

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Minutes

Board meeting by telephone

Thursday 15 February 2007, 1300-1400

Participants: Gunnar Kvåle, June Jacobsen Steen, Gunnar A. Bjune, Karen Marie Moland, Ottar Mæstad, Berit Schei, Berit Rostad, Birger Sørensen

Absent: Jon Øyvind Odland

Observers: Kårstein Måseide, Research Council of Norway. Paul R. Fife, Norad

Secretary: Nils Gunnar Songstad

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved with a few additions on item 7 AoB

2. Minutes of meeting 20 December 2006

The minutes were approved. Berit Schei informed the board she is the NTNU representative in the working group to develop a proposal for the establishment of a national research training school in global health research.

3. Matters of information

Working group on co-ordination on global health research

The board discussed the ownership and the scope/focus of the working group on co-ordination of global health research. The role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Research Council of Norway was discussed. It was agreed the MFA/Norad (Paul Fife) should take the lead in the process in collaboration with the Research Council of Norway (Kårstein Måseide) and Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research (Gunnar Kvåle and Gunnar A. Bjune). This group should develop the ToR during the next few weeks.

Website and logo

Nils Gunnar Songstad briefed the board members on the status of the webpage (to be available on www.globalhealth.no). The secretariat is also working on developing a logo for the website and letterhead.

Working group on National Research School on Global Health Research

The composition of the working group is Bernt Lindtjørn, Centre for International Health, University of Bergen; Gunnar A. Bjune, University of Oslo; June Jacobsen Steen, Agder University College; Jon Øyvind Odland, University of Tromsø and Berit Schei, NTNU. The working group should constitute itself with a chairperson.

Application for additional funding from RCN sent 1 February 2007

Gunnar Kvåle briefed the board members on the application for additional funding sent to the Research Council of Norway 1 February 2007.

Other information from board members and observers

Gunnar A. Bjune gave a briefing on the recent development on language requirement of applications for ethical clearance. With immediate effects applications in English are accepted.

4. 2007 conference on global health research

Late September/early October were suggested as possible dates of the conference. Suggested topics for the conference were health systems research/human resources for health as a general cross-cutting theme in addition to a focus on one particular disease, e.g. Tuberculosis, from basic research to implementation. Trondheim was proposed as the venue of the conference. Kårstein Måseide will discuss these suggestions with the GLOBVAC steering committee. The next step will be to establish a conference committee with members from the Forum as well as from the GLOBVAC steering committee.

5. Planning of activities to strengthen global health research at member institutions

The board agreed on the suggestion that members of the board should take initiatives to arrange meetings with the leadership of their institutions in order to promote global health research at the institutions they represent. This will be an opportunity to present the activities of the Forum to member institutions, to inform institution leadership on current global health activities and to encourage institutions to increase their contribution and activities in the field of global health research and training.

6. Venue for board meeting in June 2007

The date suggested earlier, 15 June, proves to be difficult for several board members. The date of the June meeting changed to Monday 11 June in Trondheim.

7. Any other business

NOMA

Gunnar A. Bjune has initiated a discussion on the funding of the NOMA programme through an e-mail to all who have registered in the FORUM network. It was agreed that the Board should express the concern about the inadequate funding of the NOMA programme in a letter to the relevant authorities. Gunnar Kvåle and Gunnar Bjune will pursue this matter.

5th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health, Amsterdam, 24-28 May 2007

Some of the board members plan to participate in the conference.

Global Forum for Health Research

It was suggested that the FORUM should be represented in the Global Forum for Health Research meeting 29 October – 2 November 2007, Beijing, China.

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Minutes

Board meeting by telephone

Thursday 19 April 2007, 1300-14.30

Participants: Gunnar Kvåle, June Jacobsen Steen, Gunnar A. Bjune, Karen Marie Moland, Ottar Mæstad, , Berit Rostad, Jon Øyvind Odland, Nils Gunnar Songstad (on items 11/07, 12/07 and 13/07 from Tanzania)

Absent: Berit Schei, Birger Sørensen, Paul R. Fife.

