



Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland
Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine

BOARD MEETING 4/2010

8 September 2010

MINUTES

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

Title: Meeting of the Board of FIMM 4/2010
Time: Wednesday, 8 September 2010, at 9.00—11.10
Place: Faculty Club, Biomedicum Helsinki 1 (6th floor), Haartmaninkatu 8, Helsinki

Chair:

Vice Rector, Professor Kimmo Kontula, University of Helsinki

Attendees:

Professor Kalle Saksela, Haartman Institute, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki
Research Director, Professor Anna-Elina Lehesjoki, Neuroscience Center, University of Helsinki
Professor Kimmo Porkka, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki
Act. Chief Medical Officer, Chief Research Officer, Professor Lasse Viinikka, HUS
Senior Scientist, Head of Public Health Genomics Unit Anu Jalanko, THL
Vice President, Professor, R&D Biotechnology Anu Kaukovirta-Norja, VTT
Member of the Board Pekka Mattila, Strategic Centre for Health and Well-being, SalWe Oy
CEO Saara Hassinen, Strategic Centre for Health and Well-being, SalWe Oy
IT Designer Anne Leinonen, FIMM Technology Centre
Research Director Janna Saarela, FIMM Technology Centre

Permanent Expert:

Director, Professor Eero Vuorio, Biocenter Finland

Expert:

Planning Officer Sirpa Nummila, FIMM

Presenter:

Director, Professor Olli Kallioniemi, FIMM

Secretary:

Administrative Manager Reetta Niemelä, FIMM

Meeting of the Board of FIMM 4/2010

- 1 Opening of the meeting and presence of a quorum**
- 2 Approval of the agenda**
- 3 Update on the FIMM activities and development issues for the future**
- 4 Selection of the Vice Chair of the Board of FIMM**
- 5 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Board of FIMM**
- 6 Announcements**
- 7 Appointment of the Search Committee of the joint group leader call with the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine**
- 8 FIMM Clinical Collaboration Programme**
- 9 Discussion on joining the Worldwide Innovative Consortium (WIN) Association**
- 10 Discussion on Permanent Experts of the Board of FIMM**
- 11 Other business**
- 12 Date of the next meeting**
- 13 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 5 §, Annex 1).

Decision: It was recorded that a quorum was present.

The Chair welcomed all Members, Vice Members and Experts to the first meeting of the new Board of FIMM.

2 Approval of the agenda

Proposal: It was proposed that the agenda be approved.

Decision: As proposed.

3 Update on the FIMM activities and development issues for the future

Director of FIMM, Professor Olli Kallioniemi gave an overview and update of the past three years and key development issues for the future.

Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson has asked the faculties and independent institutes of the University of Helsinki to update the Target Programmes (*tavoiteohjelma*) by 4 October 2010. The updated Programme, including budget, will be sent to the Board in October. The Target Programmes were prepared for the first time in the current format in autumn 2009.

4 Selection of the Vice Chair of the Board of FIMM (presenter: Kallioniemi)

According to the Regulations of FIMM the Board selects a Vice Chair from amongst its members (FIMM Regulations 3 §, Annex 1).

The Vice Chairs of the first Board of FIMM were Professor Jaakko Karvonen (March 2007 — February 2009) and Research Director, Professor Anna-Elina Lehesjoki (March 2009 — June 2010).

Proposal: It was suggested that the Board select the Vice Chair from amongst its members.

Decision: The Board decided to select Research Director, Professor Anna-Elina Lehesjoki the Vice Chair.

5 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Board of FIMM

The last meeting of the first Board of FIMM was held on 8 June 2010. The Board approved the minutes by e-mail before the term ended on 30 June 2010 (Annex 2). The previous Board had decided that the minutes are approved in the forthcoming meetings so that examiners of the minutes need not to be selected for each meeting. The previous Board had also decided that the approved minutes of the Board will be available at FIMM website (http://www.fimm.fi/en/fimm/board/board_meetings/) and that the Agenda is sent as hard copy.

