

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)
Oslo, 23 February 2019

Notice of NCMM Board Meeting

Time: Monday 29 April, 12:00
Place: NCMM, Meeting room Nano (level D3)

Executive officer: Elisa Bjørgo

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

Case 10-19O Presentations by NCMM group leaders

NCMM group leaders have since the beginning of 2018 had 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.

Emma Haapaniemi will give her presentations in the Board meeting on April 29.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 11-19B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting

A draft minutes from the Board meeting on February 13 was available (Attachment 1).

Proposed

Decision: The minutes are approved.

Case 12-19B Appointment of new SAB member

The NCMM Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) has 6 members and since 2017 Richard Treisman is the chair. Erich Nigg retired in 2017 and rotated out of the SAB after the visit in February 2018.

SAB member 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.

A list of potential new SAB candidates was approved by the Board in November 2018 (Case 58-18B). The NCMM Director aims to strengthen the precision and system medicine expertise in the SAB. Dr. George Vassiliou, Head of the Haematological Cancer Genetics Group at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, Hinxton, UK in March agreed to join the NCMM SAB (Attachment 2).

Proposed

Decision: Dr. George Vassiliou is appointed as NCMM SAB member.

Case 13-19D New call for NCMM group leader

NCMM group leader Morth moved to DTU, Copenhagen in the fall 2018 but still has a 20% position at NCMM until August 2019 to phase out his research group here.

NCMM will start the recruitment process of a new research group that will be placed in the NCMM Translational Research department. The SAB has previously recommended that NCMM in future group leader recruitments consolidate the Centre's profile rather than investing in completely new areas. 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 group leader recruitment with the group leaders and aims to build a community where more people at the Centre benefit from each other. The Director would like to strengthen precision medicine in different forms as well as expertise in bioinformatics and machine learning/deep learning. Furthermore, the NCMM Director has discussed the upcoming call with Institute Heads at both the MED and MN Faculties as well as with the Research Director at OUH to identify future needs. NCMM would also like to discuss with the Board whether to recruit a more senior PI in one of the upcoming GL calls.

A draft call text has been prepared (Attachment 3). 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 in June.

Proposed

Decision: To be determined in the meeting.

Case 14-19B Group leader evaluation – update

Group leader Camila Esguerra's first five year period ends on November 30 2019. 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 November 2018 (Case 59-18B). 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.

Camila Esguerra has in January been informed that she can apply for renewal of her function as group leader by June 7, 2019. She has also been given the opportunity to suggest scientific experts for the evaluation process and her suggestions have been added to the list. Furthermore, NCMM has contacted the SAB and asked for suggestions for expert candidates. Based on the input received, a list of experts is promoted to the Board (Attachment 4).

Proposed

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

Case 15-190 NCMM AI/YAI seed grants

The Board in November 2017 appointed altogether 11 new NCMM Associate and Young Associate Investigators (Case 38-17B) and the network currently consist of 34 AIs/YAIs. 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. A call for seed funding of new collaborative projects opened end of 2018 and by the time the call closed March 15, NCMM received 13 applications. The total amount of funding applied is almost twice the amount earmarked for this. The NCMM Director together with the Assistant Director has evaluated all the applications. One application where there was a CoI has been evaluated by the Director and the Chair of the Board. An overview of applications and a suggestion of allocations are enclosed (Attachment 5).

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 16-190 Strategy discussion on continuation of NCMM – update

As a national Centre, NCMM in coordination with its current owners wish 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.

Rector Svein Stølen discussed an extended ownership of NCMM with the other university rectors at the U5 meeting in Tromsø in December 2018. He also invited the new NCMM Director and the Chair of the Board to discuss the continued process in January. Furthermore, the NCMM Director visited Bergen end of March and is also planning a visit to Tromsø. NCMM did not get on the agenda for the next NSG meeting in May.

Marianne Grønsleth from the RCN at the NCMM network meeting end of February reminded NCMM that the Centre needs commitment from the other owners to receive continue funding from the RCN from 2020.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

**Case 17-19B Upcoming group leader evaluations - Personnel case
Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven**

Proposed

Decision: To be determined in the meeting.

Case 18-190 NCMM Board members

NCMM Board member Philippe Collas, representing UiO/MED, stepped down in January. Deputy member Hilde Nilsen has attended the Board

meetings but the Faculty should appoint a new member or new deputy member as soon as possible. NCMM Board member Finn-Eirik Johansen, representing UiO/MN has stepped down as research dean but has informed NCMM that he will continue as NCMM Board member until further notice.

Proposed

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 19-190 Short briefings

1. *Annual NCMM network meeting*

The 4th annual NCMM network meeting for NCMM group leaders, Associate and Young Associate Investigators, Board members and stakeholders took place at Thon Hotel Opera on February 26-27. The meeting included a key note session about big data and its uses in basic research as well as a motivational talk on how good and effective communication can help to get the best out of your colleagues and team.

2. *NCMM Annual Report 2018*

The annual report for 2018 is in preparation and the printed reports will be ready for distribution in mid-May.

3. *EMBL Partnership Conference: Perspectives in translational medicine*

The 3rd EMBL Partnership Conference “Perspectives in Translational Medicine” will take place in Barcelona from 25-27 September 2019. The conference brings together EMBL and its partner institutes operating in the field of molecular medicine to enable exchange of expertise and build new collaborations and research networks.

4. *Dialogue meeting Faculty of Medicine*

NCMM management on April 9 had a dialogue meeting with the new Dean at the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty management.

Case 20 Miscellaneous

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela
Director NCMM