



BOARD MEETING 6/2010

13 December 2010

MINUTES

Title: Meeting of the Board of FIMM 6/2010
Time: Monday, 13 December 2010, at 15.00—17.00
Place: FIMM Meeting Room D307a, Biomedicum Helsinki 2U (3rd floor),
Tukholmankatu 8, Helsinki

Chair:

Vice Rector, Professor Kimmo Kontula, University of Helsinki

Members (Vice Members:)

Dean, Professor Risto Renkonen, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki; left in item 5.18
Research Director, Professor Anna-Elina Lehesjoki, Neuroscience Center, University of Helsinki
Professor Kimmo Porkka, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki
Vice President, Professor, R&D Biotechnology Anu Kaukovirta-Norja, VTT
CEO Saara Hassinen, 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
Director, Professor Eero Vuorio, Biocenter Finland

Experts:

FiDiPro Professor Juni Palmgren, Karolinska Institutet, Vetenskapsrådet and FIMM; item 4
Financial Manager Marja Medina, FIMM
Coordinator Kimmo Pitkänen, FIMM

Presenter:

Director, Professor Olli Kallioniemi, FIMM

Secretary:

Administrative Manager Reetta Niemelä, FIMM

Meeting of the Board of FIMM 6/2010

- 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 FiDiPro Professor Juni Palmgen: Complex Diseases: Data, study design and statistical analyses**
- 5 Announcements**
- 6 Discussion on FIMM budget 2011**
- 7 Joint group leader call with the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine**
- 8 Other business**
- 9 Date of the next meeting**
- 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 5 §).

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 October 2010 is approved (Annex 1).

Decision: As proposed.

4 FiDiPro Professor Juni Palmgren: Complex Diseases: Data, study design and statistical analyses

FiDiPro Professor Juni Palmgren (Stockholm Universitetet and Karolinska Institutet, Sweden) had been invited to the Board meeting and asked to give a short presentation on her research.

According to the public abstract of the FiDiPro project mentioned above at the Academy of Finland website (http://www.aka.fi/fi/A/Suomen-Akatemia/Organisaatio/_FIDIPRO/), for the first time in medical history, the technical prerequisites exist for merging cascades of molecular data from biological samples with clinical and epidemiological information on lifestyle, disease and health. Over the coming years, new insights will be gained into the complex multifactorial mechanisms underlying human health, with consequences for prevention, early detection, treatment and cure. The FiDiPro Professorship affiliation with FIMM will add expertise in epidemiology and biostatistics to the institute's major research themes (human genomics, medical systems biology, and translational research).

Professor Juni 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 Jaakko Kaprio is the host of the project at FIMM/University of Helsinki 2010—2015. FiDiPro Professor Juni Palmgren's inauguration lecture will be on 21 March 2011.

5 Announcements

- 5.1** The Board discussed the Human Genomics Research Area in its meeting on 25 October 2010 based on Professor Aarno Palotie's presentation. The work of the Expert Group is continuing and the final report and recommendations are expected in the beginning of 2011.
- 5.2** Together with the Academy of Finland, University of Helsinki and THL, FIMM will organise a Symposium "A Global View of Disease Genomics" as a tribute to Academician of Science, Professor Leena Peltonen-Palotie on 18–19 May 2011 in Helsinki. An updated draft programme is in Annex 2. The Symposium webpages will be opened shortly at http://www.fimm.fi/en/events/leena_symposium/.
- 5.3** NCMM's (Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway) opening ceremony was arranged on 11 November 2010 in Oslo and Olli Kallioniemi gave a presentation in the event.
- The Steering Committee meeting of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine was also arranged on 11 November 2010 in Oslo. It was agreed that:
- The Nordic nodes will prepare a initial training network proposal to the EU's FP7 People Programme/Marie Curie Activities with the deadline on 26 January 2010.
 - A joint PhD Student call will be opened in January.
 - The next Nordic Molecular Medicine Network (NMMN, supported by NordForsk) meeting will be arranged in Helsinki on 29–30 September 2011.
- 5.4** The FIMM National Network for Molecular Medicine meeting was arranged on 15 November 2010. FiDiPro Professor Jonathan Knowles attended the meeting. The next meeting will be arranged in March/April 2011 before the SAB of FIMM will evaluate the concept of the FIMM Network in May 2011.
- 5.5** Jonathan Knowles and Olli Kallioniemi gave presentations at Science Breakfast entitled "Personalised medicine paves the way for tailor-made treatment" organised by the Academy of Finland on 18 November 2010 (*Suomen Akatemian Tiedeamiainen*). The event gathered science journalists e.g. from YLE's science programmes. Press release of the Academy of Finland and links to articles in Annex 3; press release also available at <http://www.aka.fi/en-gb/A/Academy-of-Finland/The-Academy/Releases/Personalised-medicine-paves-the-way-for-tailor-made-treatment/>.
- 5.6** The Board of FIMM decided in its meeting on 8 June 2010 to join the Biocenter Finland (BF) Network. The Rules of the BF (*Biokeskus Suomi — Biocenter Finland –verkoston säännöt*) have been approved and signed on behalf of all biocenter universities (Annex 4). Based on the Regulations of FIMM (3 §) the University of Helsinki will invite a member to represent the Biocenter Finland network.
- 5.7** BF organized an infrastructure day on Meilahti Campus on 30 November 2010. Research Director Janna Saarela and Dr Imre Västriik gave presentations in the event.
- 5.8** Meeting of the 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, Helsinki City, Helsinki-Uusimaa Region (*Uudenmaan liitto*) and Council of Finnish Foundations (*Säätiöiden ja rahastojen neuvottelukunta ry*).
- 5.9** The Research Council (Tieteellinen neuvosto) of the University of Helsinki visited FIMM on 14 December 2010.
- 5.10** A joint proposal of the Faculty of Medicine and FIMM, prepared by Professor 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*

