



**Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland**  
Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine

**BOARD MEETING 1/2011**

**25 February 2011**

***MINUTES***

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

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**Title:** Meeting of the Board of FIMM 1/2011  
**Time:** Friday, 25 February 2011, at 10.10—12.00  
**Place:** FIMM Meeting Room D307a, Biomedicum Helsinki 2U (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 7  
Research Director, Professor Irma Thesleff, Institute of Biotechnology, University of Helsinki  
Professor Annamari Ranki, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki; arrived  
in item 6  
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  
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

**Experts:**

Financial Manager Marja Medina, FIMM  
Coordinator Kimmo Pitkänen, FIMM; being disqualified in the matter, Kimmo Pitkänen was not present in  
the discussion of item 6  
Research Director Janna Saarela, FIMM Technology Centre

**Presenter:**

Director, Professor Olli Kallioniemi, FIMM

**Secretary:**

Administrative Manager Reetta Niemelä, FIMM

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**Meeting of the Board of FIMM 1/2011**

- 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 FIMM budget 2011**
- 6 Research Director for Diagnostic Development**
- 7 Biomedinfra Infrastructure Project**
- 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 13 December 2010 is approved (Annex 1).

**Decision:** As proposed.

## **4 Announcements**

**4.1** The Board of FIMM discussed the FIMM-EMBL Group Leader position at its meeting on 13 December 2010 based on the statement of the international Evaluation Committee and recommended Olli Kallioniemi to start the recruitment negotiations with Dr Tero Aittokallio (University of Turku and Data Mining and Modeling Group, Turku Centre for Biotechnology; Institut Pasteur, Paris, France). Dr Aittokallio visited FIMM on 21 January 2011 and has now confirmed that he will start at FIMM in April in a part-time position, in order to be able to start collaborative projects, and in a full-time position on 1 August 2011.

**4.2** The Rules of Biocenter Finland (BF) were approved and signed on behalf of all biocenter universities in November 2011 (*Biokeskus Suomi — Biocenter Finland –verkoston säännöt*). Based on these rules FIMM is a member of BF. Hence, University of Helsinki invited a member to represent the Biocenter Finland network in the Board of FIMM. Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson has appointed Professor Eero Vuorio (Director of BF) as member and Academy Professor Seppo Ylä-Herttua (Chair of the Board of BF) as a vice member to the Board of FIMM (Annex 2).

**4.3** Representatives of FIMM met Chancellor of the University of Helsinki, Professor Ilkka Niiniluoto on 27 January 2011 to discuss the FIMM national initiative on personalized diagnostics and care. The goal of the initiative is to demonstrate the potential of deep molecular level understanding of disease in the care of individual patients. It also aims at clarifying the obstacles of and identifying the solutions to applying the new approach in national health care and clinical practice. The planned first steps include a round-table discussion in the spring 2011 and a national level seminar in the autumn 2011. Further steps are currently under planning. Chancellor Ilkka Niiniluoto accepted the invitation to act as the leader figure of the initiative.

- Representative(s) from HUS will also be invited to the preparation of the initiative.

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A related activity is an ongoing survey on the possibilities and options to translate FIMM research finding towards clinical utility, performed MIT Consulting Ltd. The focus is on the genetic cardiovascular risk markers, and the working method consists of both workshops and interviews. The final describing the findings and suggestions will be delivered in April.

