

## **NFOG Board Meeting Minutes 2/2012**

**Place:** Grieghallen, Bergen, Norway

**Time:** Saturday, 16.06.12, 16.00-18.30,

**Present:** Göran Berg (President), Thea Lousen (Treasurer), Tone Skeie-Jensen (Secretary General), Johanna Mäenpää (SGY), Kresten Rubeck Petersen (DSOG), Pia Teleman (SFOG), Knut Hordnes, (NGF and President NFOG 2012), Hulda Hjartardóttir (FÍFK ), Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir (new chairman of FÍFK from June), Alexander Smárason (Scientific Committee Chairman), Peter Secher (Webmaster), Alda Birgisdóttir (NFYOG), Reynir T. Geirsson (Acta Chief Editor), Seija Grenman (FIGO), Tommi Mikkola (Educational Committee Chairman), Anne Cathrine Hoffgaard Munk (new NFYOG representative from June)

- 1. Opening of the meeting** Göran Berg (GB) opened the meeting. Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir and Anne Cathrine Hoffgaard Munk were welcomed as new representatives of FÍFK and NFYOG, respectively.
- 2. Approval of the agenda** The agenda was approved, but it was decided to shorten the meeting on Saturday, and subsequently postpone the last posts on the original agenda until Tuesday.
- 3. Approval of the minutes from the NFOG Board meeting 1/2012** The minutes were approved.
- 4. NFOG 2012** Knut Hordnes (KH) gave the last update on the Congress. With exception of one of the lecturers in laparoscopy, no withdrawals had been reported with regards to invited speakers. There were 110 posters registered in obstetrics, and 62 in gynecology. 606 participants were registered, and the budget was presumed to be close to balance. That final account will be reported at the next Board meeting.
- 5. General Assembly** Tone Skeie-Jensen (TSJ) went through the agenda for the General Assembly (GA). Seija Grenman was suggested as Chairman of the GA, and she accepted. The National Societies of Denmark and Norway were asked to provide persons to check the minutes.
- 6. NFOG 2016** GB informed the Board that the Congress in 2016 will be held in Helsinki, and that Oskari Heikinheimo has been chosen as the Congress President. He is a member of the Scientific Committee (SC).
- 7. Scientific Committee** Alexander Smárason (AS) informed the Board of how the SC had been involved in preparing for the Congress up until the last minute. Recipients of the best poster presentations, and the best free oral communications, were to be selected during the Congress, and awarded at the closing ceremony. The amendments to the NFOG Fund Special Enactment were previously approved by the Board, and ready to be presented at the GA.
- 8. ACTA** Reynir T. Geirsson (RG) presented the status of Acta. The journal receives more than 1000 manuscripts/year, and has a rejection rate of about 75 %. Approximately half of the

manuscripts received are from the Nordic countries, with Sweden and Denmark being the main contributors. RG asked for more manuscripts from Finland and Norway. After changing publisher to Wiley-Blackwell, online downloads have been increasing, and is up 60-70 % this year. All advertisements are now online. It is necessary to reduce the number of subscribers to the paper-version, and increase online subscriptions. Subscriptions are now mainly sold to consortia, and not to single subscribers. Subscriptions are sold at reduced rates, and occasionally given for free, to developing countries. As stated in the minutes of the last Board meeting, a discussion about finances has to take place with Wiley-Blackwell, and this is due to occur during the Congress. Niels Ulbjerg is retiring as Editor in charge of reviews, and Jens Langhoff-Roos is taking over this task. A plagiarism detection system has been in place since April 2012. Several workshops on scientific publication have been held, and more are planned. RG informed of the effort to increase the impact factor, involving reduction in number of short reports, increasing the number of review articles, targeting the best authors, to publish articles based on cohort data available in Nordic Countries, and keeping rejection rate at a minimum of 75 %.

**9. Economy, budget and accounts** Thea Lousen (TL) presented the results for 2010 and 2011, of DKK 231.719 (2010) and 268.827 (2011). The result and budgets for the period of 2012-2014 were discussed. The budget for 2012 was decided at the GA in 2010, and the suggested budgets for 2013 and 2014 are waiting to be approved at the GA. TL had received a suggestion from the external auditors to place DKK 2 million of the NFOG fortune in low risk Bonds, and this was **accepted by the Board**. The budget and results will be posted on the website, with the minutes, after it has been approved by the GA.

