

NFOG Board meeting Minutes 1/14

Place: Radisson Blue Waterfront Hotel, Stockholm

Time: Thursday April 3rd, 13.15-17.00, Friday 4th, 09.00-15.00

Present: Göran Berg (President), Thea Lousen (Treasurer), Tone Skeie-Jensen (Secretary General), Juha Räsänen (SGY), Kresten Rubek Petersen (DSOG), Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann (new chairman DSOG from medio April), Harald Almström (SFOG), Jone Trovik (NGF), Ragnheiður L. Bjarnadóttir (FÍFK), Thora Steingrimsdóttir (Scientific Committee Chairman), Tomi Mikkola (Educational Committee Chairman), Peter Secher (Webmaster), Reynir T. Geirsson (Acta Chief Editor), Anne Cathrine Hoffgaard Munk (NFYOG), Magnus Westgren (President NFOG 2014) present for issue 8, April 4th, Knut Hordnes (Guidelines Committee) present on April 4th.

1. Opening of the meeting Göran Berg (GB) opened the meeting, and welcomed the new national representatives.

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

3. Approval of the Minutes from the NFOG Board meeting 3/13 The minutes were approved with a clarification pertaining to item 7.

4. General Assembly 2014 Tone Skeie-Jensen (TSJ) went through the notice to attend the General Assembly (GA). The GA will be held on June 11th, from 15.00 to 17.00. Seija Grenman was suggested as chairman, and she has accepted. The Danish and Swedish National Societies are responsible for finding representatives to check the minutes from the GA. The nominating committee for the GA consists of the chairmen from the National Societies, except for Sweden where Marie Bixo is the representative. At the Board meeting Harald Almström represented SFOG in the nominating committee. The nominating committee has suggested Knut Hordnes as President of NFOG, Thea Lousen for treasurer, and Tone Skeie-Jensen as Secretary General. As auditors Charlotta Grunewald and Johanna Mäenpää were suggested, and Martin Andresen as deputy auditor. These nominations will be posted on the NFOG website with the notice to attend the GA.

Suggested changes to the statutes/enactments were discussed, and **the Board decided to suggest amendments** made to the Articles of the NFOG, to the special enactments relating to the Nordic Congress, and to Acta. The suggested changes will be posted on the website of NFOG along with the notice to attend the GA.

Further, **the Board decided to suggest to the GA** to change the time of the NFOG Congress to odd years from NFOG 2020, which subsequently will be moved to 2021. The reason for the suggestion is a potential collision with the EBCOG Congresses.

The suggestion by Reynir T. Geirsson of establishing an NFOG Honours Award will be further discussed within the Board before a decision is made to propose it for the GA. The possibility of naming honorary members was suggested.

5. Scientific Committee Thora Steingrimsdóttir (TS) informed the Board that the SC had handled 25 applications for grants from the Fund, of which 21 received allocations. In total 297.176 DKK was granted. The SC suggested that the term "education" should be added to §7.1, 1, but this was rejected by the Board, as the term was considered too broad. There was a

suggestion made that the SC can consider forming a new category for those who train others (training the trainees). It does, however, seem as if this category has been covered within the statutes of the Fund, as no application has been turned down as yet.

The need to improve the quality of the applications was pointed out, and the SC has written instructions to be published in the national bulletins. As is stated in the Articles of NFOG, the official language of the Federation is English, and the applications must obviously also be in English. Applications that do not fulfil the requirements will be returned to the applicant with a message to make necessary corrections.

TS gave a short presentation of the applications, and the decisions for grants made by the SC were **accepted by the Board**.

The SC has, together with LOC of NFOG 2014, evaluated the 357 abstracts that have been submitted. 54 have been accepted for oral presentation, and 289 for poster presentation. 14 have been rejected. The poster sessions will be at the end of Tuesday and Wednesday in the poster exhibition area. LOC has suggested that the presentations should be given without slides, but the Board suggests that slides should be used. The Board also gave some additional comments, and suggested to LOC that the presentations should be given in one place, as was successfully done in Bergen. There will be 3 prizes of 10.000 DKK for best posters, and equivalent prizes for oral presentations. The SC nominates the winners, and the prizes are handed out at the closing ceremony. There will also be a young scientist award.