- 4.4** 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) has started on 1 February 2011.
- 4.5** FIMM is involved in an European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) project coordinated by Culminatum Innovation Oy Ltd. The project is entitled *Elämän merkit - Terveystien edistämisen diagnostiikkaan biomarkkereihin pohjautuvilla uusilla palveluilla* and 1,2 M€ has been applied for FIMM in the call with the deadline of 14 February 2011.
- 4.6** Together with the Helsinki Institute of Physics (HIP) FIMM will arrange a Leadership Training Session for group leaders on 4–5 March 2011. The speakers include national and international experts from public and private sector.
- 4.7** All three FIMM Clinical Collaborators, Drs Tuomas Mirtti, Kirsi Pietiläinen and Jakob Stenman, will give a presentation on 10 March 2011 at 9.00–10.30 in a FIMM Seminar (Biomedicum Helsinki 1, lecture hall 3).
- 4.8** BBMRI.fi Launch Event will be arranged on 11 March 2011 at 9.15–15.00 (Biomedicum Helsinki 1, lecture hall 1). The opening words will be given by Minister of Health and Social Services Paula Risikko, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. Please see also item 7 of this Agenda. Programme in Annex 3.
- 4.9** FiDiPro Professor Juni Palmgren's inauguration lecture "The Nordic Lead in e-Science and Health" will be on 21 March 2011 at 12.00–13.00 (Biomedicum Helsinki 1, lecture hall 1).
- 4.10** FIMM will be represented at the ChemBio Finland Event on 22–24 March 2011 both on the Biocenter Finland's as well as on own stand. A representative of FIMM will participate in a panel discussion on Finnish competitiveness in life science area on 22 March.
- 4.11** FIMM is participating in the Meilahti Campus day on 22 March 2011 and will organize guided tours at FIMM. In addition, FIMM researchers will give lectures and researchers and PhD students will be available on "researchers' stand".
- 4.12** The next FIMM National Network Meeting will be arranged on 19 April 2011, i.e. before the SAB's visit on 17 May 2011.
- 4.13** The preparations of the Symposium "A Global View of Disease Genomics" as a tribute to Academician of Science, Professor Leena Peltonen-Palotie (18–19 May 2011, Helsinki) are proceeding. The registration is now open at [http://www.fimm.fi/en/events/leena\\_symposium/](http://www.fimm.fi/en/events/leena_symposium/), and there were about 160 participants by mid-February. The total budget of the Symposium is expected to be around 150 000–170 000 euros, depending on the number of participants. The Academy of Finland, University of Helsinki, THL, FIMM, European Science Foundation (ESF), Federation of Finnish Learned Societies as well as some Finnish foundations have supported the Symposium with around 120 000 euros by mid-February.
- 4.14** The FIMM Retreat will be arranged on 7-8 June 2011. This annual event is now organised for the second time and it is a means of developing FIMM's scientific and organizational identity, plans and the future success.
- 4.15** The Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine — FIMM, MIMS and NCMM — opened a joint call for PhD students in January 2011. The deadline of the call was on 15 February 2011 and FIMM received altogether 243 applications. The applicants represent 36 different nationalities and 41 different countries of permanent residence. The interviews of the most

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highly qualified applicants will be arranged in March/April and decisions will be made in late April. The planned starting date of the new students is in August 2011.

**4.16** Based on the information of the TUHAT database (*Tutkimustietojärjestelmä*) of the University of Helsinki, in the end of January 2011 there were altogether 143 FIMM publications in 2010 of which 132 were refereed journal articles.

**4.17** Olli Kallioniemi and Jonathan Knowles have been invited and participated in annual meeting of the Bioinformatics Advisory Committee of EBI-EMBL (European Bioinformatics Institute) on 24—25 January 2011.

**4.18** New appointments at FIMM:

*FIMM Research Groups:*

- FiDiPro Professor Juni Palmgren, 30 % (1.1.2011—30.9.2015)
- Laura Kakkola, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Academy of Finland Grant (1.1.2011—31.12.2013), Group Kainov
- Teijo Pellinen, Postdoctoral Researcher, EU FP7/Systems Microscopy Network of Excellence and PREDECT (17.1.2011—31.12.2011), Group Kallioniemi
- Danielle Bansfield, Laboratory Technician (10.1.2011—31.1.2012), Group Verschuren
- Antti-Pekka Sarin, Research Assistant (1.1.2011—31.12.2011), Group Ripatti
- Mikko Muona, Research Assistant (1.1.2011—31.5.2011), Group Palotie

*FIMM Technology Centre:*

- Jean-Christophe Yorke, Metabolomics Coordinator, substitute for Vidya Velagapudi (17.1.2011—31.12.2011)

*Projects:*

- Anu Jalanko, Senior Researcher, 20 % (1.3.2011-31.12.2011), Biomedinfra project
- Ville Ojansivu, Postdoctoral Researcher (4.1.2011-31.12.2011), Biomedinfra project
- Markus Perola, Senior Researcher, 5 %, EU FP7/Bioshare Project (1.2.2011—30.11.2015)

