

NFOG Board Meeting Minutes 2/2011

Place: Park Inn Copenhagen Airport

Time: Friday 11.11.11, 08.30-15.00

Present: Göran Berg (President), Thea Lousen (Treasurer), Tone Skeie-Jensen (Secretary General), Aila Tiitinen (SGY), Charlotte Hasselholt Sjøgaard (DSGO), Pia Teleman (SFOG), Bjørn Backe (NGF), Hulda Hjartardóttir (FÍK), Alexander Smáráson (Scientific Committee Chairman), Reynir T. Geirsson (Acta Chief Editor), Knut Hordnes (President NFOG-Congress 2012), Marie Bixo (Educational Committee Chairman), Johanna Mäenpää (SGY)

1. Opening of the meeting Göran Berg (GB) opened the meeting. Johanna Mäenpää was welcomed as the new leader of the Finnish Gynecological Society after Aila Tiitinen, who resigns after this meeting.

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

3. Approval of the minutes from the NFOG Board Meeting 1/2011 In item 8 of the minutes it is stated that the contract with Reynir Geirsson expires on June 30th, 2011. The correct date should be December 31st, 2011. There were no other comments, and the minutes were approved.

4. Educational Committee Marie Bixo (MB) gave an evaluation of the 2011 Educational Course. There were 89 participants, 69 when not counting the lecturers and NFOG Board. The total cost for the course was 210.746 DKK, and the income 134.500 DKK, resulting in a negative balance of 76.246 DKK. This will be covered by NFOG. There were no sponsors for the meeting, despite efforts being made. The Board made it clear that sponsors must be sought for the coming courses. The EC has decided to continue with the same venue for the courses. There is easy access from all participating countries, and a favorable deal has been negotiated with the hotel. Thea Lousen will look into the issue of when the contract needs renegotiation. MB will resign from the EC at the end of this year, and Finland is due to have the next Chairman.

It was discussed whether the course had been successful, and the conclusion was that it had been too variable in quality. The participants gave the course a score of 1,67 in their overall evaluation, on a scale from 1-4 (1 being most favorable). The attendance had fallen from last year, and repeated advertisements both in the national bulletins and in ACTA prior to future courses were suggested. The programme for the 2012 Course was discussed. In agreement with MB the Board suggested "Health through the menopause", with emphasis on osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease, obesity and breast cancer. The course will continue to be aimed both at specialists in hospitals and in private practice.

The offer by the web company "Be there global" was turned down.

5. NFOG 2012 Knut Hordnes (KH) gave an update on the next Congress, to be held on June 16th-19th. The deadline for abstracts is Febr. 15th, and for early registration March 1st. Getting sponsors has proven difficult, and so far only one gold and one bronze sponsor have signed contracts. 17 exhibitors have been obtained. This work continues.

The matter of the Congress dinner was discussed, and it will now be named "The NFOG dinner". The sponsors will not contribute to the dinner. The discrepancy between the actual cost of 1450 NK, and the price for the participants of 800 NK, will be covered by NFOG.

The Congress starts on Saturday June 16th with pre-congress courses, while the main programme starts on Sunday. GB pointed out that the organizing committee should distribute the lectures in the best possible way between the participating countries.

The Assembly of Delegates will be held on Monday June 18th, from 12.00-15.00. The poster sessions were discussed. The Organizing Committee has suggested that all submitted posters should be presented orally on 2 screens in the hallway, and that the presentations are to be pre-recorded and given out on a memory stick.

After a discussion within the Board **it was strongly suggested** that the posters are to be presented on paper in the hallway. The Scientific committee will choose the best posters for oral presentations. Further information with regards to NFOG 2012 can be found on www.nfog2012.no

6. Scientific Committee Alexander Smarason (AS) presented the applicants for the NFOG grant. There were 32 applications of which 7 were rejected. There were 329.247 DKK to be allocated and 306.258 DKK was awarded. The SC has written minutes