

# NFOG Fund

## Report for 2014

The NFOG Fund was established at the NFOG General Assembly at the NFOG congress in Copenhagen in June 2010 with Special Enactment to the articles of NFOG.

The purpose of the NFOG Fund is to support further development of professional skills, research, and clinical and scientific collaboration in the fields of obstetrics and gynaecology. The NFOG Fund's trust fund at establishment was 2,062,867 DKK. Sixty-six (66)% of the annual surplus, if any, of NFOG is transferred to the NFOG Fund. Each year an amount not exceeding the annual interests of the trust fund plus the average transferral from NFOG in the four preceding years can be donated. The applications are evaluated by the NFOG Scientific Committee (SC), who makes a written nomination for approval by the NFOG Board. Deadlines for applications are 1 March and 1 October each year.

Applications in 5 categories are considered:

- 1) Clinical or scientific visits outside country of residence with the purpose of improving skills and/or developing and sharing expertise
- 2) Voluntary or project work in developing countries
- 3) Courses outside country of residence
- 4) Collaborative clinical or scientific projects between members of the national societies of NFOG
- 5) Each national society can yearly apply for the coverage of expenses to bring one lecturer from another Nordic country to speak at the society's annual meeting

Valid applications for participation in courses outside of the Nordic countries have been capped at 8,000DKK according to a decision of the board in 2013.

**March 2014.** The budget available for grants for 2014 was approximately 740,704 DKK. There were 25 applications asking for 757,250 DKK. Eleven were approved for the full amount applied for, 10 were approved for part of the amount applied for, and 4 were rejected. A total of 303,576 DKK was granted.

**October 2014.** The budget available for grants was approximately 394,730 DKK. There were 22 applications asking for 601,820 DKK. Ten were approved for the full amount applied for, 4 were approved for part of the amount applied for, and 8 were rejected. A total of 227,354 DKK was granted. Applications were received from all member countries except Iceland, and rejected applications represented all countries except Iceland.

Approximately one third of the applications appeared not to be prepared in accordance with the few but specific guidelines stated in the instructions and on the application form itself. On the application form it is clearly stated that *"Incomplete applications will not be handled!"*. It was decided that applications not fulfilling the basic criteria mentioned and outlined in the instructions and on the application form would generally not receive funding.

Further, a few amendments were made to the official application form posted on the NFOG web page.

In one application, a Nordic collaboration study, the applicants suggested that the SC might consider suggesting to the Board that a sum of 200,000 DKK be given, referring to the following: "GB..... stressed the importance of the Fund in achieving the aims of the NFOG. The Fund is, however, strictly regulated by bylaws, as opposed to the Board initiative of DKK 250,000 instituted at the last GA. It allows the Board to endorse projects of inter-Nordic collaboration. A possible area of endorsement lies in facilitating the establishment of multicenter trials. The Board has asked the SC to suggest for the Board good project applications to the Fund, for possible support."

The SC did not feel that the project could be suggested for support at this point, based on, among other things, the following: The possibility of the SC suggesting funding should be formally discussed by the Board, and if it is agreed that such funding should be made available, it should be advertised on the NFOG website before considering specific funding, so that all members may apply. If in the future the SC may suggest funding of collaborative studies outside the framework of the NFOG Fund, it

should be decided e.g. A) How many countries must be involved to call it collaborative? B) How may one apply? Directly to the SC at any time or only in connection with applications to the Fund? C) Should there be a formal application form? D) Required attachments? E) How much money is available? F) Who makes the decision on funding – the SC or the Board? If the SC finds a study not worthy of funding, can the applicants complain to the Board to reverse the decision? Etc. These viewpoints were presented to the board.

Number of grants in each category

Catgory		March	November
1-n	Clinical visits in Nordic countries	1	3
1-o	Clinical visits outside Nordic countries	10	4
2	Project developing countries	1	2
3-n	Courses in Nordic countries	3	0
3-o	Courses outside Nordic countries	4	2
4	Nordic collaborative projects	2	3
5	Society's meetings	0	0
		21	14

Further information on each grant can be found on the NFOG web page.

For further information on members of the SC and other tasks of the committee, please see **annual report of the NFOG SC 2013**.

Aarhus 19 February 2015  
 Ulrik Schiøler Kesmodel  
 Chairman of the NFOG Scientific Committee