

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)  
Oslo, 8 June 2022

## Notice of NCMM Board Meeting

Time: Wednesday 15 June 2022, 12:00  
Place: Room Aqua, ground floor, Forskningsparken

Executive officer: Elisa Bjørgo

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

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### **Case 14-22B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting**

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on April 5 were available (Attachment 1).

Proposed

**Decision:** The minutes are approved.

### **Case 15-22O Call for new NCMM group leader in machine learning – update**

NCMM in March re-opened a call for a new group leader with a start-up package in machine learning. The call was adjusted according to discussions in previous Board meetings. When the application deadline closed 18 April, 10 applications had been received. The Evaluation Committee reviewed all candidates individually, and their accomplishments, potential to develop and sustain vibrant research programs and compatibility with the scope of NCMM and the current research at the Centre was assessed.

In a meeting on May 16, the Committee discussed the candidates and decided to invite two candidates for preliminary digital interviews to check whether to go ahead with the planned on-site interviews on June 7 or not. During the digital interviews, the candidates presented both previous work and future plans. Based on the digital interviews, the Director together with the Committee decided to stop this recruitment process and rather open the position again at a later stage. The NCMM Director will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

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

### **Case 16-22O Recruitment of Assistant Director - update**

The former Assistant Director left NCMM in the fall 2021 and how to best fill this function in the future, has been discussed in previous Board meetings. With three computational research groups currently at NCMM and the wish to recruit also machine learning / AI expertise in the future, one option is for NCMM to hire an Assistant Director / senior PI with computational biology expertise. Furthermore, Elisa Bjørgo is leaving NCMM end of June and the Centre is also working on strategies for how to best strengthen the NCMM

management team going forward. The Director will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

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

**Case 17-220 Upcoming group leader evaluation. Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven (Personnel case)**

Group leader \*\*\* joined NCMM 1 October 2018 and is approaching the fourth year in her first 5-year period. Criteria for the assessment for renewal in function as group leader at NCMM have previously been prepared as well as a procedure for the renewal process that was last dealt with by the Board in June 2019 (Case 23-19B). The procedure includes individual external evaluation of 4-6 experts in the field, followed by an assessment of the evaluations and the group's progress by the SAB. The next SAB visit is scheduled for end of February 2023. The NCMM Director will after this process promote a recommendation to the Board.

In the beginning of May, \*\*\* was invited to apply for renewal of her function as group leader by 1 November 2022 (Attachment 2). She was also given the opportunity to suggest scientific experts for the evaluation process as well as list experts she would prefer excluded from an expert list within 15 June. The preliminary list of scientific expert candidates is enclosed (Attachment 3), and NCMM is now asking the Board and the SAB for additional international suggestions for scientific experts that NCMM can ask to contribute in the evaluation process of \*\*\*.

Proposed

**Decision:** The Board takes note of the briefing and will forward suggestions to the NCMM management.

**Case 18-220 Overview of NCMM's finances – update**

An overview of NCMM finances after the first 4-month period in 2022 compared to the NCMM prognosis at the end of the year is enclosed (Attachment 4). Transferred funds from 2021 to 2022 are tied up and linked to obligations in relation to already employed group leaders, equipment investments and planned start-ups of new groups in the period 2022-2024. The management assessment from NCMM to the Faculty of Medicine covering the first four-month period of 2022 is also enclosed for your information (Attachment 5). CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

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

**Case 19-220 Strategy discussion on continuation of NCMM beyond 2024**

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 on April 8 had a meeting with the rectorate at UiO to discuss future

funding of NCMM as well as the upcoming renewal of the EMBL partnership agreement (2023-2032). The Director will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

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

**Case 20-22O Life Science Building - update**

The building of the Life Science Building is ongoing, but due to the global situation, prices on building material etc. have increased significantly. The government in their revised national budget stopped or postponed several large building projects. For the LSB it has been decided to continue the building process until a closed shell is finished and reconsider the situation again then.

The building process was already significantly delayed in 2020-2021, and there is a considerable risk that the LSB will not be finished by the end of 2026 when NCMM's lease with the Science Park expires. The Science Park has previously communicated that the lease will not be extended beyond 2026, and NCMM will need support from UiO and in particular the Property Department. UiO needs to re-negotiate the contract with the Science Park early enough so NCMM does not risk another eviction before the LSB is finished.

Proposed

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

**Case 21-22O Board meetings fall 2022 – spring 2023**

HSØ member Bente Halvorsen will be on a one-year sabbatical from 1 August 2022. NCMM asks the Board to discuss whether deputy member Torunn Berge should step in as member the next year or if it is necessary to find another solution.

Larissa Lily will schedule meetings for the fall 2022.

Proposed

**Decision:** To be decided in the meeting.

**Case 22-22 Miscellaneous**

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg  
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela  
Director NCMM