# Corporate Governance Report 2022

Boule Diagnostics AB (publ)



# **Corporate Governance Report**

Corporate governance within Boule Diagnostics AB defines decision-making systems, clarifies roles and division of responsibilities between the Board of Directors, management and control bodies and ensures transparency towards the Group's stakeholders.

Boule Diagnostics AB ("Boule" or "the Company") bases its corporate governance on Swedish legislation (primarily the Swedish Companies Act), the Company's articles of association, internal rules, regulations and policies, and Nasdaq Stockholm's Regulations for Issuers. Boule applies the Swedish Corporate Governance Code (the "Code"), the purpose of which is to ensure companies are managed sustainably, responsibly and as efficiently as possible for their shareholders. There have been no violations of the Code or other external regulations. The Corporate Governance Report is available on the Company's website at www.boule.com/investor-relations/corporate-governance.



# **General Meeting**

The General Meeting is the Company's highest decision-making body and amendments to the articles of association are adopted by the meeting. Company shares are issued in a single class, with each share carrying entitlement to one vote. The AGM elects the Board of Directors and auditors, and makes decisions in accordance with the Swedish Companies Act and the Company's articles of association. The Board presents the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements to the AGM. The auditors present the Auditor's Report for the Parent Company and the Group.

The notice of the General Meeting, which is published in a press release and on the Company website, includes information on business to be dealt with at the meeting. Decisions made at the meeting are published in a press release and are available on the Company website.

In 2022, an Annual General Meeting was held on May 5 and an Extraordinary General Meeting on November 1 to decide on a new capital issue.

The 2023 Annual General Meeting is planned for May 4 at 4:30 pm at the Company's premises at Domnarvsgatan 4 in Spånga.

# **Nomination Committee**

The 2022 AGM decided that the Nomination Committee would consist of three members representing the three largest shareholders at the end of September. The composition is announced no later than six months before the AGM and was published on October 22, 2022.

Prior to the 2023 AGM, Ulf Hedlundh, representing the Company's second largest shareholder per September 30, 2022, Svolder AB, was appointed Chair of the Nomination Committee. Other members of the Nomination Committee are Erik Ivarsson for Grenspecialisten and Thomas Eklund. The Chair of the Board, Yvonne Mårtensson, is co-opted.

The Nomination Committee prepares decision-support material for the general meeting related to the election and remuneration of the meeting Chairman, Board members, Chairman of the Board and auditors. The Nomination Committee reports to the AGM on its work. The Committee does not receive any remuneration for its work. Shareholders can contact the Nomination Committee with proposals and views regarding the Board's composition.

Auditors were elected at the 2022 AGM. The Nomination Committee's composition as from October 2022 is shown in the table below:

Name	Representing	Ownership, % September 30, 2022	
Ulf Hedlundh (Nomination Committee Chair)	Svolder AB	12.43	
Erik Ivarsson	AB Grenspecialisten	12.59	
Thomas Eklund	Thomas Eklund	10.07	

# **Owners**

Boule's largest shareholders per December 31, 2022, and their shareholdings are presented in the Directors' Report under Share and Ownership Structure on page 54.

# **The Board of Directors**

The Articles of Association state that the Board shall consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of seven members, with no deputies. Through the Nomination Committee's preparation of proposals for the election of Board members, Boule applies rule 4.1 of the Swedish Corporate Governance Code as a diversity policy. The Board must have an appropriate composition, characterized by diversity and breadth with regard to elected members' skills, experience and background, that takes into account the Company's operations, stage of development and other circumstances. There must be an aim to achieve gender balance.

Since the AGM on May 5, 2022, the Board has consisted of five members: three men and two women. At the 2022 Annual General Meeting, previous member Yvonne Mårtensson was elected as Board Chair. Karin Dahllöf, Thomas Eklund, Jon Risfelt and Torben Jørgensen were re-elected to the Board. Former chairman Peter Ehrenheim and board member Charlotta Bovin had declined re-election. At an Extraordinary General Meeting on November 1, it was decided to elect Emil Hjalmarsson as a new member. The other members were re-elected.

Board responsibilities are regulated in the Swedish Companies Act and the Board's rules of procedure. The rules of procedure define the division of work between the Board and its committees, and between the Board and the CEO. According to the rules of procedure, the Board's tasks include approving strategies and budgets, adopting annual reports, other financial reports, important policies, and authorization instructions, appointing the CEO, evaluating the CEO's work, establishing rules for internal control, monitoring internal control, making decisions on major investments and substantial agreements, deciding on the focus of the Board's work, appointing audit and remuneration committees and evaluating its own work. It is also the Board's task to define the necessary guidelines for the Company's conduct in society, with the aim of ensuring its longterm value-creation capability. The Board shall monitor compliance with adopted guidelines on remuneration of senior executives and propose remuneration guidelines to the AGM.

