

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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 2020:

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. An observer from NordForsk is 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 2020:

Finland: Esa Korpi, Markus Perola
Iceland: Kristín Ingólfssdóttir
Norway: Trude Helen Flo, Kåre Birger Hagen
Sweden: Niklas Arnberg, Louise von Essen
Denmark: Allan Vaag, Helle Prætorius Øhrwald

Administrative representatives:

Finland: Sara Illman
Iceland: Ása Guðrún Kristjánsdóttir
Norway: 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: Vacant

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. Denmark will chair NOS-M 2021-2023.

Main activities during 2020

NOS-M had one digital meeting in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Zoom 14 May

The different topics that were discussed in the 2020 meeting are listed below.

Country reports

Country reports from each Nordic national research council were given at the 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. Due to the present situation with the pandemic, there was a lot of emphasis on activities and calls for proposals related to COVID-19 research.

Invited guests

There was no invited guest in the NOS-M 1-2020 meeting.

Themes

One topic of special interest is usually brought forward at each meeting by one of the countries. As the NOS-M Chair was stepping down, the special theme in the 2020 meeting was exchanged with a "Reflections from the Chair" session. The Chair shared his reflections on the past four years as well as ideas for the future with the committee – both in writing as well as at the meeting. Ideas were shared of having a strategy for NOS-M for the next years. Also, shorter position papers could be written on different thematic areas and include guiding efforts and funding opportunities.

Strategic workshops / activities

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. At the NOS-M 1-2020 meeting, NOS-M decided to fund one proposal for a joint online course (MOOC) on personalised medicine from the deans of the Nordic medical schools.

The Nordic Commons for health data

NordForsk has kept NOS-M continuously informed of discussions at the Nordic Council of Ministers on the recommendations in the "Nordic Commons" report that was presented 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 (among others) the research councils and policy makers on actions needed. The report is downloadable on nordforsk.org/publications

Nordic health data research projects on COVID-19 Call 2020

NordForsk coordinated a call for proposals on "Nordic Health Data Research Projects on COVID-19" that opened in May 2020. The funding for the call was originally targeted to a common pot call on personalised medicine, initiated by NOS-M, but it was decided to change its thematic focus due to the pandemic. Five projects were selected for funding in October 2020.

Other topics

- Information from NordForsk

ANNEX 4. NOS-M 1-2021

- Information on Baltic and international activities
- Information on potential cooperation between Japan/AMED and the Nordic countries
- NOS-M administration

Excursions

There were no excursions under 2020.

Financial report

NordForsk has administered the finances of NOS-M during 2020. A financial report is attached to the annual report.

*/Maria Nilsson, NordForsk
April 2021*