



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Board meeting by phone January 11th, 2013, 11.00 – 12.00

Minutes

Present:

Elin Y. Dvergsdal, NTNU

Inger B. Scheel, The Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services

Kristin I. Sandberg, University of Oslo (Independent)

Hans Hadders, Sør-Trøndelag University College

Ann Louise Lie, University of Oslo (Independent)

Anne Husebekk, University of Tromsø

Unni H. Rørslett, Research council of Norway (Observer)

Therese M. Istad, University of Bergen (secretariat)

Absent:

Akhtar Hussain, University of Oslo

Rolv Terje Lie, University of Bergen

Ottar Mæstad, CMI (independent)

Birthe L. Knizek, Sør-Trøndelag University College

Graziella Van den Bergh, Bergen University College

Harald Siem, The Norwegian Directorate of Health (observer)

Naresh Sugandiran, Norwegian Medical Students Association (NMSA) (observer)

Åse-Marit Kristiansen, Research council of Norway (Observer)

Unni Silkoset, Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation, (observer)

Kårstein Måseide, Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation, (observer)

The meeting was opened with a short round of introductions of the participants, and the routine of the telephone meetings were explained to the new Board.

Info from board members:

1) The Forum has gratefully received the contract of 1.8 million NOK for our continued operation over the next three years.

2) In her function as President of the European Federation of Societies for Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH), Inger has been asked to participate in the organizing committee for the founding meeting of The World Federation of Academic Health Institutions. Andy Haines, former Director of London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Antoine Flahault, Sorbonne are the founders of the initiative. This provides an opportunity for the Forum institutions to help shaping a global network from the start. The meeting will take place in connection with the [ASPHER](#) conference, November 2013.

Inger will respond to Haines, and inform the Forum on the progress in the next meeting.



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01/13 Approval of the agenda

Agenda approved

02/13 Approval of minutes, Board meeting 22nd of November 2012 (Attachment 1)

A few comments from Elin Dvergsdal and Anne Husebekk on item 54/12 on the Hospital trusts. Both Dvergsdal and Husebekk are representatives in the [“Nasional samarbeidsgruppe for helseforskning” \(NSG\)](#), Husebekk representing UiT and Dvergsdal as secretariat from NTNU/Helse Midt-Norge.

The suggestion in the Board meeting in November was that the Hospital trusts could be invited to name a representative as an observer member in the Forum.

Action point: Dvergsdal and Husebekk will discuss this suggestion and address it again in a later board meeting.

Minutes approved with above changes in item 54/12.

03/13 Minutes from the General Assembly 26th September 2012 (For orientation only) (Attachment 2) – *Comments on the Minutes to be sent in writing to the secretariat. The minutes will be finally approved at the next General Assembly.*

04/13 New Board – (Attachment 3 – Overview members and contact info)

If any contact info need to be updated, the board members send this to the secretariat.

05/13 Annual plan:

a. Suggested meeting schedule:

- i. Phone meetings on Fridays every month (except in July) from 12:00 to 13:00, suggested dates are as following:
11 January, ~~8 February~~, 8 March, 5 April, 3 May, 14 June, 9 August, 6 September, 4 October and/or in connection with the GlobVac conference; 15 October, 1 November and 13 December.

The February meeting was moved to 15th of February.

- ii. Board meeting 15/10 – the evening before the GLOBVAC conference in Bergen. General Assembly on the first day of the conference; 16/10.
- iii. One “physical” meeting during first the first half-year at a date decided by the board

Action point:

The board aim to organize this meeting during the spring 2013.



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b. Activities/tasks (Attachment 4 – Forum Projects)

Action point 1:

A few of those who have been engaged in the ongoing Forum projects (attachments) are no longer board members, and the progress of these projects is not clear. By next meeting, Inger Scheel and the secretariat will contact the working groups to assess their progress. The board will then evaluate the progress and decide on the further action.

Action Point 2:

To improve the involvement and engagement in global health also among the individuals that constitute the body of the Forum it has been suggested that the Forum could organize regional seminars and workshops¹. The planning and practical arrangements could be carried out by interested institutes and research units locally, with the backing of the secretariat and the Board. We will develop the idea to be discussed at the February Board meeting.

Board members are encouraged to submit ideas for seminar topics to the secretariat.

RCN informs that GlobVac has announced a **call for support to events**, such as workshops, conferences, seminars etc. The intention is to provide opportunities for researchers to meet with possible partners to develop applications for grants. The Forum may apply for support here.

Deadline: 13. February – [More info on the call here.](#)

c. Other suggestions for the Annual plan

06/13 GLOBVAC conference 16/17 October, Bergen (Attachment 5 – Programme Outline)

The first meeting of the Planning committee was discussed in order to provide the Forum representatives to attend the meeting with input.

-The board members encourage more interactivity and more discussion in the next conferences – and suggest several new arenas to achieve this – among them panel discussion, “meet the professor”,

-The board members also were very satisfied with how the Student’s Preconference turned out in Trondheim, and they express a wish for this to continue in the next conferences.

-The wide focus of the conference in Trondheim was a success.

-Suggested topics; post 2015 focus, sessions on both “academics and research” and policy

¹ “The regional seminars” refers to the localization of the event, and bear no restriction to participation.



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makers, non-communicable diseases

Initiative from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Russia: why so many heart conditions, and why such a low life expectancy?

-A critical view on how Norway coordinates their efforts in health research funding for global health issues, partners in the south etc. Many times a lot of funding is awarded to the same south institution, without coordination or a broader goal...

