

Study Board for Human Biology, Immunology and Neuroscience



MINUTES

14 SEPTEMBER 2023

Forum Study Board for Human Biology, Immunology and Neuroscience

Meeting held 14 September 2023

Place Maersk Tower, 15.7.152

Minute taker Merete Evald

**STUDY BOARD SERVICES AND EXAM
STUDENT AFFAIRS**

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2200 COPENHAGEN N

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Present

Human Biology: Claus Juul Løland, Morten Schak Nielsen, Claire Meehan (alternate), João Tiago de Almeida, Zakarias Kefil Jensen Ogueboule, Helle Margit Albrechtsen (observer)

Immunology: Jan Pravsgaard Christensen, Rebecca Michelle Schulz Schulz, Gaja Kobal

Neuroscience: Jens Holm Mikkelsen, Birgitte Rahbek Kornum

Guests: Jørgen Kurtzhals, Tina Lewis, Michael Krabbe Borregaard, Mathias Westermann

Administration: Karina Rømer, Merete Evald (minute taker)

Agenda

1. Approval of agenda
2. Messages by heads of study
3. Messages by students
4. Approval of changes to the elective Skin Immunology (SIK19001U), 2020-curriculum Immunology and Inflammation
5. Approval of course- and exam plans for Spring 2024

6. Weather forecast from the Vice-Dean (15.00-15.15)

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Guests: Jørgen Kurtzhals Vice-Dean for Education and Tina Lewis
Head of Study Administration and Student Affairs

7. Sustainability in education (15.15-16.00)

Guests: Jørgen Kurtzhals Vice-Dean for Education and Sustainability
project group, SUND

8. Miscellaneous

Minutes

Ad) 1 Approval of agenda

The meeting was chaired by Claus Juul Løland as chairperson Anders
Woetmann Andersen is on sick leave.

The agenda was approved by the present Board members.

Ad 2) Messages by heads of study

At the **Immunology** programme, they are still working on developing a
biomatics course, and is getting closer to being ready for approval. This
year's uptake has been a little lower than expected.

At **Neuroscience**, the primary focus is currently welcoming new students.
They are taking in 35 students this year.

Human Biology has had an uptake of 38, but only about 35 have shown up,
and it is still below the capacity of 40 potential students.

Furthermore, Claus raised concerns about a recent change in the
interpretation of when you can start your master's thesis as you must now
complete 60 ECTS of the programme before beginning the thesis. The
change was decreed by the ministry and is not up for debate. The Board
members briefly discussed mitigating strategies and hoped that UCPH's
central administration will act on the matter.

Ad 3) Messages by students

None.

**Ad 4) Approval of changes to the elective Skin Immunology
(SIIK19001U), 2020-curriculum Immunology and Inflammation**

The course responsible has requested a change to the exam from all aids
allowed to without aids. It was approved by the Board.

Ad 5) Approval of course- and exam plans for Spring 2024

The Study Board was not quorate; the exam plans were sent for written approval and were approved on 20 September 2023. The course plans were sent for written approval and were approved on 24 November 2023.

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Ad 6) Weather forecast from the Vice-Dean for Education

Guests: Jørgen Kurtzhals and Tina Lewis

As several members of the Board needed to leave early, the Vice-Dean kept it brief and introduced himself and Tina Lewis as Head of Study Administration and Student Affairs.

Ad 7) Sustainability in education

Guests: Jørgen Kurtzhals Vice-Dean for Education, Michael Krabbe Borregaard and Mathias Westermann

Jørgen gave a brief introduction to the topic: SUND has received funds from Rector to promote sustainability, and both the faculty and the health care system use a lot of energy and generate a lot of waste. Consequently, there is room for improvement and contribution.

The Why of sustainability in healthcare education

Michael Krabbe Borregaard took over with a presentation on “Why and how do we need sustainability in healthcare education?” He presented data showing that laboratories have the largest environmental footprint within health education. Furthermore, sustainability is not just an environmental concern, but also a fundamental aspect of health, and it is no longer possible to address health issues separately from their environmental context. Additionally, the labour market is evolving, and companies increasingly value sustainability. Thus, students who are educated in sustainable practices are more competitive in the job market.

The How of sustainability in healthcare education

The presentation moved on to the practical implementation of sustainability in healthcare education with input from the Board members. It was recognized that some existing elements of the curricula may need to be replaced to make room to incorporate sustainability.

The discussion first focused on practical aspects, such as reducing waste in laboratories as the Board members agreed that this was relevant to their programmes. Ideas included teaching students to reuse equipment and considering the environmental footprint of their lab procedures in general e.g. by working with LEAF. The key point is to ensure that the students graduate with a sustainability-orientated mindset.

The Board members also debated how to integrate sustainability in the programmes while both ensuring that it is not just a formality, but also not taking up too much time. The overall question was whether to integrate sustainability into all courses in general or to create one systematic course for programmes with laboratory exercises to ensure a consistent approach. Another suggestion was to introduce online modules along with safety modules at the beginning of a semester.

Furthermore, Globe Institute has proposed a course in Planetary Health consisting of six short modules including lectures, cases, and group discussions with a focus on working interdisciplinarily.

Jørgen and Michael encouraged continued dialogue on sustainability, urging Board members to consider its relevance to their programmes and students. They also suggested involving student representatives and collaborating with other relevant departments, such as the pharmaceutical area, who might face similar challenges in the labs.

Finally, the availability of elective courses with a sustainability focus was highlighted, and Board members were encouraged to explore these options.