

## **NFOG BOARD MEETING**

### **Minutes 1/2008, edited version**

#### **I.**

**Date:** January 24<sup>th</sup> 2008

**Place:** Nordic Sea Hotel, Stockholm

**Present:** Martin Stjernquist (Treasurer), Ragnheidur Bjarnadóttir (Secretary General), Charlotta Grünewald (SFOG), Rolf Kirschner (NGF), Juha Mäkinen (SGY), Helle Meinertz (DSOG), Morten Lebech (future Chairman of DSOG), Arnar Hauksson (FÍK), Stig Hill (NFYOG)(present from point 7), Þóra Steingrimsdóttir (President of NFOG 2008), Lars-Åke Mattsson (Scientific Committee), Jens A. Guðmundsson (Educational Committee) and Anders Atke (future Chairman of Educational Committee) and Reynir T. Geirsson (Acta Chief Editor).

Seija Grenman (SG), the NFOG President, could not attend the first day of the board meeting due to cancellation of her flight because of a snowstorm in Finland. She suggested by phone and it was agreed that the hosting chairman, Charlotta Grünewald (CG), would direct the meeting until the arrival of SG. CG opened the meeting at 15.00 and welcomed the Board and introduced its new members, Anders Atke (AA) and Morten Lebech (ML).

**1. Approval of agenda.** SG suggested and it was agreed that the order of the agenda would be changed. After the minutes and economy, news from National Societies would follow. Thereafter, the NFOG website would be discussed followed by Scientific Committee and EBCOG. The next day NFOG 2008 would be first topic on the agenda, followed by the Educational Committee. A discussion of Acta would follow after lunch and then the twinning projects.

**2. Minutes from NFOG Board meeting 3/2007.** Ragnheidur Bjarnadóttir (RB) presented the minutes. Jens Gudmundsson (JAG) made one correction, under point 9.: Educational committee. JAG pointed out that the guarantee sum for the Hot Topics meeting had been 150.000 DKK, not 50.000. The treasurer promised to check that and it will be corrected in the minutes. Apart from this, the minutes were approved.

**3. Economy, budget and accounts.** Martin Stjernquist (MS) gave a preliminary report of the accountings for 2007 (all sums in DKK). The total income was 2.357.280 compared with the budget for the year 2007 which was 2.110.000. The NFOG membership fees amount to 210.500 (budget 185.000), the Acta subscription fees are 835.400 (budget 725.000) and the net result from Taylor & Francis were 1.311.380 but the years budget was 1.200.000. There has been no extraordinary income. Total costs were 1.714.983, budgeted to 2.265.000. The costs included the NFOG Board 443.423 (budget 400.000), Acta Editorial Board expenses 884.021 (budget 1.149.000), committees 160.872 (budget 240.000), special initiatives 101.174 (budget 300.000) and additional costs 125.493 (budget 176.000). MS pointed out that the Board was too expensive as it was exceeding its budget by 10%. . Financial income was 241.769 and expenses 93.721, yielding a net result of 148.048 (estimated to 150.000). The total result of the year so far showed a positive balance of 790.345. In conclusion the NFOG finances were regarded to be in good positive balance. Final accountings for 2007 will be presented in definite form at the NFOG Board meeting in Reykjavik in June.

#### **2. News from National Societies.**

**DSOG.** In addition to focusing on the education of trainees, DSOG also aims to make continuing medical education mandatory for specialists. A working group has been formed to make suggestions