The SC wanted to discuss with the Board whether abstracts that have been published previously can be accepted. This was considered acceptable. Further, the SC asked if abstracts could be accepted without presenting the results, but that will normally not be accepted unless the SC finds that the information given in the poster does not require publishing of the results. The Board reiterated its request to the SC to propose good applications to the Fund, which the Board can consider for extra funding from the "NFOG Initiatives" (see item 13 in the minutes from the GA 2012).

Ulrik Kesmodel will be succeeding Thora Steingrimsdóttir as the chairman of the SC.

6. Educational Committee Tomi Mikkola (TM) informed the Board that the EC has had one meeting, where its future strategy was discussed. The next course is planned for May 7th-8th 2015 in Copenhagen. The issues for this course will be how to train the trainees, and how to best evaluate the trainees. The EC will meet in Iceland this fall to work out the programme, together with NFYOG.

7. Economy, budget and accounts Thea Lousen (TL) presented the result for 2013. There is a positive result of 1.020.267 DKK, which largely is due to the transition to online publishing of Acta in 2013. This gave a surplus of approximately £ 60.000 from Wiley. NFYOG used more than budgeted for 2013, but did not use anything in 2012. The Board sees no need to suggest a change in membership fees for the GA. TL suggested that in addition to the 66% of the surplus, which is automatically transferred to the Fund, that the remaining surplus should also be transferred. This was **supported by the Board**. The fortune of the Federation will thus be kept at its present level.

8. NFOG 2014 Magnus Westgren (MW) informed of the status for the forthcoming congress. So far, 609 participants have registered, of which 493 are paying. Of the 357 abstracts submitted, 109 are from Sweden, 100 from Denmark, 57 from Norway, 28 from Finland, and 3 from Iceland. Further, abstracts have been submitted from Italy, Germany, the UK, Spain, the Netherlands, the Baltic states, Iran and Cambodia. There will be 6 oral and 2 parallel poster sessions. All abstracts will be available electronically on app and USB. Lunch

symposia are planned for June 10th and 11th. Of the posters, 10 from the field of obstetrics and 10 from gynaecology, will be chosen each day for a 2-minute oral presentation. As for the previous congress, obtaining good sponsors has been proven difficult. GB informed that from 2015 there will be a law against sponsorship of congresses in Sweden. The number of exhibitors on the other hand is good. The budget for the congress is expected to break even at 880 paying participants.

MW pointed to the number of other meetings and congresses that are being arranged close in time to NFOG 2014, and therefore are competing for the same participants. He suggested that NFOG with regard to future congresses should attempt to coordinate with other meetings, possibly arranging joint meetings with the national societies.

9. ACTA Reynir T. Geirsson (RG) gave an overview of the ongoing activities since the last Board meeting. RG has held courses and participated in seminars, in addition to his editing work. There have been changes in editors, as Martin Rudnicki has replaced Lisbeth Nilas, and Sebastian Gidlöf has replaced Henriette Svarre Nielsen as a new Assistant Chief Editor (training position).

The rejection rate for Acta was in 2013 81.1%, which is within the target. 931 manuscripts were submitted in 2013, of which 185 were published. The citation rates are similar to 2012. Clinically oriented articles are the most cited, while 33% of the articles are never cited. RG calls for the top articles that will improve the impact factor, and will appeal to Nordic academic leaders to support the journal.

Approximately 25% of all manuscripts are submitted from the Nordic countries, by numbers in the order Denmark>Sweden>Norway>Finland>Iceland. Manuscripts were, however, accepted from 35 different countries, with the UK, the Netherlands, USA and Japan as the main contributors outside of the Nordic countries.

Acta will be collaborating with two other journals to combat author misconduct.

Approximately 25% of the NFOG members have activated their online subscription. The download percentage is higher in Acta than in many other journals, and has increased by 38% since 2012. An app for iPad and e-mail content alerts has been introduced. It is assumed that many subscribers log on to Acta at work, and therefore have not activated their own subscription. Activation of subscription can now be obtained via all the national societies' websites, except for Iceland where there is no website.

