



BOARD MEETING 5/2010

25 October 2010

MINUTES

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

Title: Meeting of the Board of FIMM 5/2010
Time: Monday, 25 October 2010, at 13.05—15.10
Place: FIMM Meeting Room D307a, Biomedicum Helsinki 2U (3rd floor),
Tukholmankatu 8, Helsinki

Chair:

Vice Rector, Professor Kimmo Kontula, University of Helsinki

Attendees:

Dean, Professor Risto Renkonen, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki
Research Director, Professor Anna-Elina Lehesjoki, Neuroscience Center, University of Helsinki
Professor Annamari Ranki, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki;
arrived in item 4
Act. Chief Medical Officer, Chief Research Officer, Professor Lasse Viinikka, HUS
Deputy Director General, Professor Juhani Eskola, 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
IT Designer Anne Leinonen, FIMM Technology Centre

Permanent Experts:

Director, Professor Olli A. Jänne, Biomedicum Helsinki, University of Helsinki; left in item 8
Director, Professor Eero Vuorio, Biocenter Finland

Experts:

FiDiPro Professor Jonathan Knowles, FIMM; left in item 7
Professor Aarno Palotie, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute (UK) and FIMM; item 4
Coordinator Kimmo Pitkänen, FIMM
Research Director Janna Saarela, FIMM Technology Centre

Presenter:

Director, Professor Olli Kallioniemi, FIMM

Secretary:

Administrative Manager Reetta Niemelä, FIMM

Meeting of the Board of FIMM 5/2010

- 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 Discussion on the future of the Human Genomics Research Area**
- 5 Announcements**
- 6 Completion of the Evaluation Committee of the joint group leader call with the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine**
- 7 Update on the Meilahti Campus Biobank Steering Group and approval of the concept of Meilahti Intergrated Biobank (MIB)**
- 8 Update of EATRIS and Biomedinfra projects and approval for participation in the construction phase of EATRIS**
- 9 Discussion on the updated FIMM Target Programme**
- 10 Other business**
- 11 Date of the next meeting**
- 12 Closing of the meeting**

1 Opening of the meeting and presence of a quorum

Proposal: It was proposed that a quorum is 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.

2 Approval of the agenda

Proposal: It was proposed that the agenda be approved.

Decision: It was agreed that item 5 on the Agenda (Future of the Human Genomics Research Area) is discussed before item 4 (Announcements).

3 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

Proposal: It was proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 September 2010 is approved (Annex 1).

Decision: As proposed.

4 Discussion on the future of the Human Genomics Research Area

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 (Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and FIMM) to coordinate the planning of the Human Genomics research area and called an Expert Group. The Group is comprised of experts of FIMM, the Faculty of Medicine/University of Helsinki, HUS and THL. The Expert 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 four meetings and recommendations on the future of the FIMM Human Genomics Research Area are expected in December 2010. Professor Aarno Palotie was invited to the Board meeting on 25 October 2010 to give an update of the Expert Group's work.

A specific question that has emerged in the mean time is the continued mode of collaboration between FIMM and THL, such as how the Research Professorship in the field of Human Genetic Epidemiology should be linked to FIMM. Markus Perola, MD, PhD was appointed Research Professor in the field of Human Genetic Epidemiology at THL on 1 September 2010 and his expertise is also linked to the biobanking collaboration between FIMM and THL.

It is proposed that the Board discusses:

1. the future on the Human Genomics Research Area based on Professor Aarno Palotie's presentation and
2. the role of the THL's Research Professor in the field of Human Genetic Epidemiology as part of the FIMM-THL collaboration.

Decision: The Board discussed the Human Genomics Research Area based on Professor Aarno Palotie's presentation. The work of the Expert Group is continuing and decisions will be made only after the Board has received the final report and recommendations.

