

# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

## Minutes

Board meeting by telephone

Thursday 14 February 2008, 1300-1400

**Participants:** Gunnar Kvåle, Gunnar A. Bjune, Ottar Mæstad, Jon Øyvind Odland, Berit Rostad, Berit Schei, Ingrid Onarheim Spjeldnæs (deputy for Karen Marie Moland), June Jacobsen Steen.

**Observers:** Kårstein Måseide, Research Council of Norway; Paul R. Fife, Norad; Harald Siem, Directorate of Health and Social Affairs

**Absent:** Karen Marie Moland, Birger Sørensen

**Secretary:** Nils Gunnar Songstad

### 01/08 Approval of the agenda

Approved

### 02/08 Minutes of Board meeting 4 December 2007 (Attachment 2)

Approved

### 03/08 Matters of information

*a) Meeting of Assembly of Federation for European Societies for Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH), Verona, Italy, 7 December 2007*

*b) Conference of the Federation for European Societies for Tropical Medicine, and International Health (FESTMIH) in Verona, Italy, 6-10 September 2009*

*c) Proposal of a European Council on Global Health*

*d) Letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008: Building capacity for implementation research internationally and in Norway. Need for new research programs*

*e) Countdown conference in Cape Town, South Africa, 17-20 April 2008*

*f) Report to the Committee of Development (“Utviklingsutvalget”)*

*g) Norsk global helseforskning. Report to NORAD - October 2007*

### 04/08 Planning of a research school in Global Health

Jon Øyvind Odland briefed the board on the proposal for the research school. The research school must be organized through collaboration between institutions active in global health research that also can contribute with courses to the school. Thus, the relevant units for international health at the universities of Oslo, Bergen and Tromsø will be the ones to take this matter further. All Norwegian institutions with relevant courses in global health should be invited to contribute with relevant courses that can be considered for inclusion as recognized courses of the research school. Admission to the courses should be open to

students registered at all Norwegian universities and university colleges that are entitled to issue PhD-degrees.

The management and administration of the research school should be placed at one of the collaborating universities. The board of the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research will however contribute actively and facilitate establishing the research school, and may serve as an advisory committee/board of the research school.

The Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research will contact the three relevant universities and ask the institutions to continue the planning of the research school. It is expected that there will be a call for applications from the Research Council of Norway later in 2008.

### **05/08 Seminar on implementation research**

Gunnar Kvåle referred to the meeting at the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services (Kunnskapssenteret) 23 November 2007 regarding a Norwegian initiative to strengthen implementation research in relation to the effort to address the MDGs, discussed also in the board meeting of 4 December 2007 (Minutes, agenda 55/07).

The board supported the proposal of arranging a seminar on how to increase and promote implementation research. It was suggested that the planning of the seminar should be done in coordination with the group participating in the Countdown conference in Cape Town, South Africa in April 2008 (see the 03/08 e above) representing the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services, Norwegian Institute of Public Health and Centre for International Health, University of Bergen.

Paul R. Fife indicated that Norad could fund the seminar and take care of the practical arrangements. The seminar is suggested to be held in Oslo in May 2008. Norad and the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services in consultation with the Research Council of Norway will invite the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research and other stakeholders for further discussions on planning the seminar.

Information about this initiative will be put on the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research website.

### **06/08 Conference in Global Health 2008**

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research, GLOBVAC and NUFU/SIU are suggested to be the coordinators of the 2008 conference. Gunnar Kvåle briefed the board about the consultations between the three institutions and presented a draft, indicating tentative and topics to be covered. It is suggested that the conference venue is Bergen and the conference will probably be a two-day conference. The conference dates will be in October or November 2008. The conference is planned to span topics such as vaccination research, implementation research and HIV/AIDS. The conference may combine plenary and parallel sessions.

A programme committee should be appointed as soon as possible and start working latest by mid-March 2008. The committee should consist of:

- Representatives from the GLOBVAC secretariat and board
- Representative(s) from NUFU secretariat/board

- Representatives from the secretariat and board of Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Further, the programme committee can invite other scientists to give input concerning programme and to suggest key note speakers (eg. Knut Fylkesnes and Gunnar A. Bjune for the topic HIV/TB). In addition Norad and the Directorate of Health and Social Affairs may be involved.

It was agreed that Karen Marie Moland will represent the Forum board on the programme committee.

The programme committee should constitute itself and will report to the board of Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research 17 April 2008 and subsequent board meetings.

#### **07/08 News from the secretariat**

Documents showing the database structure and a very tentative layout were distributed to board members before the board meeting. The work of establishing the database is ongoing and the database is expected to be ready by April 2008. Thereafter the work of registering all relevant projects will be a continuous task for the secretariat.