Proposal: It was suggested that the Board decide to continue the practices described above.

Decision: As proposed.

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6 Announcements

- 6.1** The new Regulations of FIMM have been approved by the Board of the University of Helsinki on 9 June 2010, VTT on 23 June 2010, the Board of HUS on 23 August 2010 and by THL on 7 September 2010 (Annex 1).
- 6.2** Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson appointed the new Board of FIMM on 18 June 2010 (Annex 3). The term of the Board is 1 July 2010 — 31 March 2014.
- 6.3** FIMM is a joint research institute of the University of Helsinki, the Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa (HUS), the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) and the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland. The University of Helsinki is the host organization of FIMM. Hence, in managing the institute the personnel policies and financial rules of the University of Helsinki will apply, as will the regulations and guidelines concerning University administration, financial management, planning and follow-up. Guidelines on meeting procedures in Annex 4 (*Esittely- ja kokousmenettely Helsingin yliopistossa, 27.1.2010*).
- 6.4** 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. 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.
- Professor Juni Palmgren is the third FiDiPro Professor at FIMM. FiDiPro Professor Jonathan K.C. Knowles' five-year term started on 1 January 2010; FiDiPro Professor Joseph D. Terwilliger's four-year term will end on 31 December 2010.
- 6.5** Representatives of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine met on 23 August 2010 in Copenhagen and discussed preliminarily accession of Denmark to the Partnership. The current members are EMBL (European Molecular Biology Laboratory) as well as all three Nordic nodes FIMM, MIMS (Laboratory of Molecular Infection Medicine Sweden/Umeå University) and NCMM (Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway/University of Oslo).
- 6.6** The Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine had its first networking meeting for group leaders, postdoctoral researchers and PhD students on 29 August — 1 September 2010 in Lycksele/Umeå Sweden. There were altogether about 80 participants, 24 from FIMM. NordForsk has granted funding for three years for the Nordic nodes (400 000 NOK/year) to enhance collaboration among the new groups and in addition to the annual meetings the intention is to organise joint training courses, workshops and seminars.
- 6.7** 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 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 work.
- The expert group has so far had three meetings and recommendations on the future of the FIMM Human Genomics Research Area are expected in the autumn 2010. Our plan is to invite Professor Aarno Palotie to present the recommendations of the expert group to the Board in the next meeting in October or in December 2010.

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- 6.8** FIMM will organise a Special Seminar as a tribute to Academician of Science, Professor Leena Peltonen-Palotie on 18—19 May 2011 in Helsinki.
- 6.9** The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of FIMM will have its second visit to FIMM on 17—18 May 2011.
- 6.10** MD, PhD Markus Perola has been appointed Research Professor in the field of Human Genetic Epidemiology at THL on 1 September 2010.
- 6.11** FIMM/University of Helsinki and GIS (Genome Institute of Singapore) have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The purpose of the MoU is to develop and implement joint activities that are mutually beneficial to the parties, e.g. in the fields of 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, short term (2—4 month) visiting investigator programmes as well as infrastructure and methods co-development. The MoU was prepared in collaboration with Finpro Singapore and has so far been signed on behalf of FIMM/University of Helsinki.

Professor Edison T. Liu, Member of the SAB of FIMM is the Director of GIS <http://www.gis.a-star.edu.sg/internet/site/>. The Agency for Science and Technology Research A*STAR is the parent funding body for the GIS and has a long term commitment to create a world-class infrastructure.

- 6.12** The Board of FIMM decided in its meeting on 8 June 2010 to join the Biocenter Finland (BF) Network. The membership of FIMM still needs to be confirmed by the Rectors of the biocenter universities.
- 6.13** 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 pharmaceutical matching funds now being promised.