*FIMM Clinical Collaboration Programme:*

- Kirsi Pietiläinen, Senior Researcher, 20 % (1.1.2011- 31.12.2012)
- Tuomas Mirtti, Postdoctoral Researcher, 20 % (1.2.2011—30.6.2011, based on the contract with the Faculty of Medicine)

**4.19** Postdoctoral Researcher Daniel Nicorici is resigning as of 1 April 2011.

**5 FIMM budget 2011 (presenter: Kallioniemi)**

The total budget of FIMM is 13,2 M€ for 2011 (Annex 4). The share of external funding is 9,1 M€ (69 %) including the 2,8 M€ funding of the Academy of Finland/Ministry of Culture and Education for the Biomedinfra project (please see item 7 for details). The sources of the external funding are:

- Academy of Finland (11 %)
- Academy of Finland/Ministry of Culture and Education, support for international ESFRI projects, Biomedinfra project (30 %)
- Foundations (17 %)
- Biocenter Finland (12 %)
- EU (11 %)
- Tekes (5 %)
- Others e.g. City of Helsinki, HUS, THL (14 %)

The funding by the University of Helsinki is 4,1 M€ (31 %) and it comprises of:

- Basic funding (41 %)
- Support for facilities/rents (32 %)
- Strategic funding (for a new research group) 7 %
- Internal service revenues (7 %)
- Other, e.g. support for Centre of Excellence, Doctoral Programmes (12 %)

FIMM has been very successful in raising external funding and already in 2010 the percentage of external funding was over 60 %. Lack of sustainable/long-term funding and sources of funding, in particular when compared to the EMBL model, remains a challenge for the forthcoming years. The percentage of external funding at EMBL is 20—30 %.

In the University of Helsinki Research Policy 2010—2012 (part of the strategic plan of the University of Helsinki 2010—2012) strengthening biocenter cooperation and the funding base of FIMM is one of the strategic development actions at the University of Helsinki.

**Proposal:** It was suggested that the Board discusses the funding base of FIMM and approves the budget for 2011 presented in Annex 4.

**Decision:** The Board approved the budget as presented in Annex 4.

## **6 Research Director for Diagnostic Development (presenter: Kallioniemi)**

The Board approved the opening of a position for a Research Director in Diagnostics Development at its meeting on 25 October 2010 to strengthen FIMM's role in research on diagnostics development and personalized medicine applications, as well as the need to coordinate national and international initiatives.

The call was opened in December 2010 and the deadline for applications was on 31 January 2011 (Annex 5a). We received altogether eight (8) applications, but one applicant withdrew the application during the evaluation process. Four applicants have a MD/PhD degree (Annex 5b).

The applications were first reviewed for scientific quality and technological merits by an international Evaluation Committee comprising of the following experts:

- Professor Mats Nilsson, Department of Immunology, Genetics and Pathology, Uppsala University, Sweden
- Director Spyro Mousses, Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), Arizona, USA
- Director, Professor Kjetil Taskén, Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM), University of Oslo, Norway
- Director, Professor Bernt Eric Uhlin, Laboratory for Molecular Infection Medicine Sweden, Uppsala University, Sweden

Based on the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee the following four applicants were invited to an interview on 17 February 2011:

- Professor Harry Holthöfer, MD, PhD, National Centre for Sensor Research/BioAnalytical Sciences Dublin City University Dublin, Ireland
- Senior Researcher Johan Lundin, MD, PhD, FIMM, HUS and Karolinska Institutet
- Dr Heli Piiparinen, PhD, University of Helsinki
- Dr Mika Tuomola, PhD, Consultant for business and technology platform

Interviews were carried out by a local Expert Panel:

- FiDiPro Professor Jonathan Knowles (Chair)
- Dr Anu Jalanko
- Dr Sergey Kuznetsov
- Research Director Janna Saarela
- Professor Eero Saksela

In addition, Olli Kallioniemi and Reetta Niemelä were present in the interviews.

The candidates had a 20 minute talk, followed by 40 minutes of discussion with the Expert Panel. Recommendations of the Panel were available at the Board meeting on 25 February 2011 (Annex 5c).

