Title: Meeting of the Board of FIMM 1/2009


Place: Faculty Club, Biomedicum Helsinki 1 (6th floor), Haartmaninkatu 8, Helsinki

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

Attendees:
Vice Director General, Professor Juhani Eskola, THL; arrived in item 4
Chief Medical Officer, Professor Jaakko Karvonen, HUS
Dean, Professor Kimmo Kontula, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki; arrived in item 4
Research Director, Professor Anna-Elina Lehesjoki, Neuroscience Center, University of Helsinki
Director, Professor Heikki Mannila, Helsinki Institute for Information Technology, HIIT
Research Director, Professor Hans Söderlund, VTT
Vice President Strategic Planning and Innovation, MD, PhD, EMBA Aino Takala, Orion Corporation
Docent Elisabeth Widén, FIMM/FIMM Genome and Technology Centre

Presenter:
Director, Professor Olli Kallioniemi, FIMM

Invited:
Vice Rector, Professor Matti J. Tikkanen, University of Helsinki
Professor Akseli Hemminki, University of Helsinki; item 7

Experts:
Research Director Janna Saarela, FIMM
Research Coordinator Kimmo Pitkänen, FIMM

Permanent Expert:
Director, Professor Olli A. Jänne, Biomedicum Helsinki, University of Helsinki; arrived in item 7

Secretary:
Administrative Manager Reetta Niemelä, FIMM
Meeting of the Board of FIMM 1/2009

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 Collaboration agreement between FIMM and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Helsinki
6 Discussion on the budget for 2009
7 FIMM National Research Network 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 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 27 January 2009 is approved (Annex 1).

Decision: As proposed.

4 Announcements

4.1 Based on the recommendations of the Search Committee and the SAB as well as the interviews the Board decided in its meeting on 2 December 2008 that MD PhD Janna Saarela is selected Research Director of FIMM Genome and Technology Centre (working title). Janna Saarela started the five-year term on 1 January 2009.

4.2 Research Director, Professor Aarno Palotie has informed that he’ll send a notice of resignation to the Rector of the University of Helsinki. Aarno Palotie’s research group is involved in the Finnish Center of Excellence in Complex Disease Genetics (see below item 4.13). Hence, a part time contract will be prepared with him. In addition, an institutional contract between FIMM and the Sanger Institute will be prepared.

4.3 Based on the proposal of FIMM and discussions with the representatives of the Foudations FIMM International Group Leader PhD Sergey Kuznetsov’s salary will be supported by the Finnish Medical Foundation and PhD Emmy Verschuren’s salary by the Orion-Farmos Research Foundation.

4.4 The Board decided on the status and start-up package of an international Technology Group Leader in its meeting on 2 December 2008. Recruitment negotiations with PhD Samu Melkko are underway and he visited Helsinki on 22—23 January 2009. He gave the following presentations in a FIMM Seminar on 23 January 2009:
   - DNA-encoded chemical libraries
   - Construction and validation of a large human antibody library for ligand-based therapeutic applications

4.5 The deadline for the third call for FIMM International Group Leaders was on 17 October 2008. The Board appointed in its meeting on 2 December 2008 the following experts to the Search Committee:
   - Professor Lars Steinmetz, EMBL
   - Professor Anders Sjöstedt, Laboratory for Molecular Infection Medicine Sweden, MIMS
   - Professor Ole Petter Ottersen, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway, NCMM
   - Professor Kjetil Taskén, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway, NCMM
Of the 24 eligible applications seven were sent to the Search Committee members for evaluation. Based on the recommendations of the Search Committee three applicants were invited for interviews and discussions on 25 February 2009 in Helsinki.

4.6 Update on the FIMM National Network for Molecular Medicine: following of the 15 FIMM specific research plans and agreements have been finalised and approved by the PIs of the Network as well as by their host institutions/faculties/departments:

- Academy Professor Lauri A. Aaltonen, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki
- Academy Professor Kari Alitalo, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki
- Professor Akseli Hemminki, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki
- Academy Fellow Iiris Hovatta, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki
- Professor Sirpa Jalkanen, University of Turku
- Professor Matej Oresic, VTT
- Professor Anu Wartiovaara, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki

4.7 FIMM is seeking for a Coordinator/Research Coordinator responsible for the operation of the high-throughput screening facility at the FIMM Genome and Technology Center. Deadline for the applications was on 17 December 2008 and we received altogether 20 applications. Olli Kallioniemi invited the following experts to the Search Committee:

- Dr Sampsa Hautaniemi, University of Helsinki
- Dr Merja Perälä, VTT
- Research Director Janna Saarela, FIMM
- Dr James Thompson, Karolinska Institute and FIMM

Four applicants were interviewed on 23 January 2009.