The Chairman of the Board leads the work of the Board. Furthermore, it is the Chair's task to monitor the Company's development and ensure that the Board receives the information it requires to enable it to conduct its work. The rules of procedure state that the Chairman will represent the Company in ownership matters. With regard to diversity and gender equality, please refer to the Company's Sustainability Report under the section on work environment on page 33.

## **Remuneration of Board members**

The 2022 AGM resolved that Board fees in the amount of SEK 500,000 (SEK 470,000 for 2021) shall be paid to the chairman and SEK 250,000 (235,000) to each of the other Board members. In addition, it was decided that SEK 120,000 (0) will be paid as the total remuneration to a newly established Audit Committee, to be distributed among its members, in addition to an amount of up to SEK 50,000 that the board can pay for special efforts. The total board fee is therefore SEK 1,670,000 (1,880,000).

The Extraordinary General Meeting decided that the remuneration of the Board of Directors shall remain as decided by the Annual General Meeting on May 5, 2022. For incoming Board members, it was decided that fees shall be paid pro rata for the member's actual period of service compared to the entire period from the 2022 AGM until the end of the next AGM.

# Work of the Board

Board meetings are prepared by the Chairman of the Board and the CEO. The Board receives written material prior to each meeting. Business conditions and financial reporting are dealt with at each ordinary Board meeting. Board minutes are kept by the Company's CFO. In 2022, the Board of Directors has held a total of 22 minuted meetings focusing on understanding and monitoring the Company's development and financial position, as well as conducting a rights issue. The Board has supported the work of the management in the major logistics challenges the Company faces as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the overall deterioration of the world economy. The Board has evaluated and monitored the ongoing development project for a new product platform and cloud-based service offering, and the continued strengthening of R&D capacity. The Board has also been engaged and involved in producing the Company's updated strategy. The Board has also dealt with and contributed to organizational and leadership development.

# **Evaluation of the work of the Board**

The Board evaluates its own work, in accordance with the rules of procedure. This is done through discussions within the Board and through an annual evaluation of the Board by the Nomination Committee. The Nomination Committee reports through its statement to the AGM.

### Summary of Board meetings during the year

In 2022, the Board of Directors has held eight ordinary board meetings, including a strategy day, eleven meetings specifically concerning financial information and the completed new capital issue, and three remote board meetings. The external auditors attended one Board meeting and two Audit Committee meetings during the year.

A list of Board members and their attendance at meetings in 2022 is presented in the table at the bottom of the page.

# **Audit Committee**

The Board of Directors decided at the statutory board meeting on May 5, 2022, to appoint an Audit Committee consisting of two board members, Jon Risfelt and Thomas Eklund. In accordance with the AGM's decision, remuneration to the Audit Committee in the amount of SEK 70,000 shall be paid to the Chair and SEK 50,000 to the members.

The Audit Committee elected its officers at a meeting on June 15, 2022, making Jon Risfelt Chairman. The Audit Committee also decided on the meeting dates for the year and the rules of procedure.

The Committee's primary task is to ensure the quality of financial reporting, which includes internal control, reviewing significant reporting and valuation issues and reviewing the Company's external reports. The Committee assesses auditing activities and assists the nomination committee by proposing auditors for election and their remuneration. The Audit Committee determines the services additional to auditing that the Company may procure from its auditors. Certain meetings be-

### **BOARD MEMBERS AFTER THE 2022 AGM**

Name	Period	Function	Attendance	Independent	Shareholding	Elected
Peter Ehrenheim	1/1-5/5	Chair	6/6	Yes		2015
Thomas Eklund	Jan 1–Dec 31	Member	19/22	No		2014
Jon Risfelt	Jan 1–Dec 31	Member	22/22	Yes		2016
Karin Dahllöf	Jan 1–Dec 31	Member	22/22	Yes		2015
Yvonne Mårtensson	1/1-5/5	Member	6/6	Yes		2021
Yvonne Mårtensson	5/5-31/12	Chair	16/16	Yes		2022
Torben Jörgesen	Jan 1–Dec 31	Member	20/22	Yes		2021
Charlotta Falvin	1/1-5/5	Member	5/6	Yes		2018
Emil Hjalmarsson	1/11-31/12	Member	3/3	Yes		2022

tween the Audit Committee and the external auditors takes place without the presence of employees.