#### **08/08 Information from board members/observers**

No items presented

#### **09/08 Any other business**

No items discussed

# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

**Minutes**  
**Board meeting by phone**  
**Thursday 17 April, 13.00 - 14.10**

## **Participation**

*Members:* Gunnar Kvåle, Gunnar A. Bjune, Karen Marie Moland, Ottar Mæstad, Berit Rostad, Berit Schei, Jon Øyvind Odland, Birger Sørensen.

*Absent:* June Jacobsen Steen

*Observers:* Karen Lieve Ria Hostens (Research Council of Norway, for Kårstein Måseide), Paul R. Fife (Norad) and Harald Siem and Carmen Pereira (Directorate of Health)

*Absent:* Kårstein Måseide

*Secretariat:* Nils Gunnar Songstad, Elisabeth Skuggevik

## **10/08 Approval of the agenda**

Approved

## **11/08 Minutes of board meeting 14 February 2008**

Approved

## **12/08 Information from observers and board members about global health research activities at own institutions**

### **Directorate of Health**

**Harald Siem** reported from global health initiatives recently taken from Norway, where the health authorities are directly involved:

- Global Campaign for the Health Millennium Development Goals. NORAD has circulated a Progress Report April 2008 (available on [http://www.norad.no/default.asp?V\\_ITEM\\_ID=9263](http://www.norad.no/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=9263))
- Foreign Policy and Global Health, FPGH, (or UGH in Norwegian). The minutes from the Chiang Mai meeting of experts early February this year is out. The next meeting planned is 12-13 June together with WHO. There are also plans to prepare a resolution for the UN General Assembly in September 2008.
- The issues tabled in the Oslo Declaration March 2007 are public health issues of international concern. One notices a growing interest and involvement from senior actors from the politicians and civil servants in foreign affairs. The challenge now is to mobilize people on both sides, Health and FA who can help think through and formulate what has changed, what health issues are relevant, and what elements of foreign policy (security, trade, development and humanitarian action) are there, that motivate the diplomats to enter the field. A new and vague thought of a framework convention on global health is breaking the surface.

### **NORAD**

**Paul R. Fife** gave a short briefing on the high-level meeting in Bamako, Mali 17-19 November 2008. For more information on the conference see:

<http://bamako2008.org/en/index.shtml>. To see all the preparatory meetings for the 2008 Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health, follow this link:  
<http://bamako2008.org/en/meetings2008.shtml>

### **Research Council of Norway**

**Karen Lieve Ria Hostens** briefed the meeting about

- Five applications were received for the GLOBVAC call for proposals for project establishment support in vaccination research with deadline 16 April 2008
- The new call for proposals in vaccination research has deadline 3 September 2008.
- The international symposium on vaccination research in Oslo on 5-6 March 2008. More information on these issues including presentations from the symposium can be found on the GLOBVAC webpage:
- The Nordic vaccine research meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden 26-28 March 2008. Invitation and programme of the seminar is available on this site:  
[http://www.nhv.se/customer/templates/InfoPage\\_1317.aspx?epslanguage=SV](http://www.nhv.se/customer/templates/InfoPage_1317.aspx?epslanguage=SV)

**Gunnar A. Bjune** informed about the experience with an online course in research ethics. This course is offered to students in Addis Ababa. Bjune informed about challenges in coordination between institutions, both internationally and nationally in carrying out the online course.

**Karen Marie Moland** explained that Bergen University College have five PhD students working within global health, but the activities in global health at the college is still not well coordinated.

**Ottar Mæstad** explained that Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) wants to work on global health research activities complementary to University of Bergen. CMI has establish as strategic programme in global health. Four senior researchers from CMI and two researchers from the University of Bergen work on global health related research at CMI. CMI has received GLOBVAC funding for the project: *Right to health through litigation? Can court enforced health rights improve health policy* (<http://www.cmi.no/research/project/?1128=right-to-health-through-litigation>)

**Jon Øyvind Odland** informed about the conference in Circumpolar Health Research to be held in Tromsø 12- 16 May 2008, [http://uit.no/sih/circumpolar\\_health/](http://uit.no/sih/circumpolar_health/). Jon Øyvind Odland also informed the meeting about the ongoing reorganisation of Centre for International Health at University of Tromsø.

**Berit Rostad** informed about a course in “Health in Africa “recently held at NTNU ([http://www.ntnu.no/portal/page/portal/ntnuen/all\\_courses?selectedItemId=31010&rootItemId=29569&emnekode=AFR1003&valgtFraStudieaar=2007](http://www.ntnu.no/portal/page/portal/ntnuen/all_courses?selectedItemId=31010&rootItemId=29569&emnekode=AFR1003&valgtFraStudieaar=2007))

**Berit Schei** informed about efforts at Faculty of Medicine, NTNU, to secure funding for a PhD candidate using a WHO dataset on violence against women.