The academic consortium together with the representatives of 8 EFPIA (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations) wrote the full second stage proposal, with a deadline on June 28 2010. The proposal was evaluated during a face to face meeting in Brussels on July 13 with the same Consensus panel of independent experts that evaluated the Expression of Interest. The Consensus Evaluation results were received in early August, and highly recommend the project for funding with a very good score (17,5/20). 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). The official IMI governing board invitation to initiate the contract negotiations is expected in early September. The project is scheduled to start in 2011.

- 6.14** The Board of the Academy of Finland has selected in August the research teams that will proceed to the second stage of the Centre of Excellence call. In all 36 research teams (out of 135) are asked to submit their full applications.

FIMM was involved in two Center of Excellence applications in the first stage. Olli Kallioniemi's group is involved in the application lead by Academy Professor Kari Alitalo, Center of Excellence in Genome-Scale Cancer Biology, invited to submit a full application by 29 October 2010.

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6.15 The Academy of Finland has invited applications for doctoral programmes (previous graduate schools) for 2012—2015 by 15 September 2010. FIMM is currently involved in Helsinki Biomedical Graduate School including the National Program for Molecular Medicine (HBGP-FIMM). FIMM is also involved in the preparation of a new application with HBGP.

In addition, FIMM scientists are involved in the preparation of the following applications:

- Finnish Graduate School in Computational Sciences/Professor Samuel Kaski, Aalto University
- FinnPharma Doctoral Programme/Professor Raimo Tuominen, University of Helsinki
- National Graduate School for Advanced Diagnostics and Technologies/Professor Kim Petterson, University of Turku

It was noted that Strategic Centre for Health and Well-being, SalWe Oy may provide support letters to the applications.

6.16 The University of Helsinki has decided to carry an international evaluation of its research and research training in 2010-2011. The previous research assessment exercises were done in 1999 and 2005. Professor Johanna Björkroth, Vice Rector in charge of research affairs and research study affairs and innovation activities, will give further information in events that will be arranged on all four campuses in late September, on Meilahti campus on 30 September 2010.

6.17 FiDiPro Jonathan K. C. Knowles' inauguration lecture will be on 4 October 2010 at 12.00 in Biomedicum Helsinki 1 (lecture hall 1).

6.18 Biweekly FIMM Seminars will continue after the summer break. Schedule for the seminars for the autumn 2010 will be shortly available at <http://www.fimm.fi/en/events/>.

6.19 New Appointments at FIMM:

- Riku Turkki, Research Assistant, 1.7.2010—31.12.2010 (Group Johan Lundin)
- Pauliina Munne, Doctoral Student, 19.7.2010—30.7.2012 (Group Sergey Kuznetsov)
- Alun Parsons, Senior Research Technician, 1.8.2010—31.7.2011 (Groups Denis Kainov & Jonathan K.C. Knowles/Caroline Heckman)
- Pirkko Mattila, Senior Researcher, 16.8.2010—31.8.2012 (FIMM Technology Center/RNAi Unit)
- Carina von Schantz-Fant, Postdoctoral Researcher, 16.8.2010—31.8.2010 (FIMM Technology Center/RNAi Unit)
- Jani Saarela, Senior Researcher, 1.9.2010—31.8.2012 (FIMM Technology Center/Chemical Biology Unit)
- Leena Karhinen, Postdoctoral Researcher, 1.9.2010—31.8.2012 (Group Krister Wennerberg)

6.20 FIMM and the Faculty of Medicine prepared a joint proposal for a tenure track position in the field of systems biology based on Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson's letter of 5 May 2010. The proposal was unfortunately not successful.

6.21 The Governing Members of the EATRIS project (European Advanced Translational Research Infrastructure in Medicine) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 6 September 2010 on the implementation on the project. The signing party in Finland was the Ministry of Education and Culture.

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- 6.22** Studia Medicina lecture on personalized medicine on 29 September 2010 in Biomedicum Helsinki 1. Member of the Board of FIMM, Professor Kimmo Porkka and FIMM-EMBL Group Leader, PhD Samuli Ripatti will give lectures.

