

Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology Annual Report 2015

The Board of the Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology (NFOG)

President: Knut Hordnes, Norway

Secretary General: Tone Skeie-Jensen, Norway

Treasurer: Thea Lousen, Denmark

National Representatives: Lotti Helström (SFOG), Jone Trovik (NGF), Juha Räsänen (SGY), Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann (DSOG), Ragnheidur L. Bjarnadóttir (FÍFK) was succeeded by Alexander Smáráson in April,

Other members of the Board: Ganesh Acharya, Norway (AOGS Chief Editor), Ulrik Schiøler Kesmodel, Denmark (Scientific Committee Chairman), Tomi Mikkola, Finland (Educational Committee Chairman), Niels Ulbjerg, Denmark (Guidelines Committee Chairman), Peter Secher, Denmark (Webmaster), Anne Cathrine Hofgaard Munk, Denmark (NFYOG), Oskari Heikenheimo, Finland (President of NFOG 2016)

Internal Auditors: Johanna Mäenpää, Finland, Charlotta Grunewald, Sweden

Deputy Auditor: Martin Andresen, Norway

External Auditor: Bo Hendrikesen, Aaen & Co

Board meetings

The Board of NFOG held two meetings during 2015. The minutes from these meetings are posted on the website.

Economy, budget and accounts

The economy of NFOG is supervised by treasurer Thea Lousen. The income is derived from the membership fees, AOGS subscriptions and returns from the NFOG assets.

The expenditure is generated by the activity of AOGS, and the management costs generated by the Board, the NFOG Committees, and a possible deficit generated by the NFOG Congress. 66% of the budget surplus is transferred to the NFOG Fund, and is thus distributed to the members of NFOG.

The economy of NFOG is well balanced. The budget and accounts will be presented at the General Assembly in June of 2016.

AOGS (ACTA)

Ganesh Acharya (GA) succeeded Reynir T. Geirsson (RG) as Chief Editor of AOGS on January 1st of 2015. RG continued as Chief Editor emeritus until June 30th. Jens Langhoff-Roos has been appointed in a 20% position as Assistant Chief Editor.

In 2015 the impact factor of AOGS rose to 2.426, and it is now the fourth ranked journal covering general obstetrics and gynecology in the world. There have been major changes made to the International Editorial Board (IEB), which will have a maximum of 20 members. Agreeing to review 10 manuscripts per year is a prerequisite for a position at the IEB, and they will be asked to submit articles and write editorials. All six continents are represented on the IEB.

Major changes have also been made to reduce the handling time of submitted manuscripts. This will hopefully contribute to the submission of higher quality articles and subsequently improve the impact factor. Further, effort is being made to increase the visibility of AOGS through social media and professional networks.

A new 5-year contract was renegotiated with Wiley, and the royalties to AOGS was negotiated from 42% to 57%. The electronic version is now the default option although members can still request paper copies.

NFOG Fund

The NFOG Fund awards applicants twice annually. The sum awarded in March was DKK 403.965, and in October DKK 234.174. The number of applicants in March was 44, the largest number so far for the NFOG Fund.

Despite the great effort made by the Scientific Committee of informing the members of NFOG of the requirements that needs to be met for receiving grants, many applications do still not fill the criteria and are therefore rejected.

Unclaimed grants will after two years go back to the Fund.

An annual report for the NFOG fund is posted on the website for further details.

Website (www.nfog.org)

A report from the recipients of grants from the Fund must be written and posted on the website prior to reimbursements. This will hopefully increase the awareness of the Fund by the NFOG members.

A new addition to the website in 2015 is the posting of national guidelines (see Committees). Peter Secher announced that he will step down as Webmaster in 2016, when a successor has been found.

Committees

The Scientific Committee (SC) has as its main function, in non-congress years, to assess the applications to the NFOG Fund and suggest allocations.

The Educational Committee (EC) held its biannual educational course in Copenhagen in May of 2015. The title of the course was "Nordic OBGYN training – are we good enough". There were a number of good speakers, and the course was well received by the participants. The discussion of possible topics and format for the next educational course, held in 2017, is ongoing.

The Guidelines Committee (GC) is newly appointed, and is still discussing its aims and strategy for reaching these. The GC has so far, with the support of the Board, decided on translating the National guidelines within the Nordic countries into English.

Annual reports from the Committees of NFOG are posted on the website for more detailed information.

NFYOG

NFYOG worked together with the EC in arranging the educational course in Copenhagen. It is further active in planning the possible implementation of e-learning courses and video-lectures for trainees.

EBCOG

Knut Hordnes has been in contact with the President of EBCOG regarding the possibility of publicising the translated Nordic guidelines, as they are presented on www.nfog.org, on the EBCOG website.

Bergen will be promoted as venue for the EBCOG congress in 2020.

The presidents of the Nordic societies still aim to discuss relevant inter-Nordic issues prior to attending the EBCOG meetings.

FIGO

Seija Grenman (SG) (Finland), and Anette Tønnesen Pedersen (Denmark) have represented the Nordic countries as members of the FIGO Executive Board. At the 2015 General Assembly of FIGO, held in Vancouver, Seija Grenman was elected as Vice President. In addition Margit Steinholt (Norway) was elected as representative to the FIGO Executive Board. At the Congress Professor Tapani Luukkainen (Finland) and Marie Bixo (Sweden) both received awards. In addition, an Ingemar Ingemarsson symposium was held in honour of the highly recognized obstetrician.

SG has made the work of Lesley Regan and RCOG regarding workshops on “Women’s sexual and reproductive rights” known to the Board. The intent of these workshops is to increase awareness of the fact that the rights of women are violated in so many respects. Lesley Regan will hold a workshop at the pregress of NFOG 2016.

General remarks

The aim of the NFOG Board is to promote the clinical and scientific collaboration between the obstetricians and gynecologists in the Nordic countries, and to work to achieve a high standard of training at all levels in obstetrics and gynecology. Further, the work of NFOG is aimed at improving the reproductive health of women on a worldwide basis.

The assets of NFOG are used to promote this aim, and the NFOG Fund is an important tool in order to achieve these goals.

The present NFOG Board will make every effort to continue, and expand, the important work of NFOG.

On behalf of the NFOG Board

March 27th, 2016

Knut Hordnes
President

Tone Skeie-Jensen
Secretary General