**Birger Sørensen** informed about current vaccine development by Bionor Immuno, and that the two candidate therapeutic vaccines (Vacc-4x and Vacc-5q) are now in clinical development. Birger Sørensen also informed about clinical trials on an influenza vaccine.

**Gunnar Kvåle** informed about the research school initiative and the letter to the universities in Bergen, Oslo and Tromsø, see [http://globalhealth.no/images/stories/news/forskerskole\\_gunnar\\_kvle.pdf](http://globalhealth.no/images/stories/news/forskerskole_gunnar_kvle.pdf), and a meeting at Research Council of Norway 1 April 2008 about the available research school funding. The board agrees that University of Bergen could be coordinator for the planned research school.

### **13/08 Seminar on implementation research 19-20 June 2008**

Paul R. Fife (Norad) informed the board about the workshop titled Impact evaluation for evidence-based policymaking. The workshop is organised by NORAD in cooperation with The Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services and Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research, and will be held in Oslo (Hurdalsjøen) 19-20 June. The seminar is aimed at Norwegian researcher in global health and related social sciences. The aims of the workshop are to a) highlight the relevance of impact evaluation for researchers and policy-makers, b) present real-life examples of impact evaluations of global health initiatives, c) stimulate discussion on methodological issues around “the science of impact evaluation”, with an emphasis on resource constrained settings and d) to determine a way forward and the role of Norwegian academia and other key stakeholders internationally and in the South.

Information is also available on the Forum website, see:

[http://globalhealth.no/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=2&Itemid=13](http://globalhealth.no/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=2&Itemid=13)

### **14/08 GLOBVAC/NUFU/FORUM conference 2008**

Karen Marie Moland informed about the conference-committee’s meeting 1 April. A summary on the tentative conference programme with venue, time and thematic titles was presented. So far the committee has decided that the conference should be held in Bergen (Radisson SAS Royal), 30-31 October, and that the conference will combine plenary and parallel sessions. The conference will set focus on topics such as impact of health interventions, vaccination research, HIV/AIDS and Tb as twin diseases and North-South partnerships in global health research.

The conference committee consists of:

**Norwegian Forum for Global health research:** Karen Marie Moland, Nils Gunnar Songstad and Elisabeth Skuggevik

**Research Council of Norway:** Kårstein Måseide

**Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU):** Ragnhild Tungesvik

**NORAD:** Paul R. Fife

**Directorate of Health:** Harald Siem, Carmen Pereira (deputy)

### **15/08 Website and database on research projects**

Elisabeth Skuggevik presented some statistics on the visitors’ use of the website. Much can still be done regarding promotion of the website. The newsletters have so far had a positive effect on the number of visits to the website.

Nils Gunnar Songstad informed about the progress on the database. A link to a temporary version of the database was sent to the board before the meeting for input and suggestions. The plan is to launch the database on the Forum’s website in May 2008.

**16/08 Planning of board meeting in Tromsø 16 June 2008**

Because of the reorganisation of Centre for International Health, University of Tromsø the board meeting was postponed to autumn 2008. The next board meeting will instead be held as a phone meeting Monday 16 June, 13.00- 14.00

**17/08 Any other business**

No items discussed

# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

## Minutes

Board meeting by phone  
Monday 16 June, 13.00 - 14.00

### Participation

*Members:* Gunnar Kvåle, Gunnar A. Bjune, June Jacobsen Steen, Karen Marie Moland, Laila Garberg Hagen (for Ottar Mæstad), Arne K. Myhre (for Berit Rostad), Jon Øyvind Odland, Eystein Skjerve (for Birger Sørensen).

*Absent:* Birger Sørensen, Berit Schei, Berit Rostad, Ottar Mæstad

*Observers:* Kårstein Måseide (Research Council of Norway), Meetali Kakad (Norad, for Paul Fife) and Carmen Pereira (Directorate of Health, for Harald Siem)

*Absent:* Harald Siem, Paul Fife

*Secretariat:* Nils Gunnar Songstad, Elisabeth Skuggevik

### 18/08 Approval of the agenda

Approved

### 19/08 Minutes of meeting 17 April 2008

Approved

### 20/08 Application to the Research Council of Norway of continued activities of the Forum for 2009 and beyond

Gunnar Kvåle informed the board about the planned application to GLOBVAC for continued activities of the Forum after 2008. Gunnar Kvåle pointed out the need to expand the secretariat of the Forum to fulfil the Forums aims and to ensure a continued active involvement of the Forum in relation to the Norwegian and international initiatives in global health research. An application will be further developed by secretariat and submitted to the Research Council of Norway.

