



Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland
Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine

BOARD MEETING 4/2009

7.9.2009

MINUTES

INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE FINLAND FIMM
Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine

Title: Meeting of the Board of FIMM 4/2009
Time: Monday, 7 September 2009, at 15.35—17.20
Place: FIMM Meeting Room D307a, Biomedicum Helsinki 2U (3rd floor),
Tukholmankatu 8, Helsinki

Chair:

Research Director, Professor Anna-Elina Lehesjoki, Neuroscience Center, University of Helsinki,
Vice Chair of the Board of FIMM; chaired items 1—4.6
Chief Executive, Professor Marja Makarow, European Science Foundation (ESF); arrived in item 4.6,
chaired items 4.7—11

Attendees:

Deputy Director General, Professor Juhani Eskola, THL
Dean, Professor Kimmo Kontula, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki
Research Director, Professor Anna-Elina Lehesjoki, Neuroscience Center, University of Helsinki
Director, Professor Heikki Mannila, Helsinki Institute for Information Technology, HIIT
Research Director, Professor Lasse Viinikka, HUS; arrived in item 4.1
Docent Elisabeth Widén, FIMM/FIMM Genome and Technology Centre

Permanent Experts:

Director, Professor Olli A. Jänne, Biomedicum Helsinki, University of Helsinki
Professor Olli Silvennoinen, Biocenter Finland

Experts:

Research Director Janna Saarela, FIMM
Research Coordinator Kimmo Pitkänen, FIMM

Invited:

Vice Rector, Professor Matti J. Tikkanen, University of Helsinki

Presenter:

Director, Professor Olli Kallioniemi, FIMM

Secretary:

Administrative Manager Reetta Niemelä, FIMM

Meeting of the Board of FIMM 4/2009

- 1 Opening of the meeting and presence of a quorum**
- 2 Approval of the agenda**
- 3 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting**
- 4 Announcements**
- 5 FIMM-EMBL Group Leaders**
- 6 FIMM Target Programme 2010—2012**
- 7 Discussion on the extension of the Scientific Advisory Board of FIMM**
- 8 Discussion on FIMM's role in international recruitments from Finland**
- 9 Other business**
- 10 Date of the next meeting**
- 11 Closing of the meeting**

1 Opening of the meeting and presence of a quorum

Proposal: It was proposed that a quorum be present when the Chair of the meeting as well as at least half of the other members are present (FIMM regulations 7 §).

Decision: It was recorded that a quorum was present.

2 Approval of the agenda

Proposal: It was proposed that the agenda be approved.

Decision: As proposed.

3 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

Proposal: It was proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 May 2009 is approved (Annex 1).

Decision: As proposed.

4 Announcements

4.1 The Board decided in its meeting on 25 May 2009 on the selection of Dr Krister Wennerberg and Dr Alexander Zelikin FIMM International Group Leaders (in future FIMM-EMBL Group Leaders). Dr Wennerberg signed the FIMM Offer Letter on 25 June 2009 and started in a part-time position on 1 August 2009. His full-time position will start on 1 January 2010. Dr Zelikin informed on 26 June 2009 that he has accepted an offer from another University in Europe.

4.2 The Board decided in its meeting on 25 May 2009 that FIMM will participate in the joint group leader call with the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine and that FIMM's focus in the call will be biomarkers, personalized medicine and population genetics. FIMM will follow the EMBL model and the aim will be to recruit group leaders who are not yet fully established as independent group leaders. The Board decided that local recruitments can be considered in this call.

The joint advertisement was published as follows (Annex 2a):

- Nature: 3 September 2009
- Science: 11 September 2009

FIMM's full call text in Annex 2b.

4.3 The Steering Committee of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine had a meeting in Oslo on 11 June 2009. It was agreed that a joint Group Leader Meeting will be arranged at EMBL Heidelberg on 14—15 January 2010. The Steering Committee agreed on the joint group leader (see above) call and discussed joint PhD student programme and call.

4.4 Olli Kallioniemi attended the WIN consortium meeting (Worldwide Innovative Networking in Cancer Personalized Medicine) on 8 July 2009 in Paris. The plan emerged to create a consortium of key institutions to promote personalized cancer medicine. This could involve joint projects, clinical trials and training and education. Most of the participating organisations would be prominent comprehensive cancer centers, and in the future the host of this effort could also be the Finnish CCC.

