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Statutes

“BIH Young Science”

A joint initiative of junior PIs from Charité and MDC

1) Aims of the initiative

With the foundation of the Berlin Institute of Health (BIH), the Charité–University Medicine Berlin (Charité) and Max-Delbrueck-Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC) became entities of one common public body and created a joined research space to promote translational research in systems medicine. To enable excellent scientific research and promote participation of junior research groups in the joined research space, this initiative has the following aims:

- a. To foster communication and scientific collaboration between researchers at the Charité and MDC
- b. To improve the research environment of young scientists at the Charité and MDC
- c. To provide representation and participation of junior PIs in the committees and governance bodies of the BIH
- d. To promote joined educational initiatives for graduate students, scientists and physicians

2) Membership

Employees of either Charité or MDC interested in promoting translational research are eligible to join the initiative if they fulfill at least two of the following criteria:

- a. Principal investigators with third-party funding
- b. Outstanding research publications as first or communicating author
- c. Established or developed novel structures, initiatives or network projects fostering the interaction of Charité and MDC

Applicants for membership should send a brief CV (1 page, form is provided on the BIH website) including a summary of their research interests, third-party funding and 5 selected publications to the speakers of the initiative. The CV will be circulated among all members and will be discussed at the next meeting. For approval, each application needs a majority vote of the members present.

Applications from scientists who are interested in participating in the initiative, but do not yet fulfill the criteria stated above, can be sponsored by a present member of the initiative for association. Members of the Charité Clinical Scientist Program automatically qualify for an associate membership.

There are no quotas for the two institutions and no maximum number of members. All members have equal voting rights. There is no membership fee.

Members actively participate in BIH Young Science meetings and contribute presentations. However, also non-members are invited to join the meetings and engage in the discussions. Membership ends upon withdrawal or termination of employment at Charité or MDC.

3) Representation

The initiative is represented by three elected speakers: two Charité researchers, including at least one clinician, and one MDC researcher. The responsibilities of the speakers include:

- a. Organization of regular meetings
- b. Representation of the initiative within the BIH
- c. Report of activities, initiatives and new development at meetings

Speakers are elected by majority vote of the members for a one-year term with the possibility of re-election. Upon resignation, a new speaker is elected at the next full assembly.

4) Meetings

Regular meetings for scientific exchange are at the core of the initiative. Members give short, widely intelligible presentations to introduce themselves and their research activities, followed by plenary discussion. Time and place of the meetings will be announced on the BIH website and across the various locations of the BIH member institutions, at least one week in advance. The meetings are public. Everybody interested in the aims of the initiative is strongly encouraged to join the meetings and participate in the discussions.

Full assemblies of members take place at least once a year and will be announced at least four weeks in advance. Tasks at the full assembly include:

- a. Election of speakers
- b. Change of statutes
- c. Vote on strategic initiatives