



Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland
Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine

BOARD MEETING 1/2010

2 March 2010

MINUTES

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

Title: Meeting of the Board of FIMM 1/2010
Time: Tuesday, 2 March 2010, at 14.05—16.20
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;
being disqualified in the matter, Professor Lehesjoki was not present in item 5.2

Director, Professor Dan-Olof Riska, Helsinki Institute of Physics, HIP; Chair in item 5.2

Members (Vice Members:)

Deputy Director General, Professor Juhani Eskola, THL
Vice Rector, Professor Kimmo Kontula, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki;
being disqualified in the matter, Professor Kontula was not present in item 5.2
Director, Professor Dan-Olof Riska, Helsinki Institute of Physics, HIP
Vice President, Professor, R&D Biotechnology Anu Kaukovirta-Norja, VTT
Senior Vice President R & D, MD, PhD Reijo Salonen, Orion Corporation; arrived in item 5.2
Docent Elisabeth Widén, FIMM Technology Centre;
being disqualified in the matter, Docent Widén was not present in item 5
Laboratory Engineer Jouko Siro, FIMM Technology Centre; present in item 5

Permanent Experts:

Director, Professor Olli A. Jänne, Biomedicum Helsinki, University of Helsinki

Experts:

Research Director Janna Saarela, FIMM
Planning Officer Sirpa Nummila, FIMM

Presenter:

Director, Professor Olli Kallioniemi, FIMM

Secretary:

Administrative Manager Reetta Niemelä, FIMM

Meeting of the Board of FIMM 1/2010

- 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 Selection of FIMM-EMBL Group Leaders**
- 6 Approval of the Annual Report 2009**
- 7 Discussion on the principles on renewal of FIMM-EMBL Group Leader Appointments**
- 8 Discussion on the representative from industry in the Board of FIMM 2010-2012**
- 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 21 December 2009 is approved (Annex 1).

Decision: As proposed.

4 Announcements

4.1 Due to the new University Law the Regulations of the University of Helsinki have been renewed and the Regulations of the independent institutes will be reviewed in 2010 as well. Based on the tentative schedule the Board of the University will approve the Regulations of FIMM on 9 June 2010.

Representatives of the founding organisations of FIMM had a meeting on 3 February 2010 and discussed the amendment to the agreement on the establishment of FIMM. It was agreed that the amendment and the Regulations should be prepared at the same time and that another meeting will be held in the end of April.

4.2 The term of the current Board of FIMM was initially until 28 February 2010. Due to the changes mentioned above, the new Board can not be nominated before the Board of the University has approved the Regulations of FIMM. Based on the initiative of the Chair of the Board of FIMM Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson has presented to the founding organisations of FIMM that the term of the Board will be extended until 30 June 2010. HUS, THL, VTT and Orion Corporation had all confirmed by 2 March 2010 that they approve the extension.

Vice President, Professor, R&D Biotechnology Anu Kaukovirta-Norja will replace Research Director, Professor Hans Söderlund (VTT) as the Member of the Board as of January 2010.

Chief Administrative Physician, M.D., Ph.D, LL.D., MFPM, Assistant Professor Lasse Lehtonen (HUS) will replace Chief Administrative Physician MD, PhD, Docent Juha Tuominen (HUS) as the Vice Member as of 24 February 2010.

4.3 The Academy of Finland made the decision on 2 February 2010 on the proposal prepared by the biomedical ESFRI consortium (BBMRI, EATRIS, ELIXIR) for preparations for the build-up phase of the ESFRI projects. The biomedical ESFRI consortium was granted 1 M€ for 2010 (http://www.fimm.fi/en/news/finland_invests-1-85_million_in_pan-european_infrastructure_for_biomedical_research/).

A website for the ESFRI consortium will be established shortly (www.biomedinfra.fi). The partners (FIMM/University of Helsinki, THL, CSC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the collaboration.

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4.4 The FIMM sample storage system for biological samples has become operational. Build-up of further biobanking data management systems is ongoing, as well as negotiations with both THL and HUS on collaboration on sample storage and collection of new samples.

4.5 Biocenter Finland (BF) launched a call for bioscience technology platforms in the spring of 2009 with the deadline for the applications in the autumn 2009. FIMM is involved in six of the ten areas for the technology platforms.