Observers: Kårstein Måseide, Research Council of Norway (RCN), Harald Siem, Directorate for Health and Social Affairs (SHdir).

Secretary: June Jacobsen Steen

08/07 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

09/07 Minutes of meeting February 15th 2007

The minutes were approved.

10/07 Matters arising from the minutes

Working group on co-ordination/funding of global health research

Gunnar Kvåle informed about a newly established working group that is asked to propose a platform for Norwegian bilateral support to education and research in developing countries. This group will consider general development cooperation in education and research, including health, but will not look in details on health research and training. Therefore, the suggestion from the Forum to establish a working group on improved co-ordination and funding for global health research is still under consideration in NORAD/UD.

Working group on National Research School on Global Health Research

The group to examine a proposal from Bernt Lindtjørn for establishing a National Research School on Global Health Research has still not started its work. Jon Øyvind Odland agreed to present a proposal to the group, and the other members will respond by suggesting courses at the different institutions that could be considered as modules in the national research school. The group is asked to appoint a leader for the further co-ordination of the work of the group. The members appointed at the board meeting of February 15th are: Gunnar A. Bjune, Bernt Lindtjørn, Jon Øyvind Odland, Berit Schei and June Jacobsen Steen.

Application for additional funding from RCN sent 1 February 2007

Gunnar Kvåle briefed the board members on the result of the application for additional funding sent to the Research Council of Norway 1 February 2007.

Planning of activities to strengthen global health research at member institutions.

Karen Marie Moland, Bergen University College has taken initiatives to arrange a meeting with the leadership of her institution in order to promote global health research. The other members of the board also reported recent increased activities on global health research at their institutions.

NOMA

Gunnar Kvåle briefed the board members on the letter from the Forum to the Norwegian Association on Higher Education Institutions (UHR) on the problem of

lack of funding to Norwegian institutions for the new NORAD scholarship programme (NOMA, see letter to UHR on <http://globalhealth.no/images/stories/NOMA%20brev.pdf>). UHR have discussed the matters informally with different stakeholders. The matters raised will be followed up with relevant ministries in due course (see e-mail from UHR, attached)

11/07 Conference on global health research (time, topics, venue, organizing committee)

As members of a planning committee were proposed: Kårstein Måseide and Ann- Mari Svennerholm and Paul Fife from GLOBVAC, and Berit Rostad, Gunnar Kvåle and Nils Gunnar Songstad from the Forum. In addition, the committee could supplement itself by others depending on the main topics for the conference.

Time: Mid-October (19-20) was suggested as possible dates of the conference.

Topics: Suggested topics: health systems research/human resources for health as a general cross-cutting theme in addition to a focus on one particular disease, e.g. Tuberculosis, from basic research to implementation.

Venue: Trondheim was proposed.

12/07 Inventory of activities and resources used for global health research in Norway (as proposed by the statutes)

The board should discuss how this work could be organised. One possible model is SHARED, see <http://www.shared-global.org/main.asp> (but this database, started in 1996 as an EU concerted action, seems not to have a good system for updating the information). Nils Gunnar Songstad will, in collaboration with Kårstein Måseide and Ottar Mæstad develop a proposal for content, organization and technical issues in relation to the establishment of an inventory.

13/07 Use of the e-mail network and website for communication with Forum members

Requests from individuals and organizations that want contact with Norwegian researchers will be forwarded by the secretariat as appropriate. General information relevant to researchers in global health will be posted on the website. Norad, SHdir, RCN and others were encouraged to use the website for communication with Forum members.

14/07 Thematic task forces for important topics in the field of global health research (see attachment, Statutes, Article VII)

According to article VII of the statutes, the Forum can take initiative to establish networks/thematic task forces on important issues in the field on global health. Examples of thematic groups already established:

- HIV Research Net (<http://hiv-research.uib.no>)
- TB Net Norway (<http://tbnet.uib.no/>)

The Board discussed the possibility of creating a meeting point and reserving time for discussion for such groups during the Conference on global health research in October.

