

Danish Diabetes Academy
Award Committee



SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

Dear award committee,

I am extremely excited to nominate Tune H Pers, 38 years, for the DDA Young Investigator Award 2019. Tune has throughout his still-young career established an independent and highly original research line, focusing on generating and leveraging large-scale molecular maps to better understand biological mechanisms underlying diabetes and obesity. The pronounced quality and innovative character of his research are highlighted by the substantial number of citations of his **computational tools (e.g. DEPICT; 248 Web of Science citations since 2015)** and his metabolic research; in 2015 he **co-led work published in *Nature*** showing that obesity is likely driven by dysregulated processes in the central nervous system (1,350 citations). Tune published his first diabetes-focused manuscript in 2010 and currently has three submitted **last-author manuscripts**, including work showing that hypothalamic glia-neuron crosstalk can induce sustained diabetes remission (in revision at *Nature Metabolism*). Tune was early on recognized for his original work and invited to speak at The American Society of Human Genetics – the most prestigious genetics conference – (USA, 2013 and 2014), the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology Congress (France, 2017) and Europhysiology (UK, 2018).

Being **very focused on public outreach**, Tune is routinely being interviewed by Danish media, including the Danish Broadcasting Corporation, Politikken, Videnskab.dk and Ugeskrift for Læger, and he is part of the **Young Academy** – an organization part of the Royal Danish Society of Science and Letters – in which he served as the chairman of the Research Politics group in 2016-17.

THE NOVO NORDISK FOUNDATION
CENTER FOR BASIC METABOLIC
RESEARCH

MAERSK TOWER
BLEGDAMSVEJ 3B
DK-2200 COPENHAGEN N

During his postdoc studies, Tune secured 457,800€ of external funding (including a DFF Sapere Aude postdoc award). Leading up to and during his time as a group leader he secured **3,791,900€ of external funding** (including the prestigious Lundbeck Foundation Fellowship and DFF Sapere Aude starting grants).

Tune's **commitment and passion** are reflected in his well-like personality, his careful mentoring of students (one graduated PhD student, and four current PhD-students) and his active engagement with the public through social media, patient organizations and the Young Academy. In 2016, he initiated and co-founded the **Danish Single-cell Network**, a proliferative network comprising 180 researchers across >35 research groups and companies, which inspires young researchers through its monthly seminar-series and annual meetings (with >180 participants). Tune is very **dedicated and hard-working**, part of the CBMR's leadership team, and has taught at **DDA** courses since 2014.

Tune has **close international collaborations** with leading research groups within diabetes and metabolic research from the US and UK (see CV). Moreover, his previous and current DDA fellows Marie Bentsen and Mette Ludwig are currently pursuing postdoc and PhD-research stays in the renowned MW Schwartz lab at the University of Washington (USA). Tune has lately, through the BRIDGE program, established a collaboration with Cristina Legido-Quigley (Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen) to further the **translational aspects** of his research. Finally, Tune maintains **close collaborations with industrial partners** from Novo Nordisk AS (contact LB Knudsen) and Gubra AS (J Jelsing).

In sum, Tune is a world-class researcher who contributes with both basal and translational novel insights of great benefit to the diabetic patients.

Sincerely,



Torben Hansen, Professor MD, PhD
Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research
University of Copenhagen