

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

General Assembly 18 October 2007, 17.15 – 19.00

Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim

Welcome and opening

The General Assembly was opened by the chair of the board, Gunnar Kvåle who suggested Gro Th. Lie to be elected chair of the General Assembly. The General Assembly approved Gro Th. Lie as chair.

Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

Minutes of General Assembly 16 November 2006, Oslo

There were no comments to the minutes of the 2006 General Assembly.

Approval of the revised statutes

The board suggested some revisions to the statutes following the comments from the 2006 General Assembly. *Article II Purpose* and *Article III Membership* were changed to include the importance of strengthening the partner institutions in the south and the importance of the interdisciplinary profile of Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research. Also *Article V Board* was changed to clarify that the board constitutes itself with a president, a vice president and seven members. The General Assembly approved the suggested revisions unanimously. Additional minor editorial changes were approved by the General Assembly.

Activities 2007 and 2008

a) Activities in 2007 and work plan 2008

Several of the activities outlined in the report on activities and the workplan were further elaborated by members of the board.

Planning of a research school in global health

Gunnar Kvåle gave a short briefing on the plan to establish a research school in global health. Further information on this issue was given in GLOBVAC conference 19 October.

Current and future funding possibilities for global health research. Proposal of establishing a working group on improved funding and co-ordination of global health research

Gunnar Kvåle briefed the General Assembly on a report on Norwegian research based development policy submitted by to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in August 2007. The plan of establishing a working group on funding of global health research will be followed up by the board. The General Assembly emphasised the importance of improving funding of projects taking place in both North and South.

Ethical approval of research projects taking place abroad

Gunnar A. Bjune briefed the General Assembly on the changes in procedures of the Regional Medical Ethical Committees on evaluating research proposals of projects

taking place in South. In a letter from Ministry of Education and Research dated 16 November 2006 it was recommended that applications for approval of such projects should be written in English. A new form for such applications will be made available.

Gunnar A. Bjune also briefed the General Assembly on issues regarding storage of data and other formal changes in 2008 in the procedures for handling such applications. The Forum will follow the issue and provide more information on the website.

NOMA

The General Assembly was briefed on the effort by the board to increase the awareness of the difficulties with the very limited funding of activities in the NOMA programme.

Enhance involvement of Norwegian research institutions in global health research

The board will continue to work with the relevant institutions to improve the focus on research on global health.

Utviklingsutvalget: Request of input regarding Norwegian policy on global health

Joar Svanemyr, Institute of General Practice and Community Medicine, University of Oslo gave a short briefing on the work he has carried out on behalf of the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research following a request by Utviklingsutvalget on the level of coherence between the Norwegian policy and stated development goals.

b) News from the secretariat

The head of secretariat, Nils Gunnar Songstad briefed the General Assembly on the ongoing work of developing the website of the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research and the plans for establishing an inventory of global health research in Norway.

c) Preparation for election of Board members for the period 2009-2010. Presentation of the election committee

An election committee was elected at the 2006 General Assembly. The general assembly failed to elect substitutes of the three election committee members. The Chair of the board Gunnar Kvåle suggested that substitutes are suggested by the election committee and the board and that the suggestion thereafter is sent to the members of the Forum for approval.