15/07 Board meeting in Trondheim

New date for the board meeting in Trondheim was set to **22 June**, at 10.00.

A meeting with leadership of NTNU and HiST will be set up to discuss current involvement and future perspectives for increasing global health research and training at NTNU.

16/07 Information from board members/observers

- *Harald Siem* informed about issues relevant for global health research at SHdir. He looked forward to closer cooperation with the Forum. He informed on the Oslo ministerial declaration on global health: a pressing foreign policy issue of our time,

see presentation of Jonas Gahr Støre and link to the declaration on http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/ud/dep/Utenriksminister_Jonas_Gahr_Store/taler_artikler/2007/healthday.html?id=462212

- *Gunnar A. Bjune* informed about a new Course in medical research ethics. It is planned that it will be possible to register also for students from other institutions than UoO. The course has not yet been announced. The course gives 6 credits.
- *Kårstein Måseide* informed about the new call for application on the GLOBVAC program that soon will be announced on the homepages of RCN.
- *Gunnar Kvåle* informed about a meeting of Nordic stakeholders in the field of global health research at the Nordic School of Public Health February 26-27 concerning areas of Nordic collaboration in this field. At the meeting it was proposed to establish a Nordic academy of global health, co-ordinated from the Nordic School. The first activities will be to arrange high quality meeting on different important global health research issues.

17/07 Any other business

No matters raised.

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

**Minutes board meeting
NTNU, Trondheim
Friday 22 June 2007, 1000 – 1500**

Participation

Members: Gunnar Kvåle, June Jacobsen Steen, Gunnar A. Bjune, Karen Marie Moland, Ottar Mæstad and Berit Rostad. Jon Øyvind Odland participated by phone on agenda item 21/07.

Absent: Berit Schei

Observers: Kårstein Måseide. Paul R. Fife participated by phone on agenda item 22/07, 23/07 and 24/07. *Absent:* Harald Siem

Secretary: Nils Gunnar Songstad

The board meeting included a meeting 11.00-12.30 with the researchers at NTNU for presentation of activities and a discussion for possibilities of strengthening Global Health Research at the institution

18/07 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

19/07 Minutes of meeting 19 April 2007

On agenda item 11/07 it was suggested a minor change in the listing of institutional affiliation and nomination of the members of the planning committee for the 2007 conference.

20/07 Matters arising from the minutes

Working group on co-ordination/funding of global health research

Gunnar Kvåle informed about the ongoing work by a working group on Norwegian bilateral support to higher education and research in developing countries. The report from this working group will be submitted in August 2007. The plan is to appoint the working group on global health research after the working group on development research in general has submitted its report.

NOMA

Gunnar Kvåle informed about a letter from the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions dated 24 May 2007 in response to the letter from the Forum dated 23 February 2007 regarding the financing of the NOMA programme. Both letters are available on www.globalhealth.no. It was suggested that the issue should be followed up by the institutions that have been allocated NOMA programmes.

21/07 National Research School on Global Health Research

A memo of June 7 developed by Gunnar Kvåle was discussed. The memo presents the current status of the planning and proposed content and funding of research schools in Norway, referring to relevant documents from the Ministry of Education and Research and the Research Council of Norway was discussed (see www.globalhealth.no).

The board discussed the importance of establishing a high quality programme for training at the PhD level in global health. The aim is to develop a structured educational programme in

global health research based on the accredited courses (current and new courses) given at the institutions involved. The discussion clarified issues on the institutional participation in the proposed research school. The process of developing the research school requires clarification on accreditation of credits to the institutions responsible for the teaching.

The board concluded that a letter is to be sent to Ministry of Education and Research to propose the establishment of a National Research School in Global Health Research. Further, a letter should be written to the relevant institutions for the appointment of members to establish a working group on developing a full proposal of a research school.