### 21/08 Strategy for Norwegian involvement in global health research

Gunnar Kvåle informed the board about the work for developing a strategy for Norwegian involvement in global health research. The work will be based on the document *Forskning og forskerutdanning for bedre helse blant fattige i utviklingsland. Behov for styrking og samordning av norske bidrag* developed by the Forum and submitted to "Utviklingsutvalget" in February 2008. The board agreed to use this document as the basis for developing a strategy with recommendations on how to strengthen Norwegian involvement in global health research. The relevant conferences in 2008 will also provide inputs to the strategy. The document will be developed and circulated to the board members for comments and approval and presented and further discussed at the General Assembly, 31 October 2008.

### 22/08 Conference on global health research, 30-31 October 2008, Bergen

A revised draft conference programme was distributed before the board meeting and Kårstein Måseide informed about the conference committee's meeting Friday 13 June. The first day of the conference will focus on global health initiatives and implementation. There will also be a visit to Centre for International Health. The second day of the conference will focus on the HIV/AIDS and TB pandemics and strategies for prevention, treatment and care. The last session of the conference will focus on North-South partnership in global health research. The

conference committee pointed out the importance of more researchers from the South as well as a more balanced distribution between male and female lecturers in the conference.

### **23/08 Planning of VI Conference on Tropical Medicine and International Health, Verona, Italy, 6-10 September 2009**

Gunnar Kvåle briefed the board about the conference, see

[http://www.irf2009.com/trop/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=13&Itemid=29](http://www.irf2009.com/trop/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=13&Itemid=29)

Kvåle is member of the Scientific Committee for the conference and the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research is offered to be responsible for arranging a parallel session in the conference. The board discussed the possibility on presenting Norwegian research and agreed to look into to the possibility of funding such a session.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Mediterranean Conference on Migration and Travel Health will be held in parallel with the VI Conference on Tropical Medicine and International Health.

### **24/08 Inventory of global health research projects**

Nils Gunnar Songstad informed about the progress on the project database. The board members will be requested to give general comments on the database and corrections and updates on the registered projects. In August 2008, the registered project coordinators will be contacted for feedback on their specific projects. The plan is to launch the database on the Forum website before the General Assembly in October 2008.

### **25/08 Election committee and preparations for the 2008 General Assembly**

Gunnar Kvåle and Nils Gunnar Songstad informed about the work of establishing the election committee. After approval of the deputies of the election committee the composition is:

Tore J. Gutteberg	deputy Nina Foss
Sidsel Roalkvam	deputy Rune Flikke
Anne Guttormsen Vinsnes	deputy Solveig Kirsti Grudt

The election committee will be requested to start the work as soon as possible and submit the proposal on the new board to the members of Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research in accordance with the statutes, i.e. two weeks before the General Assembly.

### **26/08 Matters of information from board members/observers**

- Gunnar Kvåle informed the board about the application to the RCN for support to the planned research school in global health as collaboration between the universities in Oslo, Tromsø and Bergen. The application was submitted by Centre for International Health 4 June 2008 and was accepted as one of four applications from UoB to the RCN.
- Meetalı Kakad informed about the impact evaluation workshop, Hurdalsjøen Hotel, 19-20 June 2008. Information about the workshop can be found at [http://norad.no/default.asp?V\\_ITEM\\_ID=12385](http://norad.no/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=12385)
- June Jacobsen Steen informed about the International Conference on Global Public Health 8-10 October 2008, University of Agder, Kristiansand. Information on the conference can be found at <http://www.uia.no/gphconference2008>
- Kårstein Måseide informed the board about the next call on vaccination research with deadline 3 September 2008. More information will soon be available on the GLOBVAC website.

### **27/08 Any other business**

- The next two board meeting will be held as phone meetings. The tentative dates are: Thursday 4 September, 13.00 – 14.00 and Monday 13 October, 13.00 – 14.00.

# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

## Minutes

Board meeting by phone  
4 September 2008, 13.00 - 14.00

### Participation

*Members:* Gunnar Kvåle, Gunnar A. Bjune, June Jacobsen Steen, Karen Marie Moland, Ottar Mæstad, Jon Øyvind Odland, Berit Schei

*Absent:* Berit Rostad, Birger Sørensen

*Observers:* Kårstein Måseide (Research Council of Norway), Paul Fife (Norad) and Carmen Pereira (Directorate of Health, for Harald Siem)

*Absent:* Harald Siem

*Secretariat:* Nils Gunnar Songstad, Elisabeth Skuggevik

### 28/08 Approval of the agenda

Approved

### 29/08 Minutes of board meeting 16 June 2008

The minutes were approved. Carmen Pereira (Directorate of Health) emphasised the importance of following up on agenda item 21/08 *Strategy for Norwegian involvement in global health research*.