-Arctic topics – North of Norway

-The conference “Global Health - beyond 2015” in Stockholm (takes place in April) has a “post 2015” focus – could be an inspiration for topics? [Conference website](#) and [conference programme](#).

-Posters; both traditional research posters and also encourage the different institutions to submit a poster with a description of the institution, research activities conducted, projects that are done etc.

-Should the conferences still focus on education as a part of the programme?

Ideas for topics were discussed:

- The arctic health challenges (an often neglected global health issue)
- Malawi: The Norwegian presence in Malawi is huge, and little is done to interact, share and co-ordinate
- NCDs. Finally on the global agenda (re Lancet on Global Burden of Disease).
- Projects in the interface between research and action (ie. Tromsø Mine Victim Resource center)

Topics not included in Globvac Conference 2013 should be considered relevant for regional seminars.

07/13 Any other business

Topic for the Arctic Frontiers Conference in Tromsø next year (2014) will be “Arctic Health”.

-New Observer:

Should the Forum invite The Ministry of Education and Research as an observer representative?

Action point: Inger Scheel will discuss this with previous Board members who have been in discussions with this Ministry (Jon Øyvind Odland and Rune Nilsen) and get back to the Forum to discuss this further.



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Board meeting by phone February 15th, 2013, 12.00 – 13.00

Minutes

Present:

Birthe L. Knizek, Sør-Trøndelag University College
Graziella Van den Bergh, Bergen University College
Elin Y. Dvergsdal, NTNU
Inger B. Scheel, The Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services
Kristin I. Sandberg, University of Oslo (Independent)
Akhtar Hussain, University of Oslo
Rolv Terje Lie, University of Bergen
Ottar Mæstad, CMI (independent)
Åse-Marit Kristiansen, Research council of Norway (Observer)
Kårstein Måseide, Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation, (observer)
Therese M. Istad, University of Bergen (secretariat)

Absent:

Anne Husebekk, University of Tromsø
Unni H. Rørslett, Research council of Norway (Observer)
Harald Siem, The Norwegian Directorate of Health (observer)
Naresh Sugandiran, Norwegian Medical Students Association (NMSA) (observer)
Unni Silkoset, Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation, (observer)

08/13 Approval of the agenda

Item 12/13, Globvac conference, moved to the top. Agenda approved

12/13 GLOBVAC conference 16/17 October, Bergen (Attachment 2 – preliminary programme outline)

Åse Marit Kristiansen informs on the progress in the planning committee, the committee has had a couple of meetings. A draft programme has been distributed (see attachment) to the Forum members. The venue will be [Scandic Bergen City](#) in the city centre of Bergen.

The programme is divided in two main columns, one that focus on the GLOBVAC project portfolio including vaccine research and one that focus on implementation research, mother /child research – including focus on CIH's 25th anniversary and the research that have been done through those 25 years.



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In addition to the two main columns, there will be a symposium part, that the researchers will be invited to organize themselves. Invitations and requests for input will be distributed.

The title of the conference is yet to be decided, some suggestions are:

1. Research to optimise programme delivery in global health
2. Global health Scenarios 2030: Future Research for Implementing Sustainable Health Systems
3. Implementation Research in Global Health
4. Research for Implementing Sustainable Health Systems

The discussion of the title is still going on, and the Forum members are encouraged to continue to take part in the discussion through e-mail after this meeting.

Input and comments from the Forum board:

- The lack of NCD topics is mentioned by many of the board members, there is a strong wish to include this. Suggested topics are; mental health, disabilities, diabetes. Hopefully it is possible to include a session on NCD, perhaps in the symposium part – with individual talks which can be thematically linked.
- If the researchers are expected to fill the entire 2-hour symposium, that could be challenging. If the planning committee suggests wide titles for each symposium, different researchers can contribute to the same session (for example with 20-minute talks) – this would perhaps make it easier to engage different research environments.
- The Globvac portfolio (column 2) includes a lot of vaccine research. In the preparations for the conference in 2012, the Forum experienced difficulties in getting referees with competence in this field for the scientific committee which evaluate the poster submissions. This could be a challenge this year also.
- Topic suggestion: at the time being a lot of money goes into results based funding for health service provision, a discussion of this approach is Important.

09/13 Approval of minutes, Board meeting 11th of January 2013 (Attachment 1)

Item 09/13, 10/13 and 11/13 combined: Inger Scheel takes us through the action points from last meeting:

02/13 Nasjonal Samarbeidsgruppe for helseforskning (NSG)

Ongoing process. The Forum will get back to this later this year.

05/13 b, Forum seminars:

Action point:

The board members are encouraged to send suggestions for seminar topics to Inger

Action point:

Will the Forum achieve added value through organizing seminars? Ottar and Inger will draft a short note on benefits/challenges for this kind of activity and circulate it to the the board members.



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Item 07/13

New Observer; Ministry of Education and Research? Inger will follow up on this.

Minutes approved

10/13 Follow up issues (“Action points” from earlier meetings etc.)

See above

11/13 Brainstorm re topics for Regionally based seminars

See above

13/13 Any other business

- A white paper on distribution policy (by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) is due in mid-March 2013.
Health should be an important part of this white paper. The Forum has to be prepared to follow up and respond to this when it is released.
- NORHED call, deadline 15th of March
- NORAD is in the process of updating their research strategy. A seminar is planned in mid-March, invitations will be sent to some research institutions. NORAD will get back more info later.



