

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)
Oslo, 4 June 2018

Notice of

NCMM Board Meeting

Time: Monday 11 June 2018, 12:00 – 14:30
Place: NCMM meeting room, Oslo Science Park

Executive officer: Elisa Bjørgo

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

Case 25-18O Presentations by NCMM group leaders

All NCMM group leaders will throughout 2018 get the possibility to present their research to the Board in the beginning of each Board meeting. Each group leader gets 5 minutes for a short presentation + 5 minutes for discussion. The group leaders have been asked to outline their main focus areas as well as to highlight what their main challenges are.

Nikolina Sekulic and Anthony Mathelier will give their presentations in the Board meeting on June 11.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 26-18B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting

A draft minutes from the Board meeting on April 20 was available (Attachment 1). There have been no comments to the minutes.

Proposed

Decision: The minutes are approved.

Case 27-18B SAB report

The Scientific Advisory Board visited NCMM on February 14-15 and in the Board meeting in February the Director gave an oral summary from this visit and the feedback from the SAB in their summary meeting with the NCMM leadership. The written report was released in March and was also sent to the Research Council when the evaluation material was submitted on April 19. The evaluation material was forwarded to the Board. However, the written SAB report (see Attachment 2) was not discussed in detail by the Board in their April meeting (many absences) and should be summarized now.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the report and made comments to go in the minutes for further follow-up by NCMM.

Case 28-18B Hiring of NCMM group leaders - Personnel case

Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven

NCMM is in the process of recruiting two group leaders in precision medicine and systems medicine. In the Board meeting in February it was decided to offer these positions to the ***** and *****, respectively (Case 4-18B).

***** end of March informed NCMM that she had been offered another position and would therefore not be coming to Oslo. The Board in February decided that the position would be offered to ***** if ***** declined her offer (Case 4-18B). The hospital environments were very supportive of her but unfortunately she did not meet many of the NCMM group leaders on her previous visit. The Director discussed the situation with the Chairman of the Board and decided that ***** should be invited for a second visit to explore her possibilities here further, particularly the details of a dual appointment and clinical training. ***** visited Oslo on 19-20 April and received an official offer on May 7 where the deadline for a decision by *****'s request has been extended to June 8. NCMM is now awaiting her decision.

***** declined his offer on May 2. The Board in February decided that if the two ranked candidates did not accept an offer for the systems medicine group leader position, ***** would be invited to Oslo to finalize her interview. She had travel restrictions in January due to her green card application and only interviewed via Skype. She could therefore not be ranked at the Board meeting in February. It was decided that ***** after a visit here, would be compared to ***** before a decision could be made.

***** visited NCMM on May 22-23, gave a scientific presentation and met NCMM group leaders and potential collaboration partners in the Oslo region. The surrounding environment that met ***** was very positive and several expressed interest in initiating collaborations. ***** clearly received stronger support after discussing future scientific possibilities than ***** (see Attachment 3) and she was therefore ranked for the position as group leader in systems medicine.

Proposed

Decision: ***** is hired as researcher (position code SKO 1110) with a function as group leader in systems medicine. If she declines the offer, the position will be re-advertised.

Case 29-180 Health, Safety and Environment – regular updates

The Faculty of Medicine has announced that HSE should be a regular topic at Board meetings. In April CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik gave a brief overview about HSE management at NCMM, including the NCMM LAMU, safety representatives, safety inspections, as well as information to newly recruited staff. As decided in the April meeting, the annual HSE report that was submitted to the Faculty in March is attached here (Attachment 4).

NCMM will in the meeting give a short update on current HSE issues at the Centre.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 30-180 Strategy discussion on continuation of NCMM – update

NCMM is in its second 5-year period and will be evaluated on June 18-19. The Board already in the spring 2017 started a strategy discussion regarding the continuation of the Centre for a third 5-year period and NCMM prepared a position paper. The former Chair of the NCMM Board presented the possibility to expand the ownership of NCMM to all health regions at a strategy meeting for the research health regions in October 2017. Furthermore, the Dean at the Medical Faculty presented this idea also at a Dean meeting in December 2017. It has previously been decided that NCMM Director would travel to all regions and discuss a potential expansion of ownership in more detail directly with the different regions.