**10. Educational Committee** The new leader of the EC, Tommi Mikkola (TM), presented his views on the current situation for the Committee. He agreed with the Board's cancelling of the Educational Course for 2012. There was a discussion within the Board about the future role of the EC. It was suggested a closer collaboration with NFYOG, in order for the EC to help improving the Nordic collaboration with regards to training. Pia Teleman informed that there are problems in Sweden where there are waitinglists for some required courses in specialist training. Further, it was suggested the the EC could engage in forming Nordic guidelines, and that the collaboration within the EC should improve.

**11. NFYOG** Alda Birgisdóttir (AB) informed of the recent meeting in Tallin. There is work in progress attempting to coordinate the specialist training-courses within the Nordic countries. A survey is done within each country to enable a comparison between the countries, and thus lay the groundwork for better inter-Nordic collaboration.

**12. EBCOG** No news were presented.

**13. FIGO** Seija Grenman (SG) informed of the latest news from FIGO. The FIGO Executive Board meeting for 2012 was held in China. In addition to the Board meeting and visit to hospitals, educational seminars were held on the topics of female immunology, gestational diabetes, and HPV and cervical cancer prevention. Further, SG gave a presentation of the FIGO Committees, such as education and training, ethical aspects of human reproduction, fistula, gynecological oncology, safe motherhood, and womens' sexual and reproductive rights. Within FIGO there are organized working groups on such topics as pelvic floor reconstructive surgery and prevention of unsafe abortion. SG also gave a presentation of the FIGO Congress in Rome this coming October. Sir S. Arulkumaran will be elected as the new president, and the next President elect will come from Asia. Kristina Gemzell-Danielsson

will receive the FIGO Award in recognition of female obstetricians/gynecologists. SG continues as delegate until 2015. The Twinning project was completed in 2011.

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**Place:** Grieghallen, Bergen, Norway

**Time:** Tuesday, 19.06.12, 13.30-16.00

**Present:** Göran Berg, Thea Lousen, Tone Skeie-Jensen, Johanna Mäenpää, Kresten Rubeck Petersen, Pia Teleman, Knut Hordnes, Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir, Alexander Smáráson, Peter Secher, Anne Cathrine Hoffgaard Munk

- 1. Opening of the meeting** GB opened the meeting, and welcomed the new Board.
- 2. Constitution of the new NFOG Board** The Board is constituted for the period until the next GA. The Treasurer and the President will be signing for the finances.
- 3. The General Assembly** TSJ went through the posts that had been discussed at the GA, in order to summarize the conclusions for the minutes.
- 4. Initial evaluation of NFOG 2012** The Board thanked KH and the Organizing Committee for a very well conducted Conference. CIC also received praise for being available and helpful. KH was asked to write down his experiences with arranging the Congress, as a tool for future organizers. GB commented that the focus on health problems in the third World had been well received. The president of FIGO, Prof. G. Serour, had been present, and it should be the aim also at future NFOG Congresses to have the FIGO President present. A more extensive examination of the Congress, and the financial result, will be conducted at the next Board meeting.
- 5. Educational Committee** On the behalf of TM, JM presented suggestions for future EC initiatives. In May of every year Finnish University professors and teachers of medical students have a 2 day meeting, where the aim is to harmonize the education. TM will try to set up a similar meeting for the EC's of the Nordic countries. It was commented by JM that Finnish specialist training is regulated by law, and consequently is difficult to change. It was also commented that EBCOG is working to harmonize education within Europe. In Sweden there is work going on to create a common trunk for the different specialities, but Obst. and Gyn. will be exempt from that.
- 6. NFOG 2014** GB informed of the plans so far. Preliminary reservations have been made for the Stockholm Waterfront site, and the adjacent hotel. 10% of the cost has to be payed in advance, on signing the contract. The hotel is asking for the same, but that seems unreasonable, and further negotiations are to be held. The Board **gives its approval** for further negotiations and signing of the contract. The Congress President has put together a Scientific Committee from Karolinska University Hospital. The Board pointed out that the NFOG Scientific Committee should take part in planning the Congress scientific programme, and GB will inform Magnus Westergren of that. It was also suggested that the NFOG 2016 should be arranged in the first half of June, in order to get more Swedish participants.
- 7. Visit to the RCOG** The visit must be in conjunction with an RCOG Council meeting. The Board has obtained information that there will be such a meeting held on March 22.-23.

of 2013, and RG is asked to try to get an appointment with RCOG for NFOG to visit at that time.

