



Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland
Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine

BOARD MEETING 3/2010

8 June 2010

MINUTES

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

Title: Meeting of the Board of FIMM 3/2010
Time: Tuesday, 8 June 2010, at 16.00—17.40
Place: Meeting Room Katariina, Hilton Helsinki Kalastajatorppa (Entrance Vanha Torppa)
Kalastajatorpantie 1, Munkkiniemi, Helsinki

Chair:
Chief Executive, Professor Marja Makarow, European Science Foundation (ESF)

Members (Vice Members:)

Deputy Director General, Professor Juhani Eskola, THL; arrived in item 4.1
Vice Rector, Professor Kimmo Kontula, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki
Research Director, Professor Irma Thesleff, Institute of Biotechnology, University of Helsinki
Director, Professor Dan-Olof Riska, Helsinki Institute of Physics, HIP
Vice President, Professor, R&D Biotechnology Anu Kaukovirta-Norja, VTT
Act. Medical Director, Chief Research Officer, Professor Lasse Viinikka, HUS
Docent Elisabeth Widén, FIMM Technology Centre

Permanent Experts:

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

Experts:

FiDiPro Professor Jonathan K.C. Knowles, FIMM
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 3/2010

- 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 Joint group leader call with the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine**
- 6 Joining the Biocenter Finland (BF) Network**
- 7 Discussion on joining the Worldwide Innovative Consortium (WIN) Association**
- 8 Update on the FIMM budget and personnel**
- 9 Other business**
- 10 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 14 April 2010 is approved (Annex 1).

Decision: As proposed.

4 Announcements

- 4.1** The Board of the Academy of Finland decided in its meeting on 8 June 2010 to fund nine new FiDiPro Professors (Finland Distinguished Professor). Professor Juni Palmgren (Stockholm University and Karolinska Institutet, Sweden) was one of the selected. Professor Jaakko Kaprio at FIMM/University of Helsinki is the Finnish host. According to the press release of the Academy of Finland Professor Palmgren has in-depth knowledge of statistical epidemiology and statistical genetics. She is an internationally recognised leading figure in promoting biostatistics at the intersection of mathematics, statistics and medicine. She has an extensive research profile that covers modelling and medical computing. Professor Palmgren is also chair of the Swedish Research Council eScience sub-committee and works actively for the promotion of Nordic research infrastructures.
- 4.2** FiDiPro Professor Jonathan K.C. Knowles' Inauguration Lecture will be on 4 October 2010 (Biomedicum Helsinki 1).
- 4.3** The Board discussed the renewal of the Regulations of FIMM in its previous meeting on 2 March 2010 and representatives of the FIMM founding organizations on 27 April 2010. Based on these discussions as well as discussions with Legal Counsel Marianne Jalovaara of the University's working group (*normityöryhmä*), the Regulations have been further developed (Annex 2). The Board of the University of Helsinki will approve the Regulations on 9 June 2010.
- 4.4** Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson of the University of Helsinki will appoint the new Board of FIMM after the Regulations have been approved.
- 4.5** The Board discussed the draft statement of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of FIMM in its meeting on 2 March 2010. The signed version of the statement (Annex 3) will be sent for information to the founding organizations of FIMM and foundations supporting FIMM.
- 4.6** Due to death of Academician of Science, Professor Leena Peltonen-Palotie the Board discussed the future of the Human Genomics research area at FIMM in its meeting on 14 April 2010. After the meeting Olli Kallioniemi asked Professor Aarno Palotie to coordinate the planning of the Human Genomics research area and called an expert group. The expert

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group is comprised of experts of FIMM, the Faculty of Medicine/University of Helsinki, HUS and THL. The working group has been asked to advise FIMM on the steps to undertake in the future, e.g. links to THL and the Faculty of Medicine, what kind of group leader and other key positions need to be filled, as well as how to ensure that the major national and international scientific networks and infrastructure programs (Annex 4).

- 4.7** Special Seminar, tribute to Professor Leena Peltonen-Palotie, was organised on 31 May 2010 by the ENGAGE project (European Network of Genomic and Genetic Epidemiology; FP7 project funded by the EC). Obituaries published in the Cell, Lancet, Nature as well as Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute's News in Annexes 5a–5d, available also at <http://www.fimm.fi/en/news/obituary-professor-leena-peltonen-palotie-academician-of-science/>.

FIMM will organise a Special Seminar as a tribute to Professor Leena Peltonen-Palotie in April-May 2011 during the site visit of the SAB of FIMM.

- 4.8** Based on information received from Head of Unit of Public Health Genomics Anu Jalanko on 10 May 2010, THL has started to prepare Research Professorship in the field of Human Genetic Epidemiology.