22/07 Funding of global health research through the Research Council of Norway. Initiative for increased funding of general global health research

Kårstein Måseide informed that there was a large number of applications to the last call for the global health part of the GLOBVAC programme in 2007 (for details see agenda item 25/07 below). The Research Council of Norway would like to see this part of the GLOBVAC programme to be continued. Paul R. Fife informed the board that the development aid budget is expected to be increased in the next years to come. The board concluded that a letter should be written to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Care Service to underline the need for necessary funds to be available for the continuation of the global health part of the GLOBVAC programme through the Research Council of Norway.

23/07 Inventory of activities and resources used for global health research in Norway

Nils Gunnar Songstad presented a brief outline to a database/inventory of global health research in Norway. The new database will be developed and made available on the FORUM website.

24/07 Conference on global health research

The planning committee on the 2007 conference had its first meeting by telephone 7 May 2007. Prior to the board meeting, several versions of tentative conference programmes had been developed. The latest version of the programme was distributed by Gunnar Kvåle in the meeting.

The board members exchanged views on the general structure and components of the conference. It was pointed out the need of developing a programme that will attract an audience that will like to attend both days of the conference.

It was suggested that representatives of institutions in South should be invited to address e.g. human resources issues. The suggested participation in the conference by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was supported by the members of the board.

It was agreed in the meeting of the conference planning committee 7 May and seconded by the FORUM board that young researcher should be invited to present posters on global health research in the conference. The practical issues of receiving and evaluation poster abstracts (a deadline is to be set) will be handled by the Research Council of Norway. A draft of a 'flyer' with the first announcement of the conference and invitation to present posters has been developed. The completion of the flyer will be handled by the conference planning committee.

It was agreed that programme committee should be informed of the different inputs and suggestions from the Forum board. The conference planning committee will need to meet as soon as possible to discuss the conference programme.

25/07 Information from board members/observers

Gunnar Kvåle and Berit Rostad participated in the 5th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health in Amsterdam 24-28 May 2007 and the meeting of the Assembly of the Federation of European Societies of Tropical Medicine and International Health 28 May 2007. The 6th Congress is to be held in Verona, Italy 2-6 September 2009.

The FORUM secretariat will be expanded and Elisabeth Skuggevik will be employed in a 50 % position 1 August – 31 December 2007.

News from GLOBVAC:

A total number of 31 applications were received by the application deadline 18 April 2007 for the global health research call. The total amount applied for was 219 mill. NOK, while approximately 30 mill. NOK is available for this call.

A total number of 17 applications were received by the application deadline 6 June 2007 for the vaccination research call. The total amount applied for was 214.5 mill. A total amount of 100 mill. NOK is available for this call. A total number of 3 applications for the total amount of 515 000 NOK were received for the call for proposals on support for organizing conferences/workshops/seminars in global health and vaccination research. A total amount of 1 mill. NOK was made available for this call.

26/07 Any other business

No issues raised.

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Minutes

Board meeting by telephone

Wednesday 12 September 2007, 1400 – 15.20

Participation

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

Observers: Kårstein Måseide. *Absent:* Harald Siem, Paul R. Fife.

Secretariat: Nils Gunnar Songstad and Elisabeth Skuggevik.

27/07 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

It was requested that all documents/attachments for the meetings should be combined in one document and distributed in *one* e-mail before the meetings.

28/07 Minutes of meeting 22 June 2007

The minutes were approved.

29/07 Matters of information

a) News from the secretariat

Elisabeth Skuggevik and Nils Gunnar Songstad informed about the current statuses of the website.

- Through a Google Account (Google Analytics) we have now access to statistics on the use of our website.
- Through a contact form on the webpage it is possible to contact the Forum and a new function for registering for newsletters has also been installed.
- On the inventory of global health research there is still some work to be done before it can be launched on the website. The new inventory will be developed and later made available on the FORUM website and replace the current overview of global health research in Norway.

b) Funding of global research through the research Council of Norway. Initiative for increased funding of general global health research.

Gunnar Kvåle informed about the letter written to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Care Service. The letter underlines the need for necessary funds to be available for the continuation of the global health part of the GLOBVAC programme through the Research Council of Norway. The board have not so far received any official answers from the either of the ministries.

