



**BOARD MEETING 3/2014**

**10 September 2014**

**MINUTES**

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

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**Title:** Meeting of the Board of FIMM 3/2014  
**Time:** Wednesday, 10 September 2014, at 11.05—13.00  
**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, Haartman Institute, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki  
Professor Annamari Ranki, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki;  
left when item 7 was discussed  
Vice Dean, Professor Risto Kostiainen, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Helsinki;  
arrived when item 4.2 was discussed  
Chief Administrative Physician, MD, PhD, LL.D., MFPM, Assistant Professor Lasse Lehtonen, HUS;  
arrived when item 4.5 was discussed; left when item 7 was discussed  
Research Professor Markku Peltonen, Director of Department of Chronic Disease Prevention, THL  
CEO Saara Hassinen, Strategic Centre for Health and Well-being, SaiWe Oy (industry)  
Chair of the Board, Professor John Eriksson, Biocenter Finland  
Research Director, Professor Aarno Palotie, FIMM, University of Helsinki (personnel);  
left when item 7 was discussed

**Experts:**

Financial Manager Marja Medina, FIMM, University of Helsinki  
Research Director Janna Saarela, FIMM. University of Helsinki

**Presenter:**

Director, Professor Olli Kallioniemi, FIMM, University of Helsinki

**Secretary:**

Administrative Manager Reetta Niemelä, FIMM, University of Helsinki

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**Meeting of the Board of FIMM 3/2014**

- 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 Update of the FIMM Target Programme 2013—2016 for the year 2015**
- 6 Opening a new joint group leader call of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine**
- 7 Discussion on the Helsinki Life Science Center (HLSC) initiative**
- 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 (Regulations of FIMM 5 §, Annex 1).

**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 22 April 2014 is approved (Annex 1).

**Decision:** As proposed.

## **4 Announcements**

**4.1** On 12 August 2014 the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has appointed a working group to prepare a national genome strategy by 31 March 2015. The Ministry is collaborating with the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra as well as the Advisory Board on Biotechnology. Research Director Aarno Palotie from FIMM is appointed member of the working group (Annex 2).

**4.2** On 14 July 2014 the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health (Valvira) included Finnish Hematology Registry and Biobank (FHRB) in the national biobank register. FHRB became thus the third officially registered biobank in Finland. FHRB is a national biobank for collecting samples from patients with hematological disorders. The founding partners are the Finnish Hematology Association, Finnish Red Cross Blood Service and FIMM.

On 2 September 2014 Helsinki Urological Biobank (HUB) issued a notification to the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health (Valvira) for the inclusion of HUB into the biobank register. HUB is a biobank active in the HUS area for collecting samples from patients with urological disease. It will later fuse with the planned Academic Medical Center Helsinki Biobank. The founding partners of HUB are Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa (HUS) and FIMM.

**4.3** The Government has appointed a new Board for the Academy of Finland until the end of 2018. The Board will be chaired by Professor Heikki Ruskoaho (University of Helsinki), with Research Director Leena Suurpää (Finnish Youth Research Society) acting as vice chair. The Board members are Professor Pertti Alasuutari (University of Tampere), Chief Technology Officer Heidi Fagerholm (Kemira), Professor Riitta Keiski (University of Oulu), Professor Arto Mustajoki (University of Helsinki) and Academician of Science, Aalto Distinguished Professor Risto Nieminen (Aalto University), <http://www.aka.fi/en-GB/A/Academy-of-Finland/Media-services/Releases/New-board-appointed-for-the-Academy-of-Finland/>.

The members of the Strategic Research Council have not been appointed yet.

**4.4** Academy of Finland has opened a research programme on personalized medicine. The deadline of the call is on 24 September 2014. The call has two stages, deadline of the 1<sup>st</sup> stage is on 24 September 2014 and 2<sup>nd</sup> stage on 12 February 2015. This is a timely funding opportunity for FIMM researchers.

