

# General Assembly NFOG 2014

## Minutes

**Time:** June 11th, 2014, 15.00-17.00

**Place:** Stockholm Waterfront Congress Centre

**Present:**

**Board of NFOG:**

Göran Berg (President of NFOG), Thea Lousen (Treasurer), Tone Skeie-Jensen (Secretary General), Juha Räsänen (SGY), Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann (DSOG), Harald Almström (SFOG), Jone Trovik (NGF), Ragnheiður L. Bjarnadóttir (FÍFK), Reynir T. Geirsson (Chief Editor Acta), Thora Steingrimsdóttir (Scientific Committee Chairman), Tomi Mikkola (Educational Committee Chairman), Peter Secher (Webmaster), Anne Cathrine Hoffgaard Munk (NFYOG)

**Delegates:**

Denmark (5 votes): Pia Ertberg, Charlotte Floridon, Ulrik Schiöler Kesmodel, Thomas Larsen, Kristina Renault

Sweden (5 votes): Jan Brynhildsen, Lotti Helström, Sven-Erik Olsson, Annika Strandell

Finland (5 votes): Ulla Ekblad, Oskari Heikinheimo, Antti Perheentupa, Marita Räsänen

Norway (5 votes): Stine Andreassen, Marit Lieng, Helene Fjeldvik Petersen, Tone Scheteli, Elise Thoresen Sletten

Iceland (1 vote): Jens Gudmundsson

**Auditors:**

Charlotta Grunewald, Internal Auditor (Sweden), Kristina Johannessen, Deputy Internal Auditor (Norway)

The General Assembly (GA) is open to all members of NFOG. There were a total of 61 members (including the Board) present at the meeting.

### 1. Opening of the meeting

Göran Berg (GB) opened the meeting.

### 2. Roll-call of delegates

Tone Skeie-Jensen (TSJ) carried out the roll call of the delegates.

### 3. Election of chairman and persons for checking the minutes

Seija Grenman (SG) was proposed, and was elected, as chairman of the assembly. Pia Ertberg and Sven-Eric Olsson were proposed, and were elected, to check the minutes from the General Assembly (GA).

### 4. Report by the Board for the years 2012 and 2013

TSJ presented a summary of the NFOG Board activities for the past 2 years. The composition of the Board throughout the period, and the number of meetings was presented. The Board had long planned a visit to the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and it was carried out in 2013. RCOG is an impressive organization with members in over 100 countries, providing high quality educational and training programmes. The Board found the visit useful for its work related to education and training. The information gathered was very useful when the Educational Committee arranged the Nordic course on education in the fall of 2013.

The activities of the NFOG are defined by its statutes, and the means by which the Board aim to meet the requirements of the statutes was presented. Applying to the NFOG Fund to obtain financial support to collaborate with colleagues in the other Nordic countries, to attend courses outside their country of residence, and do projects or voluntary work in developing countries was encouraged.

Finally, it was informed that the Board has appointed a Guidelines Committee.

#### **5. Report from the Scientific Committee**

Thora Steingrimsdóttir (TS) presented the members of the Scientific Committee (SC). The activity of the SC is mainly focused on assessing the applications for the NFOG Fund twice yearly, giving out grants after the March 1st and October 1st deadlines. The importance of getting the members of NFOG to apply was stressed, and the SC has written a letter intended for the bulletins of the National Societies informing of the possibilities that lie within the Fund.

Further, the SC participates in forming the Congress programme together with LOC. The SC is responsible for the free communication, and assesses the posters and abstracts, and chooses the oral presentations. The SC is also responsible for the Nordic thesis session. It evaluates the free communication and hands out prizes for oral presentations and posters, and the Young Scientist award, at the NFOG Congress.

#### **6. Report from the Educational Committee**

Tomi Mikkola (TM) presented the national representatives to the Educational Committee (EC). The EC has decided that its focus will be on evaluating the possibility to harmonize and improve the Nordic Ob/Gyn training programs. The EC arranged a course entitled "Harmonizing and improving the Nordic ObGyn training – how to get there", on November 7th-8th, 2013, in Copenhagen, with 69 participants. Presentations were given on different ways to organize training, new tools in training, and different curriculum's. The course concluded with a panel discussion where the participants suggested topics for future courses. The course received favourable response from the participants. The next EC course will be held on May 7th-8th, 2015, in Copenhagen. The topics will be the evaluation of trainees and how to train the mentors.

The future courses will be held in years opposite the Congress.

#### **7. Report from the Guidelines Committee**

Knut Hordnes (KH) presented the appointed group that has started the process of evaluating the possible establishment of a permanent Nordic collaboration on guidelines. The newly appointed Guidelines Committee (GC) has made an overview of existing national guidelines, and will meet this October to discuss the advantages and challenges that such collaboration implies. They will conclude as to whether they will recommend a permanent GC, and what form it should take. Some of the challenges lie in the relationship to the national guidelines, and possible legal aspects.

