



# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research Meeting

## Minutes

19 February 2020 12:00 to 13:00

### Present:

Board members: Frode Forland, Gunilla Kulla, Katerini Storeng, Bente Moen, Andrea Winkler, Nils Daulaire, Dawit Shawel Abebe, Jon Øyvind Odland, Gunhild Koldal  
Substitute board members: Mahima Venkateswaran, Håkon Bolkan  
Observers: Ingvar Th. Evjen Olsen, Zlata Turkanovic.

11/20

### Approval of agenda

Agenda ok .

12/20

### Approval of minutes from board meeting January 22 (Attachment 1)

Minutes ok. 4/20 and 5/20. Bente Moen has asked GHN for funding. Same situation as last time. Budget not decided yet, we have to wait.

13/20

### Status Globvac2020 – abstracts and scientific submissions

v/Frode Forland

We have received just over 150 abstract proposals, both oral/posters and 33 submitted scientific sessions.

There is room for 15 of them in the programme. The process is ongoing.

There will be a meeting in the scientific committee on Thursday. After that, the programme will be made in the given timeframe.

The conference secretariat has received many applications for travel and for cover of fee. There have been complaints about the fee. However, the budget is made according to a no income budget. The committee is satisfied with the programme; all that are asked have agreed to come and talk. Solhjell, Norheim, Africa CDC, Tore Godal and more.

The scientific committee wishes to give notice about scientific sessions by end of February.

Comment from Andrea: The work advances nicely.

Feedback from all reviewers is sent to Andrea and Per. They will look at this before the meeting in the scientific committee.

On average: perhaps the abstracts are rated too well. There are submitted presentations of protocols and studies, which should be posters.

There are most abstracts in the public health session and fewer in the other sessions.

Some of the sessions will have to be reorganized.

There might also be some reshuffle of sessions into oral presentations.

Presentation of posters and projects will be presented as posters.

Dawit: can all members of the scientific committee get a master file?

Andrea: a bit early for the master file. Will clean the master file, and then send it later.

The conference is a good opportunity for people to meet within the conference. There is a meeting room reserved for meetings that participants can book.



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Zlata: RCN is happy with the work so far. A bit surprised by the high registration fee, but understands the reasons.

Meetings in the various committee:

The Reference group will meet again after the scientific committee meeting has settled the programme. It will be in March. The Organizing committee meets every month.

14/20

## **Coronavirus and Norway's strategy for the outbreak/what has been NIPH's contribution?**

v/Frode Forland

Corona

Short update: how we can have a joint approach by EU/EEA, interesting that public health has become global health. Ongoing discussions about keeping epidemiology in containment phase, not developing in a mitigating face.

New outbreaks are going down in China, uncertain about spreading in other countries.

75 000 positive tests

Africa is a grey area, with no testing. One case in Egypt.

It is important to work together in solidarity. This is the only way forward to contain spreading.

15/20

## **Planning of General Assembly.** May 13, after the conference, day 1

Input to Agenda. v/Bente Moen

- Welcome and opening
- Appointment of Chair for the meeting
- Approval of the agenda
- Approval of minutes General Assembly April 5/4, 2019 Bergen
- Financial report
- Report of forum activities
  
- Changes in Forum Statutes  
(Attachment 2 Suggestion from the Forum board)

Suggests a personal substitute member per board member.

There was some discussion about how to practically choose them. Should there be an election for 9 substitute members. Will this be too big a job for the election committee? Can the board member choose their own substitutes? This is not very democratic. Forum board will discuss this again and suggest a new text for a change in the statutes for the General Assembly.

Regardless of how it is done, it is important that the members and substitute members of the board have a strong engagement in global health research.



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**Strategy document from the Research Council of Norway (RCN);** sorry it is in Norwegian only. V/Bente Moen.

Forskingsrådet inviterer til innspill til ny strategi, se her:

<https://www.forskingsradet.no/nyheter/2020/innspill-strategi/>

*Alle interesserte kan komme med høringsinnspill til strategien – fristen er 18.mars 2020 - og det foreslås at Forum lager et innspill, da global helse er usynlig i utkastet. Strategiutkastet vedlegges som eget dokument, samt en tekst som Bente har begynt på.*

*Forslag til vedtak: Forum sender et høringsinnspill. Bente koordinerer teksten, og styremedlemmene gir innspill. I tillegg anbefales styremedlemmene å sørge for at høringsinnspill også blir sendt fra egen institusjon. (Attachment 3 and 4)*

There is no English version of the text

Forum should send a text to this hearing.

The reaction to the RCN document is that it is a very good start to the text, but then when the specific targets come, the focus is on Norway, not global health.

Bente has made a draft for a text. Frode supports what Bente has written. Need to strengthen global health research from Norway.

Zlata: The strategy is based on the long-term plan on research and innovation. Health is only mentioned in a Norwegian setting. Zlata says RCN is happy that Forum will comment and that global health can be mentioned. It is important with comments from researchers doing global health research. This year's call: narrow thematically. There is still no definite commitment to Globvac after 2020. RCN has found own funds to avoid a stop in funding of global health research and hopes more funding will come after reception of project proposals.

Nils: the text is good.

Gunilla: the text is well written, very happy if global health nursing will be more visible.

Dawit: well written about the missing link – about low and middle-income countries.

Andrea: great that RCN commits to funding, and to a take risk for global health research.

Ingvar: Norad sends own comment – which will strengthen the overall cause

Bente will continue with the text, and send out a new version to you. Deadline 18 march.

Bring this to your own institutions as well, and initiate as many comments as possible

17/20

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

**Ingvar/Norad:** the reform is being implemented now. This means that lot of the management of the funds is the responsibility of Norad, while the political side has been transported back to the ministry. Norad has a new director, Bård Vegar Solhjell. The Global health section is eager to get engaged more, and they will participate at the Globvac conference. A strong focus on climate and environmental issues will affect how we think on health. A new strategy on non-communicable disease will also have some impact.

**Nils:** is still connected to UiT. UiT will host a CEPI board meeting in June. There is a new agreement with Camilla Stoltenberg and UiT for personnel exchange between FHI and UiT.



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**Dawit:** The Utdanningsutvalg at faculty level at OsloMet looks at a new structure of master's programme from 2021, global health could be central element in some courses. Works toward more international exchange.

**Gunilla:** more collaboration centres at Nord university.

**Katerini:** has participated in various events, participated at SDG conference in Bergen and breakfast seminar on global funds. Works on course on pandemic preparedness.

**Jon Øyvind:** The Faculty at NTNU has a bad economy – the global health day has been suggested cancelled– they have defends this day – and it will survive for now.

**Frode:** confirm agreement FHI and UiT.

He will be present one week in March in South Africa - evidence based health care – German sponsored arrangement. Last week in March in Marrakech – global health security – arranged by WHO, mainly for Africa. How to make health systems prepared for epidemics.

**Mahima:** nothing particular to report.

**Håkon:** -same impression as Jon Øyvind.

**Andrea:** Usual activity, needs to fight for already established arrangements, world health summit, digital eHealth, lancet one health commission, it is very busy.

Uphold global aspect of lancet global health

**Bente:** ECTMIH meeting – try to make agreement with CEPI.

**Zlata:** Globvac call is out, if you have questions, please ask Zlata or Karine.

18/20

**Next meeting: March 18**

19/20

**AOB**