

NFOG Board Meeting Minutes 2/13

Place: Park Inn Copenhagen Airport

Time: Monday Sept. 9th, 2013, 10.00-16.00

Present: Göran Berg (President), Tone Skeie-Jensen (Secretary General), Johanna Mäenpää (SGY), Kresten Rubek Petersen (DSOG), Harald Almström (SFOG), Knut Hordnes (NGF), Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir (FÍFK), Alexander Smáráson (Scientific Committee Chairman), Peter Secher (Webmaster), Tomi Mikkola (Educational Committee Chairman), Anne Cathrine Hoffgaard Munk (NFYOG), Thea Lousen (Treasurer) came for a briefing after the meeting had closed.

Absent: Reynir T. Geirsson (ACTA), Magnus Westgren (President, NFOG 2014), Seija Grenman (FIGO)

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

2. Approval of the agenda The agenda was approved with some minor adjustments.

3. Approval of the minutes from the NFOG Board meeting 1/13 The minutes were approved.

4. NFOG 2014 GB gave an orientation. A complete programme is posted on the web-site. The pre-congress will be held at the Karolinska Institute, and the fee for participating is SEK 1000, including lunch. Registration opens on October 1st, and by registering before December 1st, admission is guaranteed. The abstract deadline is March 1st. The local committee has suggested not to print an abstract-book, but rather replace it with an app. The main reason is printingcost. Only a small folder will be printed, containing the programme and other necessary information, as well as sponsor adds. **The Board agrees with this suggestion.** Congress fees were discussed. **It was decided** to keep the prices close to those of the EBCOG Congress. This will be further discussed by the Board via mail. Early registration will close on April 15th.

Official carrier will be SAS. There will not be a special accompanying person`s programme. A statement by the NFOG president will be posted on the NFOG 2014 home page.

5. NFOG Educational Course Tomi Mikkola (TM) gave a presentation of the planned programme. The panel discussion will be very important, as the aim of the meeting is to start the process of harmonizing specialist training within the Nordic countries. There are plans to establish a working group that will be responsible for the follow-up after the meeting. Both the NFOG Board and the Educational Committee will participate. It was suggested that one possible future task may be to arrange Nordic courses, such as scientific courses and courses teaching manuscript writing. The budget for the November course has been approved by the treasurer and NFOG President. It is not possible to predict the number of participants, and thus the expected budget deficit. The fee for the course is DKK 1500, which includes hotel stay and meals. Registration is easily accessible at the NFOG website. The Board will have a follow-up discussion on future strategy immediately after the closure of the panel discussion.

6. ACTA/Chief Editor GB informed of the proposals made by Reynir Geirsson (RG) for discussion at the meeting. The suggested changes are proposed due to an increase in articles submitted to ACTA. The journal has in the past 5 years been receiving double the number of submissions compared to what was formerly handled by the 13 national editors and the Chief Editor. RG has suggested to:

- * Raise the sum for the review editor to DKK 40.000.

- * Make the review editor "post" more specific and largely relieve that editor of handling general research articles.

- * Designate the review editor from within the Editorial Board for a period of 2 + 2 years after 4 years as national editor.

- * Confirm the interim arrangement of allowing the present review editor to stay for up to two years longer (2 + 2 + 2 years), for which there now is precedent.

- * Allow the appointment through the relevant national society of a new and additional national editor from the country supplying the review editor.

- * To allow appointment of a fourth national editor from initially Sweden. Then successively, if deemed needed, from Finland, Norway or Denmark within the next 4-8 years.

These proposals are **supported by the Board**, and will be promoted for discussion at the General Assembly. GB also proposed to suggest for the GA that the Board is given a financial framework for making necessary adjustments between the biannual GA. This was **supported by the Board**.

RG also proposed establishing an NFOG Honors award, to be constituted at the GA in Stockholm. This proposal was **not supported by the Board**. The matter must be thoroughly discussed within the Board prior to its presentation at the GA.

The position as Chief Editor for the next two years was discussed. RG is willing to continue for another two year period. To secure a smooth transition between editors, **the Board has decided** to advertise the position as Chief Editor with accession 01.01.15. The old and new editors will be given the necessary time for overlap. GB will write to RG about the Board's decision.

GB has received a proposal to give the Editorial Manager Susana Benedet a 5% payrise. This was **supported by the Board**. Further, Inger Brymann has forwarded a request for the prolongation of the appointment of Susana Benedet, and **it was decided** to prolong her appointment until 31.12.14.

7. News from the National Societies Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir (**FÍFK**) informed that as a consequence of the Icelandic National Assembly's decision to legalize surrogacy, FÍFK has been asked to answer a number of difficult and controversial questions on the issue. FÍFK went against legalization of surrogacy as a consultative statement prior to the National Assembly's decision. The pregnant woman will not be paid, but her expenses will be refunded. FÍFK will concentrate on answering the questions related to the pregnancy, and avoid discussing any potential legal issues. However, FÍFK will advise that the surrogate mother should be the legal parent until a "fast track" adoption is implemented after delivery. Further, FÍFK has been asked by the new director of the Icelandic Cancer Society to comment on the need for a pelvic examination to be done concomitant to a cervical smear, as midwives will in the future participate in taking pap smears for the cervical cancer screening programme. None of the other National Society chairmen sees the necessity of a routine pelvic examination in combination with a cervical smear.