In 2022, the Audit Committee met twice in addition to the statutory meeting. The meetings have primarily dealt with the quarterly report, but also issues concerning the current business situation, risk management, order intake and the work of the management. The Audit Committee has also discussed the external audit plan 2022.

At the third meeting, particular attention was paid to the appeal to the Administrative Committee on the dispute with the tax authorities and the status of overdue and doubtful debts. The Company's auditor participated and reported the results of the management review.

Yvonne Mårtensson, Board Chair, was co-opted at all meetings. The Company's CFO took the minutes.

# **Remuneration Committee**

No separate committee has been appointed; instead, the tasks of a remuneration committee are performed as part of the work of the Board. The primary task is to propose salary, other benefits and employment terms for the CEO. The Board prepares proposed guidelines on remuneration and employment terms for other senior executives in Group management and proposals on incentive programs. The Board shall ensure compliance with the adopted guidelines on remuneration of senior executives.

# Guidelines on remuneration and other terms of employment for senior executives

The AGM adopts guidelines on remuneration of senior management. Proposals are made by the Board. The primary principle is that Boule should offer competitive terms to enable the Company to recruit and retain competent employees. More information on the proposed remuneration guidelines can be found in the Directors' report on page 55.

# Authorization for the Board

At the Annual General Meeting on May 5, 2022, the Board was authorized to increase the Company's share capital within the framework of the current articles of association by issuing new shares, warrants and/or convertible instruments, with or without derogation from preferential rights for shareholders, on one or more occasions in the period up to the next AGM. Total new shares issued may not exceed 10% of the shares in the Company, based on the total number of votes in the Company when the Board first exercises the authorization.

At the Annual General Meeting on May 5, 2022, the Board of Directors was authorized to, on one or more occasions until the next Annual General Meeting, decide on the acquisition of a number of shares that the Company can hold at any time that does not exceed one tenth of all shares in the Company.

The Extraordinary General Meeting on November 1, 2022, decided to amend the Articles of Association in accordance with the Board's proposal. The decision means that the limits for the share capital and the number of shares are changed so that the share capital shall be no less than SEK 4,800,000 and no more than SEK 19,200,000 and that the number of shares shall be no less than 19,000,000 and no more than 76,000,000.

The Extraordinary General Meeting approved the Board's decision to issue new shares with preferential rights for existing shareholders. The decision means that Boule's share capital increases by a maximum of SEK 4,854,138 through a new issue of a maximum of 19,416,552 shares with preferential rights for existing shareholders. The issue was fully subscribed, and the Company has 38,833,104 shares after the issue. The Company raised approximately SEK 150 million excluding issue-related costs.

# **Audit**

The Company's auditors are elected at the AGM for a period of one year. The 2022 AGM reelected Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditor, with authorized public accountant Lars Kylberg as chief auditor for the Group. Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers has been the Company's auditor since the 2014 AGM and Lars Kylberg was elected as chief auditor at the 2022 AGM. The Company's auditor conducts a review of at least one interim report per year on behalf of the Board. Other statutory audits of the Annual Report , Consolidated Financial Statements, accounting records and administration of the Board and CEO are conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and generally accepted auditing practices in Sweden. The auditors meet annually with the full Board, with and without senior management present.

# Financial reporting to the Board

The Board determines the reports that must be prepared to enable it to monitor the Company's performance. The quality of financial reporting to the Board is evaluated by the Audit Committee. External financial information in accordance with the Company's information policy, which is adopted annually by the Board of Directors, is provided by the Company in the form of interim reports, year-end reports, annual reports and press releases in connection with significant events that may affect the share price. Information is disclosed in accordance with Nasdaq Stockholm's Regulations for Issuers. The Board reviews the external financial reports before they are published. The information policy also defines how communication will take place and who will represent the Company. Information distributed through press releases is also available on the Company's website, as well as other information deemed to be of value.

#### Internal control

The Board is responsible for internal control in compliance with the Swedish Companies Act and the Code. The Board's work in the area of internal control is based on the control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication, and monitoring. Internal control is a process influenced by the Board, senior management and other employees, and is designed to provide reasonable assurance that the Company's goals are achieved in terms of efficient and effective operations, reliable financial reporting, and compliance with laws and regulations.

