

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)  
Oslo, 6 April 2018

Notice of

## NCMM Board Meeting

Time: Friday 20 April 2018, 12:00 – 14:30  
Place: NCMM meeting room, Oslo Science Park

Executive officer: Elisa Bjørgo

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

### **Case 12-18O Presentations by NCMM group leaders**

The new Chairman of the Board has suggested that all NCMM group leaders throughout 2018 get the possibility to present their research to the Board in the beginning of each Board meeting. Each group leader gets 5 minutes for a short presentation + 5 minutes for discussion. The group leaders have been asked to outline their main focus areas as well as to highlight what their main challenges are.

Irep Gözen will give a presentation at the meeting on April 20. Nikolina Sekulic and Anthony Mathelier will give their presentations in the Board meeting on June 11.

Proposed

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

### **Case 13-18B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting**

A draft minutes from the Board meeting on February 20 was available (Attachment 1). There have been no comments to the minutes.

Proposed

**Decision:** The minutes are approved.

### **Case 14-18O A possible relocation of the Chemical Biology platform – risk assessment**

In connection to the upcoming move of the NCMM Director to OUH, a possible relocation of the high-throughput Chemical Biology platform has been discussed (Case 50-17D). The Director has contributed significantly to establish and develop the platform that today has three employees and serves both in-house and external customers. The platform is organized as a separate unit/core facility at NCMM and is not part of the Director's research group.

The Board in November 2017 asked for a risk assessment regarding a possible relocation of the CB platform and recommended at the time that the platform should stay at NCMM until a new director has been recruited (Case 50-17D).

The Director has therefore in agreement with the Chairman of the Board asked Henrik Schultz, Chair of the NOR-Openscreen Board and Head of the School of Pharmacy, to do the risk assessment. Schultz met the platform staff and the NCMM management on March 2 and has also had a separate meeting with the Chairman of the NCMM Board. His risk assessment is attached (Attachment 2).

Henrik Schultz will present his conclusions from the assessment in the Board meeting and will answer potential questions there.

Proposed

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

**Case 15-180 Hiring of NCMM group leaders - Personnel case**

**Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven**

NCMM is in the process of recruiting two group leaders in precision medicine and systems medicine. In the Board meeting in February it was decided to offer these positions to the \*\*\*\*\* and \*\*\*\*\*, respectively (Case 4-18B).

\*\*\*\*\* received a contract offer during the second visit here on April 11-12 and also met several potential collaboration partners in the Oslo region. He has been asked to communicate whether he accepts the position or not within April 25.

\*\*\*\*\* unfortunately recently informed us that she has been offered another position and will therefore not be coming to Oslo. The Board in February decided that the position would be offered to \*\*\*\*\* if \*\*\*\*\* declined her offer (Case 4-18B). The hospital environments were very supportive of her but unfortunately she did not meet many of the NCMM group leaders on her previous visit. The Director has discussed the situation with the Chairman of the Board and decided that \*\*\*\*\* will be invited for a second visit to explore her possibilities here further, particularly the details of a dual appointment and clinical training. This before making an official offer.

Proposed

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

**Case 16-180 NCMM group leader Morth has accepted a Professor position at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU)**

NCMM group leader J. Preben Morth on March 16 informed NCMM that he has accepted a Professor position at DTU from 1 August 2018. Morth was recruited to NCMM in 2010, renewed for a second period in 2015 and returns to Denmark after 8 years at NCMM.

NCMM is in collaboration with Morth now planning the rotation of his research group that currently consists of 3 postdocs, 1 PhD student and an engineer.

Proposed

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

**Case 17-18O Evaluation of NCMM**

The mandate and a time line for the NCMM evaluation have now been approved by the RCN Board, and the Research Council on February 28 informed NCMM that the evaluation site-visit and hearing will take place on June 18-19. An external Committee has been appointed consisting of international researchers; 3 with molecular medicine expertise, 1 with more general competence + 1 observer. NCMM will not know who has been appointed until after the written material has been submitted.

NCMM has received templates for a self-evaluation of the Centre in addition to self-evaluations from each group leader. The Centre is in the process of preparing all the material to be submitted to the RCN within April 19. The submitted material will be available to the Board as soon as this is ready (Attachment 3).

Proposed

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

**Case 18-18O Strategy discussion on continuation of NCMM – update**

NCMM is in its second 5-year period and will be evaluated on June 18-19. The Board already in the spring 2017 started a strategy discussion regarding the continuation of the Centre for a third 5-year period and NCMM prepared a position paper. The former Chair of the NCMM Board presented the possibility to expand the ownership of NCMM to all health regions at a strategy meeting for the research health regions in October 2017. Furthermore, the Dean at the Medical Faculty presented this idea also at a Dean meeting in December 2017. It has previously been decided that NCMM Director would travel to all regions and discuss a potential expansion of ownership in more detail directly with the different regions.

A meeting with both the university and health region has been scheduled for May 28 in Bergen. In addition, a meeting with NTNU has been scheduled for May 9. Furthermore, a meeting with UiT has been scheduled for June 7. NCMM is in dialogue also with Helse Nord RHF and Helse Midt-Norge RHF to schedule meetings also with them.

Proposed

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

**Case 19-18D Health, Safety and Environment – regular updates**

The Faculty of Medicine has informed us that they want HSE to be a regular topic at Board meetings. The Board is therefore now asked what type of topics or what type of overviews they want NCMM to prepare to our meetings.

Proposed

**Decision:** To be discussed in the meeting.

**Case 20-18O EATRIS – status update**

NCMM in 2017 received funding for a national EATRIS coordinator from the Helse-EU programme at the Research Council of Norway. A coordinator based in Bergen was hired and was supposed to start in January 2018 after finishing her maternity leave. Unfortunately, the coordinator resigned this position end of December 2017 for personal reasons. March 1 2018 a new EATRIS coordinator, Laetitia Abdou Garonne, started. She has in agreement with OUH and in consultation with the 8 EATRIS partner institutions been placed at the Dept. of Research Support at OUH. The role of the coordinator is to encourage the involvement of Norwegian experts and infrastructures in EATRIS platforms, and to help facilitate Norwegian participation and applications in EU-funding in translational medicine.

In agreement with the central EATRIS office in Amsterdam it has also recently been decided that Norway will get 0.5 FTE from January 2019 to take on the role of Innovation Manager in the European Joint Programming initiative in Rare Diseases (EJP RD).

Proposed

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

**Case 21-180 Recruitment of new NCMM Director – status update. Personnel case  
Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven**

The NCMM Director on 2 November 2017 handed in his resignation to start as Head and Director of the Institute of Cancer Research, Oslo University Hospital from January 2018. In a transition period until 30 June 2018, Taskén has a 40% position as NCMM Director and 80% position at OUH.

The call text and appointment of the Selection Committee was approved by the University Board on January 29 and the position was advertised on 1 February with an application deadline 15 March. By the time the call closed, 16 applications had been received. A list of applicants is attached (Attachment 4).

The Selection Committee is in the process of evaluating the applications and will decide on rankings for interview in a phone conference on April 24. Interviews will take place on June 7.

Proposed

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

**Sak 23-18 Any other matters**

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg  
Chairman NCMM Board

Kjetil Taskén  
NCMM Director