**8. The history of NFOG** As can be seen under post 19 a) of the previous minutes (1/2012), the Board had decided to offer a final sum of SEK 90.000,- for the secretarial work of Eva Christina Sterner. P-O Janson was informed by GB, but did not agree with the Board's conclusion. After further negotiations, **the Board decided** to pay the claim from EC Sterner of SEK 112.000 for secretarial work, and an additional SEK 20.000,- for extra work related to the introduction of the new Editorial Manager Susana Benedet. There will be a written agreement that no further economical claim can be presented, before the the final payment is made by NFOG. The manuscript is now in the hands of RG, who will do the necessary editing, and also will add what is lacking of historical data. He will subsequently become co-author.

**9. [www.NFOG.org](http://www.NFOG.org)** Peter Secher (PS) informed of the status of the website. Some new software has been purchased, and work is in progress to try to make the website available for iPad. Suggestions for improvements of the website are welcomed.

**10. News from the National Societies** Johanna Mäenpää (SGY) informed that the SGY spring meeting had been held with good attendance. Further, the process of decreasing the number of delivery hospitals is in progress. A new law concerning specialist training has been implemented, and as a consequence, sub-specialities are no longer recognized. Previous sub-specialities, such as urology, are now a separate speciality.

Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir (FÍFK) informed that the closing of gynecological departments located at hospitals in the vicinity of Reykjavik has forced the specialists to either work privately or at Landspítali, as a combination is not allowed. This has caused unrest in the group. Further, there has been a decrease in women attending cervical screening, as only approximately 50 % now come for screening. A program for HPV vaccination of 12 year olds has started, but there is no revaccination.

Pia Teleman (SFOG) informed of the continuing work with quality registries in obstetrics (i.e. IVF, ultrasound, prenatal care), and linking the different registries. The work receives financial support from the Counties. Gynecological surgical registries are made so as to be national. Further, work is in progress to centralize cancer surgery to regional senters. Ovarian cancer is the first area of centralization.

Kresten Rubeck Petersen (DSOG) informed of the ongoing discussion regarding at what time during the specialist training different procedures are to be implemented. The discussion regarding misoprostol has quietened. "Sundhedsstyrelsen" has agreed to allow for the use of Misoprostol, as it is practised today. DSOG is also having discussions with "Sundhedsstyrelsen" to secure continuation of the Birth Registry. Work with clinical national databases is in progress. Finally, a strategy-seminar is planned for discussion on how to deal with the departmental division of the speciality into gynecological cancer, obstetrics and gynecology, and still maintain one speciality.

Knut Hordnes (NGF) informed that in Norway there is also focus on reducing the number of delivery units, in order to increase safety and reduce morbidity. There are departmental guidelines as to how a safe delivery unit shall be manned and equiped, but the rural hospitals in the northern parts of Norway choose to ignore the guidelines. There is still disagreement with the health authorities on the subject of post-term pregnancy. The compromise that has been worked on is no longer supported by NGF. KH raised the issue of trying to decide on a common Nordic candidate for FIGO elections. A discussion of the matter within the Board was considered useful in order for the National Societies to make the best possible assessment

of the candidates before an election. The different countries are obviously free to chose their preferred candidate.

**11. Coming Board meetings** The next meeting will be held in Helsinki on November 4th-5th. The voting members will meet at 16.00 pm on Sunday 4th, and the entire Board will meet for dinner the same evening. The Board meeting is held Monday Nov. 5th, between 08.30 and 16.00.

**12. Other bussiness**

**a)** GB, RG and TL had had a meeting with Wiley-Blackwell (W-B) during the Congress regarding the request from W-B for some compensation of their very reduced revenue for 2011. W-B suggested reducing the revenue for NFOG from 42 to 40 %. This amounts to approximately DKK 150.000-200.000. This reduction is not permanent. When a reduction in printed copies of Acta has been achieved, the revenue will again be raised to 42 %. As has been mentioned previously, great effort is made to change to online subscriptions for Acta. The proposal to temporarily reduce the revenue to 40 % was **accepted by the Board.**

**b)** An issue at the agenda of the next Board meeting will be the work of finding a successor for the Chief Editor of Acta.

**c)** RG has raised the question of whether the Fund can cover traveling expenses for the writing courses held by Acta. The request was declined, because it is not within the statutes of the Fund.

Göran Berg  
President NFOG

Tone Skeie-Jensen  
Secretary General NFOG