5 Announcements

- 5.1** The new Regulations of FIMM have been approved by all founding organisations of FIMM (University of Helsinki, HUS, THL and VTT). Final version of the Regulations in Annex 2a and English version in Annex 2b, the documents are also available at http://www.fimm.fi/fi/tietoa_fimmista/perustaminen/ and <http://www.fimm.fi/en/fimm/establishment2/>.
- 5.2** 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. The MoU was prepared in collaboration with Finpro Singapore. The signed MoU in Annex 3.
- 5.3** The Board of FIMM decided in its meeting on 8 June 2010 to join the Biocenter Finland (BF) Network. According to the Rules of the BF (*Biokeskus Suomi — Biocenter Finland –verkoston säännöt*) Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson has addressed an official membership application to the Board of BF. The Board of BF has recommended to the Rectors of the biocenter universities to approve FIMM as member of the BF (Annex 4a and 4b). According to information received from the General Administration of the University of Helsinki, the Rules of BF have been approved by all biocenter universities, and FIMM's membership will enter into force as soon as the Rules have been signed by all parties. The aim is that the Rules will be signed on behalf of the University of Helsinki during week 42 and thereafter will be sent to the other parties.
- 5.4** BF organized a brainstorming event between the Directors of the biocentres on 22 September 2010. The future role of BF in the national and international infrastructures including ES-FRIs (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) was discussed.
- 5.5** Secretary General Marja Leskinen and Ms Heli Rahka from Jane and Aatos Erkkö Foundation (JAES) visited FIMM on 12 October 2010. JEAS is supporting FIMM-EMBL Group Leaders Denis Kainov and Krister Wennerberg and their groups.
- 5.6** The next FIMM's stakeholders group's meeting will be arranged on 9 December 2010. The members of the group are from the four foundations supporting FIMM, i.e. JAES, Finnish Medical Foundation, Sigrid Jusélius Foundation, Orion Farnos Research Foundation as well as from Ministry of Education and Culture, City of Helsinki, Helsinki-Uusimaa Region (*Uudenmaan liitto*) and Council of Finnish Foundations (*Säätiöiden ja rahastojen neuvottelukunta ry*).
- 5.7** Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson and Financial Director Ilkka Hyvärinen visited FIMM on 22 October 2010.
- 5.8** The next meeting of the FIMM National Network for Molecular Medicine will be arranged on 15 November 2010. FiDiPro Professor Jonathan Knowles will attend the meeting and the members of the Board are welcome to the meeting as well. The members of the Network will be asked to give short (~10 min.) presentations of their FIMM projects. Public abstracts of the projects are in Annex 5 and they are available at <http://www.fimm.fi/en/research/nationalnetwork/>.
- The concept of the FIMM National Network for Molecular Medicine will be evaluated in May 2011 by international experts and SAB of FIMM. Opinions on the concept of the Network of the members of the Board of FIMM are welcome.
- 5.9** FiDiPro Professor Jonathan Knowles' inauguration lecture gathered around 300 participants on 4 October 2010.