The high-throughput screening facility has been established to FIMM’s facilities in the 2nd floor of the Biomedicum Helsinki 2U building. The installation of the fully automated Ordior uHTS system was completed by the end of January 2009.

4.8 The University of Helsinki launched a call for equipment procurements on 19 September 2008. The Meilahti Campus proposal for the research equipment procurement for the year 2009 was delivered to the Equipment Committee of the University of Helsinki by the deadline 17 November 2008. The proposal included six FIMM related suggestions:

- shRNA / ORFeome Resource (Juha Klefström, Institute of Biomedicine), FIMM contribution 50,000 €
- Illumina iScan array system (Hannes Lohi, Haartman Institute and Molecular Medicine Program), FIMM contribution 66,740 €
- MassARRAY system upgrade (Leena Peltonen-Palotie, Haartman Institute, Molecular Medicine Program and FIMM), FIMM contribution 50,000 €
- Metabolomics instrumentation (Olli Kallioniemi, FIMM)
- Storage facility for samples (Olli Kallioniemi, FIMM)
- EMX CX4-960 Bioinformatics server (Juha Knuuttila, FIMM)

The proposal Metabolomics instrumentation was ranked to the top four by the Research Council of the Faculty of Medicine and the Storage facility for samples was in the top ten. The Equipment Committee of University of Helsinki made the decisions on 26 November 2008. None of the FIMM proposals were selected for funding. FIMM will contribute to three of the above mentioned proposals prepared in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine.

4.9 The final report of the Steering Group of the Finnish Research Infrastructure Survey and the Roadmap Project has been published. The report as well as the summary (in Finnish) are available at [http://www.tsv.fi/tik/ajankohtaista.html](http://www.tsv.fi/tik/ajankohtaista.html).

The Steering Committee stated in the report that altogether 24 projects (current national research infrastructures) are of national importance, among others Finnish Genome Center (FIMM FGC) and National Biobanks of Finland (FIMMDNA).
The Steering Committee has approved 20 projects (13 ESFRI related) to the roadmap, among others BBMRI, EATRIS and ELIXIR projects.

The final report will be published in a seminar “Kansallisen tason tutkimusinfrastruktuurit - Nykytila ja tiekartta” on 11 February 2009 (Finlandia Hall, Helsinki).

4.10 Marja-Liisa Niemi (Ministry of Education), Olli Kallioniemi, Kimmo Pitkänen and Reetta Niemelä visited the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health on 18 December 2008. The aim of the visit was to give an update of FIMM and EATRIS to the relevant contact persons at the Ministry: Kari Vinni, Arto Koho, Anneli Törrönen and Päivi Kaartamo.

It was agreed that another meeting will be arranged with representatives from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Management of the University of Helsinki and FIMM. The meeting is preliminary scheduled for February 2009.

4.11 Based on the discussions with the representatives of the Ministry of Education and Central Administration of the University of Helsinki the delivery of the Report describing the launch of FIMM is postponed till 15 February 2009.

It is planned that Vice-Rector Matti J. Tikkanen and Olli Kallioniemi will meet Director Leena Vestala of the Ministry of Education in February 2009.

4.12 Biocenter Finland-FIMM co-operation agreement was approved by the Board of FIMM on 2 December 2008. The Board of BF will discuss the agreement in its meeting on 28 January 2009. The Director of BF, Academy Professor Mart Saarma will inform the Rectors of Biocenter Universities about the agreement.

4.13 The two Centers of Excellence of the Academy of Finland with direct links to FIMM were renewed with slightly increased funding for the three-year period 2009-2011:

- Coe in Translational Genome-Scale Biology, Director Olli Kallioniemi
- CoE in Complex Disease Genetics, Director Jaakko Kaprio

In 2009—2011 CoE in Complex Disease Genetics is administered by the University of Helsinki. Based on Jaakko Kaprio’s and Olli Kallioniemi’s discussions the host institute at the University is FIMM. A part time contract to FIMM will be prepared for Jaakko Kaprio.

4.14 Appointments at FIMM:

- PhD James Thompson has started as a Research Coordinator (part time, 20 %) on 1 January 2009. The contract is made for one year. He is involved in the establishment of the high-throughput screening facility at the FIMM Genome and Technology Center and collaboration with Karolinska Institute.
- PhD Daniel Nicorici will start as a Postdoctoral Researcher on 1 February 2009. He will act as a Solexa Bioinformatician at FIMM Genome and Technology Center for two years.
- PhD Henrik Alfthan will start as a Senior Researcher (part time, 40 %) on 1 February 2009. He will be responsible for coordinating serum sample collection form cancer patients and biomarker development.
- M.Sc. (Economics and Information Systems) Sirpa Nummila will start as a Planning Officer at FIMM Administration on 1 February 2009. She will be involved in the planning of finances and reporting systems at FIMM taking into account the needs of the various supporters of FIMM.
- Ms Susanna Alpola has started as an Office Assistant on December 8, 2008.

