



**Meeting Date:** 22 May at 11.00-13.00

**Meeting Place:** 1244-211

**Meeting Subject:** Department Forum

**Attendees:** David Olnagier, Jean Farup, Klaus Eyer, Lasse Sommer Kristensen, Lone Dahl Thomsen, Julie Feld Madsen, Kim Henningsen, Pilar Stella, Morten Pless, Sebastian Frische, Sune Keidser-Nilsson, Susie Mogensen, Søren Degn, Yonglun Luo (Alun), Thomas G. Jensen, Annemarie Lai

**Visit from:** Alena Salasova from The Academic Council

**Absent:** Hande Login, Kathrin Weyer, Lone Tjener, Jens Leipziger

Agenda:

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda
2. Since last meeting
3. News from members from Department of Biomedicine in The Academic Council (11.30-12.30)
4. Anyone wishes to help arrange a workshop for your unit (a floor, a wing or a unit) together with Human House?  
More information can be found in the article: "Health takes a closer look at respectful communication at work"  
  
<https://health.au.dk/en/display/artikel/health-takes-a-closer-look-at-respectful-communication-at-work>
5. The Biomedicine Spirit Award 2026 to be announced at the Department Day 21 August
6. Updates from members of Department Forum
7. Any other business

1. Agenda was approved
2. Thomas G. Jensen gave an update on various topics:  
The economy is in balance. This is positive considering all the expenses we have had (new buildings, moving etc.). Thomas would like the economy to be in surplus so that we can transfer extra resources into the research groups.  
External grants look stable and is expected to remain as such.



Publications: We have more publications than before. We have appr. 400 publications per year.

Impact factors in 2025: 27 publications (highest impact factor). It looks good. The number of citations look very good as well.

Innovation: We have the highest number at Aarhus University regarding filing of inventions. We are, however, a big department.

Neuro-center, the new research center. André Fischer, Göttingen University, is candidate to be the new leader. Circuit deficiency and Dandrite will be part of the center.

3. Alena Salasova gave an introduction to The Academic Council. It is an advisory board, advising the dean. The council meets every 2 months and has an annual 2-day event at Sandbjerg with all the AU councils, deans and the rector with focus on selected topics.

In 2025 The Academic Council focused on:

- Improve authorship and research practices
- Stronger industry collaboration and foundation engagement
- Green transition
- Sustainable support for research core facilities
- Cybersecurity, IRS guidelines and risks of discrimination
- Career paths for young researchers
- Social media and well-being
- AI in research and education
- Recruitment
- Inclusion

The Academic Council has substantial influence on which topics are addressed and translates the discussions into something concrete and has cross-departmental dialogue on major strategic decisions and stronger interaction with government, foundations, and external stakeholders. It also has a strong focus on development and maintenance of cutting-edge infrastructure at Aarhus University.

The council would like to increase its diversity to do better and bring more awareness to the council.

Anyone can contact the council and ask for a topic to be discussed.

The council appoints Aarhus University's Research Foundation, so the foundation is free of governmental interference and thereby secures academic freedom.

We discussed how we can increase awareness of the council: Visibility through case stories, in the Biomedicine newsletter.

2. Thomas G. Jensen status (continued):



Office space: There has been a lot of input and smaller changes will be made as informed by a mail from Jeannette Madsen 13 May 2026.

Strategy: Thomas G. Jensen encourages us to share the biomedicine news/content on LinkedIn.

Core narrative: We would like to be better at branding The Department of Biomedicine. We will have some short stories to bring awareness to the work being done.

Long time goals: Increased economic support for research groups, new master education, improved cross-departmental collaboration, to become leading in Europe.

Thomas G. Jensen and Hanne Bjerregaard Møller have had meetings with the different teaching teams and discussed different topics including the point system for pregraduate teaching.

Rwanda: The faculty has a new hub in Rwanda. Professor Per Kallestrup is going to lead the hub there for the next 5 years.

New permanent positions: Might be advertised before the summer break

4. Health takes a closer look at respectful communication at work. It's not for the whole department but different wings and departments can participate.  
We will send an invitation

5. Department Day 21 August. Headline for the day: Motivation.

Visit from Chris McDonald, Asker Hedegaard Boye (philosopher and journalist at Weekendavisen) and a visit from a group leader from the The Blood Bank at Aarhus University Hospital.

The Biomedicine Spirit Award 2026 will be announced at the Department Day 21 August, and we are all encouraged to nominate a colleague. The department forum will be asked to select the winner.

**Next meeting: 2 September at 13-15, 1115-151B**