

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)

Oslo, 4 September 2019

Minutes from Board Meeting September 2

Time: Monday 2 September 2019, 12:45-14:30

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 32-19B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on June 19 2019 were available.

Decision: The minutes are approved.

Case 33-19B Call for new NCMM group leader – appointment of evaluation committee

NCMM is in the process of recruiting a new group leader in precision medicine. The call was published in the beginning of July and the application deadline is September 15.

NCMM follows EMBL's recommendations for selecting group leaders and an international selection committee should be appointed. According to the guidelines, EMBL has been consulted in connection with suggesting a committee. Furthermore, in line with previous processes, key personnel from EMBL are also recruited to the committee. In addition, the committee has to meet the formal requirements UiO has for assessment and employment in scientific positions.

All the four suggested candidates (Prof. Jan Korbel, EMBL, Germany, Prof. Krister Wennerberg, BRICK, Denmark, Prof. Henna Tynismaa, University of Helsinki,

Finland and Prof. Kaan Boztug, CeMM, Austria) have confirmed their willingness to participate in the evaluation committee.

A time-line for the recruitment process has been prepared. The committee will have a telephone conference to discuss and rank candidates mid-October and the interviews will take place in the beginning of December.

Decision: The Board appoints the suggested international Evaluation Committee.

Case 34-190 Strategy discussion on continuation of NCMM – update

The Board already in the spring 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, and end of June, the UiO vice-rector invited representatives from NCMM, HSØ, OUH and Ahus to a meeting. In addition, the NCMM Director in the beginning of July had a strategy meeting with Øystein Krüger and Hilde Nilsen. Based on these meetings, the NCMM Director has prepared a proposal for a continued partnership between NCMM and HSØ also for the next 5-year period that was sent to HSØ in August. HSØ deputy board member Torunn Berge in the meeting implied that HSØ will need some more details in the proposal before it can be put forward to the HSØ Board and NCMM has asked Øystein Krüger for a follow-up meeting. A revised proposal will be sent to HSØ in September.

As a national Centre, NCMM in coordination with its current owners also wishes to explore the possibility of including all four Health Regions and all four universities with medical schools as owners of the Centre for the upcoming five-year period. The NCMM Director has had some discussion with UiT, the regional health authority of Northern Norway and the University hospital of Northern Norway in Tromsø as well as with UiB and Helse Bergen in Bergen. The Board in the meeting suggested that NCMM prepares a written suggestion with concrete elements that could fit with a new collaboration and send this to the universities and university hospitals in Tromsø, Trondheim and Bergen as well as to the regional health authorities in the three regions so they can discuss this internally. We will need decisions this fall.

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 35-190 Group leader evaluation – update. Personnel case Exempt information cf. §13 Offentlighetsloven

Group leader *** is in the final year of *** first 5-year period at NCMM and submitted the dossier in June. NCMM received 4 reference letters from scientific experts by the deadline September 1.

The dossier and the reference letters will be made available for the SAB before their visit in October. The SAB will examine the international expert evaluations, make their own assessment of the group's progress and together with the Director make a recommendation to the Board.

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 36-19B Evaluation of group leaders – updated procedure

In the June Board meeting (Case 23-19) the Board stated that for future evaluations, group leaders should be asked to name both potential experts as well as people they want excluded (and they should justify why they want these people excluded, e.g. competitive reasons or bias). Group leaders should not see the final list or be allowed to veto anyone else.

This has been specified in the Procedure for evaluation of renewal of group function periods and group leader appointments.

Decision: The procedure for evaluation of renewal of group function periods and group leader appointments with the suggested specification is approved.

Case 37-19O 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 next SAB visit will take place on October 22-23 and a draft program has been prepared. A session with available Board members has been scheduled for October 22 at 17.00.

Margaret Frame will rotate out of the NCMM SAB after this visit and must be replaced this fall.

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 38-19O 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.

In the June meeting, the Board requested an overview of all deviations connected to future HSE reports and an overview of 2018 deviations were presented in the September meeting. In the meeting it was discussed whether only lab incidents should be reported or if deviations such as GDPR and data protection deviations should also be included in the CIM system.

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 39-190 NCMM administration - update

This fall NCMM will open three calls for administrative positions due to several employees rotating out due to retirement. CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik gave a short update in the meeting. NCMM is in the process of recruiting a new lab manager and will also be recruiting a new HSE coordinator soon.

Decision: The Board takes note of the briefing.

Case 40 Miscellaneous – annual meeting with group leaders

Jens Petter Berg and Finn-Eirik Johansen on August 27 had a meeting with the NCMM group leaders. Among the things the group leaders brought up for discussion, were i) how to obtain increased visibility on the hospital side, ii) frequency and extent of SAB visits, iii) mentorship and how we in particular can use the local mentors better and iv) future presentations in Board meetings. NCMM and the chair of the Board will send a new invitation to the 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.

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg
Chairman NCMM Board

Janna Saarela
NCMM Director