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Board meeting by phone April 5th 2013, 12.00 – 13.00

MINUTES

Present:

Hans Hadders
Inger Scheel
Elin Y. Dvergsdal
Graziella Van den Bergh
Rolv T. Lie
Akhtar Hussain
Ottar Mæstad
Anne Husebekk
Therese M. Istad
Harald Siem
Naresh Sugandiran
Unni H. Rørslett

Absent:

Kristin I. Sandberg
Kårstein Måseide
Unni Silkoset
Åse Marit Kristiansen

14/13 Approval of the agenda

Agenda approved

15/13 Approval of minutes, Board meeting 15th of February 2013 (Attachment 1)

-Corrected in the minutes: Item 12/13, bullet point number four; at the time being a lot of money goes into results based funding for implementation research for health service provision, a discussion of this approach is important.

-Item 13/13: White paper on distribution policy, launched 5th of April;

<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/ud/dok/regpubl/stmeld/2012-2013/meld-st-25-20122013.html?id=721514>

Action point: Board members who read the white paper share their opinions of the paper with the board through e-mail, notify the others if there is anything in the document that the Forum should respond to /comment on.

Minutes approved with the correction above.

16/13 Update Forum Projects



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

- **Task Force on “Global Policies as Determinants of Health”**
 - A collaborative project between The Forum and medical students from four universities in Norway (Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim, Tromsø).
 - Their aim is to facilitate a process between global health research units in Norway and research units in other fields – such as economy, biology etc. to identify research gaps regarding global policies in different areas that impact health. Through this, they plan to develop a cross-disciplinary research agenda for global policies for health, to be published/ distributed to the relevant government actors.
 - This project is well on its way, it will be more or less finished by May. The project group plan to organize a seminar in September.
- **Climate and Health**

This project group will among other activities organize a one-day seminar on climate and health in Bergen. The date for the seminar is 3rd of May. Gunnar Kvåle, Bernt Lindtjørn and Tore Furevik represent the organizers.
- **National research school for global health**

There has been conducted one meeting in this group since February, but there is a realization that we have carried this as far as we can as a project led by members of the Forum Board. The board members who have been championing this idea are no longer part of the Board and the ideas need more capacity and leadership than the board can muster. However, the project idea is well embedded in our statutes, and we do need to look for options for moving this forward.

-The Forum discussed available options briefly. In this regard we revisited the meeting with the Globvac Board in September, where the Globvac Board raised the possibility of funding a firmer structure for the Forum in order to increase capacity. At that time, the Forum was not inclined to expand on the activities as this needs a substantial commitment from a Board that has its hands full. However, considering the capacity constraints we see in this project and other ambitions we have, and if the Board agrees, we may explore this further.

 - – **The board agrees to explore this further**
 - The Research Council will invite the Forum (The head of the board / the secretariat) to a meeting to discuss this further.

Action point:

As head of the board, Inger Scheel will prepare a note for the meeting and report back to the board afterwards.

- **Task Force on web-based solutions**

Action point:
These will provide and update the needs-assessment we developed 2012 and circulate
- Inger will discuss with Rolv T. Lie, who is head of department at Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care, UiB. This is where the secretariat is situated and the Forum website was also established through UiB. It should be clarified whether the website can be easily changed or if there are contracts etc. that need to be considered.
 - CMI has offered technical resources/ assistance to the Forum.



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17/13 GLOBVAC conference 16/17 October, Bergen (Attachment 2 – preliminary programme outline)
No new information regarding the programme, the programme committee will meet shortly.

Board member Akhtar Hussain volunteer to do the organizing of the researcher led symposium on NCDs. Inger will discuss with Åse Marit Kristiansen in the GlobVac secretariat whether the NCD session was meant as a researcher led symposium or if this is to be developed on the the program committee's invitation the Globvac planning committee will get back to Akhtar with information.

18/13 Establishment of referees / scientific committee for evaluation of abstracts –
GlobVac conference

Action point: All board members have to provide 2 referees from their own institution.
The secretariat will distribute a form and competence criteria.

19/13 Any other business

FESTMIH – Inger informs on activities in this European Forum.

Organize biannual European conferences, this year it will take place in Denmark.

The FESTMIH board was part of the scientific committee for the conference in Denmark, but has now withdrawn from this, due to communication difficulties with the organizers.

The planning of the next conference, in Basel in 2015, is well on its way, and the FESTMIH board is participating in the scientific committee here.



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Board meeting by phone May 16th 2013, 12.00 – 13.00

Minutes

Present:

Inger Scheel
Ottar Mæstad
Rolv Terje Lie
Elin Y. Dvergsdal
Graziella Van den Bergh
Hans Hadders
Birthe L. Knizek
Therese M. Istad
Naresh Sugandiran
Kårstein Måseide
Marianne Monclair

Absent:

Kristin I. Sandberg
Anne Husebekk
Ahktar Hussain
Åse Marit Kristiansen
Harald Siem
Unni H. Rørslett

20/13 Approval of the agenda

Agenda approved

21/13 Approval of minutes, Board meeting 5th of April 2013 (Attachment 1)

Correction on Item 12/13, bullet point 4 (Minutes Board meeting, February 15th 2013):

Input and comments from the Forum board (to GlobVac Conference):

- Topic suggestion: at the time being a lot of money goes into results based funding for implementation research for health service provision, a discussion of this approach is important.

Action point to follow-up:

Web-based solutions: Therese to recapture the needs assessment we carried out in 2012.
The new board to discuss the development of web-based solutions in relation to the



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strategic development of the Forum in the June meeting. Inger to discuss possibilities with UiB.

Minutes approved with changes above.

22/13 Globvac Conference update (Attachment 2 – preliminary programme outline) Kårstein informed on behalf of the planning committee

- The Planning Committee met earlier this week. The programme is taking shape
- 12 researcher led symposia have been submitted. It is not clear yet how many there will be room for. These are not evaluated yet, but the quality is very good across.
- The Planning Committee has suggested that output from the Student's Pre-conference can be used as input to a panel discussion for the main conference.