### 30/08 Matters of information from board members/observers

- Kårstein Måseide (Research Council of Norway) informed about the 3rd Conference on Global Health and Vaccination Research. *Global health - research for improved implementation* in Bergen, 30-31 October 2008. Information regarding the conference is available on the GLOBVAC website: <http://www.forskningsradet.no/servlet/Satellite?cid=1196785892239&pageid=1196785892239&pagename=globalhelse%2FPage%2FHovedSideEng&site=globalhelse>.
- Kårstein Måseide (Research Council of Norway) also informed the board about applications to GLOBVAC received by the call deadline of 3 September 2008. A total of 27 applications were received, with a total amount applied for of NOK 217 million. The decision on the applications is expected primo December 2008.
- Gunnar Kvåle informed about the application sent to the Research Council of Norway of activities of the Forum in the period 2009-2011. A draft of the application was sent to the board members for approval and comments, and a copy of the final documents has been distributed to the board. In the application, emphasis was put on the importance of expanding the secretariat to accommodate the required workload.
- It was informed that the presentations from the workshop at Hurdalsjøen, 19-20 June 2008, can be found at Norad website [http://norad.no/default.asp?V\\_ITEM\\_ID=12385](http://norad.no/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=12385)
- Paul Fife (Norad) informed about the seminar "Norway-India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) for Maternal and Child health (MDG 4&5) held in Oslo 28 August 2008. A link to more information about this seminar will be made available on Norad's website and the Forum website.

- Nils Gunnar Songstad informed about the ongoing work with the database of global health research projects in Norway. The database is available at <http://etymologi.no/uib/projects/index>. Information about the database has been sent to all registered project leaders and to the board members. The need for future regularly updates was emphasized by the board.
- A list of relevant conferences, seminars and workshops is available on the Forum website. A newsletter will be distributed in order to inform all members about the conferences and the database.

### **31/08 Future conferences on global health research**

Based on a memorandum by Gunnar Kvåle the board discussed future conferences in global health. In the course of the preparations of the 2008 conference, a distinction between the organizers of the conference (the Research Council of Norway, (GLOBVAC) and the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU)) and the collaborators (the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research and the Norwegian Directorate of Health) has been made explicit by the Research Council of Norway.

The board members emphasised the need for conferences as meeting points between researchers for discussion of both research policy issues and specific research topics. The board members also supported the suggestion that the issue of roles and responsibilities in future conferences should be discussed and clarified. The board is of the opinion that the Forum should be independent of the government administration. Based on the comments in the discussion, Gunnar Kvåle will develop a revised memorandum to initiate a discussion with Research Council of Norway (GLOBVAC), Norad and the Directorate of Health..

### **32/08 Preparations for General Assembly (GA) 2008**

Nils Gunnar Songstad and Gunnar Kvåle presented a tentative agenda for the GA and informed about the ongoing work of the current election committee and the election of a new election committee. The GA is to elect a new election committee but the Statutes do not specify who is to suggest the new election committee. The secretariat suggests that some members of the new election committee (with deputies) are suggested by the secretariat in collaboration with the board. Board members not re-elected could be approached and asked to serve on the election committee. One member of the new election committee (with deputy) is suggested among members of the current election committee members to ensure continuity.

### **33/08 Any other business**

The next board meeting will be held as a phone meeting on Monday 13 October, 13.00 - 14.00.

The board agreed that short board meeting should be held after the conference in Bergen (together with the new board) on Friday 31 October, 16.30 – 17.30 (immediate after closing the conference).

There was also set a tentative date for a full day meeting 14 November 2008 in Oslo with the intention of gathering the current as well as the new board.

# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

## Minutes

Board meeting by phone  
13 October 2008, 13.00 - 14.00

### Participation

*Members:* Gunnar Kvåle, Gunnar A. Bjune, June Jacobsen Steen, Karen Marie Moland, Ottar Mæstad, Jon Øyvind Odland, Berit Schei, Birger Sørensen, Arne K. Myhre (deputy of Berit Rostad)

*Observers:* Kårstein Måseide (Research Council of Norway), Paul Fife and Meetal Kakad (Norad) and Harald Siem (Directorate of Health)

*Secretariat:* Nils Gunnar Songstad

### 34/08 Approval of the agenda

Approved

### 35/08 Minutes of board meeting 4 September 2008

Approved

### 36/08 Matters of information from board members/observers

*a) Update on the conference Global health - research for improved implementation, Bergen, 30-31 October 2008*

Kårstein Måseide briefed the board meeting on the status of the conference preparations. Approximately 35 abstracts have been received and are evaluated to identify the best abstracts. Five abstracts have been invited to give an oral presentation at the conference. The best abstract and the best poster will receive a prize at the conference. It was suggested that a small committee should evaluate the posters at the conference and decide on the poster to receive the prize.