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

- 5.10** FiDiPro Professor Juni Palmgren's inauguration lecture will be on 21 March 2011.
- 5.11** NCMM's (Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway) opening ceremony will be arranged in Oslo on 11 November 2010.
- 5.12** FIMM will organise a Special Seminar as a tribute to Academician of Science, Professor Leena Peltonen-Palotie on 18—19 May 2011 in Helsinki in collaboration with the Academy of Finland and THL. A draft programme of 5 October 2010 is in Annex 6.
- 5.13** 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. The official letter for invitation for negotiation of a Grant Agreement with the IMI-JU has been sent on 5 October. According to the letter the negotiations must be completed at the latest by 30 October 2010. The duration of the project will be five years.
- 5.14** The following EU FP7 Grant Agreements have been signed:
- EU-OPENSSCREEN (European Infrastructure of Open Screening Platforms for Chemical Biology). The EU-OPENSSCREEN Preparatory Phase project will start on 1 November 2010 (duration of the preparatory phase is three years). The objectives will be to elaborate and reach consensus between the organisations involved (ministries, funding bodies and scientific institutions) on a detailed plan for the construction and operation of a European infrastructure of open-access technology platforms for Chemical Biology. Further information <http://www.eu-openscreen.de/>
 - The Systems Microscopy Network of Excellence (NoE). The project will start in January 2011.
- 5.15** The Board of FIMM decided in its meeting on 8 September 2010 to invite the top candidates of the FIMM Clinical Collaboration Programme MD, PhD Kirsi Pietiläinen, MD, PhD Tuomas Mirtti and MD, PhD Jakob Stenman to discuss their research plans in more detail.
- Dr Jakob Stenman will start his two-year part time position (40 %) at FIMM on 1 November 2010 and he will have a part time position (60 %) in HUS, Division of Transplant Surgery. Discussions with Drs Kirsi Pietiläinen and Tuomas Mirtti are ongoing.
- 5.16** The establishment of the Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC) in Finland is proceeding and an expert seminar by invitation was held on 14 October 2010.
- 5.17** A joint proposal of the Faculty of Medicine and FIMM, prepared by Professors Kimmo Porkka and Olli Kallioniemi entitled "Personalized medicine strategies for cancer stem cells" was selected by the Research Council of the Faculty of Medicine as one of the new initiatives (*uudet avaukset*) to be suggested for funding by the University of Helsinki in the years 2011—2013. This new initiative is linked to the preparation of the Target Programmes and the decision at the University level is expected in late 2010.
- 5.18** The University of Helsinki has decided to carry out 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 has arranged information events on all four campuses.
- The key elements of the evaluation will be this time:
- Participation in the evaluation is voluntary.
 - Bottom-up approach in forming the researcher communities to be evaluated.
 - The researcher community can be composed of researchers from different faculties/departments.
 - PI can take part in the evaluation as a member of maximally two researcher communities.

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

- A researcher community can take part in the evaluation only in one of the following categories:
 1. The research is internationally on the cutting edge of the field.
 2. The research is of high quality but the participating researcher community does not have strong international status or well-defined breakthrough yet.
 3. The research differs from main stream research and is considered exceptional due to specific, justified features of the research field/area and tradition which need to be taken into account in the evaluation.
 4. The research represents an innovative opening in the field.
 5. The research has a highly significant societal impact.
- Registration for the evaluation 1—30 November 2010.

From FIMM's point of view the evaluation is challenging since the evaluation is based on the activities in 2005—2010 and the first operational year for FIMM was 2008, and activities were very small scale until 2009—2010. The Human Genomics Research Area is the only area with research output from 2008 onwards. Thus, FIMM is not going to be prominently featured in this important evaluation system.

6 Completion of the Evaluation Committee of the joint group leader call with the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine (presenter: Kallioniemi)

The Nordic EMBL Partnership opened a new joint call for group leaders in August 2010. 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 (Annex 7a).

FIMM received altogether 29 applications, MIMS 17 and NCMM 39 applications. Summary of the FIMM applicants is in Annex 7b. About half of the applicants (17) are researchers who already are in Finland. Six applicants are conducting their research at the moment in the US and six applicants in the following countries: Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Spain and Russian Federation. The applications were available at the Board meeting.

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

- Evaluation Committee's dead-line for scoring and preliminary evaluations: 27 October.
- Evaluation Committee's telephone meeting to select candidates for interviews: 1 November.
- Interviews: 24—25 November in Stockholm.

The Board of FIMM confirmed in its meeting on 8 September 2010 the composition of the Evaluation Committee: Professor Christoph Mueller (EMBL); Director, Professor Bernt Eric Uhlin and Associate Professor Ruth Palmer (MIMS) as well as Director, Professor Kjetil Taskén and Professor Ragnhild A. Lothe (NCMM).

Based on the discussion of the Directors of the three Nordic nodes the Evaluation Committee would benefit of an expert in the field of molecular medicine/translational research. Professor Olle Stendahl from Linköping University, Sweden has been asked to join the Evaluation Committee and he has responded positively.

Olli Kallioniemi and Anu Jalanko from FIMM will participate in the evaluation of the applications of MIMS and NCMM.

Proposal: It was suggested that the Board confirms that Professor Olle Stendahl will join the Evaluation Committee.

Decision: As proposed.