#### **8. Report from the NFOG website**

Peter Secher (PS) gave a presentation of the website, which has existed since 2001. The number of daily visits to the website is steadily increasing. The Nordic thesis registration has existed since 2003, and from 2013 there is a complete list. Further, the website publishes the NFOG Fund reports that have to be submitted before the grants are paid out. The aim is to increase the awareness of the Fund, and inspire more applicants. The issue of transparency in the handling of the Fund is important, and the website reports are helpful also in this respect. A new contribution to the website is the link to the Australian and Japanese journals.

## **9. Report from NFYOG**

Anne Cathrine Hoffgaard Munk (ACHM) informed the GA of the activities of NFYOG. The NFYOG meets 2-3 times yearly, and has its focus on the sharing of information and experience between the Nordic countries regarding specialist training. An example was the original Danish campaign "Passing the knife", which focused on improving the surgical skills of trainees. A similar campaign has been adapted by the Swedish trainees. The NFYOG and the EC have increased their collaboration, and NFYOG participated in the planning and giving the EC course in November of 2013. It will participate also at the next meeting. With regards to the present congress, the NFYOG arranged the trainee symposium and dinner on June 9th. Further, the NFYOG meets with ENTOG, and exchanges ideas.

## **10. Report from Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavia**

Chief Editor Reynir Geirsson (RG) gave his report on the activity of Acta, and the presented the members of the Editorial Board. The main change that has occurred in this period is the change to online publishing from 2013. The collaboration with publisher Wiley Blackwell has worked very well, and has led to collaboration with other journals, such as ANZJOG and JOGR, published by the same firm. During this period Acta has received around 950 manuscripts/year, with a rejection rate of 78-82%. The quality of the manuscripts has improved. Acta receives articles from a great number of countries, and in 2013 articles from 35 countries were accepted. Approximately 25 % of all articles are submitted from the Nordic countries, by numbers in the order of Denmark>Sweden>Norway>Finland>Iceland.

RG did ask for Nordic academic support, hopefully resulting in more quality articles from the Nordic countries. There were approximately 300.000 downloads in 2013, the highest number in the USA. The journal has readers all over the world.

GB informed of the process of recruiting a new Chief Editor, to be appointed by the NFOG Board. He further thanked RG for his great contribution in making Acta the excellent journal it is today.

## **11. Financial report**

The treasurer Thea Lousen (TL) presented the financial results for 2012 and 2013. The result for 2012 was DKK 576.474, and for 2013 DKK 1.040.267. TL went through the different posts in the budget and the results, and the deviations that were found were explained. The NFOG Congress in 2012 had a deficit of DKK 124.721. The result for ACTA was within the budget. The sum for editorial assistant was above what was budgeted, mainly due to the fact that the Board had given her a full time position from 2013. The cost for the editorial meeting had gone down after the meetings had been moved to the offices of the publisher in Copenhagen. Expenses for both the EC and NFYOG were above what was budgeted in 2013, as a consequence of their joint effort to arrange the Education course that year. Due to a lack of activity in 2012, they used very little of the budget for 2012. Further, the AOGS History Issue, written by PO Jansson, gave a deficit of DKK 92.814, due to the extra secretarial assistance needed. The NFOG common research initiative was for the first time in budget in 2013, but was not used that year. This was due to the lack of projects for the Board to support. The income of NFOG is mainly related to the membership fees and subscription fees. The result for Acta in 2013 was well above what had been budgeted, due to increased royalties after the transfer to online subscription. This was an extraordinary large amount, and cannot be expected to recur.

Of the results for 2012 and 2013, 66% (DKK 384.316 and 693.511, respectively) is directly transferred to the NFOG Fund. TL suggested to the GA that the remaining surplus of DKK 192.158 and 346.756 should also be transferred to the Fund. **This was accepted by the GA.** The complete budget and result is found on the website, with the minutes of the GA.

## **12. Auditors report**

TL had received reports for the years 2012 and 2013 from the external auditor Bo Hendriksen, stating that the external auditor complied with independence requirements stated within the law, and that they had received all the information requested. Charlotta Grunwald (CG) gave the report on behalf of the Internal auditors. She raised the question as to the necessity to keep the fortune of NFOG at its present substantial size. TL answered that NFOG has the financial responsibility for the NFOG Congresses, and that this implies a great economic responsibility. It is the view of the treasurer, with the support of the Board, that the fortune should not increase, but be kept stable. TL pointed out that 1/3 of the fortune is tied up in the Fund, and cannot be used by the Board. Further, CG asked why the EC did not use of its budget in 2012. This was explained by TL to be due to the change of members in the EC, and lack of activity in 2012. The accounts were approved by the internal auditors.