Abstracts and referees:

- 60 abstracts submitted – will still accept those sent during the upcoming weekend
- Abstracts to be assessed by 2 referees. Deadline June 15th

Action point:

Forum Board representatives to identify 2 referees each ASAP. Field of interest/ speciality/ methods/competencies to be indicated for easier allocation of abstracts/referees.

23/13 Agenda for the June meeting

The Board agrees that the June meeting will be used for identifying current constraints and future possibilities at the June meeting before we start discussions with RCN about how much financial space we can hope for.

Among the strengths of the Forum mentioned were the Forum's organization with engaged observers from RC Norway, NORAD and the Health Directorate combined with the GlobVac Board's current support (not only financial) give possibilities for strategic development of the organization. Also the Board's ability to function as a think-tank was mentioned as a unique feature along with the ability to set aside institutional competition and work for the common good of all member institutions.

Among the constraints was the lack of time among Board members to keep on top of developments and to carry out the work needed to respond, and to achieve the Forum's objectives.



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There was agreement that selected guests are invited to participate in the last part of the meeting, to have an update on the Forum Projects and to have a fuller discussion on the future of the Forum.

Date for the meeting:

Tuesday June 11th at 11-16. Venue to be decided. Dinner at 17:00 with guests.

24/13 Any other business

Norad and GlobVac; Seminar June 4th “New Partnerships for Innovation in Global Health”

www.norad.no/no/aktuelt/arrangementskalender/new-partnerships-for-innovation-in-global-health

News on the GlobVac programme funding:

Kårstein informs briefly on the process which is currently underway. The Foreign Ministry decides on the broad lines, NORAD works with RC Norway through discussions, and the Programme Boards shapes the technical calls for research projects

There is a general increase in funding for Global Health. A large part of this is aimed for GlobVac.

The Forum Board expresses concern with this closed process. The Forum provides a great platform for the parties to discuss funding priorities and mechanisms with the collective global health research community, formally and informally. The Forum’s perspective is that the research community should be able to take part also in the role as one of the premise providers in collaboration with NORAD and RC Norway. To be followed up.

News from RC Norway:

New member to serve at the Globvac Board: Rifat Atun(Imperial College London).



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Board Meeting in Oslo June 11th 2013, 11:30 – 16:00

Senter for utvikling og miljø (SUM), Universitetet i Oslo, Sognsveien 68

Minutes

Present:

Kristin I. Sandberg
Hans Hadders
Ingvild Hope
Kårstein Måseide
Ottar Mæstad
Inger B. Scheel
Therese M. Istad
Rolv Terje Lie
Naresh Sugandiran

Absent:

Akhtar Hussain
Elin Y. Dvergsdal
Graziella Van den Bergh
Anne Husebekk

25/13 Approval of the agenda

Agenda approved

26/13 Approval of minutes, Board meeting 16th of May 2013 (Attachment 1)

Minutes approved

Discussed item 28 before item 27:

28/13 Mobilizing the Forum body – Forum seminars in collaboration with local member institutes.

The question has been raised whether the Forum is sufficiently engaging the members outside of the board – or if all activities are undertaken by the board exclusively.

By the Forum's definition, a Forum member could be either an individual or a Norwegian institution "that work with or have an interest in global health and health research". The main categories of institutional members are universities, university colleges and other institutions involved in global health research. Other institutions, governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations can register as observers ([The Forum's Statutes, Article III](#)). At the moment we have about 400 members. Most of these members are represented at the Board by their institutions (Universities), their institution category representative (other research institutes) and the independent representative.



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However, the link between individual members and their representative on the Board may be a weakness and better anchoring in the Forum body could be advantageous.

The Forum should also encourage and support collaboration in the field of global health research, both nationally and internationally. One way of doing this on a national scale, could be to organize seminars locally but also invite guests from internationally significant research groups to facilitate networking between Forum Members and international actors. This has also been discussed in previous board meetings.

The global health day in Trondheim (NTNU/HiST) is a good example to be copied.

All seminars should be of national interest, but realistically most of the seminar participants would be local researchers, students or the general public. The Forum could also give a few prerequisites for the organizing; for example that it is a requirement that a seminar should be a collaboration between at least two institutions.

One seminar has already been organized, former board member Gunnar Kvåle initiated a *Symposium on climate and health*, held at the University of Bergen – this was carried out in May 2013, [see program here](#).

- **Topic suggestions for seminars:**

- Several Norwegian Global Health research units are working in Malawi – each one with their own perspective and approach. It would be useful to get together and meet, discuss the different viewpoints and approaches; maybe some research units could work together, and get some synergy effects through closer research collaboration (Anne Husebekk, UiT).
- Seminar based on background papers submitted to the Lancet commission by very strong international researchers (David Sanders, Amit Sengupta, AE Birn, S. Friel, David Legge etc) Some of the topics: Food security (food sovereignty), nutritional transition, occupation and health (Gaza for example), Work and health (Mining industry), economic crises and health in Southern Europe, review on WHO and trade. Organize a seminar and invite these authors. (Inger Scheel, Kristin Sandberg (UiO, LEVE/SUM/HELSAM?)
- Reuse suggestions from a NUPI application to the project "[Refleks – utenrikspolitisk ordskifte](#)" (organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The original application's goal was to stimulate a discussion on Norwegian decisions in foreign policy - ie open seminars aimed at a wide audience. NTNU was a partner in this application, and they propose to look into which of the original suggestions could be used as topics in Forum Seminars. (Kristin Sandberg, Hans Hadders, Elin Dvergsdal, NTNU/HiST)

NTNU has the full list, short version of topics:

- 1) From international to global health: Changes in Norwegian health aid over time
- 2) How to meet global health challenges? Parallel approaches to aid, diplomatic efforts, legal framework, knowledge and research.
- 3) Health and security; intersecting points. Health as part of military strategies.
- 4) Coherence in the development policy, with health as a case. Focus on migration of health



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workers, trade policy, multilateral engagement, etc.

