

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

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 2019:*

Forskningsrådet för biovetenskap, hälsa och miljö, Finlands Akademi, Finland  
Rannsóknamiðstöð Íslands (RANNIS), Island  
Norges Forskningsråd, Norge  
Ämnesrådet för medicin och hälsa, Vetenskapsrådet, Sverige  
Danmarks Frie Forskningsfond | 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 2019:*

Finland: Esa Korpi, Markus Perola  
Iceland: Kristín Ingólfssdóttir  
Norway: Trude Helen Flo, Kåre Birger Hagen  
Sweden: Niklas Arnberg, Louise von Essen  
Denmark: Merete Osler (1-2019), Allan Vaag, Helle Prætorius Øhrwald (2-2019)

#### *Administrative representatives:*

Finland: Sara Illman  
Iceland: Ása Guðrún Kristjánsdóttir  
Norway: Hilde Jerkø (1-2019), Marianne Grønseth, Karianne Solaas  
Sweden: Jan-Ingvar Jönsson (Chair), Johan Nilsson  
Denmark: 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. The Chair agreed to continue over the 1-2020 meeting.

## **Main activities during 2019**

NOS-M had two meetings in 2019:

- Stockholm 5-6 March
- Oslo 16-17 December

The different topics that were discussed in the 2019 meetings are listed below.

### *Country reports*

Country reports from each Nordic national research council were 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*

Professor Juni Palmgren was invited to present the report "A vision of a secure digital infrastructure for health data – The Nordic Commons" at the NOS-M 2-2019 meeting. Director Arne Flåøyen was invited to the same meeting to present the latest developments at NordForsk.

### *Themes*

One topic of special interest is brought forward at each meeting by one of the countries. The special themes in 2019 were "The interaction between governmental and private research funds in the Nordic countries" and "Recruitment to clinical research - career support and development: what's the medical research councils' responsibility".

Regarding "The interaction between governmental and private research funds in the Nordic countries", each country reported on how national research is funded and the different funding sources. Some research councils are able to fund companies, others are not. NOS-M agreed that it is good with collaboration with business and private foundation but there should be room for blue sky research. It was agreed that the country reports should include figures on academia public private correlation including how much funding that is allocated from each sector.

Regarding "Recruitment to clinical research - career support and development: what's the medical research councils' responsibility" each country presented existing strategies for recruitment to clinical research, national or regional evaluations and current types of career support for clinical researcher. NOS-M then discussed the differences between countries, the need for career support as well as potential for Nordic collaboration on the topic. A few topics were identified as suitable for further discussion in NOS-M: What role should non-university hospitals have in clinical research? Could internationalisation at an earlier level be improved with flexible mobility grants? Etc.

### *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.

## ANNEX 4. NOS-M 1-2020

The main focus during 2019 was to finalise the report "Personalised medicine in the Nordic countries" which was published on the website in August. The report includes a mapping of strategic and funding initiatives in personalised medicine and recommendations on how to move forward at the Nordic level. The report includes recommendations to initiate a new common pot call within personalised medicine research and to continue with NOS-M's strategic network funding. The Swedish Research Council coordinated an Expression of Interest to NordForsk for a new call on personalised medicine during autumn with support from Finland and Norway. The NordForsk board agreed to initiate such a call at its meeting in December 2019.

NOS-M will during 2020 discuss if a new white paper should be produced as well as other suitable activities for the committee the coming years.

### *Strategic workshops*

At the NOS-M 1-2019 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 one strategic workshop at the 2-2019 meeting.

### *The Nordic Commons for health data*

NOS-M was given a presentation of the "Nordic Commons" report by Professor Juni Palmgren at the NOS-M 2-2019 meeting. The report outlines a vision for the Nordic region to be world-leading in sharing of health data and gives recommendations to the research councils and policy makers on actions needed.

### *Other topics*

- Information from NordForsk and the Nordic Council of Ministers
- Information about international activities
- Information on potential cooperation between Japan/AMED and the Nordic countries
- NOS-M administration

### *Excursions*

There were no excursions under 2019.

## **Financial report**

NordForsk has administered the finances of NOS-M during 2019. A financial report is attached to the annual report.

*/Maria Nilsson, NordForsk  
May 2020*