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**4.5** Altogether 14 applications from FIMM were submitted to Horizon2020 first call of the health programme and 10 of them passed the first stage evaluation and were invited to submit full proposals for stage 2 in August 2014. In addition, one PI from FIMM was invited to participate in the stage 2 proposal preparation. Total requested grant from this call to FIMM is EUR 6,7 M€ It is expected that the outcome of the evaluation is available in January 2015 and that the grant agreements will be concluded in April 2015.

**4.6** The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine took place in Umeå, Sweden, on 26—28 August 2014. The participants of the meeting included group leaders, post-doctoral researchers, PhD students, coordinators and administrators from each of the four nodes as well as representatives of EMBL and EMBL Council. Seven FIMM researchers gave oral presentations and many others presented their work through posters (<http://www.mims.umu.se/nordic-network/nmmn-2014/nmmn-programme.html>).

The current Speaker of the Nordic EMBL Partnership is the Director of NCMM, Professor Kjetil Taskén. The Speaker represents the Nordic nodes in common matters and is elected for a three-year period. Professor Taskén's thoughts about the Partnership at EMBL News <http://news.embl.de/lab-matters/nordic-networks/>.

**4.7** EMBL Director General, Professor Iain Mattaj's letter to Rector Jukka Kola and Chair of the Board of FIMM, Dean Risto Renkonen of 28 April 2014 (Annex 3).

**4.8** Appointments at FIMM

### *FIMM Research Groups:*

- Vishal Sinha, Doctoral Student (Marie Curie Initial Training Network), 1.6.2014—31.5.2017, Group Hennah
- Suleiman Khan, Doctoral Student, 1.8.2014—31.7.2015, Group Aittokallio
- Polina Mishel, Doctoral Student (Grant), 1.9.2014—31.10.2014, Group Kainov
- Risto Kajanne, Project Coordinator, 1.8.2014—31.1.2015, Group Palotie

### *FIMM-EMBL rotation students:*

- Dmitrii Bychkov, Doctoral Student, 1.7.2014—17.2.2016
- Ella Karjalainen, Doctoral Student, 18.8.2014—17.2.2016
- Janica Wakkinen, Doctoral Student, 18.8.2014—17.2.2016

### *FIMM Technology Center:*

- Shravya Kadali, Research Assistant, 1.9.2014—31.8.2015, Metabolomics
- Katja Suomi, Senior Laboratory Technician, 1.9.2014—31.12.2016, HTB

### *Projects:*

- Piia Mikkonen, Senior Laboratory Technician, 1.6.2014—31.5.2016, TEKES/FiDiPro Horvath
- Linda Laatikainen, Project Coordinator, 1.7.2014—31.12.2015, SalWe-SHOK
- Andreas Scherer, Project Director, 1.9.2014—31.8.2015, EATRIS

**4.9** Dissertations

- 9 May 2014: Oxana Denisova, Influenza virus-host interactions and their modulation by small molecules; supervisor Dr Denis Kainov; FIMM and the Department of Bacteriology and Immunology, Haartman Institute, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki, <https://www.fimm.fi/en/news/1399615188>.
- 7 November 2014: Ida Surakka, Genetics of Circulating Blood Lipids, Group Samuli Ripatti
- 19 December 2014: Olli Pietiläinen, Rare Genomic Deletions Underlying Schizophrenia and Related Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Group Aarno Palotie

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**4.10**

Visits at FIMM

- 14 May 2014: Honourable Minister Dr. Seif Seleman Rashid, Minister of Health & Social Welfare Tanzania and his delegation.
- 23 July 2014: Representatives of Genetech Inc. from San Francisco.
- 14 August 2014: Representatives Finland of the EMBL Council Professor Kalervo Hiltunen (University of Oulu) and Director Jarmo Wahlfors (Academy of Finland).
- 27 August 2014: Students from Wuhan University China visited FIMM (Host Erkki Raulo, ILS Doctoral Program & Tiina Vesterinen, FIMM).
- 1 September 2014: Excellence Designation System delegation visited Academic Medical Center Helsinki and the programme included a tour at FIMM.
- 5 September 2014: SciLifeLab (Sweden) Clinical Genomics group will visit FIMM (host Pekka Ellonen)
- 12 September 2104: Delegation from Daiichi Sankyo will visit FIMM (host Imre Västrik)

