

NFOG 2012 General Assembly Minutes

Time: June 18th 2012, 12.00-15.00

Place: Klokkeklang, Grieghallen, Bergen, Norway

Present:

Board of NFOG:

Göran Berg (President of NFOG), Thea Lousen (Treasurer of NFOG), Tone Skeie-Jensen (Secretary General of NFOG), Reynir T. Geirsson (Chief Editor of Acta), Johanna Mäenpää (SGY), Kresten Rubeck Petersen (DSOG), Pia Telemann (SFOG), Knut Hordnes (NGF and President NFOG 2012), Hulda Hjartardóttir (leaving FÍFK), Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir (new representative FÍFK), Alexander Smáráson (Scientific Committee Chairman), Tommi Mikkola (Educational Committee Chairman), Alda Birgisdóttir (leaving NFYOG), Anne Cathrine Hoffgaard Munk (new representative NFYOG)

Delegates:

Denmark (5 votes): Lise Lotte Andersen, Kristina Renault, Karen Wøjdemann, Elise Hoffmann, Charlotte Floridon

Sweden (5 votes): Lars-Åke Mattson, Matts Olovsson, Sven-Eric Olsson, Elisabeth Vock

Finland (5 votes): Outi Uimar, Oskari Heikinheimo

Iceland (1 vote): Sigrún Arnardóttir

Norway (5 votes): Kevin Oppegaard, Jone Trovik, Martin Andresen, Tone Shetelig Løvvik

Auditors:

Ditte Trolle, Internal Editor (Denmark), Kristina H. Johannesen, Deputy Internal Auditor (Norway)

The General Assembly (GA) is open to all members of NFOG. There were a total of 50 members 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 checking the minutes

Seija Grenman (SG) was proposed, and elected, chairman of the assembly. Lise Lotte Andersen and Kevin Oppegaard were elected to check the minutes of the GA.

4. Report by the Board for the years 2010 and 2011

TSJ presented a summary of the activities of the NFOG Board for 2010 and 2011. The composition of the Board throughout the period was presented. The number of meetings, and the main topics of the agendas, were presented. The activities of NFOG are defined by its statutes, and the means by which the Board had acted to meet the requirements of the statutes, was presented. Previously, both the Visitors program and the Collaborative program have provided a possibility for the members of NFOG to collaborate within the Nordic countries, but after the GA in 2010, the NFOG Fund has replaced the programs. The Fund now provides the means for financial support. The Twinning project ended its activity in 2011, and the Fund also provides the means for NFOG members to participate internationally.

5. Report from the Educational Committee

TSJ presented the Educational Committee (EC) activity for 2010 and 2011, and its national members. In 2009 an annual educational course replaced the Hot Topics meetings, which were held biannually. In 2010 the topic of the course was "Polycystic ovarian syndrome", and

in 2011 "Chronic Pelvic Disorders – a challenge". All courses have been held in Copenhagen. The NFOG Board has cancelled the meeting in 2012. It is the view of the Board of NFOG and the new chairman of the EC that the form and frequency of the courses must be thoroughly discussed before a new course is held. It was discussed whether arranging the course only in non-congress years is most suitable.

6. Report from the Scientific Committee

Alexander Smáráson (AS) presented the activity of the Scientific Committee (SC) for 2010 and 2011. A more extensive overview can be found in the annual report, posted on the NFOG website. The SC has two main tasks, planning the scientific program of the NFOG Congress, and managing the NFOG Fund. The SC have been working very closely with the organizing committee of the current Congress. The Fund provides means for developing professional skills, research and clinical and scientific collaboration in the fields of obstetrics and gynecology. The deadlines for applying are March 1st, and October 1st. Through its work with the Fund, the SC have discovered areas in the NFOG Fund Special Enactment that needs clarification. Suggestions for these changes are presented and accepted at the current GA.

