Dear MedViz Supporter

During the writing phase of the current Newsletter, the snow has already come and gone - winter time again and Christmas right around the corner. This means that you hopefully will get a few days off to charge your batteries and meditate over the future global societal challenges and opportunities. One role of MedViz is to encourage and boost the scientific communication within our virtual research cluster, thus giving a small contribution to solve some challenges and highlight the opportunities within medical research. We would like to invite you sharing your thoughts about how you see the future of MedViz and how you see your own research activity being enforced or fertilized through cooperation within MedViz. Your thoughts might be published in the next issue of this Newsletter, in January 2014. Please, forward some words to ragnar.nortvedt@helse-bergen.no.

In the mean time we take the opportunity to look back at some highlights in 2013:

15.01.2013: The MedViz Conference was arranged at Hotel Grand Terminus with 115 participants
28.02.2013: We received the evaluation report over MedViz activities the first five years, from a Nordic Evaluation Committee
06.05.2013: MedViz researchers received the international Dirk Bartz Prize for Visual Computing in Medicine 2013 from The Eurographics Association in Girona, Spain
07.06.2013: MedViz arranged a workshop at Marsteinen Light House where we discussed alternative hypotheses for future MedViz development, related to the conclusions from the evaluation report. The conclusions from Marsteinen established the basis for the MedViz Strategy document
17.09.2013: MedViz arranged a stakeholder meeting with our owners and several leaders from CMR AS, University of Bergen and Haukeland University Hospital, to discuss MedViz’ future strategy
20-22.09.13: MedViz participated during Forskningsdagen with a stand at Festplassen and a presentation in Litteraturhuset in Bergen. The topic was water in the body, and we demonstrated live ultrasound on a fresh pig kidney
13.12.2013: We arranged the 10th MedViz Seminar this year, where Professor Jos Roerdink fra Univ. of Groningen, The Netherlands gave the following talk: Brain Patterns: from EEG Coherence Networks to Prediction of Neurodegenerative Diseases.

For a complete list of our activities this year, please, see our homepage http://medviz.uib.no/ or the MedViz Annual Report 2013, which can be ordered from ragnar.nortvedt@helse-bergen.no. Today, we also bring good news from a recent meeting between our owners (05.12.2013). They have decided to prolongate MedViz activity for at least three new years. This implies that MedViz will be funded through basic funding from UiB, HUH and CMR AS. MedViz will also establish a physical center in Møllendalsbakken 7, starting with two offices and nice meeting room facilities from January 2014. We will come back to the official opening of the MedViz Center later.

Professor Jos Roerdink at the MedViz Christmas Seminar.
PES2020 - Project Establishment Support

The Research Council provides support to encourage increased Norwegian participation in European research cooperation. Project establishment support (PES) may be used to prepare grant applications or project proposals directed towards European R&D programmes that are open to Norwegian participation. Details of the relevant programmes and conditions for support are given in the specific calls for proposals.

Independent research institutes, universities, university colleges, and regional health authorities whose participation in European R&D collaboration is extensive must apply for framework grants. Independent research institutes, universities, university colleges, and regional health authorities that have not applied for framework grants will be eligible to receive maximum NOK 500,000 per year in funding under the PES scheme.

Companies and others not applying for framework grants may submit applications for individual projects. The maximum support awarded per grant recipient is NOK 500,000 per year.

The budget for the PES scheme for 2013 is approximately NOK 40 million. This sum covers applications for both individual projects and framework grants.

The application deadline for submission of PES applications for individual projects is open-ended.

Companies and other institutions not applying for framework grants may apply for project establishment support for individual projects aimed at European R&D cooperation. The application deadline is open-ended, but only costs incurred after the PES application has been submitted can be included in the project accounts.

See also: http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Funding/PES/1203528455414

Upcoming events

24.01.2014: MedViz Seminar by Professor Arvid Lundervold: “My sabbatical year 2013: Image analysis in time and space”

29.04.2014: The Lab Animal Facility at Clinical Department 1, University of Bergen organizes a conference on ethical evaluation of animal experiments

Several MedViz related studies are of preclinical nature. The Lab Animal Facility organizes the conference The Bergen conference on Harm-Benefit Analysis of Animal Studies, April 29 2014.

Harm-benefit analysis must now be assessed in every project description when applying for permission to do animal experiments. Animals have an intrinsic value, and this is anchored in national and international legislation. Assessment of social benefits versus harm to the animal is the core of ethical evaluation of animal experiments.

The conference will focus on tools to perform such ethical evaluations.

The conference is suitable for researchers who use animal models in their work, and ethical committees responsible for approving applications for lab animal experiments. Read more here:

http://www.uib.no/rg/animalfacility/education/invitation-to-the-bergen-conference-on-harm-benefit-analysis-of-animal-studies

Anaesthetizing of a rat.

16.06.2014: MedViz Course

17.-18.06.2014: Combined MedViz & MedIm Conference – save the dates!

Happy Christmas and thanks for all the engagement in 2013!

Ragnar Nortvedt
Program Manager