*b) Future conferences on global health research*

The memorandum on future conferences on global health research was discussed in the board meeting 4 September 2008 and distributed to the board members 19 September 2008 for approval.

It was suggested that the Forum invites relevant institutions to a meeting in Oslo on Friday 14 November 2008 to discuss future conferences (in connection with the board meeting the same day).

*c) Inventory of global health research projects*

Nils Gunnar Songstad briefed the board on the status of the database on global health research and encouraged all board members to provide information on relevant projects for registration in the database.

*d) Information from board members and observers*

Gunnar A. Bjune briefed the board meeting on a EDCTP meeting in Paris concerning a planned call for applications on Tb diagnostics. Kårstein Måseide informed about co-financing through the Research Council of Norway of partially funded EDCTP projects.

Gunnar Kvåle briefed the board about the INDEPTH meeting held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 22-26 September 2008.

### **37/08 Public Health Association of India: Proposal of collaboration**

Gunnar Kvåle briefed the board meeting on an initiative from the Public Health Association of India on collaboration with Norwegian institutions.

Meetali Kakad (Norad) informed the meeting that the funding of the Norway-India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) for Maternal and Child health (MDG 4&5) is managed by the Norwegian Embassy in New Dehli. The funding allocated is NOK 15 million. Paul Fife (Norad) informed the meeting that the role of the involved institutions and management of Norway-India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) will be further clarified.

### **38/08 Preparations for General Assembly 2008**

Draft report of activities 2007-2008 and the work plan for 2009 have been distributed to board for comments.

Nils Gunnar Songstad briefed the meeting on the status of the work of the election committee in preparing the proposal of a new board and the new election committee. In the board meeting 4 September 2008 it was agreed that board members not continuing in the board will be asked to be candidates to the election committee. The secretariat has suggested Gunnar A. Bjune as a new member of the election committee.

### **39/08 Any other business**

Gunnar Kvåle briefed the board meeting on the 6th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health in Verona, Italy 6-10 September 2009. The Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research is offered the opportunity to arrange a parallel session/workshop within the Congress.

The next board meeting has been planned for 14 November and it is suggested that the meeting is held in Oslo (at Department of General Practice and Community Medicine). New board members elected on the General Assembly 31 October 2008 will also be invited to the board meeting. At the board meeting the board constitutes itself and elects a new chair and deputy chairperson.



# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

## Minutes board meeting

Friday 14 November 2008, 10.00 - 13.30 and 15.00 - 16.00

**Venue: Section for International Health, Department of General Practice and  
Community Medicine, meeting room 251  
Frederik Holsts hus, Kirkeveien 166, Oslo**

### **Meeting participants (old and new board):**

Gunnar A. Bjune, University of Oslo (board member 2007-2008)

Malvin Torsvik, Nord-Trøndelag University College (deputy of Solveig Kirsti Grudt, board member 2009-2010)

Akhtar Hussain, University of Oslo (board member 2009-2010)

Gunnar Kvåle, University of Bergen (chair of the board 2007-2008 and board member 2009-2010)

Karen Marie Moland, Bergen University College (board member 2007-2008 and 2009-2010)

Jon Øyvind Odland, University of Tromsø (board member 2007-2008 and 2009-2010)

Inger B. Scheel, Sintef (independent board member 2009-2010)

Nils Gunnar Songstad, Head of the secretariat

### **Absent:**

June Jacobsen Steen, University of Agder (deputy chair of the board 2007-2008 and board member 2009-2010)

Solveig Kirsti Grudt (board member 2009-2010, represented by deputy Malvin Torsvik)

Ottar Mæstad, CMI (board member 2007-2008 and 2009-2010)

Atle Fretheim, Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services (independent board member 2009-2010)

Berit Rostad, NTNU (board member 2007-2008)

Berit Schei, NTNU (independent board member 2007-2008)

Birger Sørensen, Bionor Immuno AS (independent board member 2007-2008)

### **Observers:**

Norad, the GLOBVAC programme of the Research Council of Norway, the Norwegian Directorate of Health, the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR) and the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU) were specifically invited to meet the board to discuss future conferences in global health research.

Paul R. Fife and Meetal Kakad, Norad, Kårstein Måseide, GLOBVAC/the Research Council of Norway, Tor Rynning Torp, Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR) and Carmen Pereira, the Norwegian Directorate of Health attended the board meeting 13.30 (from agenda item 45/08 and onwards).



# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

## **40/08 Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved.

## **41/08 Minutes from board meeting 13 October 2008**

The minutes were approved.

