

NFOG Board Meeting Minutes 1/2012

Place: Hotel Natura, Reykjavik

Time: Monday 19.03.12, 08.30-17.00, Tuesday 20.03.12, 08.30-12.00

Present: Göran Berg (President), Thea Lousen (Treasurer), Tone Skeie-Jensen (Secretary General), Johanna Mäenpää (SGY), Charlotte Hasselholt Søggaard (DSGO), Pia Teleman (SFOG), Knut Hordnes (NGF & President NFOG-Congress 2012), Hulda Hjartardóttir (FÍFK), Alexander Smárason (Scientific Committee Chairman), Peter Secher (Webmaster), Alda Birgisdóttir (NFYOG), Reynir T. Geirsson (Acta Chief Editor)

1. Opening of the meeting Göran Berg (GB) opened the meeting. Kresten Rubeck Petersen was welcomed as the new chairman of DSOG, succeeding Charlotte Hasselholt Søggaard in April.

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

3. Approval of the minutes from the NFOG Board meeting 2/2011 The minutes were approved with a clarification of item 6. The sum of 329.247 DKK that was available for allocation in October 2011, and the 302.109 granted by the SC in March does not add up to the sum of 647.000 DKK referred to in the minutes from 1/2011. That sum was just an estimate of what would be available for allocation in 2011, while the correct sum was 631.356 DKK.

4. NFOG 2012 Knut Hordnes (KH) went through the scientific and social program for NFOG 2012. Considerable effort has been put into promoting the Congress via advertisements and editorials, presentations at the meetings of the national societies, and e-mails to members of the national societies.

The number of abstracts submitted for the Congress is 217, of which 36 have been accepted for 3 min. oral poster presentations.

The lack of sponsors is still an issue of concern. There is so far a considerable discrepancy between obtained sponsorships and the sum needed for the Congress budget to break even.

The list of sponsors who have been approached by the organizing committee will be distributed to the Board in order for its members to participate in contacting firms where they may have contacts.

The chairpersons for the Congress will be elected among registered participants.

The organizers have been contacted by non-commercial groups that want to present themselves at the Congress. One such example is NORWAC, an organization involved in the teaching of laparoscopic surgery in Palestine. It was emphasised by the Board that these organizations must be non-political in order for them to be given a stand for presentation at the Congress. Each request will have to be discussed with the Board before acceptance.

For further information regarding the Congress, view www.nfog2012.org.

5. Scientific Committee Alexander Smárason (AS) presented the applicants for grants from the NFOG Fund. There were 16 applications, of which 6 were rejected. The SC sends personal letters to all applicants, where the background for the decision of the committee is stated. The total sum of 207.827 DKK was allocated. From the time of the establishment of the fund, 79 members of NFOG have been awarded grants. According to country the numbers are as follows: Denmark 19, Norway 8, Finland 21, Sweden 16, Iceland 4. The total amount

of money allocated from Nov. 2010 to March 2012 is 1.329.849 DKK. An account of the recipients, their projects, the sums allocated, and finally the reports, will be posted on the NFOG website. Those receiving grants will be encouraged to write a short report for publication in Acta.

The set of rules pertaining to the National Societies' opportunity to apply for an allocation was discussed. Increasing the number of speakers who can be invited, and the possibility of paying for a speakers fee/honorarium were issues discussed. Suggested changes in the set of rules will be presented at the General Assembly.

6. ACTA Reynir T. Geirsson (RG) gave a presentation of the status of Acta. Susana Benedet has been appointed as new Editorial Manager, succeeding Eva Christina Sterner. The contract with Sahlgrenska University Hospital has been renewed for another 5 years. The approaches made for collaboration to ANZJOG and JOGR, and their respective societies, have been positively received.

In 2011 a total of 1009 manuscripts were submitted to Acta, giving an average of 84 manuscripts/month. The rejection rate was 78 %. 95 obstetrical manuscripts (56 %), and 74 gynecological manuscript (44 %) were published. In addition 35 commentaries, reviews and overviews were published.

The Board has been contacted by Wiley-Blackwell regarding their financial result from managing Acta in 2011. Their estimated result was £ 101.570, while the final result was £2.573. The low revenue is most likely primarily due to an overestimation of the number of institutional subscribers to Acta. A possible solution to this problem will be reducing the printing costs by going from paper to online subscription. This will, however, take time, and the immediate response of NFOG is for GB, RG and TL to meet with Wiley-Blackwell for negotiation. GB will suggest a meeting within the next 4-6 weeks.