Tasks for 2014: * Increase the number of online subscribers * Ensure that all hospitals/institutions have printed issues * Increase the impact factor * Further improve the quality issues regarding research and review articles * Initiate collaboration with ANZJOG and JOGR * Collaborate with Wiley for increased marketing * Continue workshops on writing * Engage international editors

Suggested changes to the "Special enactment relating to Acta" that will be proposed at the GA are posted on the website.

10. NFYOG Anne Cathrine Hoffgaard Munk (ACHM) informed of the meeting with ENTOG, where the experience from the educational meeting in Copenhagen was shared. NFYOG has as a goal to meet ENTOG representatives every 2nd or 3rd year for exchanging of ideas. NFYOG is arranging the pregress dinner on June 9th, after the course, as they did at NFOG 2012.

The Board has decided to give 10 grants of 5000 DKK to members of NFOG who have had posters accepted at the upcoming and future NFOG Congresses. The recipients cannot yet be specialists, and cannot be older than 40 years. The applications must be submitted before May 1st, and will be judged by the SC. The grants will cover hotel and travelling expenses for the congress, and will be paid after receipts have been submitted to the treasurer.

The announcement will be written by TL and TS, and will be posted on the website.

11. Guidelines Committee Knut Hordnes (KH) presented the work of the newly appointed GC. The representatives are appointed by their National Societies, as stated in the statutes of NFOG. Niels Uldbjerg (Denmark) is chairman. The committee had their first meeting on February 24th, conducted via Skype.

All of the Nordic countries have guidelines, except for Iceland. The GC has not yet decided if common Nordic Guidelines will be recommended by the group. The format and extent of common guidelines must also be decided on by the GC. One possible option, among others, is to translate existing guidelines into English. A limited number of common graded guidelines for the Nordic countries may also be an option. The next meeting will be in Oslo in October, and is planned over 2 days. The GC has submitted a proposed budget of 100.000 DKK/year, to cover 2 annual meetings. This will be suggested within the NFOG budget at the GA.

12. FIGO Seija Grenman was not present at the meeting. The Board had, however, received a letter dealing with the FIGO task force on membership fees.

13. EBCOG Juha Räsänen and Knut Hordnes were present at the latest EBCOG meeting in Brussels. Bergen has applied for the EBCOG meeting in 2018, but because of the collision with the NFOG Congress, NGF will discuss a withdrawal of the application. A suggestion will be forwarded at the GA to change the NFOG Congress to odd years from 2020. Both DSOG and NGF will be represented at the EBCOG congress in Glasgow with sessions on simulator training and hyperemesis/nausea, respectively.

14. NFOG 2016 The congress website www.confedent.fi/nfog2016 was presented. Oskari Heikinheimo will present NFOG 2016 at the GA, and also at the congress dinner in Stockholm. He will further be invited to attend the meeting of the next NFOG Board on Thursday, June 12th.

15. News from the National Societies Ragnheiður L. Bjarnadóttir (FÍFK) informed of the changes made to the Icelandic cervical cancer-screening programme. The programme will now include women between the ages of 23 to 65, and screening will take place every 3rd year.

FÍFK will issue a statement, together with the midwives, that deals with plastic surgery of the vulva. Their view is that this activity must be well regulated. The patients should be counselled by 2 doctors before being treated within the national health service, and the indications must be strict.

FÍFK considers the possibility of arranging the NFOG Congress after Odense.

Juha Räsänen (SGY) informed about the new board of the Finish society, which was elected in November 2013, with Seija Grenman as the vice president. The health authorities will in 2015 implement a new law regulating the delivery units. To be an authorized delivery unit, there must be both anaesthesiologist and paediatrician present for ward duty.

Jone Trovik (NGF) became the president of NGF in January. The government has proposed changes to the law regulating legal abortion. General practitioners will now be able to reserve themselves from referring patients to hospital for abortion. This is creating much debate, and NGF is strongly opposed to the proposal. Further, it has been discussed whether it will be allowed to remove one fetus in healthy twin pregnancies, before the 12th week of gestation. This is approved by the ethical board of the Norwegian medical association, but the final decision lies with the authorities. The act of circumcision has so far been illegal in Norway,

but the health authorities are now opening for allowing this procedure done within the public health system. The final decision has not yet been taken.

