



# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research Meeting

## Minutes

23 September 2020 12:00 to 13:00 on Zoom

Present: Bente Moen, Jon Øyvind Odland, Frode Forland, Nils Daulaire, Dawit Shawel Abebe, Ingeborg Haavardsson, Elin Yli Dvergsdal, Gunhild Koldal.

**61/20 Approval of agenda**  
Agenda approved.

**62/20 Approval of minutes from board meeting August 26** (Attachment 1)  
Minutes approved.  
We follow up item 54/20, invite J.A. Røttingen to a board meeting. We try to invite him to the December meeting. We can also approach Minister of International Development Dag-Inge Ulstein to a meeting (to be decided when Røttingen has been asked).

**63/20 Planning a digital Forum member meeting 18th November 12-13**

We decided to have the meeting 1200-1330 on Zoom.

Start of the agenda:

1200-1210	Welcome, by Bente Moen
1210-1225	How do we achieve good digital meetings, by (?)
1225-1235	Discussion (using breakout rooms)
1235-1245	Experiences from digital meetings with partners in Ethiopia, by Dawit Shawel Abebe
1245-1255	Experiences from digital meetings with partners in Zimbabwe, Malawi, and South-Africa, by Jon Øyvind Odland
1255-1305	Discussion
1305-1315	Covid 19 – the pandemic as seen from a NIPH perspective, by Frode Forland
1315-1325	Covid 19 – how the pandemic affects projects, from a researcher perspective by Katerini Storeng (?)
1325-1330	Discussion
1330-	End

Introductory speech: how to achieve good digital meetings

Speakers suggested by Elin:

<https://www.uio.no/for-ansatte/kompetanse/tema/ledelse/digital-moteledelse-2020-09-23.html>

Nicole Njå, Organisasjonspsykolog og Direktør i AFF

Linn Lien Lømo, Organisasjonspsykolog og Konsulent i AFF

Two of the Board members are asked to talk about their experience with meetings with partners in south. 5-10 minutes followed by discussion.  
Focus on infrastructure, pedagogics, cultural differences.

Next topic:

How covid19 affects everything, including research. Research projects are postponed or cancelled and the huge focus on corona takes away focus from other serious diseases.



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Frode Forland can present from NIPH point of view.

We ask Katerini Storeng if she can present from a researcher point of view, where projects might be postponed, or cancelled due to the pandemic.

Discussions can happen in breakout rooms to activate the participants.

Ingeborg suggests Jeanette Magnus and Anne Moen from UiO. Anne Moen has created a mooc for PhD-students in global health. They also have been involved in large IT projects and have much experience in teaching.

Invitation will be sent to the Forum members in a newsletter. Information from around the country will take too long to present in the meeting, so that can be posted in a newsletter. The program will be finalized in the next Forum meeting.

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### **News from the NRSGH**

The research school does not spend much money these days, but it maintains activity. Two courses were arranged digitally, with good feedback. Other feedback it that there is a good focus on work, but the students miss the social aspect.

The annual PhD conference will be held digitally 29-30 September, 9-12 each day. The booking at Oscarsborg has been moved to April next year, adjacent to the Globvac conference.

The research school is working on creating more courses online, e.g. in academic writing. The Research Council will have a new call out for research schools, with deadline 15 September 2021. NRSHG's period will end in June 2022. It is not possible to apply for a continuation of the existing research school in the new call. There is interest from the school board to apply for the new call.

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### **News on the Globvac conference/webinars**

The webinars have started. The first was held on September 8. About 100 logged on, and it functioned very well, both contents presented and technically on Teams.

Webinar 2: 13th of October – Theme: Children, health and nutrition, chair: Dawit

Webinar 3: 10th of November – Theme: Digital Health, chair Jon Øyvind

Webinar 4: 8th of December – Theme: Mental health in crisis, vaccine and point of care support, chair: Arne

[Sign up here to participate.](#)

The webinar series will continue in January and February next year. These will be reserved for presentations from Globvac financed projects.

The Globvac conference is still planned as a physical conference in Oslo 20-21 April 2021.

**66/20**

### **News on the ECTMIH conference in Bergen 2021**

It is decided that this will be a fully digital conference. We keep the dates, but it might be shorter than first planned. A newsletter will be sent out in the beginning of October.

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### **News from RCN (working group)**

The group has made a draft which will be sent on circulation, including to Forum board later this autumn (dates for circulation not ready yet).



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## Short information from the board members/observers

**Jon Øyvind Odland:** Runs master programme and supervision digitally. Apart from some technical problems, it works well.

**Nils Daulaire:** Is still in US. Colleagues at UiT are Erik Anda and Ingvild Nedberg. The first week of the Global Health course was held digitally in beginning of September. It went very well. Good both in classroom and in breakout rooms.

**Ingeborg Havardsson:** the reorganization is ongoing. There will be more information about this in November. There will be three deputy directors, one from each department at the Medical Faculty. Ingeborg and Jeanette Magnus are both in a group planning a session at the SDG conference in Bergen in February.

**Elin Yli Dvergsdal:** At NTNU the Global Health Day 2020 will be held on 22 October. The programme will be streamed, and there will also be presentations on site.

**Frode Forland:** Days mostly dominated by corona and infection control. The current situation give opportunity to meet members of the government. Repeats in meetings with them that the pandemic demands everyone involved to think international rather than national health now. Frode leads the national "Smittespringsteam". NIPH continues to get requests about support from abroad. One team is sent from Norway to the Moria camp. There are more requests from WHO, and more teams might be sent out. There is a lot of international activity, e.g. ECCMID (European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases), project on school closures. The World Health Summit will be held in Berlin at the end of October.

NIPH works on a new application to Norad where many projects are gathered in one application, including global health preparedness, MCH, build up public health institutions.

**Dawit Shawel Abebe:** There are challenges in the two NorPart projects regarding student and PhD candidate exchange. It is uncertain whether students from Ethiopia will be able to carry out their planned stay in Norway.

**Bente Moen:** Home office is recommended for those who can for a new period in Bergen. So far none of the students from the Medical Faculty at UiB have tested positive for corona. Department of global public health and primary care, where CIH is situated, has moved to [Alrek health cluster](#) which is closer to CIH. Bergen municipality, UiB, Norce, and Western Norway University of Applied Sciences all have staff working there, and the idea is to promote interdisciplinary collaboration. The official opening will be in October.

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## AOB

Can Forum support WHO? Topic for later.

"Women in global health" have contacts on multiple levels in WHO.

Next meeting is Thursday October 15.