

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)

Oslo, 9 March 2020

Minutes from Board Meeting March 6

Time: Friday March 6, 12:00-14:30

Place: NCMM, Oslo Science Park

Executive officer: Elisa Bjørge

	Present	Absent
Professor Jens Petter Berg (UiO/OUS), Chair	X	
Professor Finn-Eirik Johansen (UiO), member	X	
Professor Hilde Nilsen (UiO), member	X	
Professor Bente Halvorsen (HSØ), member		X
Director Research & Innovation Øystein Krüger (HSØ), member	X	
Førsteamanuensis Maria Perander (UiT, national representative), member		X
Professor Ola Myklebost (UiB), national deputy member	X	
Dr. Torunn Berge (HSØ), deputy member		X
Professor Janna Saarela (NCMM), Director	X	
Professor Hartmut Luecke (NCMM), Assistant Director	X	

Agenda (O = information item, D = discussion item B = decision item)

**Case 11-200 Presentations by NCMM group leaders**

In the fall 2019 it was decided to invite group leaders to present regularly at Board meetings where they will be given the opportunity to present key points regarding group leader issues such as career plans (both their own and for group members), strategies on how to build a good working environment for their teams, research culture etc.

Nikolina Sekulic was present in the beginning of the Board meeting and discussed rotation out of NCMM and future employment possibilities as well as cryoEM and the upcoming INFRA-call with the Board.

**Decision:** The Board takes note of the briefing.

**Case 12-20B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting**

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on January 30 were available.

**Decision:** The minutes are approved.

### **Case 13-19B Reappointment of NCMM Associate Investigators**

The network of NCMM Associate and Young Associate Investigators currently consists of 33 researchers from all regions in Norway. The network was established in 2011 and there have been altogether four open calls for new associate and young associate investigators. NCMM has now entered the third 5-year period and plans to evaluate the network this spring.

NCMM on February 4 invited all current AIs/YAIs to apply for reappointment and asked those who want to stay in the network, to describe how they plan to contribute to an active and collaborative network. The application deadline to apply for reappointment was February 21.

Altogether, 23 AIs/YAIs applied for reappointment whereas eight have either informed NCMM that they will not apply for reappointment or have not responded to the invitation. Furthermore, two YAI have relocated to the US and thereby automatically rotated out of the network. NCMM group leaders also provided feedback on their interactions with AIs/YAIs.

In the meeting, it was concluded that the Board should decide on criteria for reappointment whereas NCMM should internally decide on the actual reappointment of candidates based on the information they have provided in their applications. The Centre will consider both how the AIs/YAIs have contributed to the network in the last period as well as how they plan to contribute to increased interactions in the future.

In 2014, NCMM introduced the Young Associate Investigator mechanism for young, talented group leaders and PIs with an independent standing, a strong CV relative to the stage of their career and an upward trajectory. Regarding the ongoing reapplication process, four of the YAIs have asked to be considered for reappointment as Associate Investigators. The Board in the meeting discussed the AI and YAI categories and decided to merge the two categories and rather present a list of reappointed Associate Investigators. However, in the upcoming search for new AIs, the call will have specifications for both senior and junior Associate Investigators to make sure that both categories will consider applying.

**Decision:** The Board has given NCMM a mandate to decide on the reappointment of Associate Investigators in line with discussions in the meeting.

### **Case 14-200 Scientific and strategic plan for 2020-2024**

To secure a new contract with the RCN, NCMM end of 2019 prepared a scientific and strategic plan, including milestones that address the recommendations and suggestions from the 2018 evaluation report.

The RCN has confirmed that they are satisfied with all the information provided by NCMM and that the new contract for the period 2020-2024 will be sent out in week 11. The Faculty Director at the Medical Faculty will sign this contract on behalf of UiO.

**Decision:** The Board takes note of the briefing.

**Case 15-200 Continuation of NCMM – update**

As a national Centre, NCMM in coordination with its current consortium partners aim to include the other Health Regions and universities with medical schools as owners of the Centre from 2021. NCMM has prepared position papers addressed to both the health regions and the other universities. These were discussed in the meeting, and NCMM will now revise them in line with advice given in the meeting before sending them to the other regions.

The NCMM Director also hopes to visit Tromsø, Trondheim and Bergen during the spring and aims to organize ½ day seminars in the different regions where researchers can meet and interact with NCMM group leaders.

**Decision:** The Board takes note of the briefing.

**Case 16-200 Recruitment of new NCMM group leader – update.**

**Personnel case - Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven.**

The first ranked candidate for the group leader position in precision medicine, Sebastian Waszak, in the beginning of February accepted his offer, and he will join NCMM already on March 15. Sebastian Waszak will head the Computational Oncology group at NCMM.

**Decision:** The Board takes note of the briefing.

**Case 17-200 Building plans in the Oslo Science Park and consequences for NCMM**

The Oslo Science Park end of January informed NCMM about their upcoming plans to both build some additional floors to building D as well as renovate the facade for this building. This will affect 50% of NCMM's rented space in the Oslo Science Park. The work is estimate to start already end of April this year. NCMM has still not received a detailed plan for the construction work but Oslo Science Park has informed that the work will last for approx. 10 months. During this time, there will be periods with vibrations, power fluctuations as well as periods where ventilation and cooling will be stopped. Regular lab work will therefore not be possible in these areas while the building process is running.

NCMM has contacted the property department at UiO who is renting space for NCMM in the Oslo Science Park but the contract does not give us a mandate to veto the planned construction work. However, Oslo Science Park notified NCMM very late and it will not be possible for the Centre to evacuate all the lab activity and provide good alternative solutions in just some weeks. NCMM is therefore trying to get the process postponed 12 months to be able to plan a secure move and has been in dialogue with both the Property department, the University Director and the rectorate.

**Decision:** The Board takes note of the briefing.

**Case 18-200 Health, Safety and Environment – regular updates**

The Faculty of Medicine has requested that HSE matters should be included regularly at Board meetings. The annual HSE report to the Faculty was submitted within March 1 and was presented in the meeting. In addition, an overview of deviations in 2019 was included. All the reported cases have been closed.

**Decision:** The Board takes note of the briefing.

**Case 19 Miscellaneous**

1. *New UiO deputy member appointed to NCMM Board:*

The Faculty of Medicine has appointed Prof. Arnaldo Frigessi, Dept. of Biostatistics at the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences as the new UiO deputy member of the NCMM Board.

2. *National representative in the Board – attendance via Skype/video meeting:*

Ola Myklebost, deputy national representative, has suggested that the national representative in future meetings could participate via video meetings rather than always travelling to Oslo as this would save both time, money and be more environmentally friendly. In the meeting, it was decided to open up for this although for some meetings/cases it will still be better with a physical attendance. NCMM will check with the IT department, which solutions would work best.

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg  
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela  
NCMM Director