7 Appointment of the Evaluation Committee of the 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.

The Nordic EMBL Partnership opened a new joint call for group leaders in August (call text in Annex 5a). The focus of the current recruitment round at FIMM is on group leaders active in the following fields: disease biomarkers, biobanks, personalized medicine, population genetics, genetic epidemiology and medical bioinformatics/systems biology. In the call text it is 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. International mobility will be valued as well (call text in Annex 5b).

The joint group leader advertisement was published in Nature on 26 August 2010 and Science on 27 August 2010. The advertisement has been also been published on the following websites:

- EMBL: http://www.embl.de/aboutus/jobs/jobs_embl_partner/index.html
- Nature: <http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/searches/16652131-all-helsinki-jobs>
- Science: <http://scijobs.sciencemag.org/JobSeekerX/ViewJob.asp?cjid=52392&accountno=103>

In addition, the FIMM specific advertisement has been published on the following websites as well as distributed nationally and internationally e.g. via FIMM National Network for Molecular Medicine, Meilahti PIs and Biocenter Finland Network:

- FIMM: http://www.fimm.fi/en/open_positions/
- University of Helsinki: <http://www.helsinki.fi/recruitment/index.html?id=16812>

The evaluation process will follow the EMBL model as in the previous calls and proceed as follows:

- Deadline for applications: 1 October
- Evaluation Committee's dead-line for scoring and preliminary evaluations: 27 October. The applications will be reviewed and ranked by the Evaluation Committee comprising of experts from EMBL and the Nordic nodes. Each application will be evaluated by five-six evaluators as the local experts at each node will be taken out.
- Search Committee's telephone meeting to select candidates for interviews: 1 November
- Interviews: 24-25 November in Stockholm

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European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), Laboratory of Molecular Infection Medicine Sweden (MIMS) and the Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM) have nominated experts to the Search Committee as follows:

- EMBL: Professor Christoph Mueller; the other EMBL representative may be confirmed later.
- MIMS: Director, Professor Bernt Eric Uhlin and Associate Professor Ruth Palmer (Department of Molecular Biology, Umeå University and Senior Investigator at the Swedish Cancer Society)
- NCMM: Director, Professor Kjetil Taskén and Professor Ragnhild A. Lothe (Chair of the Board of NCMM)

Based on the discussion of the Directors of the Nordic nodes the Evaluation Committee may be completed with an expert in the field of molecular medicine/translational medicine.

From FIMM Director Olli Kallioniemi and Senior Researcher Anu Jalanko (THL) will participate in the evaluation of the applications of MIMS and NCMM.

Proposal: It was suggested that the Board confirms the composition of the Evaluation Committee.

Decision: As proposed.

8 FIMM Clinical Collaboration Programme (presenter: Kallioniemi)

The Board decided to open a FIMM Clinical Collaborator Programme in its meeting on 14 April 2010. FIMM launched the programme to fund joint appointments and collaborative research opportunities for clinical investigators (150 000 € was reserved in 2010 budget for this new initiative as part of the collaboration with HUS).

FIMM aims to increase its activities in translational research, bringing discoveries from the bench to the bedside and back. This requires a close collaboration between biomedical and clinical investigators, who will in return get access to the excellent biomedical infrastructure at FIMM as well as exciting international scientific interactions as part of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine.

The call was opened on 20 May 2010 and the deadline for applications was on 21 June 2010 (call text in Annex 6a). We received altogether 10 applications (summary of applicants in Annex 6b). International experts were invited from the other nodes of the Nordic EMBL Partnership to evaluate the applications. The Evaluation Committee for this call was composed of the following experts:

- MIMS: Professor Anders Sjöstedt
- NCMM: Dr Ian Mills, Group Leader
- FIMM: Dr Sergey Kuznetsov and Dr Elisabeth Widén (Group Leaders)

The Evaluation Committee was asked to send their individual evaluations by 24 August 2010 and the Committee had a meeting on 30 August 2010. The Evaluation Committee stated that there are two categories of applicants: early and mid-career clinical scientists and experienced scientists (Professors). First mentioned were in the scope of this call. Based on the discussion of the Evaluation Committee, the Committee recommended that the selection should be made among the three top candidates who are early and mid-career clinical scientists (Annex 6c). The Evaluation Committee also suggested the FIMM Board to consider starting discussions with the three applicants who are at Professor level to explore possibilities for future collaborations.