4.15 The National Public Health Institute (KTL) and the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES) merged and the new National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) started operations on 1 January 2009.

Director General of KTL, Professor Pekka Puska has been nominated as the Director General of THL. The four Vice Director Generals are:
Division 1 / Division of Welfare and Health Policies (Hyvinvointi- ja terveyspolitiikat):
Professor Marja Vaarama, (from February 1, 2009)
Division 2 / Division of Welfare and Health Promotion (Terveyden ja hyvinvoinnin edistäminen)
Professor Erkki Vartiainen
Division 3 / Division of Health Protection (Terveyden suojelu)
Professor Juhani Eskola
Division 4 / Division of Health and Social Welfare Services (Sosiaali- ja terveyspalvelut)
Professor Marina Erhola (from February 1, 2009)

The Department of Molecular Medicine is now entitled Unit of Chronic Disease Genetics (Kansantautien genetiikan yksikkö) in the new organization. The Units operates in the Department of Chronic Disease Prevention (Kansantautien ehkäisyosasto) in Division 2, Division of Welfare and Health Promotion (Terveyden ja hyvinvoinnin edistäminen). Official English translations not yet available.

4.16 Professor Lasse Viinikka has been selected Research Director of HUS.

4.17 Professor Reijo Vihko and Dr Tuula Helander continued the discussions on the Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCR) with Olli Kallioniemi on 12 December 2008. The CCR position paper is under preparation and is planned to be published in mid March 2009.

4.18 Academy Professor Heikki Mannila, Vice Member of the Board of FIMM has been nominated as the Director of Helsinki Institute for Information technologies (HIIT) from 1 January 2009.

4.19 FIMM will apply for a FiDiPro Professorship. The internal deadline for the preliminary proposals at the University of Helsinki is on 10 February 2009; the deadline of Tekes is on 27 February 2009.

5 Collaboration agreement between FIMM and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Helsinki (presenter: Kallioniemi)

The Board discussed in its meeting on 2 December 2008 the need and content of an agreement on collaboration between the Faculty of Medicine and FIMM. A draft agreement was available in the meeting covering the following items:
- Affiliations
- Facilities and equipment
- Training of Researchers

The agreement was finalised based on the discussion in the meeting. Dean of Research, Professor Tomi Mäkelä of the Faculty of Medicine participated in the Board meeting in December and he was invited to the Board in January as well, but unfortunately he was not available.

Proposal: It was suggested that the Board approve the collaboration agreement (Annex 2).

Decision: As proposed.

6 Discussion on the budget for 2009 (presenter: Kallioniemi)

A preliminary budget for 2009 will be presented in the meeting. The recruitment of the international group leaders, international technology group leader, HTS coordinator/research coordinator are still underway and the agreements with the Members of the FIMM National Network for Molecular Medicine are not all finalised yet, so a more specific budget will be prepared to the next Board meeting (19 March 2009).
Proposal: It was suggested that the Board approve the preliminary budget presented in the meeting as a basis for a more detailed budget plan.

Decision: As proposed.

7 FIMM National Research Network for Molecular Medicine (presenter: Kallioniemi)

Professor Akseli Hemminki is one of the Members of the FIMM National Research Network for Molecular Medicine. The Search Committee stated in its recommendations on 6 June 2008 that Akseli Hemminki’s FIMM specific research plan needs to be very carefully planned, and it recommended that specific Board approval should be sought.

The Board decided in its meeting on 2 December 2008 that the project may start for a four-month period and that Akseli Hemminki will be invited in the Board meeting in the spring and the continuation of the grant will be evaluated at that point. Akseli Hemminki will not be available for the meeting that will be arranged in March and, hence, he was invited to the Board meeting to give a presentation of his FIMM specific research plan entitled “Translational cancer gene therapy for induction of antitumor immunity”. The plan does not include clinical trials.

Decision: Akseli Hemminki will be asked to finalise the research plan based on the discussion.

8 Other business

There was no other business.

9 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be arranged on Thursday, 19th of March, 2009 at 14.30.

10 Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 14.30.

Helsinki 19.3.2009

Marja Makarow
Professor
Chair, Board of FIMM

Olli Kallioniemi
Professor
Director of FIMM
Presenter

Reetta Niemelä
Administrative Manager, FIMM
Secretary