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avaukset) to be suggested for funding by the University of Helsinki in the years 2011—2013. However, this proposal was not selected for funding by the Rector of the University.

5.11 The Academy of Finland is expected to make the funding decisions of the FIRI2010 Programme on 8 December 2010 or 3 January 2011. FIMM submitted an application for the Meilahti Integrated Biobank (MIB). Total cost of the application is 1 290 429 €, of which the Academy is proposed to fund 763 300 €.

5.12 FIMM coordinates the national consortium of BBMRI biobanking, EATRIS translational research and ELIXIR bioinformatics infrastructures. This consortium, named Biomedinfra, also includes CSC and THL.

The Ministry of Education and Culture (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. Academy of Finland invited the BBMRI-EATRIS-ELIXIR consortium to apply for the funding by 29 October 2010. The consortium applied for the total of 3,9 M€ with FIMM being the application coordinator. The Academy of Finland will make the funding decision on 3 January 2011.

5.13 There were altogether 12 applications submitted to the Academy of Finland by FIMM researchers for the October 2010 deadline. Funding has been requested altogether around 8,3 M€ (including application for Center of Excellence in Genome-Scale Cancer Biology, infrastructure projects, research grants, Academy Research Fellows as well as postdoctoral researchers).

5.14 FIMM is involved in the BioMedBridges proposal submitted to the EU's 7th Framework Programme's Capacities Programme on 23 November 2010 (INFRA-2011-2.3.2: Implementation of common solutions for a cluster of ESFRI infrastructures in the field of life sciences). The project is coordinated by Professor Janet Thornton, EMBL-EBI and it brings together all the ten European biomedical sciences research infrastructures represented by 21 legal entities. There are several FIMM scientists involved in the project and the requested EU funding is 515 323 euros for 2011—2014.

5.15 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) are still underway. The negotiations of the Grant Agreement are underway, and the scientific negotiation documents have been returned to IMI for review. The projected start date for PREDECT is 1 February 2011.

5.16 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.

This time participation in the evaluation is voluntary. The deadline for Stage 1, registration, was on 30 November 2010. There were altogether more than 140 researcher communities (RC) registered to the evaluation. The RCs participated in the categories as follows:

1. 1st category 40 %: The research is internationally on the cutting edge of the field.
2. 2nd category 16 %: The research is of high quality but the participating researcher community does not have strong international status or well-defined breakthrough yet.
3. 3rd category 20 %: 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. 4th category 20 %: The research represents an innovative opening in the field.
5. 5th category 4 %: The research has a highly significant societal impact.

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Group Leaders at FIMM are involved in the following researcher communities (RC):

- CANBIO (Genome-Scale Cancer Biology)/Category 1
- CoE_VIRRES (Center of Excellence in Virus Research)/Category 1
- CompDisGen (Complex Disease Genetics)/Category 1
- P-Molmed (Personalized Molecular Medicine)/Category 5

The deadlines for Stage 2, material for the evaluation, are in January and February 2011. 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 rather small scale until 2009—2010.

- 5.17** 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 has started his two-year part time position (40 %) at FIMM on 1 November 2010. Dr Kirsi Pietiläinen will start in January 2011 and Dr Tuomas Mirtti in February 2011

- 5.18** The Board approved in its meeting on 25 October 2010 the opening of a position for a Research Director in Diagnostics Development 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. The call text will be published in December and the deadline will be in January 2011 (Annex 5).

