

# NFOG Fund

## Report for 2015

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 2015.** The budget available for grants for 2014 was approximately 740,704 DKK. There were 44 applications asking for 1,076,393 DKK. Fifteen were approved for the full amount applied for, 9 were approved for part of the amount applied for, and 20 were rejected. A total of 403,965 DKK was granted. Applications were received from all member countries, approved applications represented all countries except Norway, although Norway was represented in approved applications in group 4, and rejected applications represented all countries except Iceland.

**October 2015.** The budget available for grants was approximately 296,035 DKK. There were 15 applications asking for 484,243 DKK. Nine were approved for the full amount applied for, 4 were approved for part of the amount applied for, and 2 were rejected. A total of 234,174 DKK was granted. Applications were received from all member countries except Iceland, and accepted applications represented all countries except Iceland.

A record high of 44 applications were received in March 2015 compared to only 15 in October 2015, but looking at previous years, there seems to be no clear trend towards more applications in March compared to October. In accordance with the principles agreed on in the autumn of 2014, the SC decided to follow the strict evaluation. On the application form it is clearly stated that *"Incomplete applications will not be handled!"*, and it is clearly stated on the form, what information is required as a minimum. We decided that applications not fulfilling the basic criteria mentioned and outlined in the instructions and on the application form would generally not receive funding. Nor would applications applying for funding of activities that cannot be funded according to the NFOG webpage, be considered. Fourteen of the 22 rejected applications in 2015 fell into these two categories.

Due to the continuous inadequacies in the applications the SC decided to make a model application to help the applicants to submit a complete application. Particularly the budget part needs to be instructed in more detail. This will be done in 2016.

During 2015 the SC clarified its view on certain aspects of interpretation of the current rules:

It is the clear view of the SC that NFOG does not support another scientific Society, however the initiation of another Society in subspeciality may be supported. This discussion was crucial in evaluating some of the applications.

It was agreed that the future interpretation of rules should be:

No support for the planning of symposia / meetings may be granted, although the actual, planned symposium / meeting may be supported.

Nordic speakers (members of NFOG) at congresses may be supported, but non members will not be funded.

Attending congresses may NOT be supported.

Attending courses may be supported.

Number of grants in each category

Catgory		March	November
1-n	Clinical visits in Nordic countries	3	1
1-o	Clinical visits outside Nordic countries	10	6
2	Project developing countries	1	0
3-n	Courses in Nordic countries	0	0
3-o	Courses outside Nordic countries	2	4
4	Nordic collaborative projects	6	1
5	Society's meetings	2	1
		24	13

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 2015**.

Aarhus 7 March 2016  
Ulrik Schiøler Kesmodel  
Chairman of the NFOG Scientific Committee