Kresten Rubek Petersen (**DSOG**) informed that the society has had a change of board members. The 1st Global Conference on Contraception and Reproductive Health, supported by NFOG and DSOG, was held in May. It had good scientific content, and was a success. The

problem of getting sponsors was mentioned. A meeting on the future structure of the Danish guidelines is to be held on Oct. 7th, and it is open for attendance by Nordic colleagues. The discussion on using Misoprostone for the induction of labour is still ongoing in the media. This is without regard to the fact that guidelines do exist. A constructive meeting has however been held with the National Board of Health and the Union of Midwives, issuing a political statement intended for the National Assembly. One is hopeful that this will end the ongoing public discussion.

Further, it was mentioned that the media has focused on the neurological side-effects of the HPV-vaccine. Approximately 500.000 girls have been vaccinated so far. The Danish Medical Society and DSOG has a good dialogue with the health authorities on the issue.

DSOG is continuing the discussion on the strategy for obtaining a formalization of subspecialisation in Denmark, and are planning a seminar on the issue.

Johanna Mäenpää (**SGY**) informed that the issue of surrogacy is discussed also in Finland, and that the Ministry of Health seem positive to legalization under certain circumstances. Further, formalized sub-specialization (gynecologic oncology, perinatology, endocrinology and urogynecology) was some time ago replaced by corresponding two year programmes organized by the universities. Those who already have a sub-specialization are allowed to keep it.

Last spring one of the cabinet parties (Christian Democrats) suggested a change in the legislation on abortion. The present limit for abortion due to fetal malformation is 24 weeks, and this was suggested to be reduced to 20 weeks. The SGY strongly opposed this publicly, and the suggestion was withdrawn. The authorities plan to endorse specialization within certain fields where there is a lack of specialists, such as psychiatry. The SGY has opposed this, and it is so far not implemented. Finally, ACTA can now be accessed directly from the SGY website. SGY contacted Wiley, and after restricting the access to the SGY homepage, this was made possible.

Knut Hordnes (**NGF**) informed of the work that has been done going through claims of compensation to "Norsk pasientskade erstatning", after incidents related to deliveries. This has given useful information for improvement of the delivery units. It is now to be followed up by examining claims related to treatment of gynecological disorders. Another project organized by the NGF is to look at the outcome of cesarean section. A similar nationwide project was run in 1998, and resulted in useful clinical and scientific information.

Further NGF is in charge of revising the national guidelines. The work with the guidelines in obstetrics has just been completed, and the guidelines in gynecology are next in line for revision. The NGF plans to have the revised guidelines translated into English.

Finally, he informed that the followup of sexually assaulted women will, in the future, be handed by the hospitals rather than the primary health care system which now is in charge. NGF is opposed to making this change where the present system is functioning well.

Harald Almström (**HA**) (**SFOG**) informed of ongoing work with guidelines, and that they are using Denmark's guidelines as a model. He encouraged Nordic collaboration, as there is a lot of parallel work going on. Further, he informed of the ongoing safe delivery projects, that are paid for by the patients' insurance companies. Previously only departments have been audited, but this is now extended to the different health regions. The audit includes complications such as sphincter tears. The results of the audits are not yet presented, but a consequence so far is that all health personnel working with deliveries go through a training programme in CTG evaluation.

He also informed of the National Quality Registers on gynecological operations, cervical cancer, IVF register and the registration of pregnancies.

HA raised the question of common NFOG guidelines. In the following discussion the concern about the difficulty of agreeing on common guidelines was raised. The Board did, however, think that it will be possible to get an agreement within the Nordic countries on common guidelines where the available evidence is considered strong. It is considered feasible to start with areas where there are common views, and gradually start discussing the more difficult issues. The RCOG guidelines were mentioned as model guidelines.

It was suggested to establish a "Guideline Committee" within the NFOG. **The Board decided** to propose for the next GA to establish a GC. **It was decided** that at the next Board meeting in November each of the National Chairmen shall name a person to be appointed to a working group. Their task will be to outline the proposal to be made for the GA. It was also suggested to arrange a course with guidelines as the topic in the fall of 2014, or spring of 2015.

8. Other business At the EBCOG Congress in Glasgow in 2014, it is possible for the national or regional organizations to arrange sessions or courses. NFOG discussed the matter and decided not to use this opportunity. NGF will have a session on preeclampsia, and DSOG are considering to participate.

The next Board meeting will start with a voting members meeting at 12.00 on Nov. 6th, while the complete Board meets at 13.15. The Board meeting will continue before lunch on Nov. 7th, and have its last session on Nov. 8th after the Course, lasting until 17.00.

Göran Berg
President NFOG

Tone Skeie-Jensen
Secretary General