



# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research Meeting

Draft Minutes

22 April 2020 12:00 to 13:00 on Skype for business

**Present:** Bente Moen, Gunilla Kulla, Andrea Winkler, Elin Yli Dvergsdal, Ingeborg Haavardsson, Katerini Storeng, Arne Henning Eide, Frode Forland, Dawit Shawel Abebe, Nils Daulaire.

29/20        **Approval of agenda**  
Agenda approved.

30/20        **Approval of minutes from board meeting March 18** (Attachment 1)  
Minutes approved

31/20        Information about **Norad – advertisement on Doffin for consultancy services, Cooperation GHN –Forum - FAFO**  
Bente Moen informed that Norad announced an open call for consultancy services for health in development context/: <https://www.doffin.no/Notice/Details/2020-382747>.  
This was a call for framework agreements for:  
Portfolio A: Health systems including health security and public health and  
Portfolio B: SRHR, harmful practices and LGBTI+

Global Health Norway (GHN) (the new leader Bjørn Gustafsson, NTNU) and the Forum leader (Moen) became aware of the call in the first week of April (just before Easter). Awareness came because many companies from other countries asked for co-operation to be able to send in an application. They did so because 2 Norwegian scientists were required for the application. Gustafsson and Moen agreed that the call opened for an opportunity to show that there is a scientific network in global health in Norway – we should give the network a chance and not support foreign companies. A working group was established by GHN (Dvergsdal, Odland - NTNU – Moen, Tylleskär, Hatløy, Koldal – UiB). The process was very hectic due to the short deadline and Ester holiday. Scientists from institutions in all regions of Norway were approached, and people from 9 institutions were included in the teams for the application (fulfilling most of the tender document requirements regarding competence, practice and experience). As GHN and Forum cannot send such applications, Fafo was chosen to send it in on behalf of Global Health Norway because the organization have this application experience and agreed to co-operate with almost no time frame. The application was submitted to Norad in time, 21/4-20. Norad can choose three applicants they will sign a framework agreement with. The successful applicants will later make bids for upcoming projects/reports. There exists a number of these framework agreements. The successful applicants can draw on their scientific environment for this work. More information will be given to the Forum Board later, if the application is successful.

Some of the Forum board members would have wanted more information during the process and information on how Forum was involved. Moen underlined that Forum is not formally a part of the application, but that she helped GHN to develop it. The time line here was very short, and general information to all was not given priority.



# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

However, Moen will consider short general information of this type to be sent to the Board in potential future processes of this type. The board should improve the communication about such calls and different other calls.

**32/20**

## **News from the NRS GH (forskerskolen)**

Not too much happening now. The research school submitted a midterm evaluation in mid-March. On Monday there is the interview. This is the only research school with funding for 6 years. They hope the evaluation is positive, and that they will get funding for the next years.

Right now NRS GH does not use much money, due to low activity.

It runs until 1. April 2022, would like to extend to two years, since we are using less money now. Feedback in august.

The research school has sent out a survey of how the corona situation affects PhD students. The answers show that many of the foreign students are having a hard time now.

They try to convert some of the cancelled on site courses to online courses. This means that it will still be possible for the members to get credits

New dates for the postponed PhD-conference are 28-30 September 2020.

**33/20**

## **News on the Globvac2020 conference**

There was recently a meeting in the reference group about the way forward.

The group has decided to postpone the conference for one year, until May 2021. Dates are not set yet. It needs to be decided how to deal with the scientific contributions already submitted and accepted. The submitted work may be outdated or may have new research results a year on.

In order to keep the momentum for the conference, a webinar series starting autumn 2020 leading up to the conference is discussed, with presentations chosen from the submissions.

It was commented that it could be a good idea to also consider getting in contact with panels on waiting list for the webinar topics, to increase diversity. The planned plenaries can be suitable for webinars as well.

Andrea will stay on the scientific committee.

Globvac2020 has been approached by ECTMIH2021 to look into a joint conference in Bergen in September 2021. This has been declined, so there will be two conferences. At Globvac2020, 50% of the participants are believed to be Norwegian, so the target audience will not necessary be the same. Globvac2020 will also loose deposits on hotels and so on, if not held in the same venue.

**34/20**

## **News on the ECTMIH conference in Bergen 2021. 27/9-1/10- 2021**

Forum board members will soon all be asked to join in the Extended scientific committee, and we hope you will accept. Your work will be very important for a good conference. (Attachment 2)

It may be difficult with two huge conferences the same year in Norway. The best we can do is to cooperate and support each other. Both needs to be successful.

There has been a meeting with [FESTMIH](#), Federation of European societies for tropical medicine and international health. FESTMIH owns the ECTMIH confernces. The FESTMIH board gave good advice.

**35/20**

## **Planning of General Assembly – online (attachment 3 & 4)**



# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Bente asks Nils Gunnar Songstad if he can be chair. He has often chaired the GA's.

**We will have a digital GA, on Zoom or Teams.  
New date suggested is May 27, at 1230-1400**

There is no election this year, which makes it easier to hold the GA online.

If you have anything to the agenda please send it to Bente and Gunhild before 5th May. The board members will receive an updated report and activity plan before the GA on email.

36/20

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

Nils: no new, in quarantine in US in Vermont.

Gunilla: contacted the research administration, curious about applications, none will be sent from Nord university at this point.

Arne: a lot of funding opportunity for Covid19 research now. Active in that arena. Large study through WHO, global initiative.

Katerini: SUM will arrange an online one-week course in May for master students. Renamed from "Preventing pandemics" to "The Politics of Pandemics: Security, Development and Global Governance Challenges".

Plans a special issue of global health unpacked. Will stream and make it available. Is involved in webinar services with partner in New York. Has submitted proposal to the Covid 19 urgent call. Waiting to hear if they get funding.

Dawit: in our faculty at Oslomet, 3 application to Norhed II call are prepared.

Andrea: Working on Covid 19, webinars, have created One-Health coalitions submitted to the lancet.

37/20

**Next meeting: (Was planned to May 13 at the Globvac2020 conference)**

No board meeting before the GA

Suggestion: 27/5 for General Assembly. Will come back to date for next regular board meeting.

38/20

**AOB**