



BOARD MEETING 3/2012

6 June 2012

MINUTES

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

Title: Meeting of the Board of FIMM 3/2012

Time: Wednesday, 6 June 2012, at 13.10—14.20

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

Chair:

Vice Rector, Professor Kimmo Kontula, University of Helsinki

Members (Deputy Members:)

Dean, Professor Risto Renkonen, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki; arrived in item 7
Research Director, Professor Anna-Elina Lehesjoki, Neuroscience Center, 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 Pekka Mattila, Desentum Oy
Director, Professor Eero Vuorio, Biocenter Finland; arrived in item 4.1
IT Designer Anne Leinonen, FIMM Technology Centre

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 3/2012

- 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 future plans and preparation of the Target Programme of FIMM for 2013—2016**
- 6 Discussion on the International Evaluation of Research and Doctoral Training of the University of Helsinki**
- 7 Other business**
- 8 Dates of the next meetings**
- 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 (FIMM regulations 5 §).

Decision: It was recorded that a quorum was present.

2 Approval of the agenda

Proposal: It was proposed that that planned recruitment restrictions of the University of Helsinki is discussed in item 7 Other business.

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 11 April 2012 is approved (Annex 1).

Decision: As proposed.

4 Announcements

4.1 The Board of FIMM decided at its previous meeting on 11 April 2012 to propose to the Rector of the University of Helsinki that the position of the Director of FIMM will be filled by invitation and Olli Kallioniemi, MD, PhD, will be appointed Director for another five-year period. Based on the proposal of the Board and recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of FIMM, Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson has decided on 3 May 2011 to appoint Olli Kallioniemi Director of FIMM for another five-year period from 1 December 2012 to 30 November 2017 (Annex 2).

4.2 The Board of FIMM approved the content of the FIMM Annual Report 2011 at its meeting on 11 April 2012. The printed version of the Report is enclosed to this Agenda. The electronic version is available at http://www.fimm.fi/en/fimm/annual_reports/.

4.3 The application deadline for FIMM National Network for Molecular Medicine (NNMM) was on 30 April 2012. The aim of the call was to identify exciting collaborative possibilities in order to

- solve key scientific questions in molecular medicine or to
- advance diagnosis, prevention or treatment of a disease, particularly via personalized medicine approaches.

We received altogether 33 applications from eight organisations, summary of the applications is in Annex 3. The total funding applied is about 1,5 M€/year; on average 50 000 €/year/project. Six applications are from the current members of the NNMM (in 2008 15 members were appointed and 11 projects were funded for a two-year period <http://www.fimm.fi/en/research/nationalnetwork>). The applications are from the following research fields:

- cancer research (17 applications),
- genomics and systems biology (10) and
- infections, allergy and virology (6)

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As mentioned in the call text, the proposals will be reviewed by a local committee as well as outside experts. Top ranked proposals will be selected for discussions to specify a detailed plan together with FIMM researchers. The aim is that the projects will start in the autumn 2012.

- 4.4 Joint PhD student call with the Nordic EMBL Partnership closed on 17 February 2012. FIMM received altogether 219 applications. Based on the applications 12 candidates were invited in a videoconference interview and six of the candidates for on-site interviews at FIMM on April 23, 2012.

Position offers were sent to three top applicants: Alok Jaiswal (FIMM-EMBL), Meri Kaustio (FIMM-EMBL) and Tiphaine Martin (FIMM-HIIT collaboration). Two candidates, Alok Jaiswal from the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, India and Meri Kaustio from University of Tampere, Finland, approved the offer and will join FIMM in August 2012 for the rotation period. Tiphaine Martin from Génolevures Consortium, France, accepted a position in Cambridge.

- 4.5 FIMM representative was invited to an expert consultation by the Social Affairs and Health Committee of the Parliament of Finland concerning the proposed Biobank Act (*HE 86/2011 (biopankkilaki) kutsu asiantuntijakuulemiseen sivistysvaliokuntaan*). The expert consultation took place on 23 May 2012 and Professor Aarno Palotie represented FIMM, comment in Annex 4.

- 4.6 The representatives of the Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman Reijo Aarnio and Raisa Leivonen visited FIMM on 24 May 2012. The purpose of the visit was to discuss biobanking procedures, data protection in research, and the proposed new legislation. Also, the procedures of the two new clinical biobanking projects, the Finnish Hematology Registry and Biobank FHRB and the Helsinki Urological Biobank HUB, initiated by FIMM and its collaborators were described and discussed.