## **42/08 Minutes from the General Assembly 31 October 2008**

Draft minutes of the General Assembly presented to the board. Minor revisions will be done before the minutes are made available on the Forum website.

## **43/08 New board 2009-2010**

### *a) Presentation of the new board*

The board members introduced themselves. A short presentation of the board members was made available on the Forum website immediately after the board meeting.

### *b) Procedures for election of President and Vice President*

The board approved the procedures for election of the President and Vice President as suggested and presented by the Head of the secretariat.

### *c) Election of President / Chair of the board and Vice President /Deputy chair of the board*

The board members identified three candidates as President / Chair of the board through secret vote: Jon Øyvind Odland, Karen Marie Moland and Ottar Mæstad

After a short discussion on the three suggested candidates, Jon Øyvind Odland was elected by acclamation as President of the Forum / Chair of the board.

Two candidates were suggested as Vice President / Deputy chair of the board through secret vote: Akhtar Hussain and Karen Marie Moland. The board members cast their votes on these two candidates through secret ballot. The election result was:

Karen Marie Moland            4 votes

Akhtar Hussain                2 votes

Karen Marie Moland was elected Vice President of the Forum / Deputy chair of the board.

## **44/08 Change of the Statutes**

Following the suggestion by Jon Øyvind Odland on the General Assembly 31 October 2008 on the procedures for election of the President of the Forum / Chair of the board, the board discussed the relevant articles in the Statutes.

The board voiced the concern that it is very important that the President has the full support of the board members and hence should be elected by the board members. It was concluded that the election committee should pay attention to identifying board member candidates with competence and availability to serve as President of the Forum.



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It was also suggested that the election committee should request proposals from the institutions comprising one man and one woman without the institutions ranking the candidates as board member or deputy. To achieve a composition of the board in accordance with the requirement of the Statutes, the election committee should have the authority to assign board member and deputy status to the suggested candidates.

The board also discussed the issue of difficulties in getting the institutions to suggest candidates to the board. It was argued that the institutional commitment is important and the board concluded that the Statutes should not be changed on this point.

### **45/08 Future conferences on global health research**

Gunnar Kvåle briefed the board on a memorandum on a suggested structure and overall programme of future conferences on global health research. The proposed structure and conference modality is:

Day 1: Norwegian research policy in global health research: strategies, priorities and funding

Day 2: Norwegian scientific contributions in the field of global health research (parallel sessions)

Day 3: Satellite symposia / workshops / meetings of Norwegian project groups in specific fields of global health research

The General Assembly of the Forum will be held during the conference. The placement of the General Assembly in the conference programme should be planned to ensure maximum participation of conference participants.

The 2008 conference in Bergen was held out as a successful conference that included a large number of researchers and students. The meeting participants ~~and~~ agreed that future conferences should have a format attracting a wide range of conference participants. Jon Øyvind Odland suggested that the 2009 conference should be held in Tromsø and the University of Tromsø offers good conference localities at the university campus.

The board members and the observers discussed the division of responsibilities between the institutions, financing and conference planning. Tor Rynning Torp, the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR) explained that UHR representing the leadership at the universities and university colleges could take part in the planning of future conferences and could, if invited to, appoint a member of a conference planning committee. It was clarified that UHR can not provide financing of the conferences.

Paul Fife, Norad, requested a tentative budget proposal for the suggested conference. The conferences in 2006, 2007 and 2008 have had a budget of NOK 200,000 – 400,000 depending on the number of participants (largest in Bergen 2008), according to Kårstein Måseide, GLOBVAC/The Research Council of Norway.



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Possible modalities for selection of the conference venue were discussed. The Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research has suggested that the conference should be held in Bergen or Oslo every second year. In the years between Bergen and Oslo as conference venue other cities should host the conference. Several meeting participants pointed out that other conference venues than Bergen and Oslo are likely to attract a lower number of conference participants. However, there are also good arguments for other locations, e.g. to stimulate global health research at institutions that have active groups in the field, but that currently give lower priority to global health research.

It was suggested that the Forum Secretariat should initiate establishing a committee with representatives for the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research (Head of Secretariat and a board member), Norad, the Norwegian Directorate of Health and GLOBVAC (administrative responsible and if possible also a board member). The mandate of the committee is to plan the next conference, e.g. venue and time for the conference and overall programme. Smaller working groups to plan sections of the conference will be appointed.

### **46/08 National research school in global health**

Gunnar Kvåle briefed the meeting about the application of June 2008 and reasons given from the Research Council of Norway for not supporting the research school in global health.

