

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)

Oslo, December 2022

## Minutes from Board Meeting 12 December 2022

Time: Monday 12 December 2022, 12:00 -15:00

Place: NCMM meeting room KILO

Executive officer: Ingrid Kjelsvik

	Present	Absent
Professor Jens Petter Berg (UiO/OUS), Chair	X	
Professor Arne Klungland (UiO), member	X	
Professor Hilde Nilsen (UiO), member	X	
Professor Bente Halvorsen (HSØ), member		X
Director Research & Innovation Øystein Krüger (HSØ), member	X	
Professor Ola Myklebost (UiB), national member	X	
Professor Magne Børset (NTNU), national deputy member		X
Dr. Torunn Berge (HSØ), deputy member	X	
Professor Arnaldo Frigessi, deputy member		X
Professor Janna Saarela (NCMM), Director	X	

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

**Case 33-22B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting**

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on 24 August were available.

**Decision:** The minutes were approved.

**Case 34-22B Closing the group for Chemical Neuroscience**

The research group for Chemical Neuroscience was established when the Biotechnology Centre in Oslo recruited Dr. \*\*\*\*\*, who started in December 2014. Along with the establishment of the research group, it was also agreed that UiO would fund the establishment of a core facility for zebrafish, as this model animal is crucial to Dr. \*\*\*\*\*'s research.

The group for Chemical Neuroscience was evaluated in 2019, and continued for another four-year period by decision of the Board in November 2019 (Case 44-19B). To make room for new emerging scientific fields and new technologies, the group for Chemical Neuroscience will need to rotate to a more permanent environment after 5+4 years. This decision does not include the core facility for zebrafish, which is planned into the Life Science Building, and will not be moved physically from NCMM until then.

Discussion on the core facility's permanent organization has begun, and while it is seen as part of the comparative medicine at UiO, all aspects of including the fish facility to KPM have not been taken into account (Case 35-22O).

**Decision:** The group for Chemical Neuroscience will close from December 1, 2023, according to NCMMs mandate and conditions.

**Case 35-22O Reorganizing Comparative Medicine at UiO**

NCMM was informed of an initiative to reorganize all animal facilities/ comparative medicine at UiO on November 7, 2022 (Attachment 2). An open information meeting was held on November 18 where the process and aims for the reorganization were presented. All involved units were encouraged to hold workshops as soon as possible with the staff potentially affected by the reorganization. NCMM had the workshop for staff working as part of the zebrafish core facility on November 23. The minutes/feedback from the workshop will be discussed in an IDF-meeting at MED, before the collected feedback from all units involved will be discussed in an IDF-meeting at UiO level, probably in January.

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

**Case 36-22D NCMM recruitment strategy – call for new group leader**

When the Chemical Neuroscience group leaves NCMM in 2023/ 2024, there will be room for recruiting a new group. The Director asked for the advice of the Board on which areas it would be strategic to open a new group. The call would be most likely be open by early summer 2023. The Board recommended recruiting someone who would be able to bridge NCMM activities with the Life Science building and hospital environments.

**Decision:** The Board took note of the briefing, and welcomes a draft call text for review including elements from the discussion.

**Case 37-22B NCMM budget 2023**

NCMM invited the Board to decide on the Centre budget for 2023 (Attachment 3). The budget has been prepared in accordance with funding agreements with the RCN, UiO and HSØ. Looking forward, the largest financial change for the Centre is the announced termination in funding from the RCN after 2024. The NCMM Director and CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik presented the 2023 budget in the meeting

**Decision:** The Board approved the budget for 2023.

**Case 38-220 Work environment issue - Personnel case**  
**Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven**

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

**Case 39-220 Strategy discussion on continuation of NCMM beyond 2024 - update**

NCMM currently is in its third 5-year funding period and receives core funding annually from UiO, RCN and HSØ until the end of 2024. The RCN has communicated that they will not be able to fund NCMM beyond 2024. NCMM on had a meeting with the rectorate at UiO April 8, to discuss the future of the Centre, as well as the renewal of the Nordic EMBL Partnership agreement (2023-2032). The rectorate sent a request for an evaluation to NCMM, MED and MN on September 8. NCMM delivered a selfevaluation document to the rectorate on October 4. MED and MN also provided statements. The Director gave an update in the meeting.

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

**Case 40-220 Recruitment of Associate Director – update**

The former Associate Director left NCMM in the fall 2021, and the Board has discussed how to fill this function in the future in previous Board meetings. The call for a new Associate Director was published in August, and when it closed on November 14, 7 applications had been received. The candidates will be assessed for interviews in a committee meeting on December 13, and interviews are planned for January 10, 2023. The Director gave an update in the meeting.

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

**Case 41-220 National role of NCMM – ESFRI memberships**

NCMM is coordinating the Norwegian participation in two ESFRI-RIs: EATRIS and EU-OPENSREEN. The EATRIS membership fee has in the period 2016-2021 been covered by UiO, UiB, NTNU, UiT and the four Regional Health Authorities. However, at the end of 2020 the Regional Health Authorities and UiT and NTNU decided not to continue their contribution to EATRIS. UiO and UiB guaranteed to cover the 85 000 Euro membership fee for 2022, and for 2023 it will be split between NCMM and MED, UiO. UiB is currently discussing joining again, but the future of this membership for Norway is uncertain. The Chair of the Board and the NCMM Director will gave an update about EATRIS membership in the meeting.

NOR-OPENSREEN is the Norwegian participant in EU-OPENSREEN and the membership fee for the first five years (2018-2022) has been covered through an RCN infrastructure grant. For 2023, the membership fee was split between the national nodes in Nor-Openscreen, and the continuation for 2024 is now up for discussion. the NCMM Director and CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik gave an update in the meeting.

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

**Case 42-220 Rotation of board members**

Øystein Kruger will step out of the Board after this meeting. Health South-East is invited to look at their overall representation and suggest more/ other representatives as needed.

**Decision:** The Board thanked Øystein Kruger for his dedication and service to NCMM over many years.

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg  
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela  
NCMM Director