about how this should be carried out. HPV vaccination in Denmark has been postponed for 1 year. HM mentioned DSOG twinning with Nigeria, which would be discussed later in the meeting. **FIFK.** The Icelandic Society has a new logo and which will now have the initials FIFK or in English ISOG (Icelandic Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists). No decision has been made regarding HPV vaccinations by the health authorities yet. FIFK has been working on minimal standards for private practice in gynecology as well as national guidelines regarding prenatal screening and antenatal care for low-risk women. There has been discussion in the society regarding participating in EBCOG as it thought to be expensive although the membership fee was reduced recently. **SGY:** the new SGY board was formed last November. There will be a Workshop on teaching and the annual spring meeting in April. SGY has established a working group to write a statement on HPV vaccination. **NGF:** NGF also has a new board. As part of a new service from the Norwegian Medical Association, mail can be sent directly from the Chairman to all members as a bulletin between the Journals. In Norway the health authorities have not made a decision regarding HPV vaccination but it has been recommended by NGF. NGF advocates that the centralisation of deliveries should continue, at a recent conference discussing the amalgamation of the two biggest regions, it was recommended by obstetricians that all units should have at least 1000-1500 deliveries. Some units with less than 400 births a year should be staffed solely by midwives, SFOG: The press is in contact with the society almost daily. SFOG has formed a new working group to scrutinize cases of maternal mortality in Sweden. In addition, there is a joint project with the Society of Midwives and Society of Pediatricians with the aim of lowering neonatal mortality and increase patient safety during delivery. Official guidelines regarding HPV vaccination in Sweden were delayed at present.

### 3. [www.nfog.org](http://www.nfog.org).

As Peter Secher was not able to attend the meeting, RB presented his new data for the website. It showed that daily visits to the registry have increased in 2007, now averaging 30 visits a day. The current top topics are abstracts from previous NFOG congresses, followed by information regarding the coming NFOG congress, the NFOG board and lastly the Thesis Registry. The number of theses in the Registry has increased in 2007, mainly due to an increase in the number of theses registered from Sweden and also from Norway. On the other hand, fewer theses have been registered from Finland and Denmark.

### 6. Scientific committee.

Lars-Åke Mattsson (L-ÅM) discussed the prizes that the Scientific Committee is responsible for awarding at the NFOG 2008 Congress. The Young Scientist Award and Lillehammer Scholarship will both be awarded at the opening ceremony on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, as well as the Best Acta Article. At the closing ceremony, three prizes will be awarded for the best poster and three for the best free communications.

The announcement for the Lillehammer scholarship is currently on the NFOG website as well as on all the national websites. It has been sent to the national Journals, although unfortunately the deadline for the next Danish Journal was missed. The deadline for application is 1<sup>st</sup> of April.

L-ÅM then presented the new guidelines for the NFOG Collaborative Program 2008, which were accepted by the board. The purpose of this is to promote Nordic cooperative projects in research, diagnosis and management of rare conditions within the field of obstetrics and gynecology. Collaborators from at least two Nordic countries must be involved in the project. The deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2008.

NFOG Visitor Program was then discussed. Applications were reviewed and discussed. The presentation of the theses on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June was then discussed. This involves one presenter from each Nordic Country. These colleagues have already been selected by the scientific committee. A discussion arose regarding whether thesis could be presented by those

who do not have a medical degree. It was agreed by the board that all thesis defended in Nordic countries in the field of obstetrics and gynecology could be considered for the presentation, also from non-medical doctors. The abstracts sent in for the NFOG 2008 congress will be evaluated at the next meeting of the Scientific Committee which will be held in Copenhagen on the 13-14<sup>th</sup> of March.

**4. EBCOG.** RK reported from the last EBCOG council meeting which was in Vienna. It was preceded by an ENTOG meeting, which he said was very valuable, so that the Board of NGF had decided that the chair of the specialization committee should always be present. The council meetings main topic was the next EBCOG congress which will be in Lisbon in March 2008. Another topic was exchange programs for trainees. There were no elections. Also, the setting up of CPD was again a topic.

