

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)  
Oslo, 25 November 2020

## Notice of NCMM Board Meeting

Time: Wednesday 02 December 2020, 12:00  
Place: Zoom

Executive officer: Elisa Bjørgo

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

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### Case 46-20O Approval of minutes from last Board meeting

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on October 27 were available (Attachment 1).

Proposed

**Decision:** The minutes are approved.

### Case 47-20B NCMM Budget 2021

NCMM invites the Board to decide on the Centre budget for 2021 (Attachment 2). The budget has been prepared in accordance with funding agreements with the RCN, UiO and HSØ. The proposal provides the research groups with the agreed annual allocation for salary and operations. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic as well as the unforeseen move of all labs and offices from house D in the Science Park, has resulted in less investments, travel costs and consumables in 2020 than originally planned. The Covid-situation and the move have also forced NCMM to delay the recruitment of two new group leaders from fall 2020 until summer 2021. NCMM made a plan to reduce the accumulated unused funds during the period 2020 - 2024, so most of it is allocated to necessary investments and existing obligations. Looking forward, the largest financial uncertainty for the Centre is the announced termination in funding from the RCN after 2024. The NCMM Director and CAO will present the budget in the meeting.

Proposed

**Decision:** The 2021 budget is approved.

### Case 48-20B Appointment of new Associate Investigators

The network of NCMM Associate Investigators (AIs) was established in 2011 and there have been altogether four open calls for new Associate and Young Associate Investigators. NCMM is now in its third 5-year period and in the spring 21 AIs were reappointed after an application process.

NCMM in June opened a fifth call for both senior and more early-career Associate Investigators with an application deadline end of August. Clinicians were especially encouraged to apply. When the deadline closed, NCMM had received altogether 42 applications.

The Board in May gave NCMM the mandate to contact the different regions to put together an evaluation committee, and in addition to the NCMM Director, the research deans Marit Bakke (UiB), Pål Romundstad (NTNU) and Johanna Sollid (UiT) as well as Hilde Nebb, vice-dean for internationalization and innovation at UiO have been part of the evaluation committee. The committee first evaluated the applications individually. Furthermore, in a TC on October 7 the ranking of the candidates in both the senior and early-career bracket were discussed. A recommendation from the committee is enclosed (Attachment 3).

The Board in its October meeting asked for some more information about the ranking and the justification of the presented recommendation before a decision could be made, and a scoring overview for each candidate is therefore enclosed here (Attachment 4). NCMM asks the Board to decide on how many of the ranked candidates to appoint as new NCMM Associate Investigators.

Proposed

**Decision:** New NCMM AIs are appointed according to the committee's ranking and the board's discussion.

**Case 49-20B Personnel case - Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven.**

**Case 50-20B Personnel case - Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven.**

**Case 51-200 Group leader evaluations - update**

Three group leaders are in their final year of their first 5-year period at NCMM. In June, the three group leaders were invited to apply for renewal of their function as group leaders and to submit their dossiers by 1 December 2020.

In the previous Board meeting, three lists with scientific experts were approved. The NCMM Director has contacted candidates on the approved lists and so far have 12 confirmed experts willing to participate in the evaluation of the three group leaders. NCMM will prepare and send the evaluation material to the scientific experts within mid-December, and the experts will be asked to return their assessment letters within 1 February 2021.

Proposed

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

**Case 52-200 Building plans in the Oslo Science Park - update**

NCMM is in the process of moving out of 50% of the Centre's rented space in the Oslo Science Park. NCMM was in the spring notified that a building process would start in February 2021 and that an evacuation would be necessary.

In addition to one group moving to IBV and two research groups relocating to house E in the Science Park, NCMM will get some additional office space in building C. The NCMM Director will give a short update in the meeting.

Proposed

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

**Case 53-200 Life Science Building – update**

In August, UiO was informed that the government would not compensate Statsbygg's cost overruns in connection with the Life Science Building. During this fall different scenarios have therefore been discussed to be able to continue the project. Recently, the government decided to proceed with the partnership alternative, which means that parts of OUH's research activities can be localized in the Life Science Building. Details are not in place yet but it seems likely that OUH will move into the western part of the building and also into the areas planned for NCMM. The Chair of the Board and the NCMM Director will give a short update in the meeting.

Proposed

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

**Case 54-200 National role of NCMM - update**

As a national Centre, NCMM aims to include the other Health Regions and universities with medical schools as owners of the Centre. A position paper, addressing a strategic partnership with NCMM has been sent to the health regions as well as to UiB, UiT and NTNU. The NCMM Director will give a short update in the meeting.

One of the national functions of NCMM is to coordinate the Norwegian EATRIS (European Research Infrastructure for Translational Research) network. Norway became a full member of EATRIS in 2016 for a period of 5 years (2016 – 2020) and the annual membership fee has been funded by the eight partner institutions UiO, UiB, NTNU, UiT and the four health regions. An annual EATRIS report was sent to HOD end of October (Attachment 5), also addressing the need to conclude on the Norwegian membership in EATRIS going forward. It was already clear that the health regions did not want to continue funding the membership. HOD has now contacted the university partners and asked them to confirm whether they want to continue the membership by December 1. The Medical Dean at UiB has let NCMM know that the four university partners do not want to continue to fund the membership either. The NCMM Director will give a short update in the meeting.

Proposed

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

**Case 55-200 Health, Safety and Environment – regular updates**

The Faculty of Medicine has requested that HSE matters should be included regularly at Board meetings. CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik will give an update in the meeting, including information about the 2020 safety inspection and news from the latest LAMU meeting.

Proposed

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

**Case 56-200 Appointment of NCMM Board from 2021**

The current NCMM Board is appointed until the end of 2020. The Chair of the Board has contacted all Board members to find out who would be willing to stay on as a Board member and who would like to rotate out. HSØ will appoint their two Board members, the medical deans appoint the national representative and the national deputy member whereas the Faculty Board at MED appoints the Chair of the Board & and the two UiO Board members. The Chair of the Board will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

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

**Case 57 Miscellaneous**

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg  
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela  
Director NCMM