

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)
Oslo, 20 October February 2020

Notice of NCMM Board Meeting

Time: Tuesday 27 October 2020, 12:00
Place: Room Aqua, Forskningsparken (ground floor)

Executive officer: Elisa Bjørgo

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

Case 38-20O 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.

Judith Staerk will attend at the beginning of the meeting to discuss shortly with the Board.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 39-20B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on September 18 were available (Attachment 1).

Proposed

Decision: The minutes are approved.

Case 40-20B Appointment of 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.

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 at UiO have been part of the evaluation committee. The committee first evaluated the applications individually. Furthermore, in a TC on October 7 the ranking of the candidates in both the senior and early-career bracket

were discussed. A recommendation from the committee is enclosed (Attachment 2).

NCMM asks the Board to decide on how many of the ranked candidates to appoint as new NCMM Associate Investigators.

Proposed

Decision: New NCMM AIs are appointed according to the committee's ranking and the board's discussion.

Case 41-20B Group leader evaluations - update

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. 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 has also asked both the Board and the SAB for international suggestions for scientific experts that NCMM can ask to contribute in the evaluation process. An overview of all suggested scientific experts are listed in Attachment 3-5.

Proposed

Decision: The Board approves the lists according to discussions in the meeting.

Case 42-200 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. NCMM was in the spring notified that the building process would start in February 2021 and is currently planning the move out of house D within the end of January 2021.

End of September Oslo Science Park notified all tenants that they would start preliminary digging outside building F in the beginning of October. No warning against vibrations was given, but they informed that there could be periods with noise. Still, NCMM staff in house D experienced several periods with vibrations in the following weeks. NCMM has asked the Property Department to communicate clearly with the Science Park because these vibrations could be harmful to our instrumentation. The NCMM Director will give an update about the moving and renovation process at IBV in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 43-200 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 therein August commissioned Statsbygg and UiO to review the project as well as highlight consequences of cuts, and a report addressing different alternatives, was delivered by 30 September.

One of the suggested alternatives also supported by the UiO Board, is a partnership with OUH to find additional funding and to be able to finalize the building as originally planned. The Ministries of Education and Research as well as Health and Care Services have therefore asked UiO and HSØ, respectively, to prepare additional reports, highlighting the synergy potential of sharing infrastructures, being co-localized and for realizing the societal goals set for the building. The deadline was set to October 19.

A UiO working group where NCMM has also been represented, has discussed different alternatives and also some of the consequences for UiO activities if giving up space for OUH. At this stage, no details have been discussed or decided upon, but it is clear that some of the suggested alternatives will result in NCMM not being able to stay in the already planned area. Since NCMM has a mandate to facilitate translational research, we can see several future scientific synergies between the Centre and OUH and a short overview has been sent to the vice-rector (Attachment 6).

The Chair of the Board/Elisa will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 44-200 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. The deans and vice-deans at UiT, NTNU and UiB have received a position paper, addressing a strategic partnership with NCMM and agreed to discuss this at the research deans meeting in Bergen October 23. NCMM has also suggested to discuss separately with each institution early November, and Tromsø has already confirmed their interest.

A position paper has recently also been sent to the other health regions (Attachment 7).

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. The current partners are reluctant to continue funding the membership. NCMM are in dialogue with the RCN about the future of the Norwegian EATRIS membership. The NCMM Director will give an update in the meeting.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 45 **Miscellaneous**

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela
Director NCMM