7. Report from NFOG's website www.nfog.org

Peter Secher (PS) gave a presentation of the NFOG website. The number of visitors to the website is steadily increasing, and has reached more than 60/day. New to the website is the posting of an overview of the grants given by the Fund, and reports from the recipients. This provides transparency into the activities of the Fund, and may inspire new applicants. There is still low recruitment to the Thesis registry, which provides abstracts of dissertations in obstetrics and gynecology. To increase the interest in submitting to the registry, a price of DKK 2500,- is given annually to two of the registered thesis', in a lottery. Finally, suggestions from the members of NFOG to changes and improvements of the website, are welcomed.

8. Report from NFYOG

Alda Birgisdóttir (AB) presented the activity of NFYOG for 2010 and 2011. Four meetings have been held in this period, including courses for its members. The course for 2011 was cancelled due to of lack of participants. The NFYOG is working to increase the collaboration between the National Societies, aiming at a harmonization of the education within the countries. NFYOG and the Educational Committee will be collaborating and exploring areas of mutual interest in the next period. It was suggested from a member present at the GA to have special focus on the situation for the Danish specialist candidates in the next period.

9. Report from Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica

Chief Editor Reynir T. Geirsson (RG) gave a report on the activity of Acta. Both impact factor and downloads are increasing. The Chief Editor has signed a new 2 year contract, and Henriette Svarre Nielsen was appointed Assistant Chef Editor in Nov. of 2011. New Editorial Manager is Susana Benedet. RG reported of excellent co-operation with the new publisher Wiley-Blackwell. Productive Editorial Board meetings are held twice annually. The rejection rates have increased from 68% in 2010, to 83%. The number of manuscripts/year has increased annually, to 1009 in 2011. In 2011 95 (56%) articles were published in the field of obstetrics, and 74 (44%) in gynecology. Most articles are of Swedish and Danish origin, and RG asks for more submissions from Finland and Norway. The home page of Acta is functioning well. It was reported from the GA that there had been difficulty in accessing Acta online, and RG reported that work is in progress to improve the matter.

10. Financial report

The treasurer Thea Lousen (TL) showed the financial results for 2010 and 2011. The result for 2010 was DKK 681.526,- (budgeted 110.000,-), and for 2011 DKK 1.290.667,- (budgeted 630.000,-). The income includes membership and subscription fees. In 2011 an extraordinary large sum was added to the income from the transfer of the publishing of Acta to Wiley-Blackwell. This accounts for the good result for 2011. TL commented on the result related to

the Chief Editor in 2011, which exceeded the budget. The reason is that the Editor is paid in Icelandic kroner, and the reduced value of this currency was compensated for. Further, it was commented that SC, EC and board expenses were well within the budget. The NFOG Congress of 2010 gave a small surplus. The banking fees are expected to decrease, as the treasurer now is using net-banking.

The result for 2010 and 2011, of DKK 449.807,- and 514.776,- respectively, is suggestively donated to the NFOG Fund. For 2011 a sum of DKK 500.000,- has been reserved for a possible deficit from the Congress. The complete budget and result is found on the website, with the minutes from the GA.

11. Auditors report

TL had received reports for the years 2010 and 2011 from the external auditor Bo Hendriksen, stating that the external auditor complied with independence requirements stated within the law, and had received all the information requested. Ditte Trolle (DT), representing the Internal auditors at the GA, had received the reports from the external auditor well in advance of the Congress. DT concluded that the books are well kept, and that all expenses are accounted for. She commented that the fortune of NFOG is large, and that the aim of the organization is to use money on member activity, and not to increase the fortune. The Fund and the special initiatives will provide opportunities to use money on its members.

The chairman asked the GA to grant the Board discharge of liability, and this was granted.