7 Update on the Meilahti Campus Biobank Steering Group and approval of the concept of Meilahti Intergrated Biobank (MIB) (presenter: Kallioniemi)

On Meilahti Campus, the preparatory work towards centralised biobanking operations has been led by a Steering Group with high-level participants from the University of Helsinki, THL, HUS/HUSLAB, Folkhälsan and FIMM. The group was originally called together by Professor Matti J. Tikkanen, then Vice Rector of the University of Helsinki, and more recently by current Vice Rector, Professor Kimmo Kontula. The members and experts of the Steering Group are in Annex 8a.

In its meeting on 17 August 2010, the Meilahti Biobanking Steering Group gave FIMM and THL the authorization to prepare and submit a proposal, on behalf of the Meilahti biobanking activities, to the infrastructure call of the Academy of Finland (FIRI2010), where funding is applied for automated sample storage and sample processing instrumentation.

FIMM/University of Helsinki has now submitted a funding proposal to the FIRI2010 call. The proposal has been prepared together with THL, and funding is requested for the purchase of automated sample storage system, DNA extraction equipment and sample processing / pipetting workstation. Total cost is 1 290 429 €, of which the Academy is proposed to fund 763 300 € and University of Helsinki 327 129 €, the investments by FIMM and THL being 100 000 € each. The proposal was ranked as no 2 at the Faculty of Medicine; the final university level ranking is not yet known.

In the meeting on 17 May 2010, a plan was presented to the Meilahti Biobanking Steering Group, where the basic concepts of the structure and operational principles of the Meilahti biobank were suggested (Annex 8b). The Steering group recommended that the build-up work should proceed along the suggested principles.

It is suggested that the Board discusses the concept of the Meilahti Integrated Biobank (MIB) based on the recommendations of the Meilahti Biobanking Steering Group and Annex 8c and particularly the following aspects:

- The role of MIB as an organisational unit of FIMM, as well as the separation of biobanking operations from the FIMM Technology Center
- Collaboration between FIMM and THL biobank operations, including a possible joint unit
- The future of the Meilahti Integrated Biobank as a campus-wide effort
- The administration, operation and coordination models of MIB
- The possible need to recruit a Director/Coordinator of MIB, including tasks and duties
- The need for formal institutional agreements on the establishment of MIB, and the possible parties involved
- Relationship with national and international biobanking (BBMRI.FI and BBMRI.EU)

The most relevant domestic industrial partner candidates for biobanking based translational research and personalised medicine are represented through the Strategic Centres for Science, Technology and Innovation (SHOK in Finnish). On 3 September 2010, a meeting was held between the representatives of FIMM, Tekes and SaWe Ltd, the SHOK in the area of health and wellbeing. Tekes expressed its openness to new concepts combining the interests of SHOK, translational research and research infrastructure development, especially in the area of biobanking. As a follow up, FIMM representatives have had a further discussion with SaWe Ltd and TIVIT Ltd, the SHOK in the area of ICT. All parties have expressed their interest to continue discussions, and a follow-up meeting is under preparation.

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

Proposal: 1. It was proposed that the Board approves the separation of the biobanking activities from the FIMM Technology Centre.

2. It was proposed that the Board approves the further development of campus-wide biobanking activities under the working title of the Meilahti Integrated Biobank (MIB).

Decision: 1. As proposed.

2. As proposed.

8 Update of EATRIS and Biomedinfra projects and approval for participation in the construction phase of EATRIS (presenter: Kallioniemi)

EATRIS (European Advanced Translational Research Infrastructure in Medicine)

From the beginning of 2008 FIMM has participated in the three-year preparatory phase of the EATRIS. EATRIS is one of the infrastructures of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) roadmaps. ESFRI is a strategic instrument to develop the scientific integration of Europe and to strengthen its international outreach. During the preparatory phase EATRIS participants have defined several areas of translational research that will be served with the infrastructure to be implemented. FIMM has been the Finnish participant in EATRIS and the current leadership of EATRIS has asked FIMM to steer the development of a pan-European plan for diagnostics and biomarkers in the context of the translational research infrastructure.