The chairman asked the GA to grant the Board discharge of liability. **Discharge of liability was granted by the GA.**

## **13. Budget proposals for 2015-2016**

TL presented the budget for 2014-2016, based on the results for 2012 and 2013. The budget for 2014 was decided at the GA in 2012. The sum budgeted for the Chief Editor of Acta is increased in 2015 due to the change of editor and the expected overlap of the two. The sum is also increased in 2016, as the salary of the new Chief Editor may be above the current sum. Further, the expenses for Assistant Editors are increased, as the number of Ass Editors is expected to increase by two. RG suggested an increase of costs related to editorial meetings to DKK 150.000 due to the change in Chief Editor. **This was accepted by the GA.** A new post on the budget is AOGS development by CE, set to DKK 100.000. **This was accepted by the GA.** The budget for the EC varies from year to year, according to its activity related to the educational courses held on opposite years of the NFOG Congress. **This was accepted by the GA.** This is followed in the budget by the post for courses every other year, in non-congress years. A post of DKK 100.000 for the newly appointed GC was proposed. **This was accepted by the GA.** RG suggested establishing a second and third price for most cited article. **This was accepted by the GA.** The proposed budgets for 2015 and 2016 will result in a deficit. **This was accepted by the GA.** TL did, however, point out that the budgets from the previous years had come out with a surplus, and thus were better than expected. This may well be the case also for the future budgets.

The membership fee will not be changed for the next period.

## **14. Proposals from the Nominating Committee to positions of trust in NFOG**

Ragnheiður L. Bjarnadóttir presented the Nomination Committee's proposals:

President: Knut Hordnes, Norway. Secretary General: Tone Skeie-Jensen, Norway.

Treasurer: Thea Lousen, Denmark.

Internal auditors: Charlotta Grunewald, Sweden and Johanna Mäenpää, Finland.

Deputy auditor: Martin Andresen, Norway.

Tone Skeie-Jensen, Thea Lousen and Charlotta Grunewald had accepted re-election.

Knut Hordnes, Johanna Mäenpää and Martin Andresen replaced GB, Ditte Trolle and Kristina Johannesen, respectively. Bo Hendriksen will continue as external auditor.

## **15. Election of the President of NFOG**

Knut Hordnes was elected as President.

## **16. Election of the Secretary General of NFOG**

Tone Skeie-Jensen was re-elected as Secretary General.

### **17. Election of the treasurer of NFOG**

Thea Lousen was re-elected as treasurer.

### **18. Election of auditors of NFOG**

Charlotta Grunewald was re-elected, and Johanna Mäenpää was elected as Internal Auditors. Martin Andresen was elected as Deputy Auditor.

### **19. Location of the NFOG 2018 and naming of the Congress President**

Bjarne Rønne (BR), who is the proposed Congress president for NFOG 2018, presented the location for the NFOG Congress in 2018. The local committee was presented. The congress will be held in Odense in June of 2018. A new congress venue will be ready in 2017, and there are many hotels in close vicinity to the Congress centre. The banquet dinner will be held at the impressive Egeskov Castle. **The location and the proposed Congress president were accepted by the GA.**

### **20. Amendments to the NFOG bylaws**

RG presented the suggested revision of the special enactment relating to "Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica", bringing it up to date with the present situation of Acta. **The suggested changes were accepted by the GA.**

KH presented the proposed changes to the special enactment relating to the Nordic Congress in Obstetrics and Gynecology, especially relating to the working-relationship between LOC and the SC of NFOG. **The suggested changes were accepted by the GA.** The revised amendments are found on [www.nfog.org](http://www.nfog.org).

### **21. Suggestion to move the NFOG Congress to odd years**

KH informed of the Boards proposal to change the Congress to odd years, starting from 2021. The NFOG Congress is currently held in even years, and thus always the same year as the EBCOG Congress which is also arranged biannually. The congresses are held in May and June, respectively, competing for many of the same participants. This also makes it difficult for the Nordic countries to host the EBCOG Congress, as it will be conflicting with the NFOG Congress. Bergen, Norway, applied for the EBCOG Congress in 2018, but decided to withdraw its application due to this.

KH informed EBCOG of the suggested change, and it was well received as it is likely that both organizations will profit from this change. The change will, however, some years result in a common congress year with the FIGO Congress, but this will be infrequent. The Board will arrange courses both in 2019 and 2020. **The suggestion to move the NFOG Congress to odd years was accepted by the GA.**

### **22. Reflections by the past president**

GB mentioned the positive changes that had occurred in Acta, exemplified by the change of publisher and the online publication of the journal. He praised the Chief editors' work towards improving the journal and increasing the impact factor.

Further, he 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.

Finally, GB welcomed Knut Hordnes as the new President of NFOG.

**23. Any other business**

It was pointed out the amendments have to be changed in accordance with the decision to move the Congress to odd years. This will be presented at the GA in 2016.

**24. Closing of the meeting**

SG closed the meeting and thanked the participants for their attendance.

Oslo, June 30/6-14

In witness thereof,

Tone Skeie-Jensen  
NFOG Secretary General

Seija Grenman  
Chairman of the General Assembly

Pia Ertberg  
Checker of Minutes

Sven-Eric Olsson  
Checker of minutes