- Seminar on Mental Health (Hans Hadders, Birthe L. Knizek, HiST)

Other approaches to engage the Forum Members:

- Web-based solutions, discussion forum, interactive platforms.
- Better organizing prior to important conferences, courses or seminars –someone should always represent the Norwegian research environment. Participating in seminars/ courses will also make the different units more attractive and relevant as cooperation partners.
- “Publishing scholarship” as an incentive?
A suggestion was voiced to support young researchers with small funds for developing publications. The newsletter Health Diplomacy Monitor (Carlton University – Centre for trade policy and law) is an example where PhD students are given the opportunity to publish.

27/13 Strategic development of the Forum. Brainstorm discussion:

- The role of the Forum today – what do we want to be in the future?

The original idea behind the establishment of the Forum; Gunnar Kvåle is interviewed by RCN in 2005; [Planlegger Norsk forum for global helseforskning](#)

Tasks for the Forum:

-Networking, debates, disseminate research results, showcasing the Norwegian research environment, enhance and promote high quality research
-But; not to build a strong Forum for the Forum’s sake.

A lot has happened in the field of Global Health since the start of the Forum. At UiO for example they have started a Master’s program in international health, and global health is now a part of several other study programs in other fields as well (Social science, humanities etc)

The Forum’s has been part of the changes, not necessarily the reason for the improvement, but as a catalyst, a facilitator with the synergy effects etc.

The Board runs processes on behalf of the Forum body, but to what extent is the Board able to pick up on what the other members would like us to focus on? Are we open for input from the members? How to mobilize for example the best students to choose global health? What are we already doing? What could we do more of? What do the different institutions need?

The Board has to signal explicitly that we welcome and wish for opinions and input from the Forum body.

- **Brainstorm on Organization:**



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Interaction with UD, RCN, HOD, GlobVac etc. on behalf of the Forum body, the board has been working on responding to relevant issues, hearings and so on.

-This has been where the Board has functioned very well

The Forum wishes to give input to processes like for example the strategy process in NORAD (before more or less everything is decided).

-In the phone meetings we very often have observers from funding or governmental bodies present, and we can always discuss research priorities and give input at these meetings. Still, these are informal discussions and a different matter than to prepare and write a thorough and formal input document.

The greatest challenge is the fact that the representatives on the board generally are very pressed on time. In addition the Secretariat has developed into a purely administrative "unit". The Forum may need a professional who can dedicate more time to focus on the Forums' tasks.

One solution could be to employ a secretary general (generalsekretær) in at least a 50 % (?) position. This person would follow up on the scientific issues as well as policy developments, and would work closely with the Secretariat. The Secretariat would deal with the administrative issues.

A secretary general could have followed up continuously and kept up with the field scientifically, and focused exclusively on the Forum's work. This would give the Forum the possibility to expand its functions, and really get deeper into the bigger projects such as establishing a research school and work to enhance the national research collaboration. This is important also in order to make the Norwegian research environment in Global Health more attractive and interesting as a partner for the top international research units and environments – not only south partners, but all over the world.

We could also have a sort of «board wheel»/»year cycle» - look into if we are going to give input on policy documents etc. at specific times of the year (each spring or autumn for example).

The Forum as a Think Tank?

Generally, the Forum has been most productive and successful when it has functioned as a "think tank" – for example when it has responded to relevant white papers or other political processes.

Think tanks usually organize debate meetings, if we went for this model we could aim for 4 meetings, one in each of the bigger research locations in Norway; Tromsø, Trondheim, Bergen and Oslo.

In the same way as the suggested seminars, this would be a way of mobilizing members and those interested in global health research.

-In US employees in several think tanks can publish from the think tank and do not have to credit a different «home institution». This is difficult to do in Norway; we still need the "mother institution" to get credit partly because of the financing system which is based on credits.

Action point, Organization of the Forum:

Inger Scheel will write a note regarding the organization of the Forum based on the options the board has discussed in this meeting. Should the Forum reorganize, reallocate some of the funds, what options do we have? Employ a general secretary?



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If we have someone (in a scientific position) we could do more and spend more time on the tasks which we have taken on. We have to concretize how we could work differently with a different organization – what is required etc.

- The statutes: are we adhering? (Attachment 2)
 - Increased funding for global health was one of the main focus areas for the Forum initially, a lot has happened on this and the funding has been substantially increased –this might not need to be our top priority any longer.
 - To get the different institutions interested in the global health field has also been an important goal – here too a lot has been done, the institutions are now working a lot with global health – and this does not have to be a main priority anymore either.
 - The Forum still needs to focus on coordination of the fragmented research environment in the field, national and international cooperation. Work with the best research environments internationally. Strengthen the environments in order to be of interest as partners for the international research environments. Collaboration and quality, information exchange between institutions and funding units. One of the main reasons for the establishment of the Forum was that there is happening so much in the global health field, there is a need for someone to compile and coordinate to increase the impact /effect – when there is someone to keep track of the whole picture it is easier to reach a fuller potential rather than lots of fragmented environments.
 - **Web based solutions** should be one of our focus areas for the rest of this year:
 - Funding calls, research calls etc.should be announced regularly at our website, updated often.
 - Make a calendar with relevant calls in the field of global health research – sorted on date and topic etc.?
 - Project database: SIU, RCN, NORAD +++
 - Debate forum
 - Each board member to write an editorial for the website, perhaps every other month?
 - Information channel – possibilities for feedback
 - Mobilize to increase the interest in global health

Action point WEB:

The secretariat will draft a requirements specification for the website. Which needs do we want to meet? Which tasks would we and can we help with? Target group? Global health researchers, students, the general public? Anyone with an interest in global health?