The European Commission has funded EATRIS with 5 M€ during the preparatory phase. The preparatory phase will end at the end of 2010 after which EATRIS will enter the construction phase. The aim of the construction phase is to start the delivery of EATRIS services by the participating translational research institutions. The EATRIS centres will start with pilot projects on a smaller scale, expand progressively and gradually build up capacities and missing components where needed.

The construction and implementation phases are to be funded by national governments. The Ministry of Education and Culture (OKM) has signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of EATRIS (Annex 9). Italy and the Netherlands have bid for the EATRIS headquarter. The governmental parties of EATRIS met on 1 October 2010 to decide upon the location of the headquarters. However, due to disagreements over the procedure, voting was decided to be postponed till 15 October.

FIMM will be a Finnish EATRIS centre concentrating on the development of diagnostics and personalized medicine applications. FIMM has already several ongoing diagnostics development and personalized medicine projects.

Biomedinfra (<http://www.biomedinfra.fi/>)

Together with THL and CSC, FIMM coordinates the joint national initiative of BBMRI biobanking, EATRIS translational research and ELIXIR bioinformatics infrastructures, i.e. Biomedinfra in close collaboration with the Biocenter Finland. The Ministry of Education and Culture (OKM) organised a meeting on 21 September 2010 to get an update on the Biomedinfra. The representatives of OKM were impressed by the achievements and told that they want Biomedinfra to succeed.

OKM and the Academy of Finland have agreed that the Academy's budget for 2011 contains 5 M€ to fund the ICOS carbon dioxide observatory and the BBMRI-EATRIS-ELIXIR biomedical sciences research infrastructures which are on the national infrastructure roadmap.

INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE FINLAND FIMM

Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine

Academy of Finland has invited the BBMRI-EATRIS-ELIXIR consortium to apply for the funding by 29.10.2010. FIMM will coordinate the application together with CSC and THL. Part of the funds will be used for national coordination activities.

- Proposal:**
1. It was suggested that the Board approves that FIMM is involved in the constructions phase of EATRIS.
 2. It was suggested that the Board approves the opening of a position for a Head of Translational Diagnostics Research to strengthen FIMM's role in research on diagnostics development and personalised medicine applications, as well as the need to coordinate national and international initiatives.
 3. It was suggested that the Board approves that FIMM continues the Biomedinfra activities in the construction phase of the ESFRI project following the role assumed in the preparatory phase.

- Decision:**
1. As proposed.
 2. As proposed.
 3. As proposed.

9 Discussion on the updated FIMM Target Programme

In autumn 2009, the faculties and independent institutes of the University of Helsinki prepared their Target Programmes (*tavoiteohjelma*) for the first time in a common format based on the Strategy of the University. The Target Programme has been of critical importance for FIMM since due to the new University Law there has no longer been any direct project funding from the Ministry of Education and Culture. All governmental funding in the administrative sector of the Ministry of Education and Culture are now allocated via the University.

The Board approved the FIMM Target Programme 2010—2012 in its meeting in October 2009. This year Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson asked the faculties and independent institutes to update the Programmes (*tavoiteohjelma*) by 4 October 2010. The updated Programme is in Annex 10. The short updated/added texts are in the end of the sections (marked with +) as was asked in the guidelines. The texts will be finalized based on Rector's comments that we should receive by 2 November 2010. The budget will be updated in early 2011 as the Grant Agreements mentioned in items 5.13 and 5.14 have been signed and decisions on other external funding applications have been received. Hence, the total budget of FIMM in 2011 will be around 10,5 M€ as in 2010.

As mentioned in item 5.17 together with the Faculty of Medicine FIMM has prepared as part of the Target Programme a proposal for a new initiative (*uudet avaukset*) entitled "Personalized medicine strategies for cancer stem cells".

10 Other business

There was no other business.

11 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday 13 December 2010 at 15.00—17.00.

12 Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 15.10.

Helsinki 13.12.2010

Kimmo Kontula
Professor, Vice Rector
Chair, Board of FIMM

Olli Kallioniemi
Professor
Director of FIMM
Presenter

Reetta Niemelä
Administrative Manager of FIMM
Secretary