**5. Twinning projects.** CG told the board that due to the unstable political situation in Pakistan, little progress had made with the twinning between the Swedish and Pakistani Societies in recent months. ML described his recent visit to Nigeria to initiate twinning with the Nigerian Society (SOGON). During his 5 days in Nigeria he visited three hospitals, met the SOGON Board and attended the first day of their yearly Scientific Meeting. The award for the Best Young Scientist was to attend NFOG Congress in Reykjavik, sponsored by NFOG. SOGON is participating in a FIGO project to lower maternal mortality by improving Emergency Obstetric Care (EMOC) and wishes help from NFOG with providing training. ML said that the main aim of twinning between DSOG and SOGO is to strengthen the capacity of the professional associations (SOGON and NANM) to improve EMOC and Newborn Care. The Board was told that three colleagues from twinning countries will be invited to the NFOG Congress in Reykjavik, two from Pakistan and one from Nigeria. RK offered DSOG the assistance of NGF regarding twinning with Nigeria, which was accepted. CG asked if midwives were participating in the twinning with Nigeria. ML said that they were not involved yet, but the Danish Midwifery Society had recently agreed to participate.

CG closed the meeting at 18.30.

## **II.**

**Time:** January 25<sup>th</sup> 2008

**Place:** Nordic Sea Hotel, Stockholm

**Present:** Seija Grenman (President), Martin Stjernquist (Treasurer), Ragnheidur Bjarnadóttir (Secretary General), Charlotta Grünewald (SFOG), Rolf Kirschner (NGF), Juha Mäkinen (SGY), Helle Meinertz (DSOG), Morten Lebech (future Chairman of DSOG), Arnar Hauksson (FÍK), Stig Hill (NFYOG), Þóra Steingrímisdóttir (President of NFOG 2008), Jens A. Guðmundsson (Educational Committee) and Anders Atke (future Chairman of Educational Committee) and Reynir T. Geirsson (Acta Chief Editor).

SG opened the meeting at 09.00

**6. NFOG 2008.** Thora Steingrimsdottir (TS) told the board that the program for the Congress was complete and confirmed apart from the Plenary Session on the Anatomy of the Pelvic Floor. TS said that the Pre-congresses were all fully organised, i.e. the NSGO meeting, NFYOG symposium and pre-course in Clinical Andrology.

. It was decided that the speakers who are NFOG members will be offered the Congress fee and gala dinner for free. In addition they will receive one night at the congress hotel and will be reimbursed for up to 300 € for traveling costs against their invoices. The NFOG Congress pays all these expenses for the speakers. The board stressed the importance of sponsoring as the backbone of the Congress economy. The members of the board repeated their willingness to help if requested by the local organizers. However, it was decided that the board shall suggest the General Assembly an increase of the guarantee sum up to a maximum of 320 000 DKK to cover a possible deficit in the final accountings of the Congress.

The Assembly of Delegates (AD) was then discussed. It will be held on Monday June the 16<sup>th</sup> from 12.30-14.00 There are 21 items on the agenda that must be covered in 90 minutes. It was decided that the Scientific and Educational committees, webmaster and NFYOG will send their reports to RB, who will then present them at the AD to save time. It was suggested that the reports could be published on the NFOG website so that only headlines and a short summary need to be read. MS and RG will have 15 minutes each to present the economy, budget and accounts and ACTA respectively. RB will send the board the invitation and minutes from the last AD in 2006 and also the statutes regarding the General Assembly and AD.. The timing of the Board Meetings during the Congress was decided: the first will be on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of June from 10.30-16.30 and the second on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> at 17.00-18.00.

SG suggested that a summary of training in the Nordic countries and information about NFOG should be included in the abstract book. This was agreed on and Stig Hill (SH) agreed to update the training information. ML agreed to collect information regarding the National Societies and send it to TS.

**9. NFYOG.** Stig Hill described the NFYOG pre-congress at NFOG 2008 which will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. Brit Ingjerd Nesheim will give a talk titled "Obstetrics-a threatened speciality?" After this there will be a symposium about HRT. He told the board that a NFYOG Seminar on Global Obstetrics and Gynecology will be held in Copenhagen next year. SG emphasised the importance of communication between NFYOG and senior members of NFOG. She called for updated news from NFYOG and a summary on training in different Nordic countries. SH agreed to send this to the webmaster so that it could be posted on the website. SG also wished to see a plan for long-term activities of NFYOG now when comparison of the training has been completed.