**4.11**

Press releases / Media events

- 22 July 2014: International team sheds new light on biology underlying schizophrenia. Original publication: Schizophrenia Working Group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium. Biological insights from 108 schizophrenia-associated genetic loci. Nature 511, 421–427 (24 July 2014). Aarno Palotie in collaboration with THL and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, <https://www.fimm.fi/en/press-release/1406096170>.
- 31 July 2014: Genes that we can live without are also interesting drug targets. Original publication: Lim, Würtz, Havulinna, Palta, Tukiainen, Rehnström et al. Discovery of medically important loss-of-function variants in the Finnish population. PLOS Genetics. Online 31.7.2014. Aarno Palotie in collaboration with the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, <https://www.fimm.fi/en/news/1406788060>.
- 13 August 2014: Digital Health Revolution (DHR) project launched. DHR is one of the three new strategic research openings that Tekes has decided to fund this year. The goal of the programme is to enable the utilization of data about the individual as part of personal, preventive services, which in turn will improve citizens' opportunities for self-management of one's wellbeing. Tekes has granted more than 4 M€ for the first funding period (2014—2016) of the programme. The programme is coordinated by the Centre for Health and Technology, University of Oulu, <https://www.fimm.fi/en/news/1408021641>.
- 22 August 2014: A novel "Man and Machine" decision support system makes malaria diagnostics more effective. Original publication: Linder N., Turkki R., Walliander M. ym. A malaria diagnostic tool based on computer vision screening and visualization of Plasmodium falciparum candidate areas in digitized blood smears. PLOS ONE online 21.8.2014, <https://www.fimm.fi/en/press-release/1408681925>.

**4.12**

Biocenter Finland (BF) is searching for an acting Director for a part-time position over the period 1 January to 31 December 2015. The Board of BF will discuss the candidates on 17 September 2014.

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### 5 Update of the FIMM Target Programme 2013—2016 for the year 2015 (presenter: Kallioniemi)

All faculties and independent institutes of the University of Helsinki have prepared Target Programmes (*tavoiteohjelma*) for the four year period 2013—2016. The strategic objectives of the faculties and independent institutes have been derived from those of the University (<http://www.helsinki.fi/strategy/index.html>). The Target Programmes prepared in 2012 were slightly updated in October 2013 based on the guidelines of the Rector. The deadline for the next update is on 6 October 2014, including detailed action items, human resources plan and budget plan for 2015. Rector's feedback on these plans is expected by the end of October. The Board of the University of Helsinki will decide on the University's Target Programme on 16 December 2014.

This year there will not be a negotiation on the Target Programme with the Rector. The Rector will visit the faculties in November and for the first time the independent research institutes have been invited to join these meetings. The meeting with the Rector, Faculty of Medicine and FIMM is scheduled for 11 November 2014.

Draft FIMM Target Programme for 2015 is in Annex 4a. The detailed FIMM action items for 2015 include:

- Playing a central role in the Helsinki Life Science Center (HLSC) initiative (please see item 7 of this Agenda)
  - Structural and strategic initiatives at the Academy of Finland
- Managing ongoing and continuing uncertainties about the structural and strategic changes and directions at the University of Helsinki
- Significantly enhancing the future role of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine in consultation with the Nordic partners, the Research Councils, Ministries and the EMBL Council
- Starting a new international group leader recruitment based on the EMBL model with Nordic partners
- SAB evaluation in May 2015
- Actions to follow the recommendations of Mikko Alkio's report of health growth strategy ([http://www.tem.fi/files/40136/TEMrap\\_12\\_2014\\_web\\_26052014.pdf](http://www.tem.fi/files/40136/TEMrap_12_2014_web_26052014.pdf)). For example:
  - Strategic research directions towards predictive, preventive, personalized and participatory health research (a new Tekes strategic funding just initiated)
  - Health technology for improving health care (efficacy)
- Focusing on extremely timely funding opportunities for FIMM: Academy of Finland, Tekes and EU all focus on personalized health research in the next 3—7 year cycle
- Increasing the number and income from industrial collaborative projects
- Fundraising (with the possible government matching) in conjunction with the 375-year anniversary