- 4.9** The Steering Group of the Meilahti Campus Biobanking planning held its meeting on 17 May 2010. The first draft of the principles of campus biobanking was presented in the meeting. It was proposed that the campus biobank will be a unit of FIMM. The collaborative agreements between the biobank unit and other parties will be signed by the University of Helsinki as the host organisation of FIMM.

FIMM and the Finnish Hematology Association have been negotiating biobank related collaboration. The collaboration would be comprised of the hematology register run by the Association and biobanking operations run by FIMM, both of which would be based on patient consent. The collection of new samples would be performed by HUS, and negotiations on the processing and aliquoting of the samples have been going on with the Finnish Red Cross Blood Service. The Blood Service has expressed its preliminary interest in both sample processing and research collaboration utilising the samples. The goal is to start collection of new samples in September, and the first pilot study would be on acute myeloid leukemia (AML). The collaborative agreement will be presented to the FIMM Board for decision making when they have matured.

The preparations for national collaborative structures for biobanking have been activated. On May 10th the first national biobank meeting was held in Tampere. The further planning of a structure around the BBMRI.FI concept will be led by Biocenter Finland. The Meilahti campus is represented by FIMM and THL. Next preparatory meeting will be held on June 17th.

- 4.10** The Board of Biocenter Finland (BF) decided on 6 April 2010 that the metabolomics network will be funded for three years with 1,609 M€. A Collaboration Agreement/MoU between VTT and FIMM will be prepared as requested in the funding decision.

- 4.11** Preparation of collaboration and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Genome Institute of Singapore (GIS) and FIMM has been initiated. Based on the preliminary discussions with the Director of GIS and Member of the SAB of FIMM, Professor Edison Liu, possible topics to be discussed as items for collaboration could be e.g. Cancer genomics, Population genomics and disease predisposition research as well as Bioinformatics and high-performance computing. Possible ways of collaboration could be strategic joint collaborative projects, visiting investigator programmes (including repetitive short 2-4 month visits) as well as infrastructure and methods co-development.

Institutional Collaboration Agreement with the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute has been discussed in March among the representatives of Sanger Institute and FIMM.

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- 4.12** The contract negotiations of the EU-OPENSREEN (fourth ESFRI project) have proceeded and the initial starting date of the project is 1 November 2010.
- 4.13** Preparations for the Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking consortium (IMI-JU) coordinated by Dr Emmy Verschuren FIMM/University of Helsinki (New Models for Preclinical Evaluation of Drug Efficacy in Common Solid Tumours, PREDECT) is progressing, with the first pharmaceutical matching funds now being promised.
- The academic consortium is currently working with representatives of 8 EFPIA partners (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations) to jointly write the full second stage proposal, with a deadline on June 28 2010. The proposal will need to be approved by the same panel of independent experts that evaluated the Expression of Interest, to show that we have addressed their concerns. The project is scheduled to start in 2011.
- It is important to note that the IMI-JU provides 75 % funding under the additional cost model, requiring institutional contributions and/or directing the employment costs of existing personnel to this project. The suggested budget is 8 M€ (of which 2 M€ is estimated to be allocated to the University of Helsinki, and around 1,3 M€ to FIMM). In addition, there will be matching 8 M€ in-kind contributions from the participating pharmaceutical companies (EFPIA), making it important that the proposal and project will be executed in a way that is of interest to pharma. Also, the companies receive a larger than normal IPR access to the data, results and technologies developed in this project. Despite of these concerns, this is a unique opportunity to link up with the pharmaceutical industry in a 5-year project and be part of the core development process of better complex in vitro and in vivo models for drug discovery.
- 4.14** Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson has sent a letter on 5 May 2010 to the faculties and independent institutes concerning the launch of the tenure track system at the University of Helsinki (Annex 6a). The Deans of the faculties have been asked to send their proposals by 7 June 2010 to the Rector. Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor Risto Renkonen has suggested a joint proposal with FIMM in the field of systems biology. Rector will support 40 000 €/year of the salary costs of the Associated Professor positions at least for the first three years. FIMM has confirmed to participate in the joint proposal (Annex 6b).
- 4.15** Based on the information received from Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson, the Target Programme (*tavoiteohjelma*) for the years 2010—2012 need to be updated by 4 October 2010.
- 4.16** FIMM organised in collaboration with TUTKAS (*Tutkijoiden ja kansanedustajien seura*) on 2 June 2010 a seminar about the importance of research infrastructures for Members of the Parliament and researchers (Annex 7)
<http://web.eduskunta.fi/Resource.phx/eduskunta/organisaatio/kansanedustajat/tutkas/index.htm>. The seminar gathered about 130 participants.
- 4.17** FIMM Clinical Collaborator Programme has been opened and the deadline for the applications is 21 June 2010. The call text has been published in Suomen Lääkärilehti on 28 May 2010 and on the websites of Suomen Lääkärilehti, the University of Helsinki and FIMM (Annex 8, http://www.fimm.fi/en/open_positions/). Information on the call has also been distributed via the Faculty of Medicine and HUS.
- 4.18** Dr Samuli Ripatti, who was selected FIMM-EMBL Group Leader at the Board Meeting on 2 March 2010, has started his five-year term as FIMM-EMBL Group Leader on 1 June 2010.

