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Statement from the director of the institute on the final report of the Commission No. 4

We found the commission's assessment of the Institute of Physiology as a whole highly encouraging, because its outcome was extremely positive.

In particular, we would like to highlight the commission's statement *"...the Institute completely fulfils its announced goals and provides new approaches to prevention, diagnostics and therapeutic procedures required to tackle serious medical conditions in humans."* The commission acknowledged the Director's presentation on the Institute's structure, scientific and educational accomplishments and found them to be excellent in every respect. The Institute was found to be able to offer a unique platform apparently not available in any other biomedical institute in the country. Similar to comments from other commissions, the education, outreach activities and popularization were said to *"...sound reasonable and prone to maintain its present highest standards and scientific visibility at the national and international levels."*

The commission evaluated just one team out of 22 research teams of the Institute, the department of **Analysis of Biologically Important Compounds**. While we mostly agree with the evaluation of this team by the commission, we would like to add several pieces of information, with respect to the following comments:

"The research activities with others in the Institute seem to happen at a random fashion and without long-term trends being indicated."

Additional information:

The capacity of this department is mainly devoted to providing services to the other departments at the Institute, and therefore their activities are not as focused, reflecting the needs of the collaborating departments. This is partially due to the fact that the department houses the proteomic core facility. Nevertheless, several long-lasting (20-year) and focused collaborations do exist within the Institute, e.g. in the field of steroid metabolism.

"While it was clearly stated by the Institute's Director that more involvement in translational research is one of the major objectives for future, this team did not report any role in such activities that would seem essential."

Additional information:

In my (i.e., the Director's) opinion, the general impression from the team leader's presentation was negatively affected by his effort to emphasize an independent line of research instead of highlighting the ongoing collaborations, which are more relevant to the main areas of biomedical research conducted at the Institute.

We gratefully acknowledge the evaluation report and would like to thank the commission for the excellent work it did to accomplish this highly demanding and helpful task.

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