The Director and Elisa Bjørge in May and the beginning of June visited all health regions and universities with medical faculties: a meeting with NTNU and Helse Midt-Norge took place on May 9, a meeting with Helse Vest and UiB took place on May 28 and a meeting with Helse Nord RHF and UiT is scheduled to June 5.

The Centre Director will give a summary from the visits in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 31-180 Evaluation of NCMM

The mandate and a time line for the NCMM evaluation was approved by the RCN Board in February, and the Research Council on February 28 informed NCMM that the evaluation site-visit and hearing will take place on June 18-19. In April NCMM submitted the requested evaluation material (Case 17-180), and on May 8 the RCN sent the program for the hearing and site-visit (Attachment 5). On 1 June the RCN informed NCMM that the evaluation committee consists of Mimoun Azzuz, University of Sheffield, Sirpa Jalkanen, University of Turku, Yvonne Jones, University of Oxford and Thomas Sinkjær, Lundbeckfonden. In addition, General Director EMBL Iain Mattaj is an observer (Attachment 6).

The evaluation committee and the RCN will visit NCMM on June 18 and the program this day includes a Centre presentation and hearing as well as discussions with all NCMM BiO group leaders. The Committee will in addition get a tour at NCMM and meet PhD students and postdocs. On June 19 the hearing will take place at the Research Council, including discussions with all group leaders at NCMM Translational Research as well as discussions with the owners UiO and HSØ.

Acting Director Research and Innovation Øystein Krüger (HSØ), vice-rector Per Morten Sandset (UiO) and Dean Frode Vartdal (UiO) have confirmed their participation at the hearing.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 32-18B NCMM Young Associate Investigators – appointment of Lynn Butler – decision on circulation

NCMM Young Associate Investigators (YAI) can be appointed through two mechanisms: through open calls or if another institution aims to recruit a young group leader that is offered approx. the same conditions as NCMM group leaders. For the latter option, the NCMM Director participates in the evaluation committee and the candidate employed at another institution is offered a NCMM YAI affiliation.

UiT used the NCMM YAI mechanism in the fall 2017 to recruit a new group leader to the KG Jebsen TREC Centre for Thrombosis Research. The NCMM Director has participated in the recruitment process and informed the Board about this process at the meeting in December 2017 (Case 61-17B). The candidate who was ranked first for the position, is about the same level as the other NCMM YAIs, and the Board therefore decided that this candidate could be appointed NCMM YAI via circulation after signing a contract at UiT.

Lynn Butler signed her contract at UiT in April and will officially start her role at UiT in September. A suggestion to appoint Lynn Butler as YAI was sent to the Board via circulation on May 8 (Case 24-18B, Attachment 7).

Proposed

Decision: The decision to appoint Lynn Butler Young Associate Investigator made via circulation on May 15 is confirmed.

Case 33-18B Recruitment NCMM Director – status update. Personnel case Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven

The NCMM Director in November 2017 handed in his resignation to start as Head and Director of the Institute of Cancer Research, Oslo University Hospital from January 2018. In a transition period until 30 June 2018, Taskén has a 40% position as NCMM Director and 80% position at OUH.

The position was advertised on 1 February with an application deadline 15 March. By the time the call closed, 16 applications had been received. The selection committee in a phone conference on April 24 decided on rankings for interview and five candidates were invited. The interviews will take place on June 7. One of the candidates had to withdraw his application as he could not come to Oslo on June 7.

In addition to the appointed selection committee, a local interview panel consisting of Erlend Nagelhus, Inger Sandlie and Ivar Sjaastad will be present during the interviews.

A summary from the interviews will be given in the meeting. The evaluation statement and the assessment from the local interview panel will be forwarded to the Board as soon as they have been finalized. Most likely this will not be ready before the Board meeting and a decision on rankings from the Board

will therefore have to be made via circulation or via an extraordinary Board meeting in June.

Proposed

Decision: To be decided in the meeting.

Sak 34-18 **Miscellaneous**

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg
Chairman NCMM Board

Kjetil Taskén
NCMM Director