

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)
Oslo, 14 April 2021

Notice of NCMM Board Meeting

Time: Wednesday 21 April 2021, 12:00 – 14:30
Place: Zoom

Executive officer: Elisa Bjørgo

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

Case 9-21B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on January 27 were available (Attachment 1).

Proposed

Decision: The minutes are approved.

Case 10-21B Scientific Advisory Board visit

The NCMM Scientific Advisory Board consists of six members, and Richard Treisman, Research Director at the Francis Crick Institute in London, is the chair. Due to the ongoing pandemic and travel restrictions, the SAB meeting on March 22-24 was an online meeting.

The SAB heard presentations from and discussed with three group leaders up for evaluation. A presentation by and discussions with the group leader up for the next evaluation was also scheduled. During the meeting, the SAB also talked to NCMM postdocs and PhD students, had one-on-one meetings with all the group leaders and had a meeting with NCMM Board members. Before the meeting, written material was also made available to the SAB both at a Centre level and from all research groups. The final SAB 2021 report is enclosed (Attachment 2).

The NCMM Director will give a short update from the SAB visit and welcomes a discussion of the report in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board acknowledges the report and will be available for the Director when she wants to address specific recommendations.

Case 11-21B Processing of the application from and evaluation of *'s research group for reappointment in function as group leader Personnel case - Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven.**

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 September 2019 (Case 36-19B).

In line with the procedure for the renewal process, the SAB has performed an assessment of ***'s application and compared it with the scientific

development during the years been at NCMM. Furthermore, the SAB has, together with the NCMM Director, in a meeting on 24 March gone through the expert assessments in order to be able to make a joint assessment set out in a separate statement. The assessment with attachments comprises Attachment 3.

Proposed

Decision: The NCMM research group on *** is extended for a four-year period. Dr. *** is reappointed as group leader for the same period and with a group budget as for previous renewals at NCMM.

Case 12-21B Processing of the application from and evaluation of *'s research group for reappointment in function as group leader. Personnel case - Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven.**

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 September 2019 (Case 36-19B).

In line with the procedure for the renewal process, the SAB has performed an assessment of ***'s application and compared it with the scientific development during the years at NCMM. Furthermore, the SAB has, together with the NCMM Director, in a meeting on 24 March gone through the expert assessments in order to be able to make a joint assessment set out in a separate statement. The assessment with attachments comprises Attachment 4.

Proposed

Decision: The NCMM research group on *** is extended for a four-year period. Dr. *** is reappointed as group leader for the same period and with a group budget as for previous renewals at NCMM.

Case 13-21B Processing of the application from and evaluation of *'s research group for reappointment in function as group leader. Personnel case - Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven.**

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 September 2019 (Case 36-19B).

In line with the procedure for the renewal process, the SAB has performed an assessment of ***'s application and compared it with the scientific development during the years been at NCMM. Furthermore, the SAB has, together with the NCMM Director, in a meeting on 24 March gone through the expert assessments in order to be able to make a joint assessment set out in a separate statement. The assessment with attachments comprises Attachment 5.

Proposed

Decision: The NCMM research group on *** is extended for a four-year period. Dr. *** is reappointed as group leader for the same period and with a group budget as for previous renewals at NCMM.

Case 14-21O Personnel case - Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven.

Case 15-21D New call for NCMM group leaders

Two NCMM research groups are in their final year at NCMM, and the Centre therefore plans to open new group leader positions in June 2021. The SAB has previously recommended that NCMM in future group leader recruitments consolidate the Centre's profile rather than investing in completely new areas. In the most recent SAB report, it is also recommended that NCMM keep a strong base of researchers working with cell-based systems to complement work on disease genetics, informatics and computation. Furthermore, the evaluation report from 2018 recommends NCMM to establish a clear theme based research structure and expand the recruitment strategy to attract also clinician scientists.

The NCMM Director has had initial discussions about the upcoming group leader recruitment with the group leaders. Furthermore, meetings with institute heads both at MED and MN as well meetings at OUH and Ahus have been held in February-March to discuss the upcoming call, future plans for NCMM and to see if there are matching interests in the wider Oslo region.

A draft call text has been prepared (Attachment 6), suggesting recruitment of future scientific leaders in areas complementing the current strengths of NCMM: AI/Machine Learning tackling human diseases, Stem cell / iPS cell science and disease, High Throughput Single-Cell and Cell-based Systems approaches. NCMM plans to open the call in June and would like input from the Board before a final call text is approved in the next Board meeting.

Proposed

Decision: To be determined in the meeting.

Case 16-21O Life Science Building - update

Parts of OUH's research activities will be localized in the Life Science Building and discussions are now ongoing, regarding localization of both OUH and UiO environments. Furthermore, as a result of less space for UiO activities, cuts and internal moves are also being planned. This is affecting NCMM that risks to both become fragmented as well get a significant reduction in the allocated space. The Chair of the Board and the NCMM Director will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 17-21O 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. A position paper, addressing a strategic partnership with NCMM has been sent to the health regions as well as to UiB, UiT and NTNU. On March 4, the NCMM Director was invited to present the Centre at a meeting for the regional health authorities' strategy group for research. A short update will be given in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 18-21B Overview of finances

An overview of NCMM accounts for 2020 is enclosed (Attachment 7). Transferred funds from 2020 to 2021 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 2021-2024. CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 19-21O Health, Safety and Environment – regular updates

The annual HSE report to the Faculty was submitted 1 March (Attachment 8). In addition, an overview of reported deviations in 2020 is included (Attachment 9) as previously requested by the Board. CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik will give an update about this and ongoing HSE issues in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 20 Miscellaneous

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela
Director NCMM