



# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

## Minutes General Assembly 2011

13 September 2011, 17.15-18.45 hrs  
Soria Moria hotell og konferansesenter, Oslo

**General Assembly participants:** 15 members and 2 observers of Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research.

### 1. Welcome and opening

The General Assembly was opened by the Head of the board, Rune Nilsen. Rune Nilsen informed the General Assembly that the invitation, agenda and relevant documents only had been distributed to board members. The secretariat and the Head of the board apologized for this mistake in the preparations of the General Assembly. The General Assembly participants approved that the General Assembly 2011 could be conducted.

### 2. Election of chair for the General Assembly

Jon Øyvind Odland was suggested and elected chair of the General Assembly.

### 3. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

### 4. Minutes General Assembly 6 June 2010, Tromsø

The minutes were approved.

### 5. Activities of Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

#### a) Report on activities 2010-2011

The board has held three meetings: [2 February](#) 2011, [13 May](#) 2011 and [26 August](#) 2011

The head of the board, Rune Nilsen, briefed the General Assembly on activities in relation to funding opportunities of global health research. Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research has engaged in extensive communication with the Research Council of Norway, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Norad on issues of research funding. The funding of the NUFU and NOMA programmes have been a particular concern and Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research has engaged in advocacy for improved funding.

Rune Nilsen also briefed the General Assembly on the Stortingsmelding (White Paper) on global health. This process has been delayed (it is now planned launched February 2012). The board will follow the process closely.

Rune Nilsen stated that the collaboration with the partners for the 2011 conference had been very good and that it was particularly stimulating with the strong involvement by the Norwegian Medical Association. The close contact and collaboration with the Research Council of Norway was also held out as very fruitful.



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The General Assembly supports the initiative of the panel discussion *Strategies and activities at Norwegian universities and research institutions for capacity building in global health research*” in the 2011 conference. A strong institutional commitment was expressed and Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research will continue the dialogue and work with these institutions on this issue.

### **b) Database on global health research projects in Norway**

The board encourages members to register their global health research projects in the database. Changes and updates should be reported to the secretariat.

The forum board and secretariat will also compile an overview of institutions that offer courses on global health as part of the medical education in Norway.

### **c) Plans for 2011-2012:**

The board outlined the following activities as priorities:

- Actively follow up Research Council of Norway’s *Evaluation of Biology, Medicine and Health Research in Norway (2011)* and particular Panel 5 *Public Health and Health-related Research*.
- Initiate networks toward joint projects in coming funding opportunities.
- Stimulate networks to strengthen national research clusters in global health.
- Stimulate intervention- and impact research.
- Strengthen the database on global health and establish overview on research groups, publications and resources on global health issues
- Working groups and other running activities
  - Working group on climate change and global health
    - Jon Øyvind Odland briefed the general assembly on on-going work. Relevant document will be made available to the board
  - Research school in global health after the Research Council of Norway evaluation
    - The board will follow the issue closely and initiate applications when relevant funding becomes available (GLOBVAC, NUFU, NOMA)
- Economic frame for Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research
- Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research has financial support from the Research Council of Norway until the end of 2011. A new application for funding will be submitted following the new GLOBVAC call

### **6. Changes in the board of Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research**

The Head of the board, Rune Nilsen, will leave the leadership position from 1 January 2012 due to changes in work tasks at University of Bergen. Rune Nilsen will continue as a board member. Inger B. Scheel (vice chair), will take over the position as Head of the board until elections 2012. The secretariat will continue as established at Centre for International Health, University of Bergen.

### **7. 2012 conference**

NTNU, Trondheim has offered to be the host for the conference.

The General Assembly endorsed the suggestion from NTNU. The conference will be held 26 - 27 September 2012 (to be confirmed). Åse Marit Kristiansen, RCN, will meet with



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organisers at NTNU to discuss the planning of the conference. The General Assembly suggests that medical students should be given the possibility to organize a session at the conference.

The General Assembly suggests that the next General Assembly is held in the evening before the conference instead of at the end of the conference.

### **8. Election of a new election committee**

The 2010 General Assembly decided to postpone the election of a new election committee to the 2011 General Assembly. The General Assembly elected the following election committee:

Inger B. Scheel, SINTEF, Department of Global Health and Welfare / Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services

Rune Nilsen, University of Bergen

June Jacobsen Steen, University of Agder

### **9. Information from the General Assembly's members and observers**

Federation of the European Societies for Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH)

Inger B. Scheel attended the FESTMIH board meeting and was member of the scientific committee for the 2011 FESTMIH conference, 3 - 6 October, Barcelona, Spain. Scheel briefed the General Assembly on discussions in the FESTMIH board on the future organisational structure.

International Diabetes Federation

Akhtar Hussain is working with the International Diabetes Federation and briefed the General Assembly on a planned world congress to be held in Oslo in June 2014. Akhtar Hussain will provide more information to Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research during the preparation for the congress.