#### **Control environment**

The Board has overall responsibility for establishing and maintaining good internal control. A good control environment is built by designing the organization, decision-making paths, authority and responsibility as expressed in policies and guidelines. Common values create consensus and reinforce internal control. The Board establishes certain policies and instructions, including the authorization instructions. The Board and Company management consider it important to have fast and accurate reporting. The finance function ensures that all operations are assessed and streamlined. The evaluation of internal control within the Group follows a plan that is approved annually by the Audit Committee.

Department managers are responsible for creating processes to implement appropriate internal control.

#### **Risk assessment**

The Company has established a process for risk assessment and risk management to ensure the risks to which the Company is exposed are managed within the framework set by the Board. The Audit Committee monitors this process. Business processes are evaluated regarding efficiency and risk. This includes identifying the risk of error in financial reporting. The Company's support processes are also assessed. A comprehensive risk assessment is conducted annually. Risks are ranked and linked to processes. Processes assessed as critical include development, manufacturing, sales, quality and support processes such as financial statements and IT. The risk of material errors or misstatement in financial reporting is reported to the Audit Committee.

## **Control activities**

The risks identified regarding financial reporting shall be managed through control measures. Significant processes are documented and assessed to improve efficiency in the control systems. The control structure includes defined authority, division of work and management's regular reviews of financial information.

#### Information and communication

The Board and management have established information and communication channels to ensure completeness and accuracy in financial reporting. Governing documents, such as internal policies, guidelines and instructions, are available in the Company's quality system. Members of Group management regularly visit subsidiaries and employees of subsidiaries regularly visit the head office.

#### Monitoring

The Board has decided that internal control will be monitored by evaluating critical processes. After risk assessment, the processes to be documented and evaluated during the year are determined. Self-evaluation means that employees in each operation evaluate the process and address the risks and controls. This approach involves employees and creates an understanding of the importance of internal control.

The Company's internal self-evaluation activities in 2022 focused on improving and streamlining processes and procedures, increasing automation and system support, strengthening internal control related to financial reporting, and the Company's IT security. The aim is to identify the overall control environment and material risks, and to introduce joint rules covering general control issues. The Audit Committee monitors the Company's internal control activities through regular feedback and maintains regular contact with the external auditors.

#### Planned activities in 2023

In 2023, business and control processes will be further documented and evaluated in order to strengthen internal control.

#### Internal audit

The Board's assessment is that Boule does not need a formalized internal audit function in addition to the processes and functions for internal governance and control that are currently implemented. The Board conducts an annual assessment to determine whether an internal audit function is necessary to maintain good control within Boule.

Stockholm, April 4, 2023

Yvonne Mårtensson Board Chair

> Thomas Eklund Board Member

Karin Dahllöf Board Member Jon Risfelt Board Member

Torben Jørgensen Board Member

Emil Hjalmarsson Board Member

Jesper Söderqvist Chief Executive Officer

# Auditor's statement on the Corporate Governance Report

To the Annual General Meeting of Boule Diagnostics AB (publ), corporate ID 556535-0252

# **Engagement and responsibility**

The Board of Directors is responsible for the corporate governance report for 2022 on pages 46–49 and for ensuring it has been prepared in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act.

# Focus and scope of the examination

Our examination has been conducted in accordance with FAR's auditing standard RevR 16 The Auditor's examination of the corporate governance statement. This means that our examination of the corporate governance report has a different focus and is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. We believe that the examination provides us with sufficient basis for our opinions.

# Opinions

A corporate governance report has been prepared. Disclosures pursuant to Chapter 6, Section 6, second paragraph, items 2–6, of the Annual Accounts Act and Chapter 7, Section 31, second paragraph, of the same Act are consistent with the Annual Report and the Consolidated Financial Statements and are in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act.

Uppsala, April 4, 2023

Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers AB

LARS KYLBERG Authorized Public Accountant

# **Board of Directors**



From the left: Emil Hjalmarsson, Karin Dahllöf, Torben Jørgensen, Yvonne Mårtensson, Jon Risfelt, Thomas Eklund.

#### **Yvonne Mårtensson**

Born 1953. Board Chair since 2022. Board member since 2021.

Other assignments: Board Chair of YCM Consulting AB. Board member of Ortoma AB, Xvivo Perfusion AB, Queen Aktiebolag and Uniogen OY.

Present occupation: Independent Board member.

Education: MSc Industrial Economics, Linköping University School of Technology. Shareholding in Boule: 14,817.

