



**BOARD MEETING 1/2016**

**11 March 2016**

**MINUTES**

***DRAFT***

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

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**Title:** Meeting of the Board of FIMM 1/2016

**Time:** Friday, 11 March 2016, at 9.00—10.00

**Place:** FIMM Meeting Room D307a, Biomedicum Helsinki 2U (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), Tukholmankatu 8, Helsinki

**Chair:**

Dean, Professor Risto Renkonen, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki

**Members (Deputy Members):**

Professor Kalle Saksela, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki  
Professor Annamari Ranki, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki  
Vice Dean, Professor Risto Kostiainen, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Helsinki  
CEO Saara Hassinen, Strategic Centre for Health and Well-being, SaWe Oy (industry)  
Coordinator Imre Västriik, FIMM, University of Helsinki (personnel)

**Experts:**

Research Director Janna Saarela, FIMM, University of Helsinki  
Research Director, Professor Olli Kallioniemi, FIMM, University of Helsinki  
Communications Coordinator, Mari Kaunisto, FIMM, University of Helsinki (items 4 and 5)

**Presenter:**

Director, Professor Jaakko Kaprio, FIMM, University of Helsinki

**Secretary:**

Financial Manager Marja Medina, FIMM, University of Helsinki

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**Meeting of the Board of FIMM 1/2016**

- 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 Approval of the FIMM Annual Report 2015**
- 6 Discussion on the recent developments in the HiLIFE (Helsinki Life Science Center) plan**
- 7 Other business**
- 8 Date of the next meeting**
- 9 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 (Regulations of FIMM 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 meeting held on 18 December 2015 is approved (Annex 1).

**Decision:** As proposed

## **4 Announcements**

- 4.1** FIMM researchers together with their collaborators have received infrastructure funding from the Academy of Finland. Two projects, “Infrastructure for Single Cell Capture and Processing (SC-infra)” and “eSISu – eInfrastructure of Finnish Sequence Data”, were funded in the category of new initiatives and non-roadmap infrastructures.
- 4.2** Three EU Horizon 2020 projects started on 1 January 2016 at FIMM:  
- Comprehensive characterization and effective combinatorial targeting of high-grade serous ovarian cancer via single-cell analysis —HERCULES, FIMM-EMBL Group Leaders Tero Aittokallio and Krister Wennerberg,  
-Comorbidity and Synapse Biology in Clinically Overlapping Psychiatric Disorders — COSYN, Research Director Aarno Palotie,  
-Rise of scientific excellence and collaboration for implementing personalised medicine in Estonia — ePerMed, FIMM-EMBL Group Leader Samuli Ripatti.
- 4.3** Research subaward agreement on NIH funded project: Identification of synthetic lethal interactors in pancreatic cancer was signed with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in January 2016. FIMM-EMBL group leader Krister Wennerberg is in charge of the project at FIMM.
- 4.4** A consortium coordinated by Jaakko Kaprio has been invited to submit full application to the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage call of the Academy of Finland’s Strategic research programmes, the deadline is on 10 March 2016. Other consortium partners are from faculties at the University of Helsinki, THL, HUS, University of Eastern Finland and FILHA.
- 4.5** FIMM researcher is involved in a proposal submitted to the EU’s Horizon 2020 Societal Challenges, Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing call SC1-PM-18-2016: Big Data supporting Public Health policies. The call is single stage and its deadline was on 16 February 2016.

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- 4.6** FIMM researcher is involved in a proposal which has been invited to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of Innovative Medicines Initiative's Call 5, the deadline is on 15 March 2016. Helsinki - Uusimaa Regional Council has granted EU project preparatory funding for this proposal. The budget of the preparatory funding is EUR 12 946 and the Regional Council will fund 50% share of the eligible costs to be reported by FIMM researcher after submission of the proposal to IMI joint undertaking.
- 4.7** 2016 call for Doctoral Students in Molecular Medicine and Bioinformatics as part of the FIMM-EMBL International PhD training programme and collaboration with Helsinki Institute for Information Technology (HIIT) closed on 19 February 2016. Altogether 137 complete applications were received representing 29 nationalities. The top applicants will be invited to an interview in Helsinki on 9 May 2016.
- 4.8** Academy of Finland FIRI 2016 call for research infrastructures will be open from 1 April to 16 May 2016. Budget of FIRI 2016 call is EUR 28 million. The call is targeted to the following infrastructure groups: research infrastructures included in Finland's research infrastructure roadmap, new research infrastructure initiatives and/or non-roadmap infrastructures. Academy of Finland will not organize the calls for research infrastructures mentioned above in 2017. Next FIRI call will be organized in April 2018. Costs of research infrastructures where Finland is a member state will be funded for the years 2017-2018 from a call for invited applications to be opened in context with FIRI 2016 call or later on if needed. Guide for applicants is delivered to this research infrastructure group by the end of March 2016.
- 4.9** The Scientific Advisory Board of Biocenter Finland (BF) conducted an evaluation of all BF activities on 25–26 January 2016. The existing technology platforms and four new technology services gave proposal presentations to the SAB. FIMM Technology Centre and FIMM researchers were in altogether eight network presentations coordinating four of them.
- 4.10** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Leena Peltonen Prize for Excellence in Human Genetics was awarded on 3 March, 2016 to Dr. Benjamin Neale <https://www.fimm.fi/en/press-release/1457008206>. Dr. Benjamin Neale is awarded for his contributions in developing statistical genetics and applying these methods to cracking the genetics of neuropsychiatric diseases. The prize is funded by the Leena Peltonen Memorial Fund in the Paulo Foundation. It includes an award of €10 000.
- 4.11** Appointments at FIMM