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The applications were available at the meeting on 8 September 2010. The Board discussed that Olli Kallioniemi had one submitted manuscript with MD, PhD Tuomas Mirtti. The Board stated that the Director must participate in the decision-making of the start-up of this new initiative which is of strategic importance.

- Proposal:**
1. It was suggested that the Board decide to invite MD, PhD Kirsi Pietiläinen, MD, PhD Tuomas Mirtti and MD, PhD Jakob Stenman to discuss their research plans in more detail.
 2. It was suggested that the Board discuss how the Professor level applicants should be dealt with.

- Decision:**
1. As proposed.
 2. Based on the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee the Board stated that the selection to the Clinical Collaboration Programme shall be made among the top candidates who are early and mid-career clinical scientists, as was stated in the call text. The Board authorised Olli Kallioniemi to discuss with the three applicants who are at Professor level to explore possibilities for future collaborations (e.g. in the development of technology platforms, e.g. biobanking activities).

The Board also stated that the concept of the FIMM National Network for Molecular Medicine will be evaluated by the Scientific Advisory Board of FIMM in May 2011 and that thereafter there is expected to be a new call which also could provide possibilities for collaboration for the Professor level applicants.

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

Olli Kallioniemi attended the first WIN Consortium Meeting (Worldwide Innovative Networking in Cancer Personalized Medicine, <http://www.winconsortium.org/>) 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 of FIMM on 30 October 2009 FIMM (University of Helsinki) continued with the next steps, i.e. Letter of Intent, of the WIN Consortium.

The second WIN Consortium Meeting was held in July 2010. Olli Kallioniemi and Jonathan K.C. Knowles attended the meeting where the terms and conditions of the participation were discussed more detailed. Olli Kallioniemi will give an update on those discussions to the Board at the meeting.

- Decision:** The Board authorised Olli Kallioniemi to discuss the WIN consortium with the representatives of HUS. When needed, the Chair of the Board may participate in these discussions.

10 Discussion on permanent experts of the Board of FIMM

There were two permanent experts in the first Board of FIMM (term 1 March 2007—30 June 2010):

- Director, Professor Olli A. Jänne (Biomedicum Helsinki, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki) based on the decision of the Board on 12 September 2007 and
- Professor Olli Silvennoinen (Biocenter Finland, BF) based on the Collaboration Agreement between FIMM and BF signed on 18 March 2009.

In the new Board (term 1 July 2010 — 31 March 2014) Director of BF, Professor Eero Vuorio is so far acting as a permanent expert, but as soon as the Rectors of the biocenter universities have formally approved FIMM as a member of BF, BF will be asked to nominate a member and a deputy member to the Board of FIMM. Reciprocally Olli Kallioniemi is so far an expert of the Board of BF.

Permanent experts are not members of the Board, i.e. they do not take part in the decision making, but they have the right to attend the meetings.

It is suggested that the Board discusses the need for permanent experts in the FIMM Board.

Decision: The Board decided to invite Director, Professor Olli A. Jänne as Permanent Expert to the Board of FIMM.

11 Other business

There was no other business.

12 Dates of the next meetings

Dates of the next meetings of the Board:

- Monday 25 October 2010 at 13.00—15.00
- Monday 13 December 2010 at 15.00—17.00

13 Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 11.10.

Helsinki 25.10. 2010

Kimmo Kontula
Professor, Vice Rector
Chair, Board of FIMM

Olli Kallioniemi
Professor
Director of FIMM
Presenter

Reetta Niemelä
Administrative Manager of FIMM
Secretary