

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)

Oslo, 4 November 2019

Minutes from Board Meeting November 1

Time: Friday 1 November 2019, 12:00-14:30

Place: NCMM, Oslo Science Park

Executive officer: Elisa Bjørgo

	Present	Absent
Professor Jens Petter Berg (UiO/OUS), Chair	X	
Professor Finn-Eirik Johansen (UiO), member		X
Professor Hilde Nilsen (UiO), member	X	
Professor Bente Halvorsen (HSØ), member	X	
Director Research & Innovation Øystein Krüger (HSØ), member	X	
Førsteamanuensis Maria Perander (UiT, national representative), member	X	
Professor Ola Myklebost (UiB), national deputy member		X
Dr. Torunn Berge (HSØ), deputy member		X
Prof. Erlend Nagelhus (UiO), deputy member	X	
Professor Janna Saarela (NCMM), Director	X	
Professor Hartmut Luecke (NCMM), Assistant Director	X	

NCMM CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik was also present.

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

Case 41-190 Presentation by head of Chemical Biology Platform

The head of the high-throughput chemical biology screening platform was invited to give a short presentation about the core facility and its activities to the Board.

Johannes Landskron gave his presentation in the meeting on November 1.

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 42-19B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on September 2 2019 were available.

Decision: The minutes are approved.

Case 43-19O SAB visit

The NCMM Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) has 6 members and since 2017 Richard Treisman, Research Director, Francis Crick Institute, London, is the chair.

The SAB visited NCMM on October 22-23 and also had a meeting with some of the Board members. The Director gave a short oral summary from this visit and the feedback from the SAB in their summary meeting. The written report was released

October 30 and was forwarded to the Board the same day. Overall, the SAB report is positive but there are also some action points that should be discussed further. Initial discussions took place in the meeting but the written SAB report was not discussed in detail and the SAB report will therefore be included on the agenda for the December meeting.

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 44-19B Personnel case - Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven.

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

Case 45-190 Call for new NCMM group leader – Update

NCMM is in the process of recruiting a new group leader in precision medicine. The call was published in the beginning of July and when the call closed on September 15, NCMM had received 49 applications. The selection committee in a phone conference on October 16 decided on rankings for interview and eight candidates have been invited. The interviews will take place on December 2 and all candidates have accepted their invitations.

In addition to the appointed selection committee, a local interview panel will be present during the interviews.

Based on CVs and track-records of the candidates, the Board is impressed and thinks all the invited candidates would make a good addition to current research at NCMM. The Board also discussed long-term benefits and how to secure that international talent stays in Norway also after their time at NCMM.

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 46-190 Strategy discussion on continuation of NCMM – update

The Board already in 2017 started a strategy discussion regarding the continuation of the Centre for a third 5-year period. The RCN in September 2018 confirmed that they will continue to fund NCMM for a third 5-year period as long as the two other current owners, UiO and HSØ, also commit to continue their funding. UiO in June 2019 confirmed their financial commitment for the period 2020-2024.

It is critical to secure continued funding beyond 2019 also from the health region sector. NCMM in October sent a position paper to HSØ regarding a strategic partnership between HSØ and NCMM. Øystein Krüger will present the position paper and the plans to support a precision medicine initiative at NCMM to both the HSØ CEO Kathrine Lofthus and the HSØ Board in November. Øystein Krüger will also make sure that the RCN is updated on the process.

As a national Centre, NCMM in coordination with its current owners also wishes to include the other Health Regions and universities with medical schools as owners of the Centre for the upcoming five-year period. NCMM will write a short position paper addressed to the other regions and hope to be able to present this to all health regions at a strategy meeting for the research health regions.

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 47-190 Overview of NCMM's finances

NCMM has submitted both a financial report and a management evaluation to the Faculty of Medicine regarding the second four-month period of 2019. CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik gave a short update in the meeting. NCMM is running according to plan and there are no big changes. The most uncertain factor for the Centre at the moment is securing core funding for the next 5-year period from all current owners.

A budget for 2020 will be presented in the December meeting.

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 48-190 Health, Safety and Environment – regular updates

The Faculty of Medicine has requested that HSE matters should be included regularly at Board meetings. CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik gave a short update in the meeting. The NCMM annual safety inspections will take place on November 14 and 15 and the topic this year is handling of chemicals (purchasing, registering and waste handling).

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 40 Miscellaneous

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela
NCMM Director