7. Economy, budget and accounts Thea Lousen (TL) presented the results for 2011. The economy of NFOG is very sound, and in good balance. The result for 2011 is 1.290.667 DKK, of which 521.840 DKK is transferred to the NFOG Fund and 500.000 DKK is reserved for a possible deficit for NFOG 2012. This gives NFOG a result of 268.827 DKK.

The complete budget is attached to the minutes. **(coming soon)**

8. Educational Committee The Board discussed the possibility of organizing the Educational Course every other year, alternating with the year of the NFOG Congress. Changing the form of the course was also discussed. No conclusion was drawn, but the Board will continue this discussion at the next meeting. It was **decided by the Board** not to arrange the course this year, as a thorough discussion is needed before the next course is held. Information about the decision not to arrange a course this year will be posted on the website. The new Chairman of the Educational Committee is Tommi Mikkola from Finland.

9. NFYOG Alda Birgisdóttir (AB) informed the Board of the discussions within the NFYOG Board about future activities. Their focus has been on arranging courses for its members, but few participants have attended. The seminar planned for the fall of 2011 had to be cancelled because of lack of participants. RG advised the NFYOG to refrain from arranging seminars. Instead its focus should be on exchanging information about how the medical education is organized in the different Nordic countries, and how it could be made more uniform. He suggested that NFYOG should work to harmonize education within the Nordic countries.

10. EBCOG The relation between NFOG and EBCOG was discussed, and a more active approach on behalf of the Board was suggested. It was suggested that news from EBCOG should be discussed at every Board meeting. In particular training and training-requirements are issues of interest, and the Board will aim at exchanging information on these issues with EBCOG. The possibility of inviting EBCOG President Chiara Benedetto to an NFOG Board meeting was discussed.

11. FIGO Seija Grenman did not attend the meeting, but prior to the meeting she sent out reminders to the national chairmen regarding the forthcoming elections in FIGO.

12. www.nfog.org Peter Secher (PS) gave an update on the status of the website. The number of visits to the webpage is steadily increasing. PS is looking into possible updates of the website, and he will make an effort to make it accessible to iPhone. Further a continual update of the congress calendar was emphasized. A list of recipients of grants from the NFOG Fund will be posted.

13. The role of NFOG in increasing Nordic collaboration GB informed the Board of his thoughts on increased Nordic professional collaboration. The possibility of making Nordic guidelines was discussed. AS made it clear that the SC cannot undertake this work. Some of the Nordic countries already have national guidelines, and the possibility of engaging those involved in the national guideline work in formulating Nordic guidelines was discussed. As the issue of misoprostol administration is widely discussed within some of the Nordic countries, it was suggested that this could be the first issue for common guidelines. Pia Teleman will contact Kristina Gemzell Danielsson to try to arrange for a discussion on this in Bergen.

14. The 2012 General Assembly GB presented the agenda for the General Assembly to be held on June 18th, and it was decided who will present different parts of the program. Proposals for changes in the statutes of the NFOG Fund were presented by AS, and accepted by the Board. The proposals will be attached to the notice to attend the General assembly that will be posted on the website no later than April 16th. The notice to attend the General Assembly will also be printed in Acta. Some minor proposed changes to the bye-laws with regard to presenting biannual reports from the treasurer, and with regard to new international editors for Acta will also be presented at the General Assembly and be posted with the notice to attend. Further, a suggestion for the Secretary General to become a voting member of the Board will be made.

The leader of the nominating committee is Hulda Hjartardóttir, and the nominations for the NFOG Board for the next period are completed. The list of nominees will be posted at the website with the notice to attend the GA.

The proposal raised by Risto Erkola at the General Assembly in 2010 suggesting that the National Societies of the Baltic countries should be included in NFOG was discussed. The Board thinks that it is premature to suggest such an inclusion, but will work with the idea in its next period. The issue will be discussed at the General Assembly in 2014.

15. News from the National Societies Hulda Hjartardóttir (FÍFK) informed of the ongoing discussion in Iceland with regards to allowing midwives to subscribe contraceptive pills. FÍFK is opposed to this suggested legislation as the abortion rate is already declining. Further a discussion is ongoing about allowing surrogacy, and it will most likely be made legal in Iceland.