30/07 National Research School on Global Health Research

The board meeting of the Norwegian Forum of Global Health Research 22 June 2007 discussed a research school in global health. The memo of 7 June developed by Gunnar Kvåle was discussed. The memo presents the current status of the planning and proposed content and funding of a research schools in global health in Norway. A letter has been sent to Ministry of Education and Research to suggest establishing a national research school in global health research.

The aim of the national research school on global health is to develop a structured educational programme in global health research based on the accredited courses (current and new courses) given at the institutions involved. The process of developing the research school requires clarification on accreditation of credits to the institutions responsible for the teaching.

A small working group on the subject was established at the meeting, consisting of representatives from the universities of Oslo (Joar Svanemyr), Bergen (Thorkild Tylleskär) and Tromsø (Jon Øyvind Odland).

31/07 Working group on co-ordination/funding of global health research

The Report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, August 2007; *Mot en mer kunnskapsfokuset utviklingspolitikk: Plattform for bilateral bistand til høyere utdanning og forskning i utviklingslandene*, was discussed. The report deals with bilateral aid to higher education and research in low- and middle income countries on a general level. Global health is an important component, though not directly mentioned, in any of the thematic areas. The board considers therefore the report as a good foundation, but points out the need for looking in to global health in particular.

Gunnar Kvåle informed about the draft of 15 February 2007, *Proposal of mandate for a working group*. A proposal for discussion on further action on the matter will be raised at the General Assembly in Trondheim.

32/07 GLOBVAC conference, Trondheim, 18-19 October 2007

The planning committee on the 2007 conference had a meeting by telephone 28 August 2007. It was agreed in this meeting and seconded by the FORUM board that young researcher who are invited to present posters on global health research in the conference can be given a student travel award of 3000 NOK by the Research Council of Norway. The practical issues of receiving and evaluation of poster abstracts are handled by the Research Council of Norway. The abstracts of the poster should be submitted by 21 September, 2007.

Kårstein Måseide informed about the Second announcement (flyer and programme) for the Conference in Trondheim, 18-19 October. The second announcement was distributed before the board meeting. Most of the speakers and moderators are now confirmed, so the technical/professional part of the programme is almost set.

33/07 General Assembly, Trondheim, 18 October 2007

Annual report, budget and work plan

A draft of the annual report was distributed to the board before the board meeting, and will together with a budget and a further work plan be presented at the General Assembly.

Approval of revised statutes

The statutes were revised 14 Desember, 2006. The board approved the revised statutes, and the statutes will be presented at the General Assembly 2007 for final amendments and approval.

All documents to General Assembly should be distributed latest 2 weeks before the General Assembly

34/07 Request from Utviklingsutvalget, Statistics Norway

Gunnar Kvåle informed about a request from Utviklingsutvalget, Statistics Norway, about a memo on Norwegian health related development policies and coherence with other Norwegian governmental policies. Joar Svanemyr, Section for International Health, Department of General Practice and Community Health, University of Oslo has already started the work.

Gunnar Kvåle also informed the board about a request from the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs regarding an overview of current research in global health.

The results from the work on these two requests will be important for planning of the working group on coordination/funding of global health research.

35/07 Information from Board members/observers

Karen Marie Moland informed about an initiative to strengthen global health research at Bergen University College.

The secretariat informed that our website will be linked to www.global.no

Gunnar A. Bjune informed about some delays in the regional ethical committee's handling of applications in English. The problem with the forms translated is expected to be solved shortly. Gunnar A. Bjune also informed about problems faced by Ethiopian researchers in getting visa to Norway as a result of the diplomatic tension between Ethiopia and Norway.

Kåstein Måseide informed about

- 1) New allocations to global health research through GLOBVAC
- 2) Co-financing of research through EDCTP
- 3) Forskningstorget (an initiative to spread information about research to the public)

Gunnar Kvåle informed about a meeting in Mozambique regarding the NOMA programme 18-20 October 2007.

36/07 Any other business

No issues raised.

