

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)

Oslo, February 2023

## Minutes from Board Meeting 10 February 2023

Time: Friday 10 February, 12:15 -14:00

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 & Diagnostics Lars Eikvar (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 1-23B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting**

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on 12 December 2022 were available.

Following up on item 35-22O Reorganizing Comparative Medicine at UiO – there has been no meeting about this so far this year and no updates.

**Decision:** The minutes were approved.

**Case 2-23B Recruitment of NCMM Associate Director****Exempt information, cf. §25 Offentlighetsloven, employment case**

NCMM published a call for a new Associate Director in August, and received 7 applications by the time the call closed on November 14. The interviews took place on January 10, 2023. Two candidates were ranked, meeting the requirements for the position. NCMM group leader \*\*\*\*\*, showed more potential for a strategic leadership role and hence was the top ranked candidate for the role.

**Decision:** The Board approved the hiring of \*\*\*\*\* as Associate Director to NCMM, according to the suggestion from the committee.

**Case 3-23D NCMM recruitment strategy – call for new group leaders**

When the Chemical Neuroscience group leaves NCMM in 2023/ 2024, there will be room for recruiting a new group. Group leader \*\*\*\*\* will be leaving NCMM in June 2023 to take up a position at EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland. With \*\*\*\*\* probably moving into the Associate Director role this year, there will potentially be three group leader positions to fill. The most realistic action is to announce two new group leader positions this summer, with the call closing August/September and interviews planned in the end of the year. The Director consulted the Board on which scientific areas they recommend the Centre to recruit for the future. It was recommended to strengthen the areas NCMM already works with, and the plan is to recruit at least one from the field of computational biology.

**Decision:** The Board welcomes an updated strategy and suggested call texts to be presented at a subsequent Board Meeting.

**Case 4-23O NCMM financial report 2022**

CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik gave an update in the meeting, and concluded that the 2022 finances went mostly according to the plan. The overall underspending was nearly 14m NOK, which was a result of UiO paying funds budgeted for 2023 at the end of the 2022, after finances for the year had already been finalized. 4m NOK underspending had been planned for 2022.

In 2020/2021, when moving part of NCMM operations to Kristin Bonnevie's Hus, NCMM paid the 12m NOK refurbishment bill in advance with the promise from the previous Medical Faculty Deanship that this would be reimbursed to NCMM over a five year period. The new Deanship and faculty administration has not agreed to honor this agreement. NCMM needs to prepare a case for the Board that documents this promise from previous minutes or communications to make the case for the payment.

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

**Case 5- 23O 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 had a meeting with the rectorate at UiO on April 8, 2022, to discuss the future of the Centre. UiO agreed to renew the Nordic EMBL Partnership agreement for a new 10-year period (2023-2032), and this was signed before Christmas 2022. The NCMM Director had a meeting with the Rectorate in December 2022, and Rector has invited for a workshop on 17 March to discuss further about the future on NCMM.

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

**Case 6- 23O SAB visit**

The NCMM SAB will visit on February 28 and March 1, 2023. Group leader \*\*\*\*\* is to be evaluated, and the SAB will get to meet the two newly recruited group leaders, \*\*\*\*\* and \*. \*\*\*\*\* will also give a presentation, as she will be up for evaluation next time. The Board will be invited to discuss with the SAB.

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

**Case 7-23O Miscellaneous**

Board member Arne Klungland is stepping down from the Board and this was his last meeting. The Board thanks Arne for all his dedication and valuable input to NCMM.

The Board would like to hear presentations from the two new group leaders, Charlotte Boccara and Biswajyoti Sahu in the upcoming meetings.

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg  
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela  
NCMM Director