The FIMM human resources plan include altogether 180 people. This number includes the planned new recruitment of one new FIMM-EMBL group leader (item 6 of this Agenda) as well as new personnel needed to carry out the following new strategic research projects funded by SalWe-SHOK and Tekes:

- The SalWe-SHOK project GET IT DONE is a four-year programme started on 1 July 2014. The programme brings together for the first time in the public and private health care, research, and industry to develop individualized diagnosis and therapy. The total volume of the programme is around 30 M€. FIMM is involved in three tasks of the project: Tajja af Hällström / Maija Puhka (Extracellular vesicles as a source of biomarkers for prostate cancer), Imre Väström (Personalized medicine decision support system) and Samuli Ripatti (Integrating genetic information and electronic clinical decision support). The expected total FIMM budget for the four year program is 4,3 M€ (of which 70% is funded by Tekes). Further information at <http://salwe.org/fi/uutisia/45-2014-06-11-12-00-52>
- Digital Health Revolution is one of the three new strategic research openings that Tekes has decided to fund as of 1 August 2014. The project aims to use full genome sequencing, mobile monitoring of health and digital footprints to provide real-time feedback on health to people. The project is coordinated by the University of Oulu (Connected Health Initiative), together with VTT, Aalto University, Technical University of Tampere and other partners. Expected total

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funding to FIMM 1,3 M€ (of which 70% is funded by Tekes) over the next 18 months. Further information at <https://www.fimm.fi/en/news/1408021641>

The current plan for 2015 indicates an overall budget of 13,5 M€ (Annex 4b). The basic funding from the University of Helsinki is 3,0 M€. In addition, the funding from the University of Helsinki include Biocenter Finland, doctoral school and profitability funding (e.g. Center of Excellence) that are all based on competition. The amount of basic funding is at the same level as in 2014, the increase of rents (2,5%) and possible raises in salaries need to be covered with this funding. The amount of competitive external funding that is currently known for 2015 is 6,4 M€. In addition, we conservatively estimated that new grants will be obtained for the total value of 0,5 M€ in late 2014 and during 2015.

Major changes in the 2015 budget plan as compared to 2014 include ending of the foundations' remaining start-up funding for FIMM, FiDiPro Professor Jonathan Knowles' Tekes project, Helsinki Urological Biobank (HUB) Tekes project as well as a lower level of ESFRI funding. However, project funding from e.g. EU (decisions in the spring 2015), the Academy of Finland and companies will be higher than now budgeted and the 2015 budget will be updated according to the final funding decisions.

FIMM's surplus from the previous years is altogether 1,0 M€ and the plan is to use 150 000 euros of the surplus in 2015 as has been informed to the Rector in March 2014.

**Proposal:** It was suggested that the Board discusses the update of the FIMM Target Programme for 2015 and authorises the Director to finalise the draft document (Annex 4a) based on the discussion.

**Decision:** As proposed. The Board stated that the themes of the detailed action items were well defined and that the budget plan for 2015 was balanced.



