

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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 2021:

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 2021:

Finland: Esa Korpi, Markus Perola
Iceland: Saedis Saevarsdottir, Sigurður Guðmundsson
Norway: Guri Rørtveit, Ole Andreassen
Sweden: Niklas Arnberg, Louise von Essen
Denmark: Peter Rossing, Helle Prætorius Øhrwald (Chair from 2020/2021)

Administrative representatives:

Finland: Sara Illman
Iceland: Ása Guðrún Kristjánsdóttir
Norway: Ole Johan Borge, Karianne Solaas
Sweden: Madeleine Durbeej-Hjalt, Sverker Lundin
Denmark: Astrid Gro Pedersen, Simone Rørdam-Preil

Observers:

NordForsk: Maria Nilsson
Latvia: Kristine Klavina
Estonia: Irja Lutsar
Lithuania: Edgaras Stankevičius

NOS-M Secretariat:

NordForsk/Maria Nilsson

The chairmanship rotates among the member countries in the following order: Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Iceland. Denmark took on the chairmanship in 2020/2021 and will chair NOS-M 2021-2023.

Main activities during 2021

NOS-M had two short digital meetings in 2021:

- Zoom 6 May
- Zoom 15 June

There was a plan for a meeting in Copenhagen in December but due to difficulties in finding a date and omicron, it was decided to postpone the meeting.

The different topics that were discussed in the 2021 meetings are listed below.

Country reports

Country reports from each Nordic national research council were given at the NOS-M meetings. These reports are important in the mutual information exchange between the councils. Due to the pandemic, the presentations were kept short and focused on the following headlines:

- System level developments incl. new strategies and policies
- Research council developments (administration, re-organisations etc)
- Major research and research infrastructure initiatives
- COVID-19 related activities
- International engagements

Invited guests

Hakon Heimer had been invited to present the status of the MOOC at the NOS-M 1-2021 meeting.

Themes

One topic of special interest is usually brought forward at each meeting by one of the countries. Due to the nature of the 2021 meetings (short and virtual meetings) the new Chair gave her reflections on NOS-M and the work ahead. This generated some discussion regarding ideas for future topics and focus areas that will be brought up in 2022. Ideas included "free research", how to utilize strategic seminars and lessons learned from post-covid.

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 status for this course was reported on at the meeting 1-2021.

The Nordic Commons for health data

NordForsk has kept NOS-M continuously informed of the Nordic Commons project. A report published in December 2019 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.

ANNEX 3. NOS-M 1-2022

In 2021 it was informed that the Nordic Council of Ministers had decided to include the project in its four-year action plan and fund it with 22 MDKK. NordForsk had been given the task to coordinate the project.

Other topics

- Information from NordForsk
- Information on Baltic and international activities
- NOS-M administration

Excursions

There were no excursions under 2021.

Financial report

NordForsk has administered the finances of NOS-M during 2021. A financial report is attached to the annual report.

*/Maria Nilsson, NordForsk
March 2022*