Based on the evaluation of the SAB, the Board of BF decided in its meeting on 22 December 2009 on the funding for all the infrastructure platforms. About 30 M€ worth of support was given to the biocentres and FIMM. The FIMM share of funding was 3,2 M€ for the years 2010—2012 (Annex 2). The Board also decided that the network “Proteomics and Metabolomics” will be separated into two parts, and only the proteomics part was initially funded.

In its meeting on 16 February 2010 the Board of BF decided that a new plan should be made on metabolomics, with an important discussion element being investments for metabolomics at FIMM and the role of VTT as a partner in the application. Decisions are expected after a network plan for metabolomics is presented in the April 2010 meeting.

4.6 Based on the funding decisions of the Academy of Finland and BF mentioned above in items 4.4 and 4.5 as well as the THL support for bioinformatics services the budget of FIMM for 2010 will slightly increase compared to the budget presented in the Target Programme in the Board’s meeting on 21 December 2009. Due to the development of the financial and follow-up system of the University of Helsinki the budget breakdown will be updated in spring 2010.

4.7 The first meeting of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine was organised on 14—15 January 2010 in Heidelberg. The purpose of the meeting was for all parties to get to know each other at the individual level, but also in the form of science, technology and institutional profiles and priorities. The first meeting was limited to the group leader, senior researcher and senior management level.

The Nordic EMBL Partnership will arrange in August–September 2010 in Umeå another meeting for a larger group of people with the NordForsk funding granted in 2008 (funding period has been extended).

4.8 The Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine published a joint PhD Student call and the deadline for the applications was on 15 December 2009. FIMM received altogether 69 applications, MIMS 68 and NCMM 89 applications. The applications have been evaluated in all Nordic nodes at local level and also the decisions will be made in each node independently.

Dr Gretchen Repasky, who has started as a Senior Researcher at FIMM in January 2010, has taken responsibility for FIMM Researcher Training activities (part time of her work). Dr Repasky has coordinated the evaluation and interviews of the PhD Student applicants at FIMM. Based on the discussions with the FIMM-EMBL Group Leaders eight applicants have been interviewed by phone in February and five applicants will be invited for an interview on 26 March 2010. It is expected that two or three PhD Students will be selected from this call.

4.9 FIMM Group Leader Meeting (PIs of the National Network for Molecular Medicine. FIMM-EMBL Group Leaders and other FIMM PIs) was held on 10 February.

4.10 The programme of FIMM Launch Event on 16—17 March 2010 is in Annex 3. The first SAB Meeting will be held on 17 March and it was suggested that 2—3 Members of the Board would attend the meeting.

4.11 FiDiPro Professor Jonathan K.C. Knowles has started on 1 February 2010. The first meeting of the Board of the FiDiPro project was held on 28 January 2010 and the research plan was approved. Professor Knowles gave a keynote lecture on personalized medicine at the Tekes Pharma programme seminar on 27 January 2010.

- 4.12** Appointments at FIMM:
- Postdoctoral Researcher Xiaofeng Dai, from 1 February 2010 (group Kuznetsov)
 - Master's student Jaakko Leinonen, from 1 February 2010 (group Widén)
 - Senior Researcher Gretchen Repasky, from 11 January 2010 (group Wennerberg, FIMM Research Training and Cell Array activities)
 - Department Secretary Riitta Alatalo, from 15 February 2010 (Human Resources)
 - Bioinformatician Samuli Eldfors, from 1 March 2010
 - Master's Student Arjan van Adrichem (group Wennerberg), from 8 March 2010
 - Doctoral Student Khalid Saeed (group Kallioniemi, PRO-NEST Marie Curie Fellow), from March 2010
- 4.13** The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has sent a request for a comment on the suggested consultation paper of biobanking (*Hallituksen esitys eduskunnalle biopankkilaiksi ja eräiksi siihen liittyviksi laeiksi*). The deadline for the comments is on 9 April. Based on the discussion of the Board FIMM will prepare its own statement and discuss with the representatives of the Faculty of Medicine/University of Helsinki, HUS and THL during the process.

5 Selection of FIMM-EMBL Group Leaders (presenter: Kallioniemi)

The latest FIMM group leader search has been carried out as a joint effort with the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine. FIMM's focus in this call is biomarkers, personalized medicine and population genetics (Annex 4a). FIMM follows the EMBL model and the aim is to recruit group leaders who are not yet fully established as independent group leaders. The Board decided in May 2009 that local recruitments can be considered in this call.