### *FIMM Research Groups:*

- Javier Nuñez Fontarnau, Postdoctoral Researcher, 1.1.2016—31.12.2017, Group Palotie
- Alberto Pessia, Bioinformatician, 12.1.2016 – 30.6.2016, Metabolomics Unit
- Laxmana Yetukuri, Postdoctoral Researcher, 1.1.2016—31.12.2017, Group Aittokallio
- Dimitrios Tsallos, Doctoral Student, 11.1.2016 – 31.12.2016, Group Heckman
- Elina Kilpeläinen, Bioinformatician, 1.2.2016 – 30.6.2017, Group Palotie
- Chengyu Liu, Doctoral Student, 1.2.2016 - 31.1.2018, Group Ripatti
- Maija Leppä, Research Assistant, 3.2.2016 - 31.8.2016, Group Heckman
- Abhishekh Gupta, Postdoctoral Researcher, 1.3.2016 - 31.8.2017, Group Aittokallio
- Lin Zhu, Laboratory Coordinator, 2.3.2016 - 30.6.2016, Metabolomics Unit
- Maria Nurmi, Senior Laboratory Technician, 7.3.2016 – 30.6.2016, HTB Unit

*Projects:*

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- Harry Holthöfer, Visiting Professor/Research Director, 1.2.2016 – 31.12.2016, IMI2-BEAtDKD
- Tuula Kiesepää, Coordinator, 1.2.2016 - 31.12.2018, SUPER
- Asko Wegelius, Coordinator, 1.2.2016 - 31.12.2018, SUPER
- Teemu Männynsalo, Coordinator, 1.2.2016 - 31.12.2018, SUPER
- Jussi Niemi-Pynttari, Coordinator, 1.2.2016 - 31.12.2018, SUPER

*Visiting Researchers:*

- Anni Rebane, Visiting Researcher, 18.1.2016 – 31.5.2016, Group Wennerberg
- Yu Fu, Visiting Researcher, 11.1.2016 – 31.5.2016, Group Kainov

*Students/trainees*

- Lana Gaelings, Erasmus Trainee, 1.2.2016 – 31.5.2016, Group Kainov
- Nili Halimi, Erasmus trainee, 8.2.2016 - 31.7.2016, Group Wennerberg

**4.12**

Dissertations in spring 2016:

- 19 February 2016: Jenni Lahtela, Studying the functional relevance of lung cancer genetic drivers in their physiological niche, supervisors FIMM-EMBL Group Leader Emmy Verschuren and Research Director Juha Klefström from the Faculty of Medicine. <https://www.fimm.fi/en/news/1455711081>
- 11 March 2016: John Patrick Mpindi, Bioinformatic tools for analysis, mining and modeling large-scale gene expression and drug testing datasets, supervisor Professor Olli Kallioniemi
- 22 June 2016: Mikko Muona, Identification of new epilepsy syndromes by whole-exome sequencing, supervisors Professor Aarno Palotie and Professor Anna-Elina Lehesjoki.

**4.13**

Visits and events at FIMM / University of Helsinki

- 11–12 February 2016: Administrators and training and communication coordinators of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine met at FIMM to discuss and plan common activities.
- 3 March 2016: Paulo Foundation – FIMM Special Ceremony: the second Leena Peltonen Prize for Excellence in Human Genetics
- 4 March 2016: Minisymposium organized by FIMM and The Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Combatting neuropsychiatric diseases: From genetics to functional studies
- 7–8 March 2016: Delegation from the SciLifeLab will visit FIMM
- 22 March 2016: Meilahti Campus Day
- 2–3 May 2016: FIMM Scientific Retreat, Congress & Wellness Hotel Långvik

