



BOARD MEETING 4/2011

19 September 2011

MINUTES

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

Title: Meeting of the Board of FIMM 4/2011
Time: Monday, 19 September 2011, at 13.00—15.00
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 Irma Thesleff, Institute of Biotechnology, University of Helsinki
Professor Kimmo Porkka, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki
Chief Research Officer, Professor Lasse Viinikka, HUS
Deputy Director General, Professor Juhani Eskola, THL
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
Laboratory Manager Pekka Ellonen, FIMM Technology Centre; present in item 1

Permanent Expert:

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

Experts:

Financial Manager Marja Medina, FIMM
Head of Development 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 4/2011

- 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 Discussion on the principles of the FIMM National Network for Molecular Medicine**
- 6 FIMM Target Programme update and budget plan for 2012**
- 7 Discussion on the composition of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of FIMM 2012—2017**
- 8 Other business**
- 9 Date of the next meeting and tentative schedule for meetings in spring 2012**
- 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.

Laboratory Manager Pekka Ellonen, new deputy member of the Board (personnel) was introduced to the Board.

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 15 June 2011 is approved (Annex 1).

Decision: As proposed.

4 Announcements

4.1 The Board appointed Research Director of FIMM Technology Centre Janna Saarela, MD, PhD the Deputy Director of FIMM as of 1 July 2011 until 31 December 2013. Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson has approved Janna Saarela's resignation from the Board as of 1 July 2011 (Rector's decision 109/2011, Annex 2a).

Laboratory Manager Pekka Ellonen was selected among the staff of FIMM the new deputy member for Anne Leinonen. Rector's decision 130/2011 on the appointment in Annex 2b.

4.2 The Board of FIMM had a strategy seminar on 15 June 2011 (memorandum, Annex 3). Based on the discussion and recommendations of the Board Kimmo Kontula and Olli Kallioniemi had a meeting with Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson on 16 August 2011. The statement of the SAB of FIMM was discussed and it was agreed that a stakeholder meeting will be arranged as suggested by the Board. The meeting is scheduled for 8 December 2011 (tentatively at 16.00-20.00), further details will be provided later.

4.3 EMBL collected information on institutional partnerships in February 2011 which has been used for a Partnerships Programme Review by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of EMBL in June. The scope of the Partnership Program Review was to assess the overall performance of the existing EMBL partnerships, and not to evaluate the scientific quality of individual partner institutes.

SAC gave an overall positive estimation of the structure and the development of the EMBL Partnership Programme. SAC members expressed their willingness to be involved in the external review process of the partnership units, and suggested that this is done by regularly receiving the reports from the partnership advisory boards and commenting on them. Another focal point of the SAC evaluation concerned the lifespan of the EMBL partnerships. It was decided that the duration of the partnerships should not be limited in time so as to secure scientific continuity and stimulate long-term projects and collaborations.

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The statement of the SAB of FIMM of 14 June 2011 had been sent to EMBL and received positive remark from the Director General of EMBL Iain Mattaj. The agreement establishing the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine was made in 2007 for five years (until 2012) and discussions to continue the collaboration have started.

- 4.4 Collaborative agreement between the University of Helsinki and EMBL in the joint award of PhD qualifications in the subject of molecular biology has been signed in February 2011. The agreement has been made for six years (Annex 4).

Similar agreement has been in force also earlier and efforts should be done to increase recruitment of such students. The role of FIMM could be better taken into account.

- 4.5 The collaboration agreement concerning the establishment of FIMM between the University of Helsinki and THL will be extended. The initial agreement was made in 2007 until the end of 2011. The agreement is mainly planned to be based on the initial agreement. FIMM-THL collaboration in the build-up of biobank infrastructure in FIMM facilities is planned to be annexed to the agreement.

- 4.6 There have been visits to the FIMM Biobank Infrastructure in August 2011 by experts from the University of Jyväskylä, Lisbon Institute of Molecular Medicine, Portugal (<http://www.imm.fm.ul.pt/web/imm/home>) as well as Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Chile, Chile. Purposes of the visits have been to get a better knowledge of FIMM Biobank system, including administrative, scientific and technical aspects.

- 4.7 BBMRI Coordinator, Professor Kurt Zatloukal (Medical University of Graz, Austria) and Professor Hans Lehrach (Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, Germany) visited FIMM on 29 August 2011 during the 23rd European Congress of Pathology (ECP2011). IT Future of Medicine (ITFoM) initiative was discussed and FIMM was invited to join the project. Two of the six pre-selected IT grand challenge initiatives will each be granted 1 billion euros for a ten-year period. The decisions are expected in April 2012.

