

Deans/Dept. Heads/ Research Directors

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Open call for Associate Investigators and Young Associate Investigators at Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM), Nordic EMBL Partnership, University of Oslo - Third Call

Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM, www.ncmm.uio.no) was established in 2008 as a national centre for molecular medicine and partnership institution with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (www.embl.org) together with similar centers in Sweden, Finland and since 2013 also Denmark under the Nordic EMBL Partnership in Molecular Medicine. NCMM is inaugurated as a joint venture among the University of Oslo as host, the Research Council of Norway and South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority and was following external evaluation extended for the next 5-year period from 2015-19.

The overall objective of NCMM is to conduct cutting-edge research in molecular medicine and facilitate translation of discoveries in basic medical research into clinical practice. NCMM focuses particularly on disease mechanisms where Norway has clear strengths, develops and adapts technologies for personalized medical applications and has unraveled new diagnostic methods and drug targets. Research groups within NCMM are currently studying cancer, immune diseases as well as neurodegenerative and inflammatory diseases. These studies are underpinned by the application of technology platforms, including high-throughput sequencing to interrogate chromatin architecture and transcriptomes, functional genomics including genome-editing strategies to perturb and reprogram experimental models and chemical biology platforms for the identification of novel therapeutics. Drug development and functional characterization of molecular targets are also augmented by structural biology expertise within the centre. Furthermore, the Nordic EMBL Partnership aims to exploit emerging technologies as part of a process towards molecular and personalized medicine and is capitalizing on synergies within the Nordic region. NCMM is also national contact partner in the EU-ESFRI project European Advanced Translational Infrastructure (www.EATRIS.eu) planning the future of translational research in Europe.

NCMM group leaders currently include Dr. Ian Mills, Dr. Preben Morth, Dr. Antoni Hurtado, Dr. Judith Staerk and Professor Kjetil Taskén, who is also the Director of NCMM. Furthermore, NCMM is currently in the process of recruiting a new group leader with a start-up package in bioinformatics.

In the period 2010-2014, NCMM appointed altogether twelve affiliated **NCMM Associate Investigators**. Professors Lars Akslen, Rolf Bjerkvig, Anne-Lise Børresen Dale, Geir Christensen, Per Eystein Lønning, Pål Rasmus Njølstad and Vidar Steen were identified in the first call in 2010. Professors Ole A. Andreassen, Bjarne Bogen, Arne Klungland, Ole P. Rekvig and Helga Salvesen were identified in the second call in 2011. In addition, Erlend Nagelhus was appointed NCMM Associate Investigator when he rotated out as NCMM Group Leader.

Furthermore, NCMM has recently initiated an **NCMM Young Associate Investigator** program for young talented researchers with status as Group Leader or PIs with an independent standing, a strong CV relative to the stage of their career and an upward trajectory.

The NCMM Board has decided that NCMM as a national centre will offer this mechanism for Young Associate Investigators identified by one of two routes i) Either by direct application to NCMM in open calls (current call) or ii) where universities and other research institutions that wish to recruit young, talented group leaders and where the conditions are similar to those offered to NCMM Group Leaders, can offer an affiliation to NCMM during the call. In the latter case NCMM must be contacted beforehand and will assist in the recruitment process of the NCMM Young Associate Investigators.

The first two NCMM YAIs were appointed at the University of Tromsø in 2014: Dr. Lorena Arranz and Dr. Sören Abel. NCMM is looking forward to collaborating with other institutions as well to establish a network of NCMM Young Associate Investigators.

Besides a major effort in recruiting international scientists to set up new groups in Norway, NCMM aims to continue to develop its scientific and technological capabilities by establishing strong collaborative links with key scientists and research groups across Norway, thus facilitating translational networking. This call for proposals is directed towards the appointment of new Associate Investigators in molecular and translational medicine. The Associate Investigator category is meant for outstanding senior or younger scientists who are currently based in Norway, whose expertise is compatible with the NCMM research areas and who are interested in collaborating with NCMM and in contributing to the building of an NCMM Molecular Medicine and Translational Research Network. **Senior Associate Investigators** will be included in the NCMM senior investigator network and will be expected to contribute with their expertise in molecular and translational medicine and be active in mentoring activities towards newly recruited NCMM Group Leaders and Young Associate Investigators. Young Associate Investigators will be included in the NCMM Group Leader and YAI young PI programme.

Associate Investigators will continue working at their host institutions, and will be credited an affiliation to NCMM. Nominations will be made for three years and will be renewable. We anticipate rotating calls approximately every 18 months.

NCMM is now seeking outstanding candidates for up to approximately 10 positions in this third call for:

NCMM Associate Investigators

Internationally known top scientists and scientific leaders with a track-record and research focus in molecular medicine in this field are invited to apply. The successfully affiliated group leaders will enjoy the following benefits:

- Status as an Associated Investigator in the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine
- Affiliation with NCMM with the option to contribute to NCMM scientific strategies, planning and priorities
- Access to a translational network and infrastructures at NCMM and in the Nordic EMBL Partnership
- Eligibility for translational funds for collaboration with NCMM group leaders made available by the Board.

NCMM Young Associate Investigators - Open call

Young, talented group leaders and PIs with an independent standing, a strong CV relative to the stage of their career and an upward trajectory are invited to apply. The successfully affiliated group leaders will enjoy the following benefits:

- Affiliation with NCMM and status as a Young Associated Investigator in the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine
- Inclusion in the NCMM Group Leader and YAI young PI programme.

- Access to a translational network and infrastructures at NCMM and in the Nordic EMBL Partnership
- Eligibility for translational funds for collaboration with NCMM group leaders made available by the Board.

Applications for Associate Investigator status will be reviewed by an evaluation committee, appointed by the NCMM Board. Criteria for recruitment will be one or more of the following: i) Excellence in molecular medicine; ii) Translational merits and ability to build networks that bridge from basic science to clinical medicine; iii) Scientific profile compatible with and/or bringing novel elements to the scientific, technological and translational mission of NCMM; and iv) Added value and synergism in interaction with present and future NCMM investigators.

Applicants should submit an electronic application with an overview of translational/molecular medicine research activities and opening for collaborations with NCMM (max 3 pages) and include their CV and list of publications (max 10 from the last 5 years).

For further information please contact Director, Professor Kjetil Taskén (kjetil.tasken@ncmm.uio.no) or visit our website www.ncmm.uio.no for details. Applications should be addressed to the Director of NCMM and sent electronically as a single PDF-file to the Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway at director@ncmm.uio.no to arrive no later than **September 1, 2015** marked **NCMM Associate Investigator**.

Yours sincerely,



Kjetil Taskén, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Medicine, Director NCMM



Elisa Bjørge, PhD
Chief Administrative Officer