December 17th at noon** in the VIP room of Olles Fik. Everybody welcome!

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**Congratulations to**
Lena Pettersson and Yulia Shakirova who got the EMV travel grants. They will attend interesting conferences during spring!

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**Invitation to Party**
You are invited to EMV:s "Nobel/glöggparty" on the Nobel Day, Monday December 10th. It will take place in Olle’s Fik from 4 to 6 pm.

**Program**
- 16.00 Mingle
- 16.45 Entertainment by Vargladspexarna
- 17.15 We congratulate the three Awardees of the EMV grants of each 250.000 SEK to young researchers, and a few other persons.

There is no participation fee, but we need to know how many people will come to order the appropriate quantity of "glögg", coffee and "lussebullar". Please send a mail to register not later than Monday December 3rd to Lisette.Eklund@med.lu.se

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**Elections**
The department has received new instructions from the faculty concerning the time schedule to respect for elections of representatives to the future departmental board. Therefore, the elections initially planned to be held on November 28th, are postponed and will take place in December. The department will send more information about dates next week. Persons nominated by the teachers/scientists and technical/administrative groups will be presented on the same occasion.

As for the students’/PhD students’ representatives, there will be two from EMV in the departmental board but information on this issue has been sent from the MDR. Two persons will be nominated by our Advisory Committee and can then be elected at a MDR meeting in December. Contact Jimmie.Kristensson@med.lu.se for further information or if you want to nominate candidates.
Seminar
Seminarieserie Kvalitet och Effektivitet i Forskarutbildningen:
Farväl till Humboldt? Forskarutbildningens utmaningar i reformtider”, fil.dr Daniel Sundberg, Pedagogiska inst., Växjö universitet. Register with Eva.Brodin@pedagog.lu.se
Tid: 29 november 2007 kl. 14.00-16
Plats: Lärande Lund, Pedagogiska institutionen, Lund

Admissions
We say welcome to Shane Grealish, who newly arrived from Galway, Ireland. He is in the Neurobiology Group to study “Transplantation in animal models for Parkinson’s Disease”. Supervisor is Anders Björklund.

Thesis Defense
During November and December the following persons will defend their thesis:

- **30 november kl 9 - Marloes Dekker Nitert i cell- och molekyläriologi** - From the pancreatic beta-cell to the endothelium: pathophysiological aspects of type 2 diabetes. BMC Segerfalksalen. [Link to summary and a PDF of the thesis in English]

- **30 november kl 9 - Lina Olsson i medicinsk inflammationsforskning** - Genetica and genomic analysis of arthritis regulating regions in human and mouse. BMC Rune Grubb-salen. [Link to summary of the thesis in English]

- **1 december kl 9 - Emma Ahlqvist i medicinsk inflammationsforskning** - Identification of arthritis susceptibility genes in mice and humans. BMC Segerfalksalen. [Link to summary of the thesis in English]

- **6 december kl 13 - Maria Liljander i immunologi** - The complex genetics of mouse reproduction and arthritis. BMC Segerfalksalen. [Link to summary of the thesis in English]

- **14 december kl 9 - Malin Hulquist i medicinsk inflammationsforskning** - The effect of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in animal models of autoimmunity. BMC GK-salen.

- **21 december kl 13 - Lizbet Todorova i cell- och molekyläriologi** - Effects of asthma combination therapy on extacellular matrix remodeling in human lung fibroblasts, BMC GK-salen.

Portrait of a PhD Student – from Worms to Rats

**Hélène Hall**

 Barely 10 years old, she already knew she wanted to become a scientist. While searching for worms to use for fishing, she and her sister used to cut them into pieces and study their anatomy.
- A bit cruel, she says. Now I dissect rats instead.
- I was born and raised in Brest, an important naval
base where my father worked, in Britanny in western France. After high school, I moved to Rennes to study pharmacy. My mother is working in a pharmacy and might have influenced me. Actually, my twin sister just got her PhD in biochemistry in Austria. I have another sister in Paris, but she is not in the same field.

- Pharmacy studies are long in France, six years, but I soon realised research was very attractive for me and it was worth the effort.
- I have the urge for travelling in my genes and spent the last one-and-a-half years of my studies abroad. My first internship was on insulin-resistance and took place in Frankfurt, Germany. My second project was in the field of neuroscience: I studied an animal model of Parkinson’s disease at the University of Queensland in Australia.
- It was under the hot Australian sun that my interest in neurological disorders was born. There are so many patients suffering from Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s disease. I would like to help in finding a therapy for them.

After her return from Down Under, she applied for PhD positions. She ended up in Lund in the laboratory of Deniz Kirik, head of the BRAINS Group (Brain Repair and Imaging in Neural Systems).

- Unfortunately, Deniz did not have any grants at that time to finance my PhD education, but I did a 6 months’ project. Now, nearly a year after my first arrival in Sweden, I am registered as a PhD student.
- My projects will focus on monitoring the activity of monoaminergic and cholinergic neuronal circuits, which are critically involved in normal functions in the brain, as well as in disease states such as Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases. The technique we will use is nuclear magnetic resonance. With this method we want to map dopamine distribution in the brain and follow the recovery of cell transplants in Parkinson patients.

- If I were the Dean of the faculty, I would stimulate foreign PhD students to teach and improve their possibilities for doing so. Teaching is an important experience for every PhD student and each student should have equal opportunities to do this. For some teaching tasks, Swedish speaking PhD students are favoured, while undergraduate students often do not mind whether their tutor is speaking Swedish or English. Their books are already in English and it is also good training for them to communicate in the international language of science.

Hélène is very much looking forward to the next four years. She cannot imagine doing anything else but science. But what about leisure time?
- I am a sport freak and have been playing basketball since I was a child. Now I am part of the LUGI basket team in Lund. As a typical representative of French people, I also enjoy cooking. It is a social activity, not a physiological need.

Interviewer: Jorien van der Burg

A new year is soon beginning, and we need new representatives from the different sections. Some of our representatives defend their thesis and will no longer be here, others will move. We will be happy to see new members in the group!