How to be open for input and discussions? Discussion forum online?

Knowledge database for the researchers? Who are researching what? An example on how to do this:
www.academia.edu



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Overview of institutions working with global health..? NORAD and RCN refer to the Forum website when they are asked to recommend partners for collaboration for for example the GlobVac call.

Project database:

See a great example of how it can be done in at the website of National Institutes of Health (NIH) in USA: *International Biomedical Research Organization Support*; projects supported per year – interactive map: <http://worldreport.nih.gov/index.cfm>

The draft should be circulated to the board for input before next meeting.

- Revisit and update the 2011/12 SWOT analysis (attachment 3)
- Options and way forward

29/13 Follow-up: work plan and the Forum projects (Attachment 4 and 5)

-The Forum would like to promote collaboration with researchers in partner countries and capacity building in developing countries – not only system thinking. Results from direct involvement in the institutions – both the research institutions and in health institutions (for example hospitals) have been good.

-Focusing not only on the overarching issues, but also how the institutions meet the people.

-The funding calls often lack the focus on capacity building– NORHED includes it a bit, and also EDCTP (clinical trials) have capacity building as part of their call.

-The student project: *Global Policies as Determinants of Health* – connected to the Lancet Interdisciplinary research, global policies that affect health. This is a “Mapping project”.

The project is in its final stages, it will be summed up in a seminar where all the different groups that have been interviewed have been invited to attend – one possibility is also to create a collaboration platform for them. International key note speakers will be invited.

-Climate, Environment and Health

It is difficult to follow up on projects that are/ have been led by persons that no longer are a part of the board, and who are employed and situated at a different institution than the leader of the board.

Action Point:

Inger Scheel will follow up with Gunnar Kvåle, to see if this runs independently of the Forum.

-The National Research School:

The Forum has worked a lot on this through the years, but for some time now the work has been lacking a leader and focus. A short application for the research school has been submitted (without results) earlier, but then the process has halted.

Inger Scheel attended the Dean’s meeting in 2012, at this meeting there was quite a lot of enthusiasm for the establishment of a joint, national research school in global health.

The Forum has to decide:

- 1) The institutions that have a teaching obligation (the universities) have to lead this work



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

or:

2) We have to reduce our ambitions in this project, instead we could start by sharing some of the research courses etc.

Action point

1) The Forum asks Elin Dvergsdal, board member and representative from NTNU to consider initiating the further process together with the rest of the University environment. Elin should liaise with Rune, Gunnar and Jon Øyvind who have been laying the ground work for the research school. The Universities could build on the work that already has been done in connection with the earlier application process etc (if they find it relevant).

2) The Forum will support and facilitate the process and help to coordinate the overarching elements of the research school. Focus on the added value, what will the students get in addition to the “regular courses”? Learning environment? Scientifically stimulating collaboration? Digital sharing and web based learning tools will be important.

3) The Forum will also take on the role of following up.

Other projects:

1) Mapping of research funding:

-A project which the Forum would be interested in working on is mapping of the research funding; which units are receiving the funding, what topics, which partners etc.

Both national and international, but perhaps start with a mapping of the RCN and NORAD?

NORAD has also been planning to do a mapping for its own sake.

Action point:

-Kårstein will follow up and check if NORAD is interested in involving the Forum in this, perhaps it could be done as a collaboration or “outsourced” to the Forum as a separate research project.

2) Suggestion: Map to what degree research results are implemented in Norwegian global health policy:

Study the results from the GlobVac research and how much of it has been used in policies – and how much is planned to be implemented in policy. (Inger Scheel)

30/13 Research funding decisions. Are we satisfied with the Forum’s role? (Attachment 6)

GlobVac – how the funds are distributed have changed quite a lot over time, and the funds have also increased in total every year. In the last GlobVac call the distribution was about 50/50 between vaccine and the other topics in the global health programme (3 other thematic areas).

-When the programme call from GlobVac is out, follow up and encourage the different units to submit applications.

31/13 Any other business

- **HelseOmsorg21 (HO21)**

The Norwegian Directorate of Health are responsible for a new strategy process for policy and research, initiated by Jonas G. Støhre and led by John A. Røttingen. RCN is the Secretariat for this process, called HelseOmsorg21. They will most likely establish a working group.

[Read more at their website.](#)



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

- Rolv Terje Lie, representative from UiB, informed the board that the Centre for International Health, UiB soon will have a new director. Lie will suggest to the director that he/she take on the role as the Forum representative instead of him – as this will be the person responsible for the global health commitment from UiB and also will have authorizations at faculty level (not only department level).



