

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)
Oslo, 12 October 2018

Notice of NCMM Board Meeting

Time: Friday 19 October 2018, 12:00
Place: NCMM

Executive officer: Elisa Bjørge

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

Case 47-18O 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.

Marieke Kuijjer joined NCMM on October 1 and will establish a research group in systems medicine. She will present her plans in the meeting on October 19.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 48-17B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting – decision on circulation

A draft minutes from the Board meeting on September 17 was available (Attachment 1). Ola Myklebost suggested a minor change in case 38-18B and this is marked in red in the attachment.

Proposed

Decision: The minutes are approved.

Case 49-18O Recruitment NCMM Director - 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. 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 and formal decision was made by the University Hiring Board on September 24.

A formal contract offer for the position as NCMM Director and group leader was subsequently sent to the candidate on September 27 with a 2 week deadline. Janna Saarela on October 11 informed NCMM and the chairman of the Board that she accepts the offer and will be joining NCMM as the new Director from January 2019.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 50-180 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. As a national Centre, NCMM in coordination with its current owners wishes to explore the possibility of including all four Health Regions and all four universities with medical schools as owners in the Centre for the upcoming five-year period.

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. Moreover, a strategy meeting with Per Morten Sandset was also held on September 24 to discuss the evaluation report and the continued process. The chairman will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 51-180 NCMM Board - change of composition from 2019

The Faculty Board on September 25 elected Ivar Gladhaug as Dean at the Faculty of Medicine for the period 2019-2022. The chairman of the NCMM Board, Jens Petter Berg, was elected Pro-Dean for research.

Berg has therefore informed the NCMM Director and management that he wishes to resign as Chairman of the NCMM Board from January 2019. According to the mandate for the NCMM Board, the chair must be affiliated both with UiO and OUH and current Dean, Frode Vartdal, is in the process of identifying a new chair.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 52-18O SAB – update

The NCMM Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) has 6 members. Since 2017 Richard Treisman is the chair. Erich Nigg retired in 2017 and has previously informed NCMM that the SAB visit in February 2018 would be his last visit. The new Director should be involved in the recruitment of his replacement and this process should start as soon as possible as the next SAB visit also should be planned to fit with the upcoming evaluation of NCMM group leader Camila Esguerra.

Margaret Frame was recruited to the SAB in 2014 and has also been involved in the recruitment processes of both the Assistant Director and the new Director. She will step down as Director at the Edinburgh Cancer Research Centre in 2019 and has therefore also asked to be replaced. She has agreed to continue until after the next SAB visit in 2019 but NCMM should start thinking about replacing her as well.

The list of potential SAB candidates was last updated in 2017 when Prof. Rahman was replaced by Prof. Titia Sixma (Case 22-17B, Attachment 2). This list should be revised and the Board, the new NCMM Director/Assistant Director and the SAB are asked to suggest new potential candidates.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 53-18D RCN Research Infrastructure Call

NCMM researchers are involved in three applications that were all submitted to the RCN within the deadline on October 10: NOR-Openscreen Phase II, Labfish and Life Science Electron Microscopy Consortium (LSEMC).

Regarding the LSEMC application, running costs as well as a technical position to operate the advanced instrumentation is expected to be higher than what this core facility can expect to earn from taking in external customers.

Since the LSEMC application is collaboration between two faculties and its focus is within the Life Sciences, the involved parties will have to discuss how contribution towards running costs will be divided if the application is granted. The Board is asked to discuss what role NCMM should have in this.

Proposed

Decision: To be decided in the meeting.

Case 54-18 Miscellaneous

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg
Chairman NCMM Board

Hartmut Luecke
Acting Director NCMM