**Independence:** Independent of the Company and its management. Independent of major shareholders.

#### **Thomas Eklund**

Born 1967. Board member since 2014. Member of the Audit Committee.

Other assignments: Chairman of the Board of Sedana Medical AB and Mabtech Holding AB and board member of Biotage AB, Surgical Science Sweden AB and Swedencare AB.

Present occupation: Independent Board member, advisor and consultant. Education: MBA from Stockholm School of

Economics.

Shareholding in Boule: 2,088,645.

**Independence:** Independent of the Company and its management but not independent of major shareholders.

#### Karin Dahllöf

Born 1959. Board member since 2015. Other assignments: Board member of HemCheck AB and Histolab Products AB Present occupation: CEO of Monivent AB Education: Biomedical analyst, Vårdhögskolan, Gothenburg University. Shareholding in Boule: 22,300.

**Independence:** Independent of the Company and its management. Independent of major shareholders.

#### **Emil Hjalmarsson**

Born 1989. Board member since 2022. Other assignments: Board member of Grenspecialisten Seqond AB and Emil Hjalmarsson Förvaltning AB and deputy board member of MW Asset Management AB and GSB Investco AB.

**Present occupation:** Portfolio Manager Grenspecialisten.

Education: Civil engineer.

Shareholding including related parties in Boule: 26,021.

**Independence:** Independent of the Company and its management but not independent of major shareholders.

#### **Jon Risfelt**

Born 1961. Board member since 2016. Member of the Audit Committee.

Other assignments: Chairman of Knowit AB, CAB Group AB and Axentia Group Holding AB. Board member of Bilia AB and Projektengagemang AB. Chairman of SOS International a/s.

Present occupation: Independent Board member, advisor and consultant. Education: MSc in Chemical Engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH).

Shareholding in Boule: 24,440

Independence: Independent of the Company and its management. Independent of major shareholders.

#### **Torben Jørgensen**

Born 1952. Board member since 2021. Other assignments: Chairman of Biotage AB and Genovis AB. Board member of Medistim AS and Advanced Instruments Inc. Present occupation: Consultant and Board Representative.

Education: B.SC. Economics from Copenhagen Business School.

#### Shareholding in Boule: 0.

**Independence:** Independent of the Company and its management. Independent of major shareholders.

# **Group management**



Jesper Söderqvist Jesper Söderqvist is CEO and started his employment at Boule in May 2020.

Other assignments: Board member of Biovica International AB, Dekatria AB and Arcoma AB.

Education: MSc in Engineering Physics, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), and PhD in Experimental Particle Physics from KTH/CERN.

Shareholding in Boule: 123,940 shares.

Warrants in Boule: 130,000 warrants.



Jan Benjaminson Jan Benjaminson is CFO effective February 3, 2023. Education: MBA, Lund University. Shareholding in Boule: 8,000 shares. Warrants in Boule: 0.



#### **Aishat Bislieva**

Aishat Bislieva, Senior Vice President People & Culture, joined Boule in October 2022. **Education:** Master's degree from the Norwegian University of Science & Technology and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Education from the University of Silesia in Poland.

Shareholding in Boule: 0 shares. Warrants in Boule: 0.



#### **Kiarash Farr**

Kiarash Farr is Senior Vice President Commercial Operations and started his employment on March 1, 2018.

Education: MSc in Engineering Physics from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) and Master in Management, INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France.

Shareholding in Boule: 4,000 shares.

Warrants in Boule: 0.



#### **Mattias Isaksson**

Mattias Isaksson is Senior Vice President Marketing and started his employment in October 2021.

Education: Master's degree in International Business Economics and International Marketing from Linköping University Shareholding in Boule: 500

shares. **Warrants in Boule:** 0.

rrants in Boule: 0.



Eduardo Pagani

Eduardo Pagani is Senior Vice President Consumables Production and started his employment in August 2015. Education: BSc in Mechanical Engineering from Maua Institute of Technology in Brazil and MSc in Manufacturing Management from Kettering University in the US.

Shareholding in Boule: 0 shares. Warrants in Boule: 0.



Jörgen Jehander

Jörgen Jehander heads the Development Department. Education: Mathematics at Stockholm University. Shareholding in Boule: 0 shares. Warrants in Boule: 0.



**David Metrena** 

David Metrena is Senior Vice President of Commercial Operations for the US and has been employed at the subsidiary CDS since June 2022. Education: BS Medical Technology; MBA Shareholding in Boule: 0 shares Warrants in Boule: 0.