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Board meeting by phone September 6th 2013, 12.00 – 13.00

Minutes - draft

Present:

Inger B. Scheel
Graziella Van den Bergh
Kristin I. Sandberg
Rolv Terje Lie
Birthe L. Knizek
Elin Y. Dvergsdal
Elisabeth Darj
Akhtar Hussain
Wenche Dageid
Ottar Mæstad
Therese M. Istad
Ingvild Hope

Absent:

Sameline Grimsgaard
Hans Hadders
Harald Siem
Kårstein Måseide
Åse-Marit Kristiansen
Marianne Monclair
Naresh Sugandiran

AGENDA

32/13 Approval of the agenda

Inger suggests two more topics for discussion. 35/13: *Suggestion for agenda for the General Assembly* is changed to *Annual report and agenda for the General Assembly* and 36/13 is added: *Report to the Research Council of Norway*.

Agenda approved with the changes above.

33/13 Approval of minutes, Board meeting 11th of June 2013 (Attachment 1)

Approved with edit of “main focus” at page 5 (changed to “one of our focus areas”).
Minutes approved.



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

34/13 Follow-up: work plan and the Forum projects (Attachment 2-5)

The status for the Forum work plan was discussed also to give a foundation for agenda item 35 and 36/13

- 1) Seminars. One carried out (Climate & Health), one scheduled for October 2nd (the GlobPol project). Discussion about how to spark members to initiate relevant seminars to secure democracy. Suggestions included announcing funding or reach out to the research environments. **Action:** Inger propose a solution based on the discussion to be decided on next board meeting
- 2) National Research School for Global Health: Elin will take responsibility for following up on this matter on behalf of the Forum. Could draw benefits from involving the group that has worked on this earlier in the planning and implementation. The institutions (mainly the universities) involved will agree on division of responsibilities.
- 3) Global Policies as determinants of health. This project is almost finished. Draft report circulated and seminar planned for 2nd of October.
- 4) Web-based solutions. Good progress. Therese's proposal was discussed. The Web-group has relatively free hands to develop, and we prioritize the resources needed to go into this project. Some support was granted from CMI. **Action:** Therese contacts Ottar, who can link to the right person at CMI.
- 5) Climate and Health: Following up our 2011 declaration. Difficult to do since the initiators are no longer part of the board and none of the current Board members has this topic as their main focus area. Again a capacity problem of the Board. The secretariat should be strengthened with a "fagperson" to follow up on this and all other activities and to provide continuity to the Forum.
- 6) Globvac Conference. Update from Ingvild, the Forum contributes to the organizing.
- 7) Running activities - to be described in the Annual report

35/13 *Annual report and agenda for the General Assembly*

Deadline for distribution: September 25th

Will be developed along with the Annual report to NFR, so deadline on contributions are **Evening September 18th**.

Action:

- 1) Inger/Therese suggest an agenda
- 2) Øyvind provides an economic report
- 3) Inger/Therese/Ingvild provides new budget
- 4) Elin provides a report from Research School group
- 5) Inger/Kristin provides a short report from Student project
- 6) Therese provides a report for Web based solutions
- 7) Inger/Therese/Ingvild provides the report of running activities



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

8) Therese to circulate among the Board members before distributing

36/13 Annual report to Research council of Norway

Deadline Sept 19th

Action:

- 1) Wenche (RCN) to provide the correct report form
- 2) Inger/Therese/Ingvild to write report

37/13 The GlobVac Conference – status update

Ingvild updates the Board on the progress. Urges everyone to register.

37/13 Any other business

- «HelseOmsorg21»
-is a national strategy process. A strategy committee is established and mandated to develop a 21st century R&D strategy for the health and care sectors in Norway. The Forum Board is well represented: Graziella, Ottar, Inger. They will make use of the board and members in the strategy process. This initiative is congruent with one of the Forum's main causes - that research institutes and researchers must be allowed to participate in shaping the premises for the political agenda and research (funding) priorities in this field.
- Rolv Terje, representative from UiB, informed the board that Bente Moen, newly employed director of Centre for International Health, will replace him in the Board.



General Assembly 2013

16 October 2013, 17.15 -18.45 hrs
Hotel Scandic Bergen City

Minutes - Draft

1 Welcome and opening

The General Assembly was opened by the Head of the Board, Inger B. Scheel.

2 Election of chair for the meeting

Nils Gunnar Songstad was suggested chair of the General Assembly. The General Assembly approved the suggested chair.

3 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved

4 Approval of Minutes from General Assembly 26 September, 2012, Trondheim

Correction: on page 3 in the minutes, heading of the table is to be changed from 2010-2012 to 2012-2014. The minutes were approved with the correction above.

5 Activities of Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Activity report 2012-2013

The Global policies report and seminar

Inger Scheel invited medical student Andrea Melberg to present the project *Global Policies*. The Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research has worked with ten Norwegian medical students on a project on interdisciplinary cooperation among actors working within the field of global health in Norway. This work has resulted in the report [*Komplekse utfordringer krever samarbeid på tvers. En kartlegging av perspektiver fra forskningsinstitusjoner og organisasjoner i det norske global helsemiljøet*](#) presented at a seminar 2 October 2013. The report has received much interest, and participation at the launch seminar was very good. On behalf of the students involved in the project, Melberg expressed interest in a continuing collaboration with the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research.

The climate and health symposium

This one-day symposium 3 May 2013 at Centre for International Health, UiB was organised by researchers from different units at UiB, and former board member Gunnar Kvåle was one of the main initiators, see www.uib.no/cih/en/seminar/2013/04/symposium-on-climate-and-health-at-cih



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

National research school in global health research

Board members from NTNU have recently taken on the responsibility of leading this project.

Website

The secretariat is working with Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) on improving and updating the website of Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research.

