

Board, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM)

Oslo, October 2022

Minutes from Board Meeting 31 October 2022

Time: Monday 31 October 2022, 13:30 -15:00

Place: NCMM meeting room KILO

Executive officer: Ingrid Kjelsvik

	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	

Agenda (O = information item, D = discussion item, B = decision item)**Case 28-22B Approval of minutes from last Board meeting**

Draft minutes from the Board meeting on 24 August were available.

Decision: The minutes were approved.**Case 29-22B Recruitment of Associate Director – update**

The former Assistant Director left NCMM in the fall 2021 and how to best fill this function in the future, has been discussed in previous Board meetings. With three computational research groups currently at NCMM, it will benefit the Centre to hire an Associate Director / senior PI with computational biology expertise. This would help strengthen NCMM's strategy and give further opportunities for both national and international collaboration. The call for applications for the position is now open until 14 November. After a prescreening for eligibility, the international selection committee will rank applications in mid-December and select candidates for interviews. Interviews are planned for 9 - 10 January 2023. NCMM presented a suggestion for both external and local committee for the assessment of this position.

Decision: The Board approved the presented committee.

Case 30-220 Overview of NCMM's finances – update

An overview of NCMM finances after the second 4-month period in 2022 compared to the NCMM prognosis at the end of the year was enclosed, and CAO Ingrid Kjelsvik gave an update in the meeting. The research groups still have some unspent AI project funding at this point. This funding has to be spent by May 31 2023; otherwise, the funds will be re-allocated to future AI network activities.

Decision: The Board took note of the briefing

Case 31-220 Strategy discussion on continuation of NCMM beyond 2024

NCMM currently is in its third 5-year funding period and receives core funding annually from UiO, RCN and HSØ until the end of 2024. The RCN has communicated that they will not be able to fund NCMM beyond 2024. NCMM on had a meeting with the rectorate at UiO April 8, to discuss the future of the Centre, as well as the renewal of the Nordic EMBL Partnership agreement (2023-2032). The rectorate sent a request for an evaluation to NCMM, MED and MN on September 8. NCMM delivered a self-evaluation document to the rectorate on October 4. MED and MN also provided statements. NCMM's evaluation will probably be discussed in the University Board's December meeting. The Board found the self-evaluation document well written, and suggested using the information to better inform MED and MN about NCMM. They also suggested to present NCMM in the MED and MN faculty meetings. It was also discussed that there needs to be a strategy for introducing NCMMs research to a wider public. Thomas Olafsen from the MED communications team will help NCMM identify target audiences and suggest methods to reach them. This could include arranging a mini seminar, or publishing articles presenting NCMM activity in relevant channels.

Decision: The Board took note of the briefing

Actions:

- NCMM will forward the self-evaluation document to MED and MN for information.
- Arne Klungland will invite Janna Saarela to present NCMM in one of the MN faculty meetings.
- Jens Petter Berg will invite Janna to present NCMM in one of the MED faculty meetings.

Case 32-220 Miscellaneous – no cases

Sincerely,

Jens Petter Berg
Chair NCMM Board

Janna Saarela
NCMM Director