

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)

Oslo, 28 January 2021

Minutes from Board Meeting 27 January 2021

Time: Wednesday 27 January, 12:00-14:00

Place: Zoom meeting

Executive officer: Elisa Bjørge/Larissa Lily

	Present	Absent
Professor Jens Petter Berg (UiO/OUS), Chair	X	
Professor Arne Klungland (UiO), member	X	
Professor Hilde Nilsen (UiO), member	X	
Professor Bente Halvorsen (HSØ), member	X	
Director Research & Innovation Øystein Krüger (HSØ), member	X	
Professor Ola Myklebost (UiB), national member	X	
Professor Magne Børset (NTNU), national deputy member		X
Dr. Torunn Berge (HSØ), deputy member		X
Professor Arnaldo Frigessi, deputy member		X
Professor Janna Saarela (NCMM), Director	X	
Professor Hartmut Luecke (NCMM), Assistant Director	X	

CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik was also present.

Agenda (O = information item, D = discussion item B = decision item)**Case 1-21B Appointment of new NCMM Board**

The chair welcomed the new Board and the Board members introduced themselves.

The Board for NCMM in the period 2021-2025 is:

UiO: Jens Petter Berg (Chair, reappointed)

Hilde L. Nilsen (MED, reappointed)

Arne Klungland (MN, newly appointed)

HSØ: Øystein Krüger (reappointed)

Bente Halvorsen (reappointed)

National representative: Ola Myklebost (newly appointed)

Deputy members: Arnaldo Frigessi (UiO, reappointed), Torunn Berge (HSØ, reappointed) and Magne Børset (NTNU, newly appointed)

The main tasks listed in the mandate for the Board was shortly presented in the meeting and includes guiding and supervising NCMM activities and economy, approving strategic plans and budgets, and together with the Centre Director, interacting with umbrella organizations.

Decision: The board constituted itself.**Case 2-21B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting**

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on December 2 were available.

Decision: The minutes were approved.

Case 3-21B Scientific Advisory Board – upcoming visit

Due to the ongoing pandemic and travel restrictions, the next SAB meeting will be a fully online event, taking place on March 22-24. A meeting with the NCMM Board members has been scheduled for the afternoon March 23 and a calendar invite will be sent out.

Three research groups are up for evaluation, and the SAB will get live presentations and discuss with these three group leaders during the meeting. A presentation by and discussions with the group leader up for the next evaluation has also been scheduled. For the remaining seven research groups, short presentations focusing on future research plans will be pre-recorded and made available to the SAB before their visit.

The evaluation material, written material from 8 other research groups as well as pre-recorded presentations will be made available to the SAB at least three weeks before the meeting. After the meeting, the SAB will write a report that will be ready in time for the next board meeting on the 21 April.

Decision: The Board took note of the briefing.

Case 4-21O Group leader evaluations - update

Three group leaders are in their final year of their first 5-year period at NCMM. In June, they were invited to apply for renewal of their function as group leaders, and all submitted their dossiers in the beginning of December 2020.

Altogether, 13 scientific experts have confirmed to assess the dossiers, and NCMM is now in the process of collecting these letters of assessment within February 1. The group leaders will be given the opportunity to write a short update to their dossiers in February to include any recent publications as well as to comment on the assessment letters. The complete evaluation material will next be made available to the Scientific Advisory Board, who together with the NCMM Director will prepare a recommendation to the Board after the SAB meeting. Their final reports will be presented in the next Board meeting.

Decision: The Board took note of the briefing.

Case 5-21D NCMM Recruitment strategy

Two NCMM research groups are in their final year at NCMM, and the Centre plans to open 1-2 new group leader positions in 2021. The Centre aims to open the call before the summer with an application deadline early autumn and interviews before Christmas. The NCMM Director presented some initial thoughts on possible research areas for these positions and also described some of the challenges the Centre is experiencing with the ongoing move and a reduction in available space as well as the uncertainties with the building process of the new life science building and expected

delays there. These elements all have to be taken into consideration when planning for new research groups at NCMM. The reduced space poses a challenge to hosting large research groups, whilst at the same time it is important to maintain a critical mass of researchers in order to facilitate collaboration and support. Any new expertise brought in should also complement research already taking place in the current research groups to allow for more collaboration and interactions within the Centre. To facilitate increasing opportunities for collaboration outside NCMM as well as continuing careers once the group leader appointment at NCMM ends, the Center also wishes to discuss future recruitment plans with the MN and MED faculties as well as with relevant research environments at OUH, Ahus and other university hospitals in Norway.

The board concluded that the recruitment strategy must include the perspective that the new candidates can complement expertise and collaborate with the existing researchers at NCMM. Moving into the new Life Science building will offer further collaboration opportunities. From a national perspective, NCMM has a responsibility to increase collaborations with more university hospitals. NCMM should also consider how to increase the number of competitive Norwegian applicants.

Decision: The Board offered views on clarifying recruitment priorities.

Case 6-210 Building plans in the Oslo Science Park - update

NCMM is in the process of moving out of half of the Centre's rented space in the Oslo Science Park. Two research groups have now moved over to house E and one group is in the process of moving into newly renovated areas at IBV this week. In addition, all staff with offices in house D have moved to house E and C. The NCMM Director gave a short update in the meeting. At this point, it is hard to estimate how much delay the move will cause, but the moving groups have been given some compensation.

The Board concluded that this challenging situation has been handled well by NCMM.

Decision: The Board took note of the briefing.

Case 7-210 Life Science Building – update

In August, UiO was informed that the government would not compensate Statsbygg's cost overruns in connection with the Life Science Building. During the fall 2020 different scenarios were therefore discussed to be able to continue the project. Recently, the government decided to proceed with the partnership alternative, which means that parts of OUH's research activities will be localized in the Life Science Building. OUH will move into the western part of the building, including the areas originally planned for NCMM. The NCMM Director gave an update in the meeting. The reorganization of the LSB will most likely result in a 30% space reduction for the Centre. NCMM is in particular worried that this reduction will affect availability of sufficient support rooms such as cell culture labs, cold rooms and other special labs as well as the office space capacity. It is important for NCMM that all research groups will be housed in the same space to be able to offer sufficient support and mentoring

of young group leaders. NCMM also sees great synergy potential with the hospital environments and hope to be able to move into neighboring areas.

The Life Science building process is delayed and is expected to be ready to move in by 2026. This is the same year that the Science Park is terminating the current lease for NCMM, resulting in a possibly tight timeline for moving. The limited space issue may influence future recruitment processes.

Decision: The Board took notice of the briefing.

Case 8 Miscellaneous

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela
NCMM Director