The meeting was reminded of the statement in support of a research school by State Secretary Jens Revold at the conference on Global Health and Vaccination Research in Bergen 30 - 31 October 2008. Tor Rynning Torp, Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR) advised the meeting to take advantage of the current momentum in the effort to establish a research school. There are indications of contact between the State Secretaries in the ministries of Education and Research, Ministry of Health and Care Services and Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the suggested research school.

Gunnar A. Bjune pointed out that the challenge is to establish a good collaboration between the institutions independent of external and additional funding. Bjune requested assistance from UHR in facilitating accreditation of courses across the institutions. In response to the challenge from Bjune, Tor Rynning Torp, UHR requested the universities or the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research to contact UHR regarding the issues.

Fife suggested that the application is clarified with regard to what the proposed research school can offer to potential funding agencies, including Norad.

The board agreed to appoint a working group of four members to initiate further work on the application. It was suggested that the working group should comprise the leaders of the institutions behind the application (Centre for International Health, University of Bergen, Section for International Health, Department of General Practice and Community Medicine, University of Oslo, and the global health group at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tromsø) and one member of the Forum board. As the Forum representative was appointed the Deputy chair of the new board, Karen Marie Moland.



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### **47/08 FESTMIH Conference "Equity, Human Rights and Access to Care", Verona, Italy, 6-10 September 2009**

Gunnar Kvåle briefed the meeting about the invitation from the Federation of European Societies for Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH) to organize a session during the conference Equity, Human Rights and Access to Care. Gunnar Kvåle also briefed the meeting on the scope of the FESTMIH activities.

The board members generally supported the suggestion of arranging a session during the conference. It was agreed that the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research should express interest in arranging a session in the conference. It was suggested that implementation research and research on the global health initiatives could be a topic for a session.

### **48/08 Development of a strategy paper on global health research: Establishment of a working group**

The discussion on establishing a working group to develop a strategy paper based on the reports to *Utviklingsutvalget* in February 2008 was postponed to the first meeting in 2009.

### **49/08 Funding and organization of the secretariat of the Forum for the period 2009-2011**

Gunnar Kvåle briefed the meeting that GLOBVAC has allocated NOK 600,000 per year in 2009 and 2010 to secretariat functions of the Forum. Further plans for the use of the available funds will be made after formal communication from GLOBVAC concerning the grant.

Board members initiated a discussion on the placement of the secretariat after the election of a president not located in Bergen. The Statutes hold the following regulation on the placement of the secretariat:

“The secretariat is established as a project attached to an institution with major activities in the field of global health research and training. The location of the secretariat is decided by the Board. The Board can decide to change the location of the secretariat at intervals of four years, if deemed necessary based on an evaluation of the activities of the secretariat.”

Jon Øyvind Odland expressed needs of secretarial assistance in his function as the new chair of the board and suggested that the matter should be further discussed with the outgoing chair, Gunnar Kvåle, before the end of his term.

### **50/08 Matters of information from board members/observers**

Paul Fife, Norad, informed the meeting that Norad supports an evaluation of the Global Forum for Health Research and the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) and units under the WHO involved in policy and advocacy in the field of global health research.



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Carmen Pereira, Norwegian Directorate of Health informed the meeting that Harald Siem has recently left the position as leader of the Secretariat for International Cooperation in the Directorate.

Carmen Pereira also gave a brief update on meetings in relation to the Norway-India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) for Maternal and Child health (MDG 4&5) and the visit of the Indian Minister of Health 17 November 2008.

Meetali Kakad, Norad, informed the meeting about an ongoing work in Norad of developing report/strategy paper on global health research.

Meetali Kaked also mentioned the Campbell Collaboration ninth annual colloquium in Oslo 18-20 May 2009 with the theme *Better Evidence for a Better World*. The broad focus is areas of education, crime and justice, social welfare and public health. The event is being organised in association with the Lancet.

Kårstein Måseide, GLOBVAC, Research Council of Norway informed the meeting about the Hewlett Foundation support to a grant on of relevance for global health research. The grant of NOK 10 million requires an equal amount from the Research Council of Norway. Expected call for proposals is the first half of 2009.

Gunnar A. Bjune informed the meeting that the Section for International Health, Department of General Practice and Community Medicine, University of Oslo recently has received the University of Oslo's prize 2008 for the best learning environment.

Gunnar A. Bjune also informed the meeting that the section will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary 3 December 2008.

Gunnar A. Bjune briefed the meeting on forthcoming visits to Epidemiological Laboratory (EpiLab) in Khartoum, Sudan and Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

### **51/08 Dates and place of board meetings 2010**

The board agreed that the first meeting in 2009 is to take place as a phone meeting 30 January 2009.

Other dates suggested for board meeting in 2009 are 20 March 2009, 29 May 2009, 4 September 2009, 30 October 2009 and 11 December 2009.

### **52/08 Any other business**

No issues raised by meeting participants.