- 4.7 Negotiations between the University of Helsinki (representing all biocentre universities) and the Ministry of Education and Culture on the future of the Biocenter Finland (BF) funding after the ongoing three year (2010—2012) period have ended. The Ministry will not support BF as a special national mission of the University of Helsinki. However, the University of Helsinki and other biocentre universities were asked to commit to the continuation of the BF operations as part of their strategic funding. However, the level of funding was left to the participating universities to decide. Therefore, while BF will continue, the national impact as well as operational and administrative role of the BF will be different. For example, during the past three year period, the University of Helsinki has received altogether about 6—7 M€ funding per year from BF. FIMM received over 1 M€ each year from BF. In the absence of earmarked funds for the BF operation, this level of funding will probably not be retained.

- 4.8 Rector of the University of Helsinki nominated in October 2011 a Reform Committee to prepare a proposal on how the resources of the University could be used more rationally by reorganising the activities. The report "The Reform Committee's Proposals for the Reorganisation of Operations at the University of Helsinki" was published on 10 April 2012, available at <http://www.helsinki.fi/ajankohtaista/uutisarkisto/4-2012/10-16-59-33.html>. The faculties and independent institutes were asked to give their comments on the Committee's proposals by 25 May 2012. FIMM comments in Annex 5a.

From FIMM's point of view the two most important aspects of the report concerns a note on the FIMM funding and relationships and a question on the potential overlaps between the University's three biocentres, independent institutes and research programmes. These were discussed in detail in item 5.

Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson appointed a working group to review relationships between the University's three biocentres, independent institutes and research programmes on 30 May 2012 (Rector's decision 104/2012 in Annex 5b). In addition, the group shall discuss the establishment of the activities of Biocenter Finland. Vice Rector Johanna Björkroth was appointed the Chair of the working group and Chancellor (Emeritus) Kari Raivio, Director Eero Vuorio and

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Professor Eva-Maria Aro members of the group. The deadline for the report is on 1 October 2012.

- 4.9** The Rector of the University of Helsinki has approved the Infrastructure Strategy of the University of Helsinki 2013—2016. Rector's decision (81/2012 of 19 April 2012) and the Strategy is in Annex 6.
- 4.10** The Academy of Finland has appointed a high-level national expert group on research infrastructures. Director, Professor Eero Vuorio (BF) has been appointed the Chair and Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson member of the expert group (members of the expert group in Annex 7). In addition, the Ministry of Education and Culture has allocated 4 M€ to the Academy of Finland for supporting research infrastructures.
- 4.11** The Chancellor of the University of Helsinki, Professor Ilkka Niiniluoto visited FIMM on 28 May 2012. The national "grand challenge" on personalized medicine was discussed. The goal of the proposed initiative is to demonstrate the impact of genomic and deep molecular profiling in the health care.
- 4.12** Together with researchers of the University of Helsinki and Helsinki University Central Hospital FIMM researchers identified the cause for LGL leukemia: implications in the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases. The New England Journal of Medicine published the research on 17 May 2012. Press release available at <http://www.fimm.fi/en/news/> and Annex 8.
- 4.13** The Research Council for Health of the Academy of Finland decided on the funding of the Academy Projects on 23 May 2012. The project "Towards individualized and combinatorial therapy of acute myeloid leukemia" led by Olli Kallioniemi was granted 446 836 € for 2012—2016.
- 4.14** Dr Willam Hennah (Group Palotie) has been granted Academy Researcher Fellowship for a five-year period starting on 1 September 2012 by the Research Council for Health of the Academy of Finland on 23 May 2011.
- 4.15** Senior Researcher Mari Kaunisto, PhD has been selected FIMM Communications Coordinator based on an internal call at FIMM. She will allocate part of her working time to communications as of next autumn. The tasks include communication of the research results to the general public, planning activities to increase FIMM visibility locally, nationally and internationally and prepare a more detailed communications plan as part of the FIMM strategy work.
- 4.16** New appointments at FIMM:
- FIMM Research Groups:*
- Sanna Uusivirta, Laboratory Technician, Group Kuznetsov, 16.4.2012—31.8.2013 (Substitution for Sonja Koopal)
 - Anne Grote, Postdoctoral Researcher, Group Lundin, 16.4.2012—15.4.2013
 - Johanna Lampe, Postdoctoral Researcher, Group Kainov, 1.5.2012—31.10.2012
- Projects:*
- Mika Kontro, Clinical Coordinator, Leukaemia Biomarkers (Elämän merkit –projekti), 16.4.2012—3.6.2012
 - Birgit Simel, Project Coordinator, ENGAGE project/Samuli Ripatti, 1.5.2012—30.4.2013
 - Tuomas Pellonperä, IT Specialist, Gen2Phen/Juha Muilu, 7.5.2012—31.12.2012
- Summer students:*
- Julia Casado Cuervo, Research Assistant, Group Aittokallio, 1.5.2012—31.8.2012
 - Sushil Kumar Shakyawar, Research Assistant, Group Aittokallio, 1.5.2012—31.8.2012
 - Tao Xu, Research Assistant, Group Aittokallio, 1.5.2012—31.8.2012
- 4.17** Professor Marja Makarow, former Chair of the Board of FIMM has been appointed Vice President for Research of the Academy of Finland.