Johanna Mäenpää (SGY) informed of the ongoing work to reduce the number of hospitals in Finland that handle deliveries from 60 to approximately 15. In the future all delivery units must have an obstetrician and an anesthesiologist on duty at all times. Further, the planned HPV vaccination program has been postponed, for economical reasons. A project has been started, replacing Pap smears with HPV screening.

Charlotte Hasselholt Søgård (DSOG) informed of an inquiry among specialists practicing in Denmark in order to ascertain to what degree they engage in supplementary training/education. Of the 60% who answered, 20% did not participate in any activity. 70% of those who answered had not participated in any form of management courses. Further, there is concern in DSOG over the fact that the Board of Health is cutting down on positions. In 2011 there was concern about specialists being unemployed, but this does no longer seem to be the case as long as the specialists are willing to move. Charlotte H. Søgård is now stepping down as leader of DSGO, but she is continuing as member of the EBCOG Council for Denmark. Pia Teleman (SFOG) informed that the FIGO award nominee Kristina Gemzell Danielsson will receive the FIGO award later this year. Surrogacy is also an issue that is discussed in Sweden, and SFOG has requested a thorough examination of the issue and a report on the matter. Registries on prenatal care, neonatal care, IVF and ultrasound are being established, and the authorities are supporting this with 4 million SEK. National guidelines are being discussed in SFOG.

Knut Hordnes (NGF) had left the meeting at this point, but Tone Skeie-Jensen informed that NGF published their first guidelines in 1996. Since then several revisions have been made. At the last Board meeting Bjørn Bache informed that the Norwegian health authorities had disregarded the NGF guidelines dealing with management of post-term pregnancy. This was strongly opposed by NGF, and the authorities have now opened for a new discussion on the matter. Ultrasound at 12 weeks gestation has so far not been offered as part of pregnancy screening, but this will most likely now be implemented. Surrogacy has also been discussed in Norway, but there is no great support for legalization.

16. Proposed visit to RCOG RG informed the Board of his contact with Prof. James Walker, Senior Vice President, and Dr. Mourad Seif, in RCOG. The NFOG Board has been welcomed for a visit this fall, but the meeting must be held in conjunction with a meeting of the RCOG Council. No date is so far decided on, but RG will suggest possible dates to the Board and a decision will be made at the next Board meeting.

17. NFOG 2014 GB informed the Board of the plans for the Stockholm meeting. The venue will be the Stockholm Waterfront Congress Center, and the Congress hotel will be Radisson Blu Waterfront Hotel. There are no other acceptable venues in Stockholm for the Congress. Congress President Magnus Westgren has suggested that the Congress is held from June 10th-13th, with pre-Congress courses held at the Karolinska University Hospital on Monday June 9th. **The Board did not approve** of increasing the length of the Congress, **and decided** that the length should be kept at 2 ½ days. The dates will be decided by the organizing committee. The organizing committee aim for 1000 participants, and the costs are estimated to approximately 1.562.000 SEK.

18. Coming Board meetings The Board will meet twice during the NFOG Congress in Bergen. The first meeting will be Saturday June 16th at 16.00. The second meeting will be on Tuesday 19th at 13.30.

19. Other business

a) The task of writing the history of NFOG is progressing, but the manuscript is still not ready for publication. P-O Janson has asked for an extra contribution of 44.000 SEK for secretarial work done by Eva Christina Sterner. This exceeds the original estimate for secretarial work that was set to 136 hours at a rate of 500 SEK, which gives a total 68.000 SEK. This sum includes costs for social security. **The Board decided** to offer a final sum of 90.000 SEK that will be payed at the conclusion of the work. GB will inform P-O Janson in a letter from the Board.

b) Nils Otto Sjöberg's request for financial support to attend the EBCOG meeting in Tallin in May 2012, was declined. GB will inform him of the Board's decision.

c) The upcoming NOSS course in Copenhagen in November was discussed. NFOG supports the work of NOSS, but the course is not supported. AS informed that according to the statutes of the NFOG Fund, the Danish participants attending the course will not qualify for support from the NFOG Fund. This is according to the statutes of the NFOG Fund. Participants with residence outside Denmark can, however, apply for support from the Fund.

d) The national chairmen are responsible for booking the necessary hotel rooms needed in relation to the Board meetings held in their respective countries. If the Board members decide to stay longer than is necessary for the meeting, they have to make their own reservations.

Göran Berg
President NFOG

Tone Skeie-Jensen
Secretary General