Based on the 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 and Expert Panel's recommendations and issues statement on how to proceed with the recruitment of the Research Director for Diagnostic Development.

**Decision:** The Board stated that the international evaluation process as well as interviews had been carried out carefully. The Board shared opinion with the Expert Panel and recommended that Olli Kallioniemi should start contract negotiations with Johan Lundin, MD, PhD. The Board stated that due to the new appointment at FIMM, Johan Lundin's part time position at Karolinska Institutet should be reduced to 20 %.



## **7 Biomedinfra Infrastructure Project (presenter: Kallioniemi)**

Biomedinfra refers to a joint Finnish research infrastructure buildup plan between three ES-FRI infrastructure groups that are each on the roadmap for the Finnish research infrastructures; BBMRI (biobanks and biomolecular resources), ELIXIR (bioinformatics and biological information research infrastructures) and EATRIS (translational research). The Finnish consortium consists of THL, CSC and FIMM, each being a national representative in BBMRI, ELIXIR and EATRIS, respectively. The approach that the consortium has selected is based on the realisation that biobanking, bioinformatics and translational biomedical research infrastructures support one another and all of them build on existing Finnish strengths.

The Academy of Finland decided on 3 January 2011 that it will support the consortium with 4 M€ with the funding provided by the Ministry of Education and Culture as follows:

- FIMM: BBMRI and EATRIS 2,8 M€
- CSC: ELIXIR 1,2 M€

The funding will be used to set up BBMRI and EATRIS national nodes and networks as well as biobanking, diagnostics development and personalized medicine infrastructures. As such the implementation of Biomedinfra plans entails considerable investment in equipment, particularly for biobanking, as well as recruitment, most notably for Research Director for Diagnostics Development.

### *EATRIS*

On the European level the ESFRIs have to set up the legal entities with EATRIS being in the most advanced stage. Whereas the ultimate aim is to set up EATRIS as European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) as the type of legal entity, due to the lengthy process it is necessary to set up an interim organisation for the transition phase. The funding for the interim organisation is intended to be covered by a membership fee collected from the members. The size of this is 125 000 € and Denmark, Norway, Germany, Spain, France, the Netherlands and Finland have accepted this in principle. The Netherlands as EATRIS host country, would contribute additional 500 000 € pa. The commitment is necessary for one year at a time. The fee will be covered from the Biomedinfra funding for FIMM.

### *BBMRI*

As part of the BBMRI section of the Biomedinfra project and in collaboration with THL, a tender process will be carried out during the spring of 2011 for automated sample storage, handling and processing automation. The aim is to have the new instrumentation, to be located on the P floor of Biomedicum Helsinki 2U building, installed by the end of 2011. The funding will be through Biomedinfra, THL resources and University of Helsinki (still under negotiations). The scale of the required investment is 0,8-1,0 M€.

At the same time it is necessary to discuss steering and leadership structures of the biobank at FIMM and its relationship to BBMRI funding and THL collaboration.

**Proposal:** It was proposed that the Board discusses the EATRIS membership fee.

**Decision:** The Board stated that it is necessary for FIMM to be involved in the interim organisation for the transition phase. The Board also stated that membership fee of 125 000 € to be covered from the Biomedinfra funding for FIMM is acceptable.

## **8 Other business**

### *FIMM Annual Report 2010*

FIMM Annual Report 2010 will serve as a background document for the SAB Meeting on 17 May 2011. Since the Board needs to approve the Annual Report of the Institute (FIMM Regulations 4 §) and the next meeting of Board is scheduled for 3 May, it was suggested that an e-mail meeting will be arranged in early April.

**Decision:** It was agreed that an e-mail meeting will be arranged on 8 or 15 April 2011.

## **9 Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 3 May 2011 at 14.00—16.00.

## **10 Closing of the meeting**

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.00.

Helsinki 3.5.2011

Kimmo Kontula  
Professor, Vice Rector  
Chair, Board of FIMM

Olli Kallioniemi  
Professor  
Director of FIMM  
Presenter

Reetta Niemelä  
Administrative Manager of FIMM  
Secretary