

NFOG Board Meeting Minutes 1/2013

Place: RCOG, London

Time: Thursday 21.03.13, 13.30-15.15, 16.30-18.30
Friday 22.03, 09.30-13.00

Present: Göran Berg (President), Thea Lousen (Treasurer), Tone Skeie-Jensen (Secretary General), Johanna Mäenpää (SGY), Kresten Rubek Petersen (DSOG), Harald Almström (SFOG), Knut Hordnes (NGF), Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir (FÍFK), Alexander Smárason (Scientific Committee Chairman), Peter Secher (Webmaster), Reynir T. Geirsson (Acta Chief Editor), Tommi Mikkola (Educational Committee Chairman), Anette Tønnes Pedersen (Scientific Committee and FIGO).

1. Opening of the meeting Göran Berg (GB) opened the meeting.

2. Approval of the agenda The agenda was approved after necessary adaptations to the programme of the organizers at RCOG had been made.

3. Approval of the minutes from the NFOG Board meeting 3/12 The minutes were approved.

4. Discussion of the agenda for the meeting with RCOG Chief Executive and Officers

The Board discussed issues of interest for the coming meetings with RCOG. Further, the possibilities of a future collaboration was discussed. A proposal for inviting members from RCOG to attend the NFOG 2014 was made, and supported by the Board members. A report from the meeting with RCOG is attached to the minutes.

5. Scientific Committee Alexander Smárason (AS) gave a report from the meeting of the SC held in Stockholm on March 4.-5. The applications for the NFOG Fund were discussed. The amount available for 2013 is not yet established, but the sum will exceed DKK 650.000,-. The applications totalled DKK 397.294,-, while DKK 176.050,- was awarded. AS informed the Board that there were few applications for Nordic collaborative studies. Study visits and collaborative studies are prioritized. To increase the number of applications the national bullitins will promote the Fund, and GB will write a short statement regarding the Fund for the web-site. The criteria for giving grants must, if necessary, be adjusted to ensure the success of the Fund. That will not, be possible until the next General Assembly. The sum for participating at courses outside of the Nordic countries has been raised to DKK 8000,-. Grants that have not been used within 2 years after allocation will go back into the Fund. Further, AS informed of the meeting between the SC and the local committee for NFOG 2014. The programme for NFOG 2014 was then practically completed. The SC forwarded a concern to Magnus Westergren that the programme was too heavily angeled towards obstetrics, and some additional gynecology was added to the programme. The Board emphasises the importance of a close dialogue between the NFOG Board and the local committees before every NFOG Congress, as is stated in the Special Enactment. The SC will collaborate with the local committee in handling the abstracts.

6. ACTA Reynir Geirsson (RG) gave an overview of the activity for 2012. The number of manuscripts submitted were 936, averaging 75-80 per month. The rejection rate was 81,2%. The impact factor was 1,77. RG mentioned that the number of reviews has increased, and that

the quality has improved. He further pointed out that the co-operation with ANZJOG and JOGR is initiated.

From 01.01.13 Acta is only available online, unless a special request for a printed version is made. So far approximately 10 % of NFOG members have signed up for the online version, and the number of prints is 5 % of the previous volume. RG informed that he wants the hospitals to have printed versions. The number of philanthropic prints (HINARI) was 3317. The full-text downloads increased by 35 % in 2012. Divided into nations, 25 % of the downloads were done in the US, 9 % in the UK, and 6 % in the Netherlands.

The position as new Assistant Chief Editor has been advertised for a 2 year term. RG expressed his wish to stay on for another 2 years as Chief Editor.

It was pointed out by the Board that signing up for the online version of Acta is somewhat complicated by some of its members. The problem seems to be related to the registration process at Wiley's, and a request will be made to Martin Vinding asking that a short introduction on how to register is made. A direct access through the NFOG website would be the easiest for the subscribers, but it is not possible due to restrictions on membership information available from each country. An evaluation of the online publishing of Acta is planned 6 months after implementation, whereafter a decision will be made on how to continue.

7. Economy, budget and accounts Thea Lousen (TL) took the Board through the different parts of the budget and results for 2012. The results have not been completed, as there is still some unfinished business with assistant editors that have not made their claims. There is no exact timelimit for when a claim can be made. RG will send e-mails to the assistant editors with a copy to TL, asking them to send their claims. The editorial expenses for the national editors will exceed the budgeted DKK 500.000,-, but the final result for editorial expenses for Acta will not exceed the budget of DKK 1.515.000,-.

The result for the Committees is within the budget. The EC did not arrange a course in 2012, so there was no deficit to cover. The extra expenses of the NFOG history, to be published in Acta, will not give a negative result.

The result of additional costs will exceed the budget, due to an increase in the expenses related to the external auditor Ildal. TL pointed out that the bank fees have decreased due to the use of netbanking in 2012.

At the last Board meeting in 2012, the Board decided that an external accountant should look into the results of the Congress, with regards to the issue of taxes ("moms"). (See Minutes 3/12, issue 5). This has been done, and the review concluded that the bill for taxes presented from CIC was correct.

8. Educational Committee Tomi Mikkola (TM) informed the Board that the Educational Committee has had meetings to discuss the forthcoming course in Copenhagen, to be held on November 7th and 8th. A participant from NFYOG has been present at the meetings. He presented a tentative programme, which is focused on harmonizing and improving the Nordic ObGyn training. One aim for the course is to initiate a discussion between the participants, and there will be room for panel discussions and questions. It is important to get participants from the Universities, and also doctors who are doing their specialist training. Possible areas of discussion are: Should there be a selection of candidates doing surgical specialist training? Is it possible to develop a common logbook (including theoretical requirements) within the Nordic countries? Should work be initiated to develop a common Nordic specialist exam (modell RCOG)?

