

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)
Oslo, 10 September 2018

Notice of NCMM Board Meeting

Time: Monday 17 September 2018, 12:00
Place: NCMM

Executive officer: Elisa Bjørgo

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

Case 36-18O 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.

Sandra Lopez-Aviles will give her presentation in the Board meeting on September 17.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 37-17B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting – decision on circulation

Draft minutes from the Board meetings on June 11 and 19 were available (Attachment 1 and 2). The UiO Hiring Board asked for approved minutes in relation to the recruitment of a new NCMM Director and their upcoming meeting in September. The minutes were therefore sent out in the beginning of August to get an approval via circulation within August 13.

Proposed

Decision: The decision to approve the minutes from the Board meetings on June 11 and 19 made via circulation on August 13 is confirmed.

Case 38-18O NCMM Evaluation Report

NCMM is in its second 5-year period and was externally evaluated on June 18-19. The evaluation committee consisted of Mimoun Azzuz, University of Sheffield, Sirpa Jalkanen, University of Turku, Yvonne Jones, University of Oxford and Thomas Sinkjær, Lundbeckfonden.

The RCN has informed us that the evaluation report will be released after the RCN Board meeting on September 7, and NCMM will forward the report to the NCMM Board as soon as we receive it (Attachment 3). The report and the main conclusions will be presented and discussed in the Board meeting if the report has been released in time.

Proposed

Decision: To be determined in the meeting.

Case 39-18O Strategy discussion on continuation of NCMM – update

The Board already in the spring 2017 started a strategy discussion regarding the continuation of the Centre for a third 5-year period. The former Chair of the Board presented the possibility to expand the ownership of NCMM to all health regions at a meeting for the research strategy group of the regional health authorities in October 2017. Furthermore, the Dean at the Medical Faculty presented this idea also at a Dean meeting in December 2017.

The Director visited the health regions in the spring to meet with representatives from the regional health authorities, university hospitals and universities with medical faculties. In these meetings, the Director presented NCMM, strategic future plans and what ownership could mean for each region. The aim is for each region to take greater ownership of NCMM as a national center. The details of a potential extension on the ownership side and how the financial contribution would be organized will have to be subject of future negotiations.

On June 22, the Chairman of the Board, the NCMM Director and Finn-Eirik Johansen had a meeting with UiO rector Svein Stølen, vice rector Per Morten Sandset and the Dean Frode Vartdal to inform them about the ongoing process and to ask the UiO leadership to drive this process towards the other regions throughout the fall. A strategy meeting with Per Morten Sandset is also planned on September 24.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 40-18B Overview of NCMM's finances

An overview of the NCMM accounts after the second 4-month period in 2018 compared to the NCMM prognosis at the end of the year is enclosed (Attachment 4). The overview shows a larger surplus than originally budgeted. The finances at NCMM are mainly as budgeted, but there have been some more income than budgeted. Furthermore, there was originally a substantial allocation of funds for investment in new instrumentation linked to new group leaders, as well as to replace essential instrumentation when the Taskén-group rotates out. These funds have still not been used. The moving date for the Taskén-group is set for 17 October and it therefore still unclear if all the investments will take place in 2018. The prognosis for end of the year 2018 has been updated to reflect these changes. The managerial assessment of the finances, as sent to the Faculty of Medicine on September 14 will be forwarded as soon as they are ready (Attachment 5).

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

**Case 41-18O Recruitment NCMM Director – assessment. 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

had a 40% position as NCMM Director and 80% position at OUH. From July 2018 Hartmut Luecke is Acting Director at NCMM.

The Director position was advertised in February with an application deadline 15 March. Interviews took place on June 7 and were conducted by the appointed external selection committee and the local interview committee consisting of Prof. Inger Sandlie, Prof. Erlend Nagelhus and Prof. Ivar Sjaastad. Furthermore, the candidates met all NCMM group leaders in addition to some life science stakeholders in the Oslo region.

The local interview committee finalized their assessment, including information from references as well as feedback from the people that met the candidates on June 14. The NCMM Board in their meeting on June 19 recommended the ranking made by both the evaluation committee and the local interview panel. Furthermore, the Hiring Board at the Faculty of Medicine on June 26 approved this recommendation. A final decision will be made by the University Hiring Board on September 25.

The chairman of the Board has started negotiations with the first ranked candidate that visited Oslo for a second time on August 31. A formal offer will be sent to the candidate as soon as an official decision has been made by the University Hiring Board.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 42-180 RCN Research Infrastructure Call

The RCN currently has an open call for research infrastructure where qualified applicants who submitted their mandatory outlines in May now can submit their applications within October 10. Funding (600-800 million NOK) is available for research infrastructure of national importance, including Norwegian participation in international infrastructures, and the call encompasses all disciplines, thematic areas and technology areas.

The RCN received altogether 165 mandatory outlines by the submission deadline in May. Researchers at NCMM are involved in three different infrastructure applications to be submitted within October 10: NOR-OPENSREEN Phase 2 (Chemical Biology Platform), CryoEM (Luecke) and LABFISH (Esguerra).

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 43-180 New call for NCMM AI/YAI seed grants

The Board in November 2017 appointed altogether 11 NCMM Associate and Young Associate Investigators (Case 38-17B). NCMM now wants to stimulate closer collaboration between NCMM group leaders and the extended network. The NCMM Director has previously been authorized to allocate some strategic funds annually and the Centre also has a budget allocation for national activities every year. NCMM therefore plans to allocate 4 million NOK to new

collaborative projects between NCMM's group leaders and AIs/YAIs in 2019. NCMM will inform group leaders and AIs/YAIs this fall and open a call for seed funding in December 2018.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 44-18B Mentoring of NCMM group leaders

Each group leader at NCMM has in cooperation with the Director established contact with both a local and an international mentor. Whereas the international mentor should give general career guidance as well as scientific advice within a certain research field, the local mentor should in addition facilitate networking locally and help with understanding the host organization and career development in the host institution, making it easier for the international group leaders to settle into the Norwegian university system.

NCMM sees a need to engage the local mentors more and wants to discuss with the Board how to best do this. An instruction that NCMM has prepared to mentors and a list of current mentors is enclosed (Attachment 6).

Proposed

Decision: To be determined in the meeting.

Case 45-180 Nordic EMBL Partnership network meeting

NCMM is hosting the 9th Nordic EMBL Partnership Meeting on September 11-14. The conference will take place at Soria Moria and 140 participants from the three other Nordic nodes and EMBL have registered. There will be a 2-day Young Investigator Meeting for PhD students and postdocs, including a work shop, elevator pitches, scientific speed-dating and key note talks by Inger Sandlie and Karoline Schjetne (Vaccibody). The main meeting on September 13-14 will include key note talks by the incoming Directors at FIMM (Mark Daly) and MIMS (Oliver Billker), an introduction of new group leaders in the partnership as well as several talks by invited group leaders from EMBL and the EMBL outstations. The program for the main meeting is attached (Attachment 7).

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 46-18 Miscellaneous

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg
Chairman NCMM Board

Hartmut Luecke
Acting Director NCMM