Based on the information available on the ITFoM website (<http://itfom.salait-hosting.de/ie.php>) the ultimate goals of ITFoM are twofold:

- The first goal is to give each patient's doctor the power to analyse a person's human genome at every stage of disease management – through diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.
- The second goal is to enable the connection of high throughput biomolecular characterization and clinical imaging technologies.

- 4.8 The multitouch microscope was presented in the 23rd European Congress of Pathology (ECP2011) on 27 August — 1 September 2011. This innovation developed by Research Director Johan Lundin and his research group in collaboration with a Finnish company Multi-Touch received significant attention (http://www.fimm.fi/en/news/gigantic_multitouch_displays_become_microscopes/). Plans are underway to commercialize the software infrastructure for web microscopy.

- 4.9 Representatives from the Academy of Finland visited FIMM on 7 September 2011. Olli Kallioniemi, Janna Saarela, Johan Lundin and Anu Jalanko gave presentations of FIMM and its activities as well as an update of the Biomedinfra project. In addition, the statement of the expert group of the Academy of Finland concerning development of researcher training (*Tutkijankoulutuksen kehittäminen, Suomen Akatemian asettaman tutkijankoulutuskirjymän ehdotukset tutkijankoulutuksen kehittämiseksi Suomessa*) was briefly discussed.

- 4.10 The EATRIS kick-off meeting for the transition phase was held on 12 September 2011. The countries represented in the two-year ESFRI contract include Finland. The Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Italy and Spain, with several other countries expected to join. Counsellor of Education Marja-Liisa Niemi from the Ministry of Education and Culture will serve as a

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chair-person of the governmental partners. The roles of the various components of EATRIS, directorships, task forces and budgets were expected to be clarified at the meeting. Further update will be given at the Board meeting.

- 4.11** The University of Helsinki is carrying out an international evaluation of its research and research training in 2010—2011. The expert panel for medicine, biomedicine and health sciences met on 13 September 2011 on Meilahti Campus (at 13.30—15.00, Biomedicum Helsinki 1, LH 3). The main purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the RCs to meet face-to-face with their panellists and vice versa. The meeting was not a site visit.
- The University level evaluation report will be published in March—April 2012.

- 4.12** The 2nd Meeting of the Nordic Molecular Medicine Network (NMMN) supported by NordForsk will be in Helsinki on 29—30 September 2011. FIMM is responsible for the arrangements and there are altogether 135 participants registered. The new group leaders from each node as well as postdoctoral researchers and PhD students will give presentations and poster sessions. Representatives from EMBL will also give talks and discuss research training. Further information at http://www.fimm.fi/en/events/nmmn_annual_meeting/.

- 4.13** The Joint Committee of the Nordic Medical Research Councils (NOS-M) will visit FIMM on 3 October 2011. NOS-M works to promote Nordic cooperation among research councils, discusses research policy and disseminates information on national and international science policy actions and initiatives of topical interest.

The Committee is composed of two representatives of research councils and two administrative representatives from each Nordic country. The Finnish members of NOS-M are Professor Tuula Tamminen, Chair of the Research Council for Health, and Research Director Mikael Knip, member of the Research Council for Health as well as Science Advisers Aki Salo and Sara Illman from the Academy's Administration Office.

- 4.14** BBMRI.fi and Biomedinfra organise lectures entitled *TULEVAISUUS BIOPANKKIIRINA — Tekniset ja eettiset haasteet* on 5 and 6 October 2011 in Helsinki (Biomedicum Helsinki 1). Programme and instructions for registration are in Annex 5.

- 4.15** Biocenter Finland Infrastructure Day will be organized on 13 October 2011 in Turku, programme and registration at www.biocenter.fi.