**4.14**

News / Press releases / Media events

- 7 January 2016: Twin study estimates familial risks of 23 different cancers, <https://www.fimm.fi/en/news/1452148955> and <https://www.fimm.fi/fi/uutinen/1452009607>
- 11 January 2016: A new model system developed at FIMM to study the effect of drugs and drug candidates on innate immunity,
- 25 January 2016: Genetic fine-mapping goes fast and furious, <https://www.fimm.fi/en/news/1453702876>
- 4 February 2016: Pfizer and FIMM announced research collaboration, <https://www.fimm.fi/fi/uutinen/1454580001>
- 26 February 2016: IntelliCyt and FIMM Announce a Collaboration, <https://www.fimm.fi/en/news/1456496047>
- 3 March 2016: A group of Russian science journalists visited FIMM's biobank and High Throughput Biomedicine facilities. The visit was part of a media tour organized by the non-profit media service unit Finnfacts together with of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

**5 Approval of the FIMM Annual Report 2015**

The draft content of FIMM Annual Report 2015 was annexed to the Agenda (Annex 2). FIMM Annual Report 2015 had been prepared as a web-based version, as in 2014. FIMM Annual Reports of previous years are available at <https://www.fimm.fi/en/fimm/about-fimm/annual-reports>.

In the end of 2015 the total number of FIMM personnel was 215 including people on personal grants and leaves (in 2014: 198). At FIMM 41 % of the research personnel and 34 % of the whole personnel are international, representing 25 nationalities.

The total income of FIMM in 2015, according to the official SAP reports, was 16,2 M€ and total expenditure 16,5 M€ (in 2014 15,4 M€ and 14,6 M€ respectively). The deficit was 0,3 M€, which was 0,1 M€ higher than budgeted. In 2015 the UH accounting practice of internal service income from the University of Helsinki was changed. For those parts the graphs of FIMM Annual Report are not compatible with SAP reports, and treat the internal service income and service expenditure as in previous years.

According to the Regulations of FIMM (4§), the Board approves the Annual Report of the Institute. It is suggested that the Board discusses the content of the Annual Report. When necessary, modifications are made based on the comments received from the Board.

**Proposal:** It was suggested that the Board approves the content of the FIMM Annual Report 2015.

**Decision:** The Board discussed and approved the draft content of the FIMM Annual Report 2015, and suggested modifications, which will be made in the final version of the FIMM Annual Report 2015.

## **6 Discussion on the recent developments of the HiLIFE (Helsinki Life Science Center) plan**

The Board of the University of Helsinki accepted the Target Programme 2016 on 15 December 2015. According to the Target Programme, starting the operations of Helsinki Life Science Center (HiLIFE), as part of the University's profiling, is one of the University's main activities in 2016. The goal of Helsinki Life Science Center is to support top research in all areas of life sciences and to promote the University's international attractiveness and cooperation with other research institutions and industry <http://www.helsinki.fi/hilife/>. The Helsinki Life Science Center is aimed to be fully operational by the beginning of 2017, after which there will be an open international call for a Director.

The HiLIFE Steering Group has prepared a proposal for mission, organization and establishment of HiLIFE, which was provided for the University's leadership in February to be discussed by the Board of the University. According to University's operations management schedule decisions on HiLIFE are aimed for the University's Board meetings on 22 March and 28 April.

### *FIMM*

The Helsinki Life Science Center plans have been introduced and updated to the Board of FIMM at the previous meetings and the Board has discussed the initiative and the role of FIMM in the HiLIFE, including the current national and international partnerships that FIMM has already formed. The HiLIFE plans have also been discussed with the group leaders at FIMM and with the FIMM personnel.

As suggested, the Board discussed the recent developments and current plans of the Helsinki Life Science Center (HiLIFE).



## **7 Other business**

- 7.1** Saara Hassinen gave a brief summary on the 9<sup>th</sup> Future of Genomic Medicine conference that was held on March 3-4, 2016 in San Diego, California.
- 7.2** Jaakko Kaprio was one of the Nordic participants at the conference on “Studying the genomic variation that underlies health and disease: the unique contribution of the Nordic Health Systems”, at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York, on February 16-19, 2016. <https://www.cshl.edu/banbury-center/nordic-2016.html> <https://www.cshl.edu/banbury-center/nordic-2016.html>. A memo regarding the initiative by the Nordic Prime Ministers on Nordic solutions to global societal challenges is in Annex 3.

## **8 Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 19 May 2016 at 14.00-16.00

## **9 Closing of the meeting**

The Chair closed the meeting at 10.00.

Helsinki **.2016**

Risto Renkonen  
Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine  
Chair, Board of FIMM

Jaakko Kaprio  
Academy Professor  
Director of FIMM

Marja Medina  
Financial Manager of FIMM  
Secretary