4.18 The Board of the Academy of Finland has decided to select Professor Leif Groop (Lund University, Sweden) FiDiPro Professor, host at FIMM is Dr Aarno Palotie.

Based on the public abstract available at <http://www.fidipro.fi/> Professor Leif Groop's research project will combine state-of-the-art genetic methods with analyses of the special features of the Finnish population to tackle the mechanisms behind type 2 diabetes. It will greatly contribute to building a detailed map of genomes of Finns within the collaborative SISU project (Sequencing Initiative Suomi). The aim of the SISU project is to sequence the genomes of thousands of Finns and list the variants specific to the Finnish population. Based on these data, it will be possible to determine the genetic variation in existing epidemiological cohorts by means of cheap genotyping methods combined with novel computational tools. The research project is nationally important as it investigates the special features of disease mechanisms of diabetes in the Finnish population.

4.19 The Board of the Academy of Finland has selected Professor Jaakko Kaprio Academy Professor for 2013—2017. The five-year term will start on 1 January 2013.

4.20 Olli Kallioniemi and Aarno Palotie will give a talk on 12 June 2012 in seminar organised by TUTKAS (Association of the researchers and Members of Parliament). The seminar is entitled 'Genomitieto kertoo — Mistä tulemme, mihin menemme'.

4.21 Member of the Board of FIMM, IT Designer Anne Leinonen has resigned as of 1 August 2012.

4.22 EATRIS has submitted an application for ERIC status on 1 June 2012.

5 Discussion on the future plans and preparation of the Target Programme of FIMM for 2013—2016

The Board of the University of Helsinki approved in January 2012 the strategy of the University for 2013—2016. Faculties and independent institutes shall prepare their own strategies (target programmes) for 2013—2016 by 8 October 2012. The strategic objectives of faculties and independent institutes should be derived from those of the University. The faculties and independent institutes were asked to prepare the first drafts of their strategy maps by early May 2012 (FIMM's draft in Annex 9). Based on the Rector's instructions the proposals of the Reform Committee's shall be taken into account when applicable.

As mentioned in item 4.8 of this agenda, the faculties and independent institutes were asked to give their comments on the Reform Committee's proposals by 25 May 2012. From FIMM's point of view the two most important aspects of the report concerns a note on FIMM funding and relationships and a question on the potential overlaps between the University's three bio-centres, independent institutes (Institute of Biotechnology, Neuroscience Center and FIMM) and research programmes of the Faculty of Medicine. FIMM has commented these aspects in detail in its statement (Annex 5a):

- In order to be able to maintain the international status as part of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine in the coming years FIMM's basic funding needs to be secured, now that the start-up support to the institute comes to an end. The funding needed to secure the future of the FIMM-EMBL group leader programme is 1,6 M€/year.
- FIMM agrees that the relationships and potential overlaps mentioned above should be reviewed. The review should be conducted by experts who have international expertise as well as understanding of the structures and aims of the current institutes/units in Meilahti.

Rector Thomas Wilhelmsson invited the directors and administrators of the independent institutes in a specific seminar on 23 May 2012 to discuss the preparation of the target programmes. In the seminar the Rector and the Financial Director of the University also informed about the negotiations between the Ministry of Education and Culture and the University that took place on 7 May 2012. Changes in the 2013 budget of the University include e.g. the changes in graduate programmes, Biocenter Finland (BF) funding and allocation of the strategic funding.