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- 4.19** New Appointments at FIMM:
- IT Specialist Myles Byrne 10.5.2010—31.5.2011 (FIMM Technology Centre)
 - Doctoral Student Tonge Ebai 17.5.2010—31.5.2011 (Group Wennerberg)
 - Senior Laboratory Technician Ruusu-Maaria Merivirta 1.6.2010—31.5.2011 (FIMM Technology Centre, RNAi Unit)
 - Doctoral Students Muntasir Mamun Majumder and Saana Sandström from the joint PhD Student call of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine 9.8.2010—31.8.2011.
 - In addition, FIMM has employed altogether eight summer students for June—August 2010.

5 Joint group leader call with the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine
(presenter: Kallioniemi)

FIMM participated in the first joint group leader call with the other nodes of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine in autumn 2009. The experiences of the joint call and evaluation process were very good.

Based on the preliminary discussions of the representatives of the Nordic EMBL Partnership a new joint call for group leaders is planned for autumn 2010. The Board of the Laboratory of Molecular Infection Medicine Sweden (MIMS) will decide on the joint call in its meeting on 1 June 2010. The Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM) has informed that they are willing to participate in the second joint call and the Board of NCMM will make the decision on 9 June 2010.

It is suggested that the focus of the new recruitment round at FIMM will be on group leaders active in the following fields: disease biomarkers, biobanks, personalized medicine, population genetics and genetic epidemiology. In the call text it will be stated that FIMM is seeking for group leaders, who could take advantage of the significant resources of clinical samples, population cohorts, molecular profiling technologies and clinical and follow-up data that are available at FIMM and its partner institutes. Translational focus towards diagnostics and personalized medicine is valued along with the possibility of providing additional and novel contributions to existing FIMM and Meilahti campus research groups.

- Proposal:**
1. It is suggested that FIMM will participate in the joint call and that FIMM's focus in the call will be as described above.
 2. It is suggested that the Board discusses whether FIMM will exclusively continue with international recruitments or could also local recruitments be considered in exceptional cases.

- Decision:**
1. As proposed.
 2. Local recruitments may be considered. However, it will be stated explicitly in the call text that international mobility will have weight in the evaluation

6 Joining the Biocenter Finland (BF) Network (presenter: Kallioniemi)

The Regulations of Biocenter Finland (BF) Network is under preparation (*Biokeskus Suomi – verkoston säännöt*) and the draft document of 6 April 2010 was discussed at the previous meeting of the Board of FIMM on 14 April 2010. In the draft Regulations it was suggested that FIMM should become member of the BF Network and have a representative in the Board of BF.

The Board of FIMM was in favour of the membership at the previous meeting, but no decision was made at that point. Based on the information received from the representatives of BF, FIMM should prepare a membership application in a free form.

Proposal: It is suggested that the Board approve the membership based on the principles described in the memorandum in Annex 9.

Decision: As proposed.

7 Discussion on joining the Worldwide Innovative Consortium (WIN) Association

Olli Kallioniemi attended the WIN Consortium meeting (Worldwide Innovative Networking in Cancer Personalized Medicine) in July 2009. The plan emerged to create a consortium of key institutions to promote personalized cancer medicine most of the participating organisations being prominent comprehensive cancer centers. Since the Finnish CCC has not been established yet, FIMM was asked to join the consortium. Based on the discussion of the Board in its meeting on 30 October 2009 FIMM (University of Helsinki) continued with the next steps, i.e. Letter of Intent, of the WIN Consortium.

Now FIMM has been asked to comment on the draft Articles of Association by 15 June 2010. The Board will be given an overview of the Association and its aims at the meeting.

Decision: Olli Kallioniemi and Jonathan K.C. Knowles will attend the WIN Conference in July 2010 and discuss the terms and conditions of the participation.

8 Update on the FIMM budget and personnel

Olli Kallioniemi gave an overview and update on the FIMM budget and personnel in the meeting. Updated budget in Annex 10.

9 Other business

There was no other business.

10 Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 17.40.

Helsinki 30.6.2010

Marja Makarow
Professor
Chair, Board of FIMM

Olli Kallioniemi
Professor
Director of FIMM
Presenter

Reetta Niemelä
Administrative Manager, FIMM
Secretary