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Minutes board meeting

Friday 19 October 2007, 1630-1730
Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU),
Trondheim

Participants:

Members: Gunnar Kvåle, June Jacobsen Steen, Ottar Mæstad, Berit Schei, Berit Rostad, Birger Sørensen and Nina Emaus (substitute for Jon Øyvind Odland). *Absent:* Gunnar A. Bjune, Karen Marie Moland

Observers: Kårstein Måseide. *Absent:* Harald Siem, Paul R. Fife

Secretariat: Nils Gunnar Songstad

37/07 Approval of the agenda

The agenda of the meeting was approved.

38/07 Minutes of meeting 12 September 2007

39/07 Brief account of “The Trondheim Conference in Global Health Research“, and the meeting of the General Assembly

The board discussed the conference and exchanged views on possible improvements in next year’s conference. It was suggested by some board members that the international key note speakers should be allocated more time.

Also, board members suggested that future conferences should include presentation of ‘success stories’ in global health research, e.g. examples of North-South collaboration.

The board also discussed the format and topics of future conferences in global health research and discussed briefly whether next years conference could also including topics that previously has been covered in the annual HIV Research Net conferences that has been funded under the RCN-funded network for HIV-research.

The importance of an early decision on the theme of next year’s conference was discussed.

40/07 Matters arising from the Assembly/Conference discussions

- *In relation to annual report and work plan.*
Gunnar Kvåle reported from an informal meeting on 18 October regarding possible future funding of implementation research.
- *Further actions in relation to strengthening and improving co-ordination of funding for global health research*

The board discussed the earlier suggested working group on global health research and decided to continue to work for this group to be established. The board also briefly discussed the funding of research schools expected to be available through the Research Council of Norway.

41/07 Date for board meetings 2007 – 2008

The next meeting will be held by phone 30 November 2007, 1000-1100. It was suggested that one of the board meetings in 2008 is held in Tromsø.

42/07 Conference 2008 preliminary discussion of time, content and venue

The board will advocate for an early decision of the conference venue of the 2008 conference.

43/07 Information from board members/observers

Due to limited time this item agenda was not discussed.

44/07 Any other business

No issues raised.

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Minutes board meeting

Meeting by phone 4 December 2007, 13.00 – 14.30

Participants:

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

Absent: Berit Rostad and Birger Sørensen

Observers: Kårstein Måseide, Harald Siem and Paul R. Fife

Secretariat: Nils Gunnar Songstad and Elisabeth Skuggevik

45/07 Approval of the agenda

The agenda of the meeting was approved.

46/07 Minutes of Board meeting 12 September 2007

The minutes were approved.

47/07 Minutes of Board meeting 19 October 2007

The minutes were approved.

48/07 Minutes of Meeting of General Assembly 18 October 2007 and Statutes Revised 18 October 2007

The minutes and statutes were approved.

49/07 Request from Committee of Development (“Utviklingsutvalget”) to the Forum for a document to describe how Norwegian policy affects the health of people of low-income countries

The Board has reviewed the document developed by Joar Svanemyr, *Innspill til utviklingsutvalget om koherens i norsk politikk og de utviklingspolitiske mål. Fremmer norsk politikk helsen til de fattigste I lavinntektsland?* The draft document gives important background information for the report requested by “Utviklingsutvalget”.

On some of the issues, the draft needs to be further developed, in particular in relation to some specific questions, as specified by “Utviklingsutvalget”. A revised document will be developed, based on the comments from the board and by combining the information from document by Svanemyr with the document on global health research (see agenda item no. 50/07). Svanemyr will be asked to develop a revised document, in collaboration with the Forum secretariat. This document will be circulated to the board members for approval before being submitted to “Utviklingsutvalget” by January 11, 2008.

For mandate of “utviklingsutvalget” see:

http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/ud/dok/rapporter_planer/Planer/2006/Mandat-for-utviklingsutvalget-.html?id=450204

50/07 Request from Committee of Development (“Utviklingsutvalget”) to the Forum for a document to describe Norwegian policy and contributions to global health

The board has reviewed the document developed by Gunnar Kvåle. A revised document will be developed, based on the comments from the board and by combining the information in this document with parts of the document by Svanemyr (see agenda item no. 49/07).

