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BEREICH EXPERIMENTELLE UND ANGEWANDTE PHYSIOLOGIE DER HAUT

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Report about the visit from 03. to 04.09.2021 in the CBIOS - Research Center for Biosciences and Health Technologies in Lisbon as a member of the External Science Advisory Board

The CBIOS - the Research Center for Biosciences and Health Technologies - was established 2011 at the University LUSOFONA in Lisbon, Portugal. It has a successful development. The Center has one single group – the Integrated Health Strategies where five expertise areas that share resources to develop interdisciplinary knowledge and initiatives:

- Modeling Systems
- Nutrition and Health Promotion
- Pharmacology and Molecular Mechanism
- Natural Bioactivities
- Development of Delivery Systems

It has a well-educated staff and very good research equipment.

The University budget for research comes mostly from the university stakeholders. Only recently, significant funding was available to CBIOS from public sources (National Agency FCT and EU). The budget of the CBIOS is divided into a basic budget and a research related Budget. The amount of project money should be increased. This is in the interest of the university and of the CBIOS. This is not easy because the industry in Portugal is not so developed for financing practical applications. For this reason the cooperation with industry and universities outside Portugal is increased, especially with Brasilia and European Countries.

For the application of projects from the European Commission support would necessary.

Since European projects always consist of a technical part, which can be well presented by the scientists, and a political part, which also takes the role of the sexes in the project into account, the application is usually difficult. The necessary experience is available here in the university. This connection should be expanded further in the next few years. The aim is to acquire further European projects.

One focus is student training in the CBIOS. It is mainly about students in the field of research who are employed in government organizations, societies and also in industry. These students are an

important basis to further develop contacts to state institutions but also to industry. The students who have completed their studies or their doctoral thesis at the BIOS are in great demand at home and abroad and can choose their activity. In addition to contacts with European countries and Brazil, the CBIOS also has contacts with Portuguese-speaking African countries. Most of the graduates from Portugal hold managerial positions here. These relationships should be further developed.

Publishing is one of the main activities of the CBIOS. This has expanded significantly in recent years. It almost doubled from 2019 to 2020. English-language publications are no problem for the Portuguese colleagues, as the specialist literature as well as the culture such as television are in English. The employees of the CBIOS are well networked with one another. Cooperation with clinical facilities needs to be expanded. This is not easy in Portugal, as the clinical institutions in Portugal are usually very convinced of themselves.

All research work must be approved by the ethics committee prior to commencement. A CBIOS employee is a member of the ethics committee.

A visit to the laboratories showed that they were well equipped, which enabled all of the group's research work to be carried out effectively.

Particular emphasis is placed on the practical training of all PhD students. The laboratory area of the CBIOS is currently being enlarged, which speaks for the recognition of the CBIOS.

The personnel structure of the CBIOS is to remain essentially as it is at present. A small effective structure is preferred to a large, inflexible structure.

The CBIOS has a very balanced structure consisting of 23 full members (PhDs) and 18 PhD students. The most important goal of the CBIOS in the next few months is to increase third-party funding and to further increase publication activity.

In general, however, the development of the CBIOS after the economic crisis in Portugal can be assessed as very successful and promising. The CBIOS is an important part of the Portuguese research landscape. It knows its strengths, but also its problems that need to be solved in order to further increase development.

I rate the current level of development as "excellent".

Prof. Dr. Dr.-Ing. Juergen Lademann