- 4.16** New appointments at FIMM:

FIMM Research Groups:

- Margarita Walliander, Postdoctoral Researcher, Group Lundin (1.9.2011—31.12.2011)
- Van Dat Nguyen, Postdoctoral Researcher, Group Verschuren (5.9.2011—4.9.2012)
- Oxana Denisova, CIMO Fellowship Researcher, Group Kainov (15.6.2011—14.6.2012)
- Naga Poojitha Kota Venkata, Doctoral Student, FIMM-EMBL rotation PhD student (22.8.2011—31.12.2012)
- Himanshu Chheda, Doctoral Student, FIMM-EMBL rotation PhD student (5.9.2011—31.12.2012)
- Agnieszka Sz wajda, Doctoral Student, Group Aittokallio (1.8.2011—31.7.2015)
- Bhagwan Yadav, Doctoral Student, Group Aittokallio (1.9.2011—31.12.2012)

Projects:

- Kari Pitkänen, Project Director, Biomedinfra/EATRIS 60 % (15.8.2011—14.2.2012)
- Tuomas Mirtti, Senior Researcher, Tekes/Urological biobanking (1.8.2011—31.5.2013)
- Tarja Laitinen, Senior Researcher, Biomedinfra/BBMRI 26 % (1.8.2011—31.12.2011)
- Markku Laukkanen, Information Systems Specialist, Biomedinfra/BBMRI (1.8.2011—31.12.2011)
- Sami Blom, Project Researcher, IMI/PREDECT (15.8.2011—14.8.2012)
- Marja-Liisa Nuotio, Doctoral Student, EU FP7/BioShare (1.8.2011—31.7.2012)

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- 4.17** FIMM sent two plans of intent to the Research Council of the University of Helsinki on 15 September 2011 for the University's prioritization (deadlines for the funding organisations on 30 September 2011):
- Academy of Finland FiDiPro Professor: Professor Leif Groop, Lund University, Sweden
 - Tekes FiDiPro Fellow: Assistant Professor Akira Hirasawa, Keio University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

5 Discussion on the principles of the FIMM National Network for Molecular Medicine

The FIMM National Network for Molecular Medicine (NNMM) was established in 2008. The members were selected for a five year period from an open call based on the recommendations of an international Evaluation Panel. The members were granted translational research funding (50 000—100 000 €/year/project for two years), but they were not guaranteed funding throughout their five-year membership (see call text in Annex 6).

The network is composed of 15 top molecular medicine experts in Finland from the Universities of Helsinki, Turku and Oulu as well as HUS and VTT (<http://www.fimm.fi/en/research/nationalnetwork/>). Altogether 11 joint translational research projects with the network members have been funded by FIMM with a total annual funding of almost 1 M€/year.

The concept of NNMM was evaluated by the SAB of FIMM in May 2011. Based on the reports and discussions that the SAB had with five of the network members — Lauri Aaltonen, Iiris Hovatta, Heli Nevanlinna, Anu Wartiovaara and Jukka Westermarck — the SAB states that the network could become an important and innovative instrument for FIMM to achieve its goals. The SAB recommends that in the next funding phase the concept should be changed to focus on personalized medicine, linking outside clinical research groups to FIMM infrastructure and PIs.

The Board discussed the SAB recommendations and the future of the network, including funding of the network, at its meeting and strategy seminar on 15 June 2011. The FIMM Steering Group discussed the concept of the NNMM at its meetings on 20 June and 8 September 2011. Based on these discussions new ideas on the concept and funding of the NNMM were provided to the Board for further discussion at the meeting on 19 September 2011 (Annex 7).

The next NNMM meeting will be held on 7 October 2011, and the Board will be proposed to make final decisions on the concept and funding at its meeting on 11 November.

Decision: The Board supported the SAB's proposal that concept should be changed to focus on personalized medicine, linking outside clinical research groups to FIMM infrastructure and PIs. The Board found it important that the future projects are collaborative with FIMM PIs (joint research plans) and stated that part of the funded project should be oriented towards clinical research. Two years was considered appropriate duration for the projects. The principles will be further developed for final decisions for the next Board meeting on 11 November.

6 FIMM Target Programme update and budget plan for 2012 (presenter: Kallioniemi)

The FIMM Target Programme (*tavoiteohjelma*) for 2010—2012 was approved in 2009. In 2010 and 2011 Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson has asked the faculties and independent institutes to update the texts of the Programmes only when needed. The deadline for the updates and budget plan for 2012 is on 10 October 2011.

The preparation of the strategic plan for the University of Helsinki for 2013—2016 is underway and the faculties and independent institutes will prepare their new strategic plans/target programmes when the University's plan has been approved by the Board of the University, anticipated in early 2012.

The FIMM budget plan for 2012 (version 12 September 2011, Annex 8) is based on the budget for 2011. The basic funding from the University of Helsinki has not been confirmed yet, and the numbers will be updated if needed. The following aspects in particular need to be confirmed later.