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- 4.5** Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC) initiative. Professor Reijo Vihko has had several discussions to advance this effort with three ministries (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Employment and the Economy) and several other parties. It is planned that Sitra would support the initial planning of the Comprehensive Cancer Center in Finland.
- 4.6** The Board discussed in its meeting on 25 May 2009 collaboration with Helsinki Biomedical Graduate School (HBGS) and decided to propose to the Board of HBGS that of the new 27 graduate school positions for 2010—2013 six (6) positions will be allocated to FIMM and that the doctoral students to these positions will be selected following the EMBL model (Annex 3).
- HBGS and FIMM arranged in collaboration a seminar on 4 September 2009 (at 9.00—12.00, Biomedicum Helsinki 1) where FIMM-EMBL Group Leaders had the opportunity to introduce their research to students.
- 4.7** Biocenter Finland (BF) launched a call for bioscience technology platforms in spring 2009. The purpose of the grants is to build, develop and maintain national technology platform services. The deadline for the applications was on 20 August 2009. FIMM is involved in six of the ten areas for the technology platforms (bioinformatics, genome-wide methods, model organisms, proteomics and metabolomics, translational research technologies and emerging technologies). Funding applied by FIMM in Annex 4.
- Tentative evaluation timetable received from Dr Tero Ahola:
- The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of BF will visit Helsinki on 22—23 October 2009; possible evaluation site visits
 - Final evaluation report after the SAB's visit
 - Decisions by the Board based on evaluation results October-November
 - Preparations to implement the decisions October-December
- The next meeting of the Board of BF is scheduled for 9 September 2009 and the timetable above will be confirmed.
- 4.8** The deadline for the BF's Director's position was on 31 August 2009.
- 4.9** FIMM has decided to acquire a storage system for biological samples. The liquid nitrogen based cooling system provides a storage temperature of -150°C and the capacity of the system is initially 250 000 samples in 2 ml ampoules. FIMM has option for additional capacity of 80 000 samples, and the system is upgradeable up to 1,2 million samples with the ability to house various tube formats.
- The preparations for the transfer of Prof Ulf-Håkan Stenman's serum sample collection into the storage system mentioned above have been started.
- A project for tissue microarray based biobanking activities is ongoing as a collaborative effort of HUS pathology and FIMM. The project develops tissue biobanking procedures between the research and clinical units of HUS and FIMM and serves as a pilot project for wider campus level biobanking activities. The responsible PI is Dr Juha Pekka Turunen and the project plan is available at FIMM upon request.
- 4.10** Tekes is expected to decide on the FiDiPro Professors on 8 September 2009 (deadline for full applications was on 22 May 2009).
- 4.11** Representatives of CSC, FIMM, HUS, University of Helsinki and THL will meet Minister of Health and Social Services Paula Risikko on 11 September 2009 and discuss the three biomedical ESFRI projects (BBMRI, EATRIS and ELIXIR).
- 4.12** The Election Collegium of the University of Helsinki has elected a new Board for the University. The Board consists of 13 members: seven from the academic community and six from

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outside the University. From outside the University, the elected members of the Board are Ari Helenius, Eero Huovinen, Jaana Husu-Kallio, Gunvor Kronman, Jorma Ollila and Antti Taniskanen. In the Board, Elina Ikonen, Markku Leskelä and Arto Mustajoki will represent the professors, Juhana Aunesluoma and Ragna Rönholm the other staff, and Lauri Ahokas and Johanna Ahola the students of the University.

It is expected that the Board of the University will decide on the selection of the Rector in September.

4.13 A two day FIMM Launch Event will be arranged on 16—17 March 2010. The programme is planned to comprise of a scientific part, including presentations of the Member(s) of the SAB of FIMM, and a non-scientific part. The Members of the Board are asked to note these dates.

4.14 FIMM Group Leader Meeting (FIMM-EMBL Group Leaders and Members of the FIMM National Network for Molecular Medicine) was arranged on 3 September 2009.

4.15 Members of the FIMM National Network for Molecular Medicine Professor Elina Ikonen (University of Helsinki) and Professor Heikki Joensuu (University of Helsinki and HUS) have been appointed as Academy Professors as of 1 January 2010.

Anders Jahre Young Scientist Award 2009 has been awarded to Professor Jukka Westermarck (University of Turku), Member of the FIMM National Network.

4.16 The University of Helsinki will negotiate with the Ministry of Education on 19 October 2009 (*OPM-HY tulosneuvottelut*). According to the documents prepared for the negotiations, one of the development actions at the University of Helsinki is the strengthening the funding base of FIMM.

5 FIMM-EMBL Group Leaders (presenter: Kallioniemi)

The deadline for the third call for FIMM International Group Leaders (in future FIMM-EMBL Group Leaders) was on 17 October 2008. The Search Committee comprising of international experts interviewed the top applicants in Helsinki on 25 February 2009. The Search Committee recommended to the Board of FIMM that PhD Denis Kainov should be considered as qualified for the group leader position.

