

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)

Oslo August 2023

Minutes from Board Meeting 23 August 2023

Time: Wednesday 23 August 13:00 -16:00

Place: NCMM meeting room KILO

Executive officer: Ingrid Kjelsvik/Ragni Indahl

	Present	Absent
Professor Jens Petter Berg (UiO/OUS), Chair	X	
Professor Melinka Butenko (UiO), member		X
Professor Hilde Nilsen (UiO), member	X	
Director Research & Diagnostics Lars Eikvar (HSØ), member	X	
Professor Magne Børset (NTNU), national deputy member		X
Dr. Torunn Berge (HSØ), member	X	
Professor Ola Myklebost (UiB), national member	X	
Senior Adviser Randi Vad (HSØ), deputy member		X
Professor Arnaldo Frigessi (UiO), deputy member		X
Group leader Anthony Mathelier (NCMM), Associate Director	X	
Professor Janna Saarela (NCMM), Director	X	

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

Case 24-23B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on 19 June were available

Decision: The minutes were approved.**Case 25-23O Reconstruction plans and lab activity**

Oslotech AS has announced plans for changing the ventilation system and addressing structural issues in house E in Forskningsparken, where NCMM now has the main lab activity. UiO Property Dept. is leading the dialogue. Initial meetings regarding Oslotech's plans, gave NCMM the impression that some of the reconstruction could be postponed, but now it seems likely that this will happen soon – regardless of cost to NCMM. Plans for ventilations system upgrade can be tolerated and are urgently needed to maintain the lab ventilation infrastructure (planned summer 2024). There will be periods of downtime – but well-functioning ventilation is critical to NCMM. The more problematic issue is the upgrading of façade, incl. changing of windows. Oslotech seems to think this work will be a minor problem for NCMM and wants to start with also this the summer of 2024. However, NCMM's experience from façade-reconstruction in house D indicates months of downtime and huge risks for NCMM equipment and core facilities. If the façade-reconstruction in Forskningsparken gets done right before the move to the new Life Science building, NCMM faces two long periods of downtime right after each other. NCMM has appealed for postponement of façade-reconstruction both to Oslotech and to UiO Property Dept. Oslotech wants to

push through, UiO Property Dept express sympathy with NCMM, but say they have been instructed from UiOs leadership to also push through. NCMM have been in contact with UiOs director and vice rector, but has not received a confirmation that the renovation would be postponed until the move to the Life Science building. NCMM will try to get an update of the plans from the Property Department and if needed explain once more the scope of this risk to NCMM to the UiO vice rector.

Decision: The Board took note of the briefing, suggested making a risk analysis including calculating total cost and supported NCMMs suggestion to bring this issue once more to UiOs vice rector.

Case 26-23B Upcoming group leader evaluation

According to previous decisions by the NCMM board, a group leader should preferably be evaluated within year four of the first five-year period. Occasional delays to this scheme have been granted due to parental leave and/ or longer sick leaves. Group leader ***** will be up for evaluation, and a schedule for this process was discussed. The evaluation should be done by June 2025 as the very latest. Decision was made to aim for March 2025. Information of this will be prepared and sent to the group leader as soon as possible.

Decision: It was decided to aim for March 2025 for group leader evaluation for *****.

Case 27-23O 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 has had several meetings with the rectorate at UiO in 2022 and 2023, to discuss the future of the Centre, as well as the renewal of the Nordic EMBL Partnership agreement (2023-2032). The Director presented NCMM to the new Deanship at MED on March 6, and The Director and Chair of the Board attended a workshop organized by the Rector of UiO on March 17. There was also a workshop on June 26. Rectors' ambitions for NCMM is to integrate NCMM better into UiO, and set up a working group to put forth concrete suggestions for future structure and focus of NCMM. The proposal to the UiO Board for setting up the working group describes the roles of the working group members and a timeline for work.

Decision: The Board took note of the briefing and discussed the NCMM continuation process. The Board encouraged NCMM to explore NCMMs possible national and regional role and bring this into the planning processes. The Board also suggested that NCMM should underline how it differs from hospital sector research centers. This to better explain hospitals possible benefit from cooperation with NCMM groups.

Case 28-23O Personnel case – update

Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven

The case is currently discussed between the NCMM, MED and MN leaderships.

Decision: The Board took note of the briefing.

Case 29-230 Work environment issue - Personnel case

Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven

NCMM was informed of a serious work environment issue in August 2022. The case has been handled at UiO level, and a report is written. The NCMM Director gave an update on the case, which has been treated by MED's Tilsettingsutvalg.

Decision: The Board took note of the briefing.

Case 30-230 Miscellaneous

NCMM was happy to announce that NCMM group leader ***** was granted an ERC Starting Grant and the head of the High Throughput Chemical Biology Screening Platform ***** was granted an EU Horizon grant over summer.

Sincerely,
Jens Petter Berg
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela
NCMM Director