

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)  
Oslo 29 November 2023

## Notice of NCMM Board Meeting

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Time: Wednesday 29 November 2023, 12:00-15:00  
Place: Room Kilo, Forskningsparken (Zoom if requested)

Executive Officer: Ingrid Kjelsvik/ Ragni Indahl

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

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**Case 39-23B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting**

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on 23 October is attached (Attachment 1).

Proposed

**Decision:** The minutes are approved.

**Case 40-23O NCMM follow up of SAB recommendations**

Following the recommendations from the SAB, NCMM has (i) worked on a mission and vision document, (ii) implemented an adjunct mentorship program for PhDs, (iii) implemented an wiki (including authorship and contribution policies, and expectations), (iv) set up a NCMM trainee committee, (v) started chalk talk meetings for group leaders, (vi) implemented visits of NCMM Associate Director and Director to the groups, (vii) incorporated group leader presentations to the NCMM seminars. The NCMM trainee committee will present itself before the Board in this meeting. NCMM Associate Director will present the case.

Proposed

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

**Case 41-23B NCMM budget 2024**

NCMM invites the Board to decide on the Centre budget for 2024. The budget has been prepared in accordance with funding agreements with the RCN, UiO and HSØ. Looking forward, the largest financial changes for the Centre is the announced termination in funding from the RCN after 2024, as well as the potential financial consequences of UiOs ongoing restructuring of the Centre. The NCMM Director and CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik will present the budget in the meeting.

Proposed

**Decision:** The Board approves the budget for 2024.

**Case 42-23B Recruitment of postdoctoral fellows, NCMM joint postdoctoral program**

NCMM opened a call for a joint Postdoctoral Program in Molecular Life Science, aimed at fostering new collaborations between NCMM group leaders (GLs) and partners from the Oslo arena with application deadline on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. The call is planned to hire postdocs for 2 years with NCMM providing financial support for the first year, while the partner will support the remaining year. Each NCMM group leader can be awarded a maximum of one postdoctoral fellow. NCMM received 10 applications, which are attached. The applications were evaluated to assess scientific

soundness, feasibility, and the establishment of new collaborations. For the selected applications, the partner will be required to provide an official document committing for financing the second year to be provided by the partner, signed by an official Finance Officer by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. NCMM Director and Associate Director will present the conclusion of the evaluations.

Proposed

**Decision:** The Board approves the hiring of 8 postdoctoral fellows at NCMM, to eight proposed joint post doc projects, pending the financing commitments from the partners.

#### **Case 43-230 Strategy discussion on continuation of NCMM beyond 2024 - update**

UiO has appointed a working group with the task to provide a proposal for structure and scientific profile of NCMM beyond 2024 when, the funding from The Research Council of Norway (RCN) ends. The mandate for the work group is attached. The working group was asked to deliver their proposal so that UiO will be able to decide on the future of centre in spring 2024.

Articles in *Uniforum* and *Dagens Medisin* 24.10.23 claimed that two of the three NCMM consortium partners; The Research Council of Norway (RCN) and South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority (HSØ), had suddenly decided to pull out and stop funding NCMM. It has been known since 2018 that funding from RCN would stop at the end of 2024. HSØ has not yet decided on continuing NCMM funding and the consortium. Head of the NCMM Board informed UiO's rector 24.10.23 about the articles and that the Board, formally representing the NCMM consortium, has not received information about HSØ withdrawal. Rector will contact HSØ CEO about continued NCMM collaboration.<sup>8</sup>

Here are links to the news items FYI:

- <https://www.uniforum.uio.no/nyheter/2023/10/uio-set-i-gang-okonomisk-redning-saksjon-for-norsk-.html>
- <https://www.dagensmedisin.no/uio-vil-redde-norsk-senter-for-molekylaermedisin/595087>

Proposed

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

#### **Case 44-230 NCMM move to the Life Science Building (LSB) and instrumentation**

NCMM will be one of the UiO units to move to the LSB. NCMM has had an active role in planning the laboratories for the “general life science” (RG22) and NCMM dedicated areas (RG21) of the building and is participating in the committees planning the research infrastructure. Due to the recent plans by UiO to increase the number of units moving to the building, the previously made plans will need to be revisited. The NCMM Director will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

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

**Case 45-230 News updates**

- Funding from the Norwegian Cancer Society (NCS). All NCMM group leaders who applied for funding from NCS, got funded: \*\*\*\*\*, \*\*\*\*\*, and \*\*\*\*\*. Their projects will be briefly presented in the meeting.
- NCMM will host the next Nordic EMBL partnership meeting: Monday 16 – Thursday 19 September 2024. This year also the EMBL partnership node for marine life sciences in University of Bergen, the Michael Sars Centre, have been invited to participate in the meeting.
- Several of NCMM PhDs are part of arranging this year's Oslo Bioinformatics Workshop week (<https://www.mn.uio.no/sbi/english/events/oslo-bioinformatics-workshop-week-2023/index.html>), which will take place on December 11.-15..

**Case 46-230 Miscellaneous**

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg  
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela  
NCMM Director