



# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research Meeting

Minutes

18 March 2020 12:00 to 13:00 on Skype for business

**Present:** Frode Forland, Gunilla Kulla, Bente Moen, Mahima Venkateswaran, Ingeborg Haavardstun, Elin Yli Dvergsdal, Ingvar Th. Olsen, Jon Øyvind Odland, Katerini Storeng, Gunhild Koldal.

20/20 **Approval of agenda**  
Agenda approved.

21/20 **Approval of minutes from board meeting February 19** (Attachment 1)  
Minutes ok.

22/20 **Globvac2020** – postponed – where do we go from here?  
Information from Frode, FHI/RCN on this issue (?)

*Due to the current situation, Globvac2020 conference has been postponed. A new date is not set. The extended reference group will meet again April 20. Work is now underway to cancel agreements with the organizing bureau and hotels. Everyone who has submitted scientific sessions and abstracts should by now be informed. If information is lacking, please contact the local committee.*

*Comment from Bergen: UiB will host ECTMIH 2021 in late September 2021. Please be aware of this date, to avoid collision.*

*What will happen to the submitted material, whether that will be kept, or if there need to be a new submission process, will be decided at a later stage. The scientific committee were approached with comments that the programme/tracks were too narrow and excluding for some.*

23/20 **Information: Regarding the strategy document for RCN**  
- the comments from Forum have been sent, and shared with the Norwegian Research School of Global Health (E. Darj has sent similar comments). Due to technical problems, the document was not discussed further with the board members, but is enclosed.

*Good work done by Bente and the rest of the board. NRSGH has sent in the same comments, and pointed out the importance of the national research school. The Medical Faculty at NTNU has also submitted comments.*

*Global Health Norway has not sent anything, but it would be good if they sent an email supporting Forum's comment.*

24/20 **From Arbeidsutvalget, Global Health Norway**  
Arbeidsutvalget for GHN supported Forum in their meeting 26th Feb, and suggests that Forum receives 34 000 NOK. The board in GHN has their next meeting (unknown date)

Information from the GHN meeting minutes:  
-Det er satt av 75 000 Nok til Forumet for 2020.



# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

I første omgang var arbeidsutvalget enige om å bevilge midler til den søknaden dere har sendt inn her på 34 000 Nok.

Det er ønskelig at Forumet fungerer som et rådgivende organ til Global Helse Norge.

Ved neste styremøte i Global Helse Norge, er det ønskelig at Forumet presenterer deres aktivitet og hvordan dere ser deres rolle i forhold til GHN. Neste styremøtet var planlagt til 14.mai kl.16-18. Nå har jeg blitt informert om at GLOBVAC 2020 konferansen blir avlyst inntil videre. Jeg kommer tilbake senere med nytt møtetidspunkt.

Mvh

Elin Yli Dvergsdal

*Elin: Global Health Norway discussed the request from Forum in their December meeting. Global health Norway board is a little unsure about how to view Forum, since it no longer is an organization with institutional members, but individual membership. They will hopefully be able to support Forum with NOK 75 000 for 2020. Global Health Norway must approve their budget before this is finally determined.*

*Global Health Norway would like a representative from Forum to attend their meeting. Forum can present its activities and discuss their role alongside Global Health Norway. Forum board members pointed to Bente Moen for this task.*

25/20

## **For discussion: Planning of Forum General Assembly 2020 – what about Arendalsuka?**

Globvac2020 is cancelled. We need to postpone the Forum GA, and make a new plan. Let us do something important and new and have our General Assembly at Arendalsuka. Arendalsuka is held 10-14/8. This is a place where important political issues are discussed, and where we can meet people with influence in global health. The main program has this topic as the first speech: 'Global outlook – The new world economy: Towards a permanent clash of titans?'

I think we can play an important role here, bringing in health. Look at the information on the website: <https://arendalsuka.no/>

The arrangements must be about an important societal topic, be open – no cost for the Audience. We can have an arrangement (which we will – a lecture/debate about Global Health and in addition have our GA). We can also have a stand.

Do you agree that Forum can participate? Should we invite GHN to participate together with us?

*Arendalsuka could be a good arena for Forum to present itself. However, from what we know now, Arendalsuka might be cancelled this year.*

*With various digital platforms available, we should try to arrange an online General Assembly, and do this in May as planned. It is not election this year, which makes it easier.*

26/20

## **Short information from the board members/observers**

**Gunilla:** trying to find out how to best work from home.

**Jon Øyvind:** does all work from home office: meetings, teaching, application writing. It functions well so far. Works on two EU applications, one Globvac application and the new NORHED call.

**Elin:** The NORHED call is out now. They reach out to new environments to get them to apply for a NORHED project. Gives application support.

Has forwarded email from University of Copenhagen to the Forum board. They would like to get e.g. blogs on Corona.

The PhD-conference is postponed to end of September.



# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

NRSRGH has not cancelled courses planned in June, yet. Will have to see what happens in the next weeks. Are promoting autumn courses.

**Gunhild:** At UiB we adapt to the new situation. All teaching will take place online, the same with meetings, dissertations and seminars. We work to find new platforms to communicate with students and partners. So far, it works okay. It takes a lot of effort from our staff.

**Katerini:** still waiting for answers to application from RCN, on corona. Teaching has been cancelled. Planned course on pandemics will be held, most likely digitally.

**Mahima:** Data collection is very challenging on the ground; contingency plans will have to be used.

**Frode:** FHI has send in one main application, and are partners on 6-7 other applications for the EU call on the Coronavirus. Applications are covering e.g. epidemiology, immunology and consequences for societies.

FHI has put into place a group that will sum up all research on Corona. They work to implement a self-reporting system where Norwegians can report their own Corona symptoms. Most staff at FHI work from home. Some are at FHI, where the building is divided in coloured zones.

Frode was in South Africa earlier to attend a meeting on Evidence Based Healthcare in Africa. Six countries are involved. Funded by Germany. It was a very interesting meeting. Norway might be invited to contribute with funding at a later stage.

**Andrea:** works on EU applications.

**Ingvar, Norad:** the Department of Foreign Affairs is busy with Covid 19, and leaves other things pending for the time being. They have started work on a list of priorities: what must be done and what can wait. Many activities are cancelled. Board meetings are held. It is a great burden on staff now. There is a process regarding payments, and question about extended budgets.

**Frode:** The UN-system delivers different messages to Norway. Important to work on better coordination. The major organizations must take the lead. It is important to keep the long-term perspective on this. A new report from WHO's Global preparedness monitoring board will soon be out.

27/20

**Next meeting: April 22**

28/20

**AOB**