

Agenda of NCMBM Board Meeting

Time: Thursday 26th August 2026, 13.15-16.00
 Place: NCMBM Meeting Room, Life Sciences Building

Board Secretary: Hanna Ekeli, Medical Faculty Director
 Executive Officer: Elizabeth Smethurst

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

	Declaration of conflict of interest Board members are invited to declare any conflicts of interest relating to the matters on the agenda. Any potential conflicts should be disclosed at the start of the meeting, and appropriate steps will be taken in accordance with the organisation's conflict of interest policy.
Case 28 – 26D	Presentation from NCMBM Director and Group Leader, Janna Saarela The Board invites NCMBM Group Leaders to discuss the research focus and strategic direction of their group. The Group Leader will give a 10-minute presentation, followed by 5 minutes of discussion with the Board. Prof Janna Saarela will give a presentation of her research group, focussing on improving the understanding of biological pathways and pathogenic mechanisms behind rare and common immune diseases.
Case 29 – 26B	Approval of the minutes from the last meeting The minutes from the last Board meeting, 18th June 2026 are available (Appendix 1). Proposed decision: The Board approves the minutes.
Case 30 – 26O	Updates on actions from previous meeting 1) The NCMBM Senior Presence working group has had its second meeting 20th August 2026. The Director will provide a brief update. 2) Invitations to the NCMBM Board meeting with the SAB 17th November at 10.30 has been circulated. If you haven't done so already, please notify NCMBM of your availability.
Case 31 – 26O	Recruitment of new NCMBM Group Leader The call for two new Group Leaders opened on 7th July 2026 and closes on 14th September 2026. During the summer months, NCMBM has run a communications campaign to highlight the two vacancies, raise awareness of the Centre, and attract potential candidates. Interviews are expected to take place in the week commencing 23rd November 2026. The recruitment report will be presented to the NCMBM Board for review

in December 2026. NCMBM aims to have the appointments ratified by the Medical Faculty Recruitment Board at its first meeting on 12th January 2027.

International and local recruitment committees

The Director has approached individuals to participate in the international and local recruitment committees for the two positions.

NCMBM Board meeting December 2026

To accommodate the recruitment process, NCMBM would like to reschedule the December 2026 Board meeting to allow sufficient time for the preparation of Board papers. Board members are kindly requested to indicate their availability for an alternative date in December by completing the availability survey via this link: <https://nettskjema.no/a/ncmbm-board-dec-2026>

The Director will provide an update on the recruitment campaign, timeline, and committee membership at the meeting.

Proposed decision:

The Board notes the update.

Case 32 – 26B

Closing the group for Computational Biology and Systems Medicine

NCMBM recruits internationally outstanding early-career researchers to time-limited group leader positions, following the EMBL model. The aim is to function as an incubator for new research groups.

The Computational Biology and Systems Medicine research group was established when XXXX joined NCMBM in October 2018. Following an evaluation in 2022/2023, the Board approved a second four-year period for the group in March 2023 (Case 9-23B).

In line with NCMBM's 5+4-year recruitment model, the appointment of the Computational Biology and Systems Medicine research group has now reached the end of its term and is due to be closed at NCMBM.

The Director will outline the process.

Proposed Decision:

The strategic initiative, the Computational Biology and Systems Medicine research group, will close in September 2027, in accordance with NCMBM's mandate and conditions.

Case 33 – 26D

Proposal for fostering collaboration in LVB

NCMBM has developed a draft proposal for the UiO Science Open Call, focusing on building cohesion, collaboration and scientific convergence within the Life Science Building. The draft proposal is available in Appendix 2.

The proposal aims to build an active and connected community within LVB and create low-friction opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration, shared use of research infrastructure, trainee networks and joint activities. It also proposes

	mechanisms for developing collaboration with the wider life science community at UiO and OUH. The proposal has been developed by NCMBM and has not yet been discussed with other potential partners. The Director will present the proposal to the Board for review and discussion before it is taken forward with relevant partners. Proposed decision: The Board notes the discussion and supports NCMBM in reaching out to LVB environments for further development of the proposal.
Case 34 – 26O	Dates of NCMBM Board 2027 NCMBM wishes to establish the schedule for the 2027 Board meetings, while recognising that some Board members may not yet be able to confirm their availability, particularly for the autumn meetings, due to pending teaching commitments. A Nettskjema with proposed meeting dates for 2027 has been circulated to Board members and is also linked below. The Board is kindly asked to complete the survey at their earliest convenience. https://nettskjema.no/a/ncmbm-board-2027 Proposed decision: The Board notes the update.
Case 35 – 26O	NCMBM in the Life Science Building NCMBM continues to be involved in discussions concerning the relocation to the Life Science Building. The Director will provide an update on the move at the meeting. Proposed decision: The Board notes the update.
Case 36 – 26O	Any other business