The preparation of the FIMM target programme is proceeding as follows:

- FIMM Future Day on 2 March as a kick-off seminar to start discussion with FIMM staff and a follow-up event on 15 May.
- May 29—30: Further discussions with FIMM staff in Scientific Retreat, focus on research.
- June 6: Meeting and Strategy Seminar of the Board of FIMM.
- June—September: writing of the target programme based on the discussions mentioned above.
- September 11: discussion on the final draft of the programme with FIMM staff at a cooperation procedure meeting.
- September 27: Board meeting and approval of the programme.
- October 8: Submission deadline for the programme.
- October 24: Negotiations with Rector. Administrative Directors of FIMM founding organisations (HUS, THL and VTT) have been informed about the negotiations by Planning Director Jussi Karvinen on 24 May 2012. The FIMM partner organisations have been asked to nominate their representatives to the negotiations.
- November 22: Rector will approve the target programmes of the faculties and independent institutes,
- December 5: The Board of the University will approve the budget of the University.

The Board discussed the preparation process of the target programme of FIMM and agreed to continue the discussion in detail in the Strategy Seminar following the meeting.

6 Discussion on the International Evaluation of Research and Doctoral Training of the University of Helsinki 2005—2010

The report of the International Evaluation of Research and Doctoral Training of the University of Helsinki 2005—2010 was published on 7 May 2012 and it is available at http://www.helsinki.fi/julkaisut/halvin_julkaisut.shtml.

The participating unit in the evaluation was a Researcher Community (RC). Participation was voluntary and the RCs had to choose one of the following five categories to participate:

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

Altogether 136 RCs participated in the evaluation. In January—February 2011 the communities answered the self evaluation questions that formed a major part of the evaluation material. The data on publications and other scientific activities was generated from the University's TUHAT research database. There were five different panels with altogether 50 panellists. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs met for a pre-meeting in May 2011 and the panels convened for panel meetings in Helsinki in September 2011.

Based on the RC-specific evaluation reports:

- Personalized Molecular Medicine (P-Molmed), Leader of the RC Olli Kallioniemi (points 24/25, best proposal in category 5, societal impact); from FIMM also groups Jonathan Knowles, Johan Lundin, Samuli Ripatti and Krister Wennerberg involved.
- Complex Disease Genomics Group (CompDisGen), Leader of the RC Jaakko Kaprio (points 25/25, best possible, category 1); from FIMM groups Aarno Palotie, Samuli Ripatti, Janna Saarela and Elisabeth Widén involved.
- Genome-Scale Cancer Biology (CANBIO), Leader of the RC Academy Professor Kari Alitalo (points 24/25, category 1); from FIMM groups Olli Kallioniemi, Sergey Kuznetsov and Emmy Verscuren involved.

The detailed evaluation feedback regarding the RCs led by Olli Kallioniemi and Jaakko Kaprio are enclosed (Annexes 10a and 10b). The networks will receive support for the next four-year period. Also, the Reform Committee suggest that the RCs that have done best in research evaluation (30 %) should be exempted from cuts and resource reductions.

A specific comment in the CompDisGen RC concerned the leadership of Human Genomics at the University of Helsinki (page 20 of the comments). The panel states that in the coming years it will be important to develop a strategy to maintain the quality and define a focus for Human Genomics at the University of Helsinki. It was agreed that the Board will continue the discussion in detail in the Strategy Seminar following the meeting.

7 Other business

The Board was informed that the University of Helsinki was apparently planning a recruitment restriction for the category of other than teaching and research personnel, meaning e.g. laboratory support, IT and administrative personnel, and thus including many people in the FIMM Technology Centre. The possible consequence would be that such employment contracts could not be initiated nor continued, despite of the fact that there would be external funding to support this. The reason for this impeding decision is the difficult financial situation at the level of the whole University during 2013.

8 Dates of the next meetings

- Thursday 27 September at 13.00—15.00 (approval of the FIMM Target Programme 2013—2016, submission deadline 8 October).
- Friday 30 November at 10.00—12.00.

9 Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 14.20

Helsinki, 27 September 2012

Kimmo Kontula
Professor, Vice Rector
Chair, Board of FIMM

Olli Kallioniemi
Professor
Director of FIMM
Presenter

Reetta Niemelä
Administrative Manager of FIMM
Secretary