**10. Educational Committee.** JAG told the Board that the total number of participants at the Hot Topics meeting in Helsinki was 80, including the speakers and the NFOG Board. Of these, there

were 28 fully paying participants and 14 trainees. He then presented the economy of the Hot Topics meeting in Helsinki. The guarantee sum from NFOG was 10.000 euros. There was a negative balance of 3.820 euros or 28.500 DKK which was taken from the guarantee sum. Anders Atke (AA) said that previously there had been more participants and therefore a larger deficit as the meeting fee was low. The total number of participants in the previous Hot Topics meetings had been 100 in Copenhagen and 80 in Oslo. CG told the Board that at the recent SFOG meeting it had been suggested that the Educational Committee should organize educational courses rather than congresses, as they were too similar to the biannual NFOG congress. As the basis for further discussion JAG summarized the history of the Educational Committee. It started in 1993 and was called Efterutbildningsnämnden. It focused on educational courses on specific topics. The name of the meetings was changed to Hot Topics meeting in 2003, and the focus shifted to controversies in Obstetrics and Gynecology. A discussion followed on whether the Educational Committee should focus again on specialized courses to reach more NFOG members. The Board decided that the Educational Committee would discuss these ideas and present a new model at the next Board Meeting. This will be put on the next agenda and AA agreed to send points regarding this new model to the Board before its next meeting.

**11. Acta.** Reynir Geirsson (RG) gave his presentation regarding Acta. He described what has happened since the last board meeting in October 2007. The editorial Board had met on 28-29.10.2007. The meeting had been focused on policy discussion. The Editors' messages had been well received as was the new lay-out. Work is being carried out on a renewed International Editorial Board but not yet completed. The instructions to Authors had been finalised and the electronic submission had started on time on the 1st of November.

RG told the Board that the digital archiving issue was already in progress. All issues ever published will be available on the net, which is a valuable asset that few journals have and enhances the standing of journal. NFOG gets it for free, owns it eventually and may even gain some revenue. However, there are points of concern, such as that NFOG has to store the issues after digitalisation and it is not certain what rights NFOG members will have to access as this is subject to negotiation. Changing the Journals name to AOG or AOGS with the subtitle: NFOG International Journal on Reproductive Health was discussed. SG reminded the Board that this was a matter for the GA to decide on. The next Editorial Board meeting will be in Copenhagen the 31st of March and a longer Editorial Board retreat meeting will be held 11.-14. June in Iceland before the NFOG Congress.

**12. Twinning-continued.** ML and CG discussed how twinning and mentorship were closely connected. ML has arranged for one visitor to attend the NFOG Congress from Nigeria and CG for 1-2 from Pakistan. NFOG will pay all costs for the visitors against invoices within the limits of 50.000 DKK reserved in the budget for this. NFOG will host the visitors and inform them about the pre-congress and the social program. To do this the chairman of NFOG needs the contact information to the visitors from CG and ML. The board agreed that SGY and NGF will assist DSOG in its twinning with SOGON. The Board also agreed to make Acta accessible to the main hospitals in Nigeria and Pakistan. ML and CG will send RG contact information and RG agreed to discuss this with Taylor & Francis and send copies.

**13. FIGO.** CG told the board that the next FIGO President Elect will be chosen from Europe at the FIGO Congress in 2009. The Board decided that the National Chairmen would discuss potential candidates with their Societies. The matter will be on the agenda for the next meeting in June.

**14. ECCA.** RK wished for advice on the associations' positions regarding The European Cervical Cancer Association (ECCA). The Finnish Society is evidently a member. The association was partly

EU-financed, and partly sponsored by industry. It was perceived as more of a lobbying organisation than a medical one, and the membership was said to be more of a formality supporting the causes it worked for. There was no support of promoting membership.

**15. Coming board meetings.** After the two Board meeting at the NFOG Congress (see under NFOG 2008), the next Board meeting will be in Copenhagen 20<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> of November. The Voting members will meet on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> from 17-19 and there will be a Board Dinner afterwards. The following day the board will meet from 08-16.

SG closed the meeting at 15.50.

In witness thereof,

Ragnheidur I. Bjarnadóttir  
Secretary General of NFOG