Kresten Rubek Petersen (**DSOG**) informed that Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann will be elected new president at the next board meeting of DSOG. There is a discussion going on in Denmark regarding the localization of the most specialised functions within the field of obstetrics and gynaecology. Approximately 85% of the activity within the field is fairly routine, while the rest can be considered highly specialized, and should not be handled in every department. A group of midwives and consultants from the 5 health regions are to make proposals to the national health authorities about the distribution of these specialised functions. Further, he informed that there is a sentiment to stop the practice of sending blood samples with fetal DNA to countries like China and the USA for analysis. These tests should be examined within a national screening programme. The question of sub-specialisation within obstetrics and gynaecology is being discussed. There is an ongoing survey within the gynaecological oncological units, and some other specialised areas in obstetrics and gynaecology, that may qualify for sub-specialisation. The aim is to assess what is considered necessary to be a sub-specialist within their field. The EBCOG rules are being looked into for guidance. The media have recently focused on the morcellation of presumed uterine myomas which have turned out to be sarcomas. This is impossible to avoid, but must be discussed with the patients prior to surgery.

Göran Berg (**SFOG**) informed about a case where a colleague was accused of manslaughter after a child died during a lengthy vacuum delivery. The colleague has been acquitted, but his authorisation was withdrawn immediately after the incident and has not been returned. As a parallel to the discussion ongoing in Norway, he informed that the midwives are now asserting their right to abstain from participating in the process of assisting women who are seeking and having abortion. This is an ongoing discussion.

16. www.nfog.org Peter Secher (PS) informed that the visits to the website are slowly rising. More thesis reports are submitted, especially from Sweden. This may be due to the twice-yearly publishing of thesis-information from the Nordic universities in Acta.

17. NFOG archives TSJ has discussed with Susana Benedet (SB) the transfer of the archives to the Acta office for long-term keeping. SB has suggested buying a hard disk, but PS suggested that the use of a Dropbox. In addition it would be desirable to use the university server in Gothenberg for back up. This will be discussed with SB at the NFOG Congress in June. RG has suggested to publish a notice in Acta asking for older material related to NFOG to be sent to the Acta office, as material may be in the hands of older members or their relatives. There is very little information about Acta as far back as 1930-40. TL will discuss with Ildal what should be put in the archives related to economic issues.

18. Coming Board meetings There will be 2 Board meetings in relation to NFOG 2014. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th of June, from 12.00 to 13.30. The second meeting will be after the closing of the Congress, on the 12th, from 14.00-15.30. Further, a Board meeting will be held in Oslo on November 7th-8th. The meeting starts on Friday at 10.00, and ends at 12.00 on Saturday.

19. Other business

* Ragnheiður L. Bjarnadóttir informed the Board of a request that had come from NOMBIR (the collaboration between the Nordic Medical Birth Registers). The NOMBIR collaboration has annual meetings, alternating between the Nordic countries. Each country finances their own representatives. It is presently chaired by Sweden through Karin Gottvall, Karin Källén

and Ellen Lundquist. The NOMBIR collaboration has as aims to: 1. Present descriptive statistics from each country. 2. Improve the medical birth registers. 3. Initiate special research projects. NOMBIR asks the Board if NFOG can be supportive in creating a NOMBIR webpage using the NFOG domain. They are also asking for some technical support. NOMBIR will be in charge of the site content. The request was **supported by the Board**, and NOMBIR will initiate a discussion with webmaster Peter Secher.

* TSJ brought up the request from Associate Professor Richard Brown of McGill University in Montreal, on whether the Nordic societies would be interested in participating in a study regarding the management of pregnancies of unknown location. NGF will be able to send the request via mail to its members, but the other national societies will only be able to participate by posting study-information on their websites. TSJ will send a reply to Prof. Brown.

Göran Berg
President NFOG

Tone Skeie-Jensen
Secretary General