

## The Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine officially inaugurates the Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland in Helsinki

The new Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM) is building a bridge from discovery to medicine

**Helsinki, 16 March 2010** – Today, the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine officially inaugurates the Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM) in Helsinki. Together with the Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM, University of Oslo) and the Laboratory for Molecular Infection Medicine Sweden (MIMS, Umeå University), FIMM is part of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine. The partnership was initiated in 2007 and is dedicated to research in molecular medicine, investigation of the molecular basis of disease and the discovery of new treatments.

“FIMM is a prime example of an international multi-disciplinary institute combining high-quality science with access to patient materials and links to medical expertise,” says Olli Kallioniemi, Director of FIMM. “Our state-of-the-art technologies enable us to investigate molecular mechanisms of disease using genomics and medical systems biology helping us to bridge from discovery to medical applications.”

The joint research institute is operated by the University of Helsinki, in collaboration with the Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa (HUS), the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) and the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland. FIMM has 150 employees in 11 research and five technology groups. The research groups work on cancer, cardiovascular, neuro-psychiatric and viral diseases. FIMM carries out translational research to explore new diagnostics and treatments and promotes human health via research on



The new Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM) in Helsinki.

© FIMM

personalized medicine.

“EMBL is one of the most prominent institutes in molecular and cellular biology, while Finland and the University of Helsinki have strong expertise in clinical research. This provides an excellent base for building a world-class collaborative molecular medicine institute like FIMM,” says Iain Mattaj, Director General of EMBL.

FIMM will enhance its global profile by international recruitment, new career paths, and collaborations with industry and health care providers. ●

### Contacts:

Sonia Furtado, EMBL Press Officer, Heidelberg, Germany, Tel: +49 6221 387 8263, [www.embl.org](http://www.embl.org), [sonia.furtado@embl.de](mailto:sonia.furtado@embl.de),  
Professor Olli Kallioniemi, Director of FIMM, Tel. +358 9 191 25731, GSM +358 50 5468790.

## **About EMBL**

The European Molecular Biology Laboratory is a basic research institute funded by public research monies from 20 member states (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) and associate member state Australia. Research at EMBL is conducted by approximately 85 independent groups covering the spectrum of molecular biology. The Laboratory has five units: the main Laboratory in Heidelberg, and Outstations in Hinxton (the European Bioinformatics Institute), Grenoble, Hamburg, and Monterotondo near Rome. The cornerstones of EMBL's mission are: to perform basic research in molecular biology; to train scientists, students and visitors at all levels; to offer vital services to scientists in the member states; to develop new instruments and methods in the life sciences and to actively engage in technology transfer activities. EMBL's International PhD Programme has a student body of about 190. The Laboratory also sponsors an active Science and Society programme. Visitors from the press and public are welcome.

## **About FIMM**

The Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM) is an international research institute focusing on building a bridge from discovery to medical applications. FIMM is part of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine, together with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), the Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM, University of Oslo) and the Laboratory for Molecular Infection Medicine Sweden (MIMS, Umeå University). At the national level FIMM is a joint research institute of the University of Helsinki, the Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa (HUS), the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) and the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland. FIMM investigates molecular mechanisms of disease using genomics and medical systems biology in order to promote human health. FIMM is a multi-disciplinary institute combining high-quality science with unique patient materials, and state-of-the-art technologies.

### *Policy regarding use*

*EMBL press and picture releases including photographs, graphics, movies and videos are copyrighted by EMBL unless otherwise stated. They may be freely reprinted and distributed for non-commercial use via print, broadcast and electronic media, provided that proper attribution to authors, photographers and designers is made. High-resolution copies of the images can be downloaded from the EMBL web site: [www.embl.org](http://www.embl.org).*