51/07 Conference 2008 preliminary discussion of venue, time and content

The board discussed next year’s conference on global health and vaccination research. A proposal of arranging a joint conference between NUFU, The Research Council of Norway and the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research was discussed, since NUFU plans to have health as the theme at the annual NUFU conference next year. The Board was positive of arranging such a joint conference in Bergen, preferably in October 2008. This proposal will be discussed with the Board of the GLOBVAC programme and the NUFU secretariat. If agreed to hold a joint conference, a programme committee with representation from the Forum, the Research Council of Norway and NUFU will be appointed.

52/07 Date for board meetings 2007 – 2008

The following dates were approved by the board, and the full day meeting was proposed to be held in Tromsø.

Dates 2008:

Board meetings (by phone): Thursday 14 February, 13.00 – 14.00

Thursday 17 April, 13.00 - 14.00

Board meeting (full day): Monday 16 June

53/07 News from the secretariat

The secretariat informed about a newsletter soon to be sent out. The newsletter will have links to a short summary report and the presentations from the conference held in Trondheim 18th and 19th of October 2007, as well as a short report from the General Assembly 2007. The newsletter is now presented in a new and improved format.

54/07 Information from board members/observers

Kårstein Måseide informed from the GLOBVAC programme that allocations have been made for the

["Call for proposals on vaccination research 2007"](#). Further, a symposium will be organized on 5- 6 Mars 2008 in Oslo to facilitate partnership-building in vaccination research. This will be followed by a call for proposals for project establishment support and support for organizing conferences/symposia/workshops with application deadline April 16 and a new call for proposals on vaccination research with application deadline September 3. 2008. For more information follow this [LINK](#)

Gunnar Kvåle informed about some of next year’s coming international conferences:

- Countdown 2008 conference, Cape Town, South Africa, April 2008
Fore more information follow this [LINK](#)

- Board meeting of the Federation of European Societies in Tropical Medicine and International Health to be held in Verona, December 7, 2007, and the next European Conference of the Society to be held in Verona, September 2009. For more information the on European Societies in Tropical Medicine and International Health and the conference follow this [LINK](#)

55/07 Any other business:

National Research School on Global Health Research

The Board has previously discussed and proposed to establish a research school in global health. The aim is to develop a structured educational programme in global health research based on the accredited courses (current and new courses) given at the institutions involved. The process requires clarification on accreditation of credits to the institutions responsible for the teaching.

The established working group consists of representatives from the universities of Oslo (Joar Svanemyr), Bergen (Thorkild Tylleskär) and Tromsø (Jon Øyvind Odland). Jon Øyvind Odland presented a draft on the research school on global health, and informed about the working groups next meeting.

New initiatives to promote implementation research in relation to Norwegian Government efforts to address MDCs 4, 5 and 6

Gunnar Kvåle informed about a meeting in Kunnskapssenteret 23. November to discuss a new Norwegian initiative to strengthen implementation research in relation to the Norwegian Government efforts to address MDC's 4, 5 and 6. NORAD will work to strengthen their capacity in evaluation and research in relation to the national and global initiatives that Norway is involved in. In relation to this work, the Board agreed that:

- The Forum will, in co-operation with NORAD, take an initiative to arrange a seminar early next year (February/March 2008) for Norwegian researchers and research institutions, with the purpose of strengthen methodological competence and research capacity in implementation research at Norwegian institutions. The aim will be to establish a network of competent researchers in the field of implementation research, under the umbrella of the Forum, but with its own scientific leadership.
- The Forum will investigate the possibility of establishing new research programmes on implementation research, possibly as a collaborative programme between NUFU and the Research Council of Norway. Use of § 2.2 under the NUFU agreement for supporting global health research in relation to the new Norwegian initiatives in global health was discussed as a possibility establishing a new programme already in 2008. The Forum will communicate the need for such a programme to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/NORAD, the Research Council of Norway and NUFU.