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Dear Professor Benn:

At a meeting on March 29, 2017, the board of the Danish National Research Foundation (DNRF) considered your letter dated February 12, 2017, in which you asked the board to initiate contract negotiations for a four-year 2<sup>nd</sup> grant period for CVIVA based on your proposal of a possible change in the application, one whereby you would focus on the experimental work and leave out the observational studies.

Date April 12, 2017  
Jnr. 23-108

The board discussed your letter, looking also at the application for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grant period, and the center's research. After a thorough discussion, a unanimous board decided to maintain its decision, i.e. the rejection of your application for a four-year 2<sup>nd</sup> grant period for CVIVA. Still, it was the board's evaluation that the application for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grant period did not meet the level of scientific quality expected of a Center of Excellence, and that your letter and proposal did not change the board's overall evaluation as communicated in the DNRF's letter to you dated December 21, 2016.

Please note that the board's decisions are final. However, you are welcome to contact me by phone at +45 3318 1950 with any questions.

The Danish National Research Foundation's activity is regulated by law; cf. Consolidated Act on the Danish National Research Foundation No. 367 of 10 April 2014, and the decision has been made per section 4 of this act.

Yours sincerely,



Søren-Peter Olesen  
Director, Professor