Changes in the Forum board

The composition of the board until the 2014 General Assembly:

Board member	Deputy	Institution
Akhtar Hussain	Johanne Sundby	University of Oslo
*Bente Moen	Karen Marie Moland	University of Bergen
*Sameline Grimsgaard	*Tore Jarl Gutteberg	University of Tromsø
*Elisabeth Darj	*Elin Yli Dvergsdal	NTNU
Hans Hadders	Birthe Loa Knizek	Sør-Trøndelag University College
Graziella Van den Bergh	Nina Dalen	Bergen University College
Inger B. Scheel	Frederik Frøen	The Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services/ The Norwegian Institute of Public Health
Kristin Ingstad Sandberg	Jagrati Jani-Bølstad	Independent
Ottar Mæstad	Ann Louise Lie	Independent

*= new members

The board members from UiB, UiT and NTNU; Lie, Husebekk and Dvergsdal respectively have withdrawn from the board due to other obligations. New board members, Moen, Grimsgaard and Darj have been appointed.

Elin Y. Dvergsdal is now the substitute from NTNU (instead of Magnus Steigedal) and Tore Jarl Gutteberg replaces Solrunn Hansen as the substitute from UiT.

The changes in the board were approved by the General Assembly.

The election committee for next year's election will be informed to start working on getting candidates for the new board to be elected at the 2014 General Assembly.

Economy report 2012-2013

Project period: 1 January – 31 December 2012

Funding received: 490,000 NOK

Total expenses: 409,097 NOK

Project period: 1 January – 30 September 2013

Funding received: 600,000 NOK

Total expenses to date (30 September 2013): 300,142 NOK



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

The General Assembly was informed that updates to economy report had been received from the Research Council of Norway shortly before the General Assembly. The presented report however gives a correct overview of the expenditures since the last General Assembly. The General Assembly approved the economy report with the reservation above.

6 Future of the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

The General Assembly was invited to discuss the opportunities for development of the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research.

Inger B. Scheel introduced the topic on whether the activities of the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research should continue with work on a voluntary basis or should professionalize the organization. The Forum is effective and useful, but is constrained by the time limitations most organizations based on voluntary efforts are faced with. The many strengths and opportunities (for instance a recent offer to the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research to take over and run *The journal of health diplomacy* www.GHD-net.org) raises the question of considering employing a 'secretary-general'. The GLOBVAC Board as funder is supportive to this idea.

The General Assembly welcomed the discussion but requested more discussion in the board and that a concrete proposal should be presented at a later General Assembly.

7 Information from the General Assembly's members and observers

Suggestions for topics to the GLOBVAC conference 2014 can be sent to therese.istad@cih.uib.no.



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Board meeting by phone November 29th 2013, 12.00 – 13.00

Minutes

Present:

Inger B. Scheel
Graziella Van den Bergh
Kristin I. Sandberg
Birthe L. Knizek
Elin Y. Dvergsdal
Åse-Marit Kristiansen
Hans Hadders
Wenche Dageid
Ottar Mæstad
Zlata Turkanovic
Harald Siem
Ingvild Hope

Absent:

Sameline Grimsgaard
Elisabeth Darj
Kårstein Måseide
Marianne Monclair
Naresh Sugandiran
Akhtar Hussain
Therese M. Istad

AGENDA

38/13 Approval of the agenda
Agenda approved

39/13 Approval of minutes, Board meeting 6th of September 2013 (Attachment 1)
Minutes approved

40/13 Evaluation of the GLOBVAC-conference 2013.

The general opinion among the Forum members was that the conference was successful both in regards to the practical processes and the thematic focus. Among the critical comments were:

- The conference should have a more research based focus
- There should be more focus on the social dimensions, networking and meeting place for researchers.



Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

- The consortium of contributors has to be visible when presenting the conference. This year, The Forum was not sufficiently visible in the arrangement. The Planning committee and the Forum need to discuss ideas and find solutions for a stronger presence that corresponds to the Forum's contributions to the partnership next year.
- GLOBVAC 2014 will be in week 42 or 43, RCN will give us the dates as soon as they are settled. The theme will most likely be topic will be within the area of *Women's and children's rights and health*.

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41/13 Helse Omsorg 21 – update on process and FORUM input for next stage
Inger Scheel and Ottar Mæstad oriented the Forum members of the progress with this initiative. Scheel is leading work group 5: [Globale helseutfordringer](#). Mæstad is deputy. They have had one meeting in WG5 in September, and one meeting with all the groups. The Forum will have a meeting in early January 2014, to decide if, and how we best can contribute with comments and input. The deadline for WG5 is December 11, and it will be made available December 13. Scheel will keep us updated.

42/1 Status Activity plan (Attachment 2)

Due to lack of time only a few activities were commented on:

- Research School. Elin Dvergsdal will contact the other university representatives in the Forum to form a working group. Together they will decide on the approach.
- Climate and Global Health: Kristin Sandberg has had discussions with representatives from Kirkens Nødhjelp, Nansens Institutt and Fredskorpset. They are interested in exploring opportunities to collaborate with the Forum in the field of climate. Kristin will tell us more in the next meeting.
- We are working on the web page and ask members to provide photos

43/13 Any other business

- Harald Siem is leaving Helsedirektoratet. He will because of this also leave the Forum. This is a very special occasion for us, since Siem has been an observer in the Forum since the very beginning. Siem will be invited to the annual meeting in Oslo in June 2014, and we will have a celebration of his efforts then. Siem comments that this is his global health family, and he hopes that he will be assigned to tasks for the Forum in the years to come. The Forum will write a letter to Helsedirektoratet and ask for a successor for Siem.
- We will make a suggestion for Forum phone conference meetings in 2014. The meeting scheduled for December is cancelled and rescheduled for January 10th 2014