

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

NOS-M is a cooperative body for the medical research councils in Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

The objective of NOS-M is to further develop the committee as a joint forum for promotion of medical research in the Nordic countries and to strengthen the international status of Nordic health research. Enhancement of Nordic cooperation has been of increasing importance in science policy issues; especially in relation to the European Research Area and the establishment of NordForsk, a platform for joint Nordic research and research policy development.

Composition of NOS-M

Member councils 2018:

Forskningsrådet för Hälsa, Finlands Akademi, Finland
Rannsóknamiðstöð Íslands (RANNIS), Island
Divisjon for Vitenskap, Norges Forskningsråd, Norge
Ämnesrådet för medicin och hälsa, Vetenskapsrådet, Sverige
Det Frie Forskningsråd | Sundhed og Sygdom, Danmark

Each member country is represented by 1-2 council members and 1-2 administrative representatives. Observers from the Nordic Council of Ministers as well as NordForsk are invited, and as of 2005, observers from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania may take part in NOS-M meetings and activities. Additional observers or guests may be invited to the meetings.

NordForsk has hosted the NOS-M secretariat since 1 January 2013.

Members 2018:

Finland: Jorma Toppari, Pauli Puolakkainen
Iceland: Þorsteinn Loftsson, Bryndís Eva Birgisdóttir
Norway: Trude Helen Flo, Kåre Birger Hagen
Sweden: Jan-Ingvar Jönsson (Chair), Mats Wahlgren, Louise von Essen
Denmark: Merete Osler, Kaare Christensen

Administrative representatives:

Finland: Jarmo Wahlfors, Sara Illman
Iceland: Ása Guðrún Kristjánsdóttir
Norway: Hilde Jerkø, Henrietta Blankson, Marianne Grønseth
Sweden: Johan Nilsson
Denmark: Bjørn Martin Luff, Astrid Gro Pedersen

Observers:

NordForsk: Maria Nilsson
Latvia: Kristine Klavina
Estonia: Irja Lutsar
Lithuania: Diana Obelienienė

NOS-M Secretariat:

NordForsk/Maria Nilsson

The chairmanship rotates among the member countries in the following order:
Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Iceland. Sweden took on the chairmanship in 2016.

Main activities during 2018

NOS-M had two meetings in 2018:

- Turku 7-8 March
- Copenhagen 25-26 September

The different topics that were discussed in the 2018 meetings are listed below.

Country reports

Country reports from each Nordic national research council are given at each NOS-M meeting. These reports are important in the mutual information exchange between the councils and also prominent in the feedback to the individual research councils.

Invited guests

There were no invited guests during 2018.

Themes

One topic of special interest is brought forward at each meeting. The special themes in 2018 were "Peer Review" and "National and/or regional evaluation of clinical research".

Regarding "Peer Review", each country reported on existing national guidelines for peer review including principles and how panels are set up. Information on how risky project proposals are assessed in each country were briefly touched upon.

Regarding "National and/or regional evaluation of clinical research" each country presented relevant national and/or regional evaluations of clinical research that had been conducted including main outcomes, improvement suggestions and measures.

Follow up of the Nordic White Paper for Medical Research

The Nordic White Paper "Nordic Potential in Medical Research - Cooperation for Success" was launched in November 2014. The White Paper focuses on Nordic added value in medical research cooperation and emphasizes that together the Nordic countries are a strong actor in medical research. Enhanced strategic cooperation is however essential to realise the Nordic potential. The implementation of the five recommendations of the White Paper has been a standing item on the NOS-M agenda.

The main focus during 2018 was on personalised medicine and a mapping of national and international initiatives on personalised medicine was carried out under the lead by the Swedish Research Council. The mapping report include projects/strategic initiatives/policy statements and aims to be finalised spring 2019.

Strategic workshops

At the NOS-M 1-2018 meeting it was decided to set up a pilot call for strategic activities aiming to promote Nordic cooperation within medical research. The funded activities should preferably be in line with the recommendations of the "Nordic Potential in Medical Research – Cooperation for success". Example of activities foreseen are strategic workshops or other networking activities.

NOS-M decided to fund four strategic workshops at the 2-2018 meeting which were announced on the web site.

Other topics

- Information from NordForsk and the Nordic Council of Ministers
- Information about international activities

ANNEX 4. NOS-M 1-2019

- Information from the Baltic countries

Excursions

The NOS-M 1-2018 meeting was held at the Donner Institute at which NOS-M received a historical tour by its Director Ruth Illman.

Financial report

NordForsk has administered the finances of NOS-M during 2018. A financial report is attached to the annual report.

*/Maria Nilsson, NordForsk
February 2019*