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### **6 Opening a new joint group leader call of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine (presenter: Kallioniemi)**

As defined in the Agreement on the Nordic EMBL Partnership between the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) and the Nordic nodes in Denmark (DANDRITE, Aarhus University as the host organisation), Finland (FIMM, University of Helsinki), Norway (NCMM, University of Oslo) and Sweden (MIMS, Umeå University) one of the core principles of EMBL is the staff turnover system. Only a fraction of the EMBL staff holds permanent posts, with a majority of the researchers rotating through 9 year (5+4 years) positions, eventually leaving to continue their research elsewhere. This ensures the flood of new talent, ideas and the maintenance of the institute at the international cutting-edge. International recruitment, staff turnover system, regular external reviews and training are the core principles that EMBL demands also from its partner institutes.

In the FIMM Target Programme 2013—2016 it is stated that FIMM will maintain and leverage the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine and the EMBL operational principles, including continued systematic recruitment of top talent to Finland and the turn-over of research staff. Since its establishment, FIMM has followed the EMBL model in recruiting group leaders. At the moment there are altogether six FIMM-EMBL group leaders who have been selected according to the model described above: Drs Tero Aittokallio, Denis Kainov, Sergey Kuznetsov, Samuli Ripatti, Emmy Verschuren and Krister Wennerberg. Of them, Sergey Kuznetsov has now in an Academy of Finland Research Fellow position, and Samuli Ripatti is a Professor at the Faculty of Medicine. In the spring of 2015, Denis Kainov, Krister Wennerberg and Samuli Ripatti will undergo their 5-year evaluation and consideration of a 4-year extension of their own appointments as group leaders.

The latest group leader call was organised in 2010. Therefore it is critically important that the institute again opens a group leader call to recruit new talent. According to the FIMM Target Programme we will continue good practices of the joint recruitments created within the Nordic EMBL Partnership and new group leader recruitment has now been started. We will attempt to provide attractive recruitment package for one new FIMM-EMBL group leader, although the level of support provided may be slightly lower than in the previous years. We have FIMM basic funding, strategic funding from the Rector of the University of Helsinki, as well as surplus from previous years that will be partly used to support the new group leader. In addition, continued funding from foundations is sought for this purpose. The plan is to provide a commitment to a recruitment package in the range of 150-200,000 €/year (this includes the group leader's salary) for the first three years. As previously, the candidate is expected to significantly complement this budget through other national or international grants and/or industrial collaborations as well as apply for grants from e.g. Academy of Finland and ERC (Annex 5a and 5b).

Based on the discussion of the Steering Committee of the Nordic EMBL Partnership on 28 August in Umeå, Sweden, the joint group leader call is scheduled as follows:

- Early September 2014: joint call text (short) will be published in Nature, Science and EMBL website; node specific call texts (full) will be published on the websites of the Nordic nodes and host Universities as well as distributed via local, national and international networks
- 15 October 2014: application deadline
- 15 October — 4 November 2014: remote evaluation of applications
- 5 November 2014: Evaluation Committee's teleconference to decide who to invite for interviews
- 3—4 December 2014: interviews of top candidates of the four Nordic nodes in Copenhagen

EMBL and the Nordic nodes have nominated their experts to the Evaluation Committee as follows:

- EMBL: Group Leader, Dr Nassos Typas, Genome Biology Unit, EMBL Heidelberg and Team Leader Henning Hermjakob, Proteomics Services Team, EMBL-EBI Hinxton
- DANDRITE: Director, Professor Poul Nissen and Professor Poul Henning Jensen
- MIMS: Professor Maria Fällman, Department of Molecular Biology, Umeå University and Professor Sun Nyunt Wai, Department of Molecular Biology, Umeå University
- NCMM: Director, Professor Kjetil Taskén and Professor Hilde Nilsen, Department of Clinical Molecular Biology, University of Oslo and Akershus University Hospital

From FIMM Director Olli Kallioniemi and Research Director Janna Saarela will participate in the evaluation of the applications of DANDRITE, MIMS and NCMM.

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- Proposal:**
1. It was suggested that the Board approves the procedure for recruiting a new group leader.
  2. It was suggested that the Board approves the composition of the Evaluation Committee.