12. Discussion og NFOG's future strategies

GB presented suggestions from the Board in order to enhance its involvement in inter-Nordic collaboration. Examples of possible areas of engagement are development of Nordic guidelines, and facilitation of work with multicenter trials. It will be up to the Board to decide which projects to support, and the Board shall report the outcome of such endorsements to the GA. Such initiatives are not within the scope of the Fund, and the Board asks the GA for trust in managing a post in the future budgets that will allow support of such inter-nordic collaboration. A question was raised from the GA as to whether the intention is to finance multicenter trials, but that is not the case. The intention is to e.g. have a possibility to facilitate study group meetings for planning Nordic Multicenter Studies. The GA wants the Board to work to recruit trainees to Nordic congresses and meetings, and lower the fees to achieve that aim. Another aim of the Board is to increase the visibility of NFOG within the Nordic countries. The participation of the National Societies is important in order for this aim to succeed. Written suggestions to the Board are welcomed.

13. Budget proposals for 2012-2014

TL presented the budget, which for the year 2012 was decided at the GA in 2010. This is done in order to have an approved budget until the next GA. The expenses related to the Assistant Editors and Editorial Assistant of Acta has increased, due to the employment of a new Assistant Editor, and the fact that the Editorial Assistant now has a full position. A new post named NFOG initiatives was proposed and accepted with a sum of DKK 250.000,-. The background for the proposal is discussed in item 12 of the minutes. It is budgeted with a small surplus for the next 3 years, but there is obviously uncertainty related to the estimates. As for the fortune of approximately DKK 12 million, TL suggests that the Board should discuss possible dispositions to benefit its members. The GA is asked to accept a possible deficit in the budget of DKK 500.000,- if it is related to the Fund, and this was accepted. TL proposed that the budget surplus be donated to the Fund, and that the fortune is kept intact until the next GA. This is accepted by the GA. A general proposal to reduce the fortune was made by the GA.

14. Nomination Committee's proposals to positions of trust

Hulda Hjartardóttir presented the Nomination Committee's proposal:

President: Göran Berg, Sweden, Treasurer: Thea Lousen, Denmark, Internal auditors: Ditte Trolle, Denmark and Charlotta Grunewald, Sweden, Deputy auditor: Kristina H. Johannessen, Norway

Göran Berg, Thea Lousen, Ditte Trolle and Kristina H. Johannessen had accepted reelection, while Charlotta Grunewald replaced Harald Almström, Sweden. Bo Hendriksen will continue as external auditor.

15. Election of President of NFOG

Göran Berg was reelected as President.

16. Election of Treasurer of NFOG

Thea Lousen was reelected as Treasurer.

17. Election of Internal Auditor of NFO

Ditte Trolle was reelected, and Charlotte Grunewald was elected, as Internal Auditors.

18. Election of Deputy Auditor of NFOG

Kristina H. Johannessen was reelected as Deputy Auditor.

19. NFOG 2014

Magnus Westergren is the next Congress President, and he informed the GA that the congress venue is the Stockholm Waterfront. The Congress is held on June 10th-12th, 2014, with a pre-congress course at Karolinska University Hospital, on Monday June 9th.

20. NFOG 2016

Oskari Heikinheimo is the Congress President in 2016, and the Congress will be held in Helsinki.

21. Amendments to the NFOG bylaws

GB presented an amendment to the article 6:2 of the NFOG bylaws, giving the Secretary General the right to vote at the board meetings. This proposal was accepted by the GA. AS presented the amendments to the NFOG Fund Special Enactment I to the articles of NFOG. The amendments were accepted by the GA. The amendments are found on www.nfog.org.

22. Other bussiness

There was only one matter raised under other bussiness. It was suggested that in order for the oral poster presentations to acheive a larger audience, one lunch symposium should every day be exchanged with oral poster presentations at future congresses.

23. Closing of the meeting

SG closed the meeting, and thanked the participants for a valuable discussion.

Oslo, June 30th, 2012

In witness thereof,

Tone Skeie-Jensen
NFOG Secretary General

Seija Grenman
Chairman of the General Assembly

Lise Lotte Andersen
Checker of minutes

Kevin Oppegaard
Checker of minutes