- Biomedinfra project: the funding for the next years will be confirmed in late 2011. In the current version of the state budget the Ministry of Finance has proposed that 5,4 M€ for the Biomedinfra project (BBMRI, EATRIS and ELIXIR, i.e. to FIMM/University of Helsinki and CSC) for either a three or two-year period. Hence, at this stage 1,8 M€ (BBMRI and EATRIS) has been estimated in the budget for 2012. EATRIS membership fee of 125 000 € will be covered from the Biomedinfra funding for FIMM. For BBMRI the membership fee has not been confirmed yet.
- Funding decisions of the Board of Biocenter Finland (BF) of the applications submitted in June 2011 will soon be available. The Board of BF discussed the topic at its meeting on 2 September 2011. The final decisions will be announced as soon as the final version of the SAB report is available.
- Innovative projects: Rector will allocate three-year funding for innovative projects (*tutkimukselliset uudet avaukset*) based on the proposal of the Research Council of the University of Helsinki. In 2010 two projects were funded from the entire University of Helsinki and altogether 960 000 euros were allocated for these projects for three years. FIMM PIs were invited to send their proposals by 16 September so that they were available at the Board meeting on 19 September. Two proposals was received by the deadline and two Board members were be asked to give their opinions and recommendations; only one proposal can be submitted by FIMM.

- Proposal:**
1. It was suggested that two members of the Board give their opinions on the proposals for innovative projects by 30 September 2011.
 2. It was suggested that the Board approves the budget plan for 2012 according to Annex 8 and that the texts of the Target Programme will be updated only if needed.

- Decision:**
1. Dean Risto Renkonen and Professor Kimmo Porkka will give their opinions on the two FIMM proposals for innovative projects by 30 September 2011.
 2. As proposed.

7 Discussion on the composition of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of FIMM 2012—2017

According to the Regulations of FIMM (Section 7) the Board appoints to the Scientific Advisory Board a minimum of six and a maximum of ten internationally recognised experts in the Institute's fields of research and technological activities. The Board shall appoint a chair from among the members of the Scientific Advisory Board. The Scientific Advisory Board shall select a vice chair from among its members. The term of the Scientific Advisory Board is five years.

The Board of FIMM nominated the following experts to the SAB as of 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2012:

- Professor Kai Simons, Max-Planck-Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics (DE), Chair
- Professor Cornelia van Duijn, Erasmus University Medical Center (NL)
- Professor Carl-Henrik Heldin, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Uppsala University (SE)
- Professor Eric S. Lander, The Broad Institute of MIT (USA)
- Professor Edison Liu, Genome Institute of Singapore (SG)
- Professor Nadia Rosenthal, EMBL, Monterotondo (IT)

Professor Kai Simons has indicated that he would be available to act as Chair of the Board. Since the institute is still quite new it is suggested that the Board discusses the composition of the new SAB in order to guarantee continuity:

- Inviting Professor Kai Simons to act as the Chair of the new SAB of FIMM.
- Inviting the current SAB Members to continue in the SAB.
- Extending the fields of research and expertise especially towards translational and clinical medicine.

Decision: The Board stated that in order to guarantee continuity it would be important that some of the current SAB members would continue in the SAB 2012—2017. The Board also found it important, that some new members would be invited so that there would be turnover among the members. Olli Kallioniemi will contact the current SAB members and ask whether they are available for another five-year term. The Board members will provide names of experts in the field of translational research and clinical medicine for the next Board meeting on 11 November 2011.

8 Other business

There was no other business.

9 Date of the next meeting and schedule for the meetings in spring 2012

The next meeting will be held on Friday 11 November 2011, at 10.00—12.00 (FIMM, Meeting Room D307a).

The meetings in spring 2012 will be held as follows:

- Monday, 6 February 2012 at 13.00—15.00 (FIMM, Meeting Room D307a)
- Wednesday, 11 April 2012 at 13.00—15.00 (FIMM, Meeting Room D307a)
- Meeting and Annual Strategy Seminar, Wednesday 6 June 2012 at 13.00—19.00 (place to be confirmed later)

10 Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 15.00.

Helsinki 11.11.2011

Kimmo Kontula
Professor, Vice Rector
Chair, Board of FIMM

Olli Kallioniemi
Professor
Director of FIMM
Presenter

Reetta Niemelä
Administrative Manager of FIMM
Secretary