- Decision:**
1. As proposed.
  2. As proposed. The Board approved the composition of the Evaluation Committee and stated that if needed, the Evaluation Committee may request statements from external experts, depending on the group leader candidates' research fields.

**7 Discussion on the Helsinki Life Science Center (HLSC) initiative**  
**(presenter: Kallioniemi)**

In October 2013 Rector Jukka Kola, the Directorship of the University of Helsinki and Directors of the independent institutes of the University discussed the structural development of the University. The Rector asked the independent institutes to be proactive and discuss joint new initiatives between other independent institutes, faculties of the University of Helsinki and other stakeholders to improve the functions and contributions to the strategy of the University.

FIMM plans and collaborative initiatives were developed based on the discussions with the Board, Steering Group and personnel as well as the Chair of the SAB of FIMM. These plans and initiatives were discussed in February 2014 with the Directorship of the University and four independent institutes in the field of life sciences (Institute of Biotechnology/BI, FIMM, Neuroscience Center/NC and Laboratory Animal Center/LAC). Discussions continued in May 2014 when the Rector appointed a small working group (Eero Castrén Olli Kallioniemi, Tomi Mäkelä, Jari Niemelä and Risto Renkonen) to prepare a more detailed plan for plan for Helsinki Life Science Center (HLSC). HLSC is only a working name for the plan. In addition, a larger working group consisting of representatives of all Faculties and independent institutes in the field of life sciences on Meilahti and Viikki Campuses was nominated to help the planning. The working groups are chaired by Vice Rector Keijo Hämäläinen and represented by all faculties and independent institutes in the field. The first working group meeting was on 14 August 2014.

The HLSC plan covers all the 5 faculties, and all 4 independent institutes of the UH that are active in this field. There may also be contributions from other faculties. Taken together, the current funding for these initiatives is about 260 M€/year of which 113 M€/year is competitive external funding. Thus, HLSC would constitute a 1,3 B€ effort over 5 years, with the idea that everything is formed under one brand name, with coherent infrastructure and more streamlined administrative structure.

A preliminary plan about the HLSC is included in Annex 6 (confidential) as a set of PowerPoint figures. This plan is continuously being updated and modified. Besides the internal working committees, the University and the City of Helsinki have contracted Mikko Alkio from Avance Attorneys Ltd to make a plan for the external relationships of the HLSC, including other universities, research institutes, HUS, companies and international entities.

It is expected that HLSC plans will be filed as an application to the Academy of Finland (special restructuring call) as the most important new structural research initiative for the University of Helsinki. The initiatives compete for the 50 M€ funding. In addition, the same plans can be modified for the strategic research funding from the other new initiative of the Academy of Finland, if funding is allocated to research topics that are in the area of HLSC research topics. The deadlines for these funding instruments are expected to be late 2014. In order to make the applications competitive, they need to be approved by the Rector and the Board of the University. Academy of Finland also expects a strong commitment and support from the host university.

At the moment, the four independent institutes of the University of Helsinki in the area of life science research, including FIMM, are considered to form the “core” activities of HLSC. It is very likely that changes in the current administrative structure of the faculties and independent institutes will take place, but the current plan calls for these to take place in 2015—2016. The current plans also call for an international review of the concept and key parts of the HLSC, as well as comparisons with international models from top 50 Universities. One key goal of HLSC remains to achieve a more simple and streamlined administrative structure for life sciences and associated infrastructures at the University of Helsinki.

The Board discussed the HLSC initiative and the role of FIMM in the HLSC, including the current national and international partnerships that FIMM has already formed and how these could be taken into account in the case of HLSC. The Board will follow the preparation of the initiative.

**8 Other business**

There was no other business.

**9 Date of the next meeting**

Tuesday 2 December 2014 at 9.30—11.30.

**10 Closing of the meeting**

The Chair closed the meeting at 13.00.

Helsinki 2.12.2014

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

Olli Kallioniemi  
Professor  
Director of FIMM  
Presenter

Reetta Niemelä  
Administrative Manager of FIMM  
Secretary