An overview of the similarities and differences in training programmes within the Nordic countries was presented. The duration of the training is between 5-6 years for all countries. In

all countries, except Iceland, courses are mandatory, but the number of courses/hours vary greatly. Finland is the only country that requires a national written specialist exam. In Sweden and Denmark there are some requirements for scientific work/research. A main difference between the countries is the degree of governmental control of the training programmes. The Board considers the forthcoming meeting as very important for future Nordic collaboration. A strategy for followup of the course will be discussed prior to the meeting. The meeting should be advertised in the national bulletines, in addition to the website, before the summer.

9. NFYOG No one from NFYOG was able to attend the meeting. A status report was submitted, and is attached to the Minutes. NFYOG is participating with the EC in planning the course to be held in November.

10. EBCOG The value of the educational programmes of EBCOG was briefly discussed. The positive role of ENTOG in promoting exchange-programmes between doctors training in ObGyn was also commented on.

11. FIGO Anette Tønnes Pedersen (ATP), newly elected member of the FIGO Executive Board, was present at the Board meeting. She is elected as a Danish representative until 2018. She informed of the FIGO Capacity building, an electronic tool kit aimed at the third world, where resources are scarce. ATP is a member of the Scientific Committee planning the next Congress in 2015 in Vancouver, see [the preliminary programme](#). She emphasised that suggestions of topics and speakers from NFOG are welcomed. Further, the Board has received a letter from Seija Grenman, informing of the status of the suggested changes to election procedures. This is a joint effort by RCOG, NFOG and the Japanese and Canadian Societies. The purpose is to make the process more clear and transparent. The suggestions were discussed by the FIGO Officers at their meeting in February, and is referred to the FIGO Executive Board meeting in June.

12. www.NFOG.org Peter Secher (PS) informed that there has been an increase of 10-15 % in daily visits to the website. PS informed that there has been a discussion about a common password rendering the access to Acta via the website possible, but it will not be an option. TL informed that there is a new, simplified form to be used for reimbursements, posted on the website.

13. NFOG 2014 In Magnus Westergren's (MW) absence, GB went through the programme. It is completed, and will be posted on the website. He also presented the pamphlet that has been sent to possible sponsors. A preliminary budget has been made. The Board will see to that the concerns raised at the General Assembly about reduced prices for trainees is implemented. GB will contact MW to obtain the exact prices the local organizers suggest. NFOG 2016 will be held in Helsinki, and the Finlandia Congress Hall has been reserved. A 3 % downpayment has been made for the venue. NFOG 2018 will be held in Denmark. DSOG will propose the city and Congress President at the November Board meeting.

14. NFOG initiatives for Nordic Collaboration GB recapitulated the decision of the General Assembly to yearly allocate DKK 250.000,- for financing initiatives from the Board. The Board has received an application for funding from Ole B. Christiansen, Denmark, and Leif Matthiesen, Sweden. The collaborative project is aimed at establishing a Nordic

”Recurrent Miscarriage” database. The issue was discussed, and it was decided that GB writes a letter asking the applicants to apply for an allocation from the NFOG Fund.

Possible projects were discussed in the Board, such as:

A Nordic professorship for scientific collaboration (JM). Nordic guidelines or statements on issues of common interest, i.e. misoprostol and oral contraception and risk of trombosis (RIB). Registration of complications, i.e. mesh (TM). Making guidelines on how to make guidelines (core guidelines) (ATP). HA informed that this is already established in Sweden. KRP suggested a coordination of the different registrations that are already established within the Nordic countries. KH suggested that the statements/guidelines should be limited to issues of controversy. RG suggested a guideline committee. TSJ suggested that a followup of the meeting in November on specialist training should be within the aim of Nordic collaboration and qualify for support.

GB concluded that the suggestions will be pursued. Further, that he will make a notice for the website, reminding the NFOG members of the money made available by the GA.

15. The NFOG Archives Tone Skeie-Jensen (TSJ) informed of the state of the archives of NFOG. She received material on a USB stick from the former Secretary General, when she was elected in 2010. The archive material is at present in the care of TSJ, except for the matters relating to economy and accounts. This is taken care of by the trasurer and the external auditor. Further, the SC has its own archives regarding the NFOG Fund. The SC write their own minutes from their meetings. RG suggested that the material should be handled by the Acta Editorial Manager. Further HA suggested that TL should seek advice from the external auditor on guidelines for archive material.

The minutes from the meetings are not signed and kept in paper versions, but from 2008 the minutes and annual reports have been posted on the website.

The issue of the archives will be concluded at the next Board meeting.

16. News from the National Societies Due to lack of time this was not discussed. At later meetings this issue will be placed earlier on the agenda.

17. Coming Board meetings There will be a Board meeting in connection with the Copenhagen meeting in November. The Board will meet on Nov. 6th, with a voting members meeting at 13.00. The complete Board will meet at 15.00. The Board will continue its meeting before lunch on the 7th, and after the course has ended on the 8th, if necessary. The Board plans a spring meeting in Stockholm on April 10.-11., 2014.

After the Board meeting was concluded, the members discussed the need for one more meeting before the course in November. It was decided to have a one day meeting in September. The date will be decided by mail.

18. Other bussiness RG informed that a gift will be given to the secretary of the RCOG President for all the help that has been provided ralating to this meeting at RCOG.

Göran Berg
President NFOG

Tone Skeie-Jensen
Secretary General