

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)
Oslo, 27 February 2020

Notice of NCMM Board Meeting

Time: Friday 18 September 2020, 12:00
Place: Room Aqua, Forskningsparken (ground floor)

Executive officer: Elisa Bjørgo

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

Case 28-200 Presentations by NCMM group leaders

In the fall 2019 the Board decided to invite group leaders to present regularly at Board meetings where they will be given the opportunity to present e.g. key points regarding group leader issues.

Sebastian Waszak, who joined NCMM in March, will attend the beginning of the meeting to shortly present his research program and discuss with the Board.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 29-B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on May 25 were available (Attachment 1).

Proposed

Decision: The minutes are approved.

Case 30-200 Overview of NCMM's finances

An overview of the NCMM accounts after the second 4-month period in 2020 compared to the NCMM prognosis at the end of the year is enclosed (Attachment 2). Transferred funds from 2019 to 2020 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 2020-2024. The management assessment from NCMM to the Faculty of Medicine covering the second four-month period of 2020 is also enclosed for your information (Attachment 3). CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 31-20B Appointment of new SAB member

The NCMM Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) has 6 members and since 2017 Richard Treisman is the chair. Margaret Frame rotated out of the SAB after the last SAB visit in October 2019.

The Board in May approved a list of potential new SAB candidates (Case 25-20B) and there suggested that NCMM in the recruitment process considers

diversity both regarding research fields, age bracket of members and where in Europe they are located, when recruiting a new member. Dr. Judith Zaugg, Head of the personalized genomics research group to study genetic basis of complex diseases, at EMBL-Heidelberg, Germany, in August agreed to join the NCMM SAB (Attachment 4).

Proposed

Decision: Dr. Judith Zaugg is appointed as NCMM SAB member.

Case 32-200 Call for 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 March 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 (see list of applicants, Attachment 5), including four from Bergen, four from Tromsø and two from Trondheim.

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 UiO has agreed to be part of the evaluation committee. The committee has started the evaluation process and will present a recommendation to the Board in the October meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 33-200 Upcoming group leader evaluations.

Three group leaders are in their final year of their first 5-year period at NCMM. 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 NCMM Director will after this process promote a recommendation to the Board.

In June, the three group leaders were invited to apply for renewal of their function as group leaders by 1 December 2020 (Attachment 6). They have also been given the opportunity to suggest scientific experts for the evaluation process as well as list experts they would prefer excluded from an expert list. A justification for the latter must be included.

NCMM is now asking both the Board and the SAB for international suggestions for scientific experts that NCMM can ask to contribute in the

evaluation process. NCMM plans to present final lists of scientific experts in the next Board meeting.

Proposed

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

Case 34-200 Building plans in the Oslo Science Park - update

The Oslo Science Park is planning to both build some additional floors to building D as well as renovate the façade for this building. This will affect 50% of NCMM's rented space in the Oslo Science Park. The building process will start in February 2021.

NCMM will not be able to move all activities into existing areas in house E (former BiO areas) before moving to the new LSB. In June, it was decided that the research group of Hartmut Luecke will be relocated to IBV and renovation of the new lab space there is in process. The two other research groups in the D-building will move into NCMM's current lab areas in house E. Furthermore, NCMM will get some additional office space in the Oslo Science Park. The NCMM Director will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 35-200 Life Science Building – update

End of August, the UiO rector sent an e-mail to all UiO staff, informing about the challenges related to ground conditions and Statsbygg's planning work in connection with the Life Science Building project. The government has informed Statsbygg/UiO that the project must take significant cuts in order to stay within its economic frames. The Ministry of Education and Research has therefore commissioned Statsbygg and UiO to review the project as well as highlight consequences of cuts.

A UiO working group where NCMM has been represented, has looked at all planned areas and functions in the new building, to discuss where down-scaling would be possible or where relocalization could be an alternative. Statsbygg/UiO will have to send a final response to the Ministry within 30 September. The NCMM Director and Elisa will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 36-200 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 from 2021. The plans to visit Tromsø, Bergen and Trondheim early fall have been paused due to the increased Covid-19 infection rates in Norway. The other universities have, however, been contacted and have received a position paper, addressing a strategic partnership with NCMM (Attachment 7). The health regions will also be contacted shortly (draft position paper, Attachment 8).

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. Continuation of the EATRIS membership is currently up for discussion and the NCMM Director will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 37 **Miscellaneous**

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela
Director NCMM