- 5.19** New appointments at FIMM:

- Financial Manager Marja Medina as of 1 December 2010. Planning Officer Sirpa Nummilla moved to the Academy of Finland in October 2010.
- Doctoral Student Arjan van Adrichem 1.1.2011 - 31.12.2014 (Group Wennerberg)
- Laboratory Analyst Anna Kossila 1.1.2011 - 31.12.2011 (FIMM Tehnology Centre, Sequencing Laboratory)

- 5.20** Based on the decision of the Board of HBGS on 25 October 2010 FIMM scientists received altogether six new graduate school positions for 2011—2014 as follows:

- Anna Aakula, Supervisor Olli Kallioniemi
- Maria Anastasina, Supervisor Denis Kainov
- Jenni Hällfors, Supervisor Jaakko Kaprio
- Mikko Muona, Supervisor Aarno Palotie
- Emmi Tikkanen, Supervisor Samuli Ripatti
- Arjan van Adrichem, Supervisor Krister Wennerbeg

- 5.21** Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson has appointed a new Biocentrum Helsinki Board 1 January 2011 — 31.12.2013. Academy Professor Lauri Aaltonen is the Chair of the Board.

6 Discussion on FIMM budget 2011

An overview of the FIMM budget situation for 2011 was presented at the meeting.

At the moment the total budget of FIMM is estimated to be around 10 M€ for 2011 (Annex 6a). The budget will be updated in early 2011 when the funding decisions of the Academy of Finland (e.g. Biomedinfra and FIRI2010) are available and the EU Grant Agreements (EU-OPENSREEN, Systems Microscopy Network of Excellence and IMI) have been signed.

The basic funding of the University of Helsinki include:

- Strategic funding for one group leader position (300 000 euros)
- Matching fund for the FiDiPro projects (50 000 euros each)
- Increase in the graduate school funding due to the new positions mentioned in item 5.19

The discussion of the amount of amortization is still going on:

- Based on the Rector's comments of 5 November 2010 (Annex 6b) the amortization of the equipment/investments (*poistot*) of FIMM will decrease from 838 750 euros to 449 880 euros.
- However, based on the information received from the Finances of the University of Helsinki on 29 November 2010 the sum is expected to decrease further with around 200 000 euros since the investments in 2005—2009 were carried out with the support of the Ministry of Education and Culture, not with the University's basic funding.

The Board discussed the funding priorities based on the presentation at the meeting.

7 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. FIMM received altogether 29 applications, MIMS 17 and NCMM 39 applications.

The evaluation process followed the EMBL model as in the previous calls (Annex 7a). The Evaluation Committee comprised senior scientists from EMBL and the Nordic EMBL partner institutions as well as associated scientists. The committee had a telephone meeting to select candidates for interviews on 1 November 2010. Based on the recommendations five of the 29 FIMM candidates were invited to an interview. NCMM invited altogether five candidates (four responded positively) and MIMS four candidates (three responded positively).

The Evaluation Committee interviewed the five FIMM candidates on 24 November 2010 in the joint interview session in Stockholm. The candidates had a 25 minute talk, followed by 25 minutes of discussion. The Evaluation Committee felt that two candidates, PhD (Applied Mathematics) Tero Aittokallio (University of Turku and Data Mining and Modeling Group, Turku Centre for Biotechnology) and PhD (Biochemistry) Aline Bozec (Spanish National Cancer Research Centre/Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Oncologicas, Spain) clearly stand out based on a broad evaluation of their capabilities and future potential as independent FIMM group leaders (Annex 7b).

Based on the current Regulations of FIMM the duties of the Board include to issue a statement on the Institute's research directors and research group leaders based on international assessments.

Proposal: It was suggested that the Board discusses the Evaluation Committee's statement and issues recommendations on how to proceed with the recruitment of new group leaders.

Decision: The Board stated that the evaluation process following the EMBL model had been carried out carefully. The Board shared opinion with the Evaluation Committee on the two top candidates, PhD Tero Aittokallio and PhD Aline Bozec. Based on the Evaluation Committee's statement the Board recommended that Olli Kallioniemi should start contract negotiations with PhD Tero Aittokallio and that PhD Aline Bozec should be kept on the reserve list.

8 Other business

There was no other business.

9 Dates of the next meetings

The next meetings of the Board will be on:

- Friday, 25 February 2011 at 10.00—12.00
- Tuesday, 3 May 2011 at 14.00—16.00

10 Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 17.00.

Helsinki 25.2.2011

Kimmo Kontula
Professor, Vice Rector
Chair, Board of FIMM

Olli Kallioniemi
Professor
Director of FIMM
Presenter

Reetta Niemelä
Administrative Manager of FIMM
Secretary