In its meeting on 25 May 2009 the Board supported plans to recruit Dr Kainov and authorised Olli Kallioniemi to continue the recruitment negotiations. The SAB supports the recruitment of Dr Kainov and finds him to be a valuable addition to the staff of FIMM (Annex 5).

Dr Kainov has approved the conditions of the FIMM offer letter and could start his research at FIMM in the beginning of December 2009.

Proposal: It was suggested that based on the recommendations of the Search Committee and the SAB the Board confirm the selection of Dr Denis Kainov FIMM-EMBL Group Leader.

Decision: As proposed.

6 FIMM Target Programme 2010—2012 (presenter: Kallioniemi)

The Senate of the University of Helsinki approved the Strategy of the University for 2010—2012 in February 2009. The faculties and independent institutes will prepare Target Programmes (*tavoiteohjelma*) based on the Strategy of the University. The Target Programme is of critical importance for FIMM since due to the new University Law there will no more be any direct project funding from the Ministry of Education. All governmental funding in the administrative sector of the Ministry of Education will in the future be allocated via the University.

A preliminary draft FIMM Target Programme in Annex 6. The draft was presented and discussed with the staff of FIMM at a cooperation procedure meeting on 4 September. Tables will be finalised as soon as precompleted figures have been received from the University's data systems (final version of the Target Programme will be prepared in a web system). The Target Programme will be finalised as follows:

- The Board discusses the draft Programme in its meeting on 7 September. The Programme will be finalised based on the discussions with the Board and staff of FIMM in September.
- The final draft Programme will be sent to the Rector of the University by 2 October.
- The negotiation with the Rector will take place on 27 October.
- The Programme will be signed in November-December.

Proposal: 1. It was suggested that the Board discuss carefully the key points of the preliminary draft Target Programme. The outcome of this planning significantly influences FIMM's future, since the major part of FIMM funding will come from the University of Helsinki based on negotiations with the Rector based on this plan.

2. It was suggested that the Board authorise Olli Kallioniemi to finalise the Target Programme based on the discussion at the meeting. The final draft of the Programme will be sent to the Board before sending it to the Rector.

Decision: 1. As proposed.

2. As proposed. The Board Members were asked to send their comments on the preliminary draft by 15 September 2009.

7 Discussion on the extension of the Scientific Advisory Board of FIMM (presenter: Kallioniemi)

According to the Regulations of FIMM (Section 10) the Board shall appoint a minimum of six and a maximum of ten members to the Scientific Advisory Board who are internationally recognised experts in the fields of the Institute's research and technological activities. The term of the Scientific Advisory Board is five years.

The following experts have been appointed as members of the SAB for a five-year period (1.5.2007—30.4.2012):

- Professor Kai Simons, Max-Planck-Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Germany, Chair of the SAB
- Professor Cornelia van Duijn, Erasmus University Medical School, the Netherlands
- Professor Carl-Henrik Heldin, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Uppsala University, Sweden
- Professor Eric S. Lander, The Broad Institute of MIT, USA
- Professor Edison Liu, Genome Institute of Singapore, Singapore
- Professor Nadia Rosenthal, EMBL, Monterotondo, Italy

It was suggested that the Board discuss the extension of the SAB.

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Decision: Olli Kallioniemi will discuss the extension of the SAB with the Chair of SAB, Professor Kai Simons. The Members of the Board were asked to send their suggestions for new Members of the SAB to Olli Kallioniemi.

8 Discussion on FIMM's role in international recruitments from Finland
(presenter: Kallioniemi)

In August 2008 Olli Kallioniemi coordinated a multi-institutional joint effort for a counteroffer for Academy Professor Jussi Taipale, who was offered a professorship and a generous research support from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. The significant counteroffer did not, however, change the situation and Academy Professor Taipale approved Karolinska Institute's offer.

FIMM has established a National Network for Molecular Medicine which forms a new mechanism of collaboration among top scientists in the field in Finland. FIMM would also like to be competitive in situations when Finnish scientists and experts are recruited abroad.

It was suggested that the Board discuss how FIMM could co-operate actively and in a coordinated way in such cases in the future. These situations usually require rapid decisions and operations.

Decision: The concept and way of action will be developed further based on the discussion. Special attention will be paid in the collaboration opportunities among FIMM, Faculty of Medicine and HUS in such efforts.

9 Other business

There was no other business.

10 Dates of the next meetings

- 5/2009 will be arranged on Friday, 30 October 2009 at 14.00—16.30.
- 6/2009 will be arranged on Friday, 18 December 2009 at 9.00—11.30.
- 1/2010 meeting is preliminary planned for February 2010.

11 Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 17.20.

Helsinki 30.10.2009

Marja Makarow
Professor
Chair, Board of FIMM

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