The evaluation of the applications followed the EMBL search process. First, the applications were reviewed by FIMM for relevance. Relevant applications were reviewed and ranked by an international Search Committee:

- EMBL: Associate Director, Professor Matthias W. Hentze and Professor Lars Steinmetz
- MIMS: Director, Professor Bernt Eric Uhlin and Professor Sven Bergström
- NCMM: Director, Professor Kjetil Taskén and Professor Stefan Krauss

Based on the teleconference held in December and the recommendations of the Search Committee five applicants were invited for interviews arranged on 19–20 January 2010 in Copenhagen. Based on the interviews the Search Committee's consensus opinion (Annex 4b) is that the top candidates are Dr Sara Wickström (Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry, Martinsried, Germany) and Dr Samuli Ripatti (FIMM, University of Helsinki, Finland).

According to the current Regulations of FIMM, the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) issues statements on research groups to be appointed to the Institute. The SAB supports in its statement the nomination Dr Wickström and Dr Ripatti (Annex 4c)

Dr Wickström's and Dr Ripatti's applications and letters of reference were enclosed to the agenda.

Proposal: 5.1 It was suggested that based on the recommendations of the Search Committee and the SAB the Board decide on the selection of Dr Sara Wickström a FIMM-EMBL Group Leader.

5.2 It was suggested that based on the recommendations of the Search Committee and the SAB the Board decide on the selection of Dr Samuli Ripatti a FIMM-EMBL Group Leader.

Decision: 5.1 As proposed.

5.2 As proposed.

6 Approval of the Annual Report 2009 (presenter: Kallioniemi)

The final draft of the Annual Report 2009 was discussed (Annex 5). The aim is that the printed version of the Annual Report is available in the FIMM Launch Event on 16 March 2010.

Proposal: It was suggested that the Board approve the Annual Report 2009 with the suggested minor corrections.

Decision: As proposed.

7 Discussion on the principles on renewal of FIMM-EMBL Group Leader Appointments

FIMM is following the EMBL model in the selection of the group leaders and provides attractive support packages which have proven to be competitive internationally. The group leaders are nominated for a five-year term, which is renewable for up to four additional years. The group leaders are expected to be successful in the competition of external funding, so that the share of FIMM support will gradually decrease during the five year term.

It is suggested that the Board discusses the draft principles/guidelines for renewal of FIMM-EMBL group leaders (Annex 6a). The principles/guidelines will be discussed in the SAB meeting in March as well. The principles/guidelines will be finalised based on these discussions and the Board will be asked to approve them later. The Board of NCMM has already approved similar guidelines (Annex 6b).

Decision: The principles will be developed further based on the discussion and they will be also discussed with the SAB before the final approval by the Board.

8 Discussion on the representative from industry in the Board of FIMM 2010-2012

According to the Regulations of the University of Helsinki (*Helsingin yliopiston johtosääntö, 12 § Erillisten laitosten ja yhteisten laitosten hallinto*) the Rector nominates the Members of the Boards of the independent institutes. The Rector appoints the Board chairperson. The Board selects a vice-chair from amongst its members.

Based on the Regulations of FIMM (Section 5) the Board of FIMM comprises eight members and a chairperson. The members each have a personal deputy. The term of the Board is three years. The University of Helsinki appoints three members to the Board. THL, HUS and VTT each name one member. The University of Helsinki invites a representative from an industry that benefits from FIMM research to be a member.

The term of the first Board of FIMM will end on 30 June 2010. Rector of the University of Helsinki has asked THL, HUS and VTT to name their Members and Vice Members to the new Board. It is suggested that the Board discusses the representative to be invited from the industry.

Decision: Senior Vice President R & D, MD, PhD Reijo Salonen told that Orion Corporation is willing to continue collaboration with FIMM and that the collaboration may continue even if Orion Corporation would not have a Member in the new Board of FIMM (term starting on 1 July 2010).

9 Other business

There was no other business.

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10 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting 2/2010 will be arranged on 14 April 2010 at 15.00.

11 Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 16.20.

Helsinki 14.4.2010

Anna-Elina Lehesjoki
Professor, Research Director
Vice Chair, Board of FIMM

Dan-Olof Riska
Director, Professor
Chair in item 5.2

Olli Kallioniemi
Professor
Director of FIMM
Presenter

Reetta Niemelä
Administrative Manager, FIMM
Secretary