

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)
Oslo 31 January 2024

Notice of NCMM Board Meeting

Time: Wednesday 7 February 2024, 12:00-15:00
Place: Room Kilo, Forskningsparken

Executive Officer: Ingrid Kjelsvik

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

Case 1-24B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on 29 November were available.

Proposed

Decision: The minutes are approved.

Case 2-24B Closing the group for Structural Biology and Chromatin

NCMM has as its main purpose to recruit internationally outstanding young researchers to non-tenured positions, and function as an incubator contributing to the establishment and development of new research groups, according to the EMBL-model. The research group for Structural Biology and Chromatin was established when the Biotechnology Centre in Oslo recruited *****, who started in January 2016.

The group for Structural Biology and Chromatin was evaluated in 2020/ 2021, and continued for another four-year period by decision of the Board in April 2021 (Case 11-21B). To make room for new emerging scientific fields and new technologies, the group for Structural Biology and Chromatin will need to rotate to a more permanent environment after 5+4 years.

Proposed

Decision: The strategic initiative, the group for Structural Biology and Chromatin, will close from January 2025, according to NCMMs mandate and conditions.

Case 3-24O NCMM financial report 2023

An overview of NCMM finances, as well as the management assessment, for 2023 is enclosed. The Director will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 4-24O ARK 2024 – work environment process

UiO has decided that the whole university shall go through the ARK process regularly, every three years, starting in February 2024. The ARK survey will be sent out to all staff at NCMM on February 12, with follow-up discussions in the individual groups afterwards. ARK is designed by and for the higher education sector, and the process is coordinated by NTNU. HSE Coordinator Sissel Eikvar will give a brief presentation.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 5-240 Annual HSE report

The UiO report on HSE was submitted on January 29, 2024. HSE Coordinator Sissel Eikvar will give a short presentation in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 6-240 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 decisions have been made. The NCMM Director will give an update on the case in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 7-240 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 working group is asked to make a proposal so that UiO can decide on the future of the Centre in spring 2024. The Director will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 8-240 National role of NCMM – ESFRI memberships

NCMM is coordinating the Norwegian participation in two ESFRI-RIs: EATRIS and EU-OPENSSCREEN. The EATRIS membership was in the period 2016-2021 covered by UiO, UiB, NTNU, UiT and the four Regional Health Authorities together. At the end of 2020, the Regional Health Authorities, UiT and NTNU decided not to continue their contribution to EATRIS. The future of this membership for Norway is uncertain. The Director will give an update in the meeting.

NOR-OPENSSCREEN is the Norwegian participant in EU-OPENSSCREEN and the membership for the first five years (2018-2022) was covered by an RCN infrastructure grant. From 2023, the membership was split between the national nodes in Nor-Openscreen, and from 2024 Norway has stepped down to an observer status in the infrastructure. The future membership is now up for discussion, and the NCMM Director will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 9-240 Joint postdoc call - update

NCMM opened a call for a joint Postdoctoral Program in Molecular Life Science, aimed at fostering new collaborations between NCMM group leaders and partners from the Oslo arena, with application deadline on Nov. 12th 2023. The applications were evaluated, and decided in the board meeting on November 29, 2023 (Case 42-23B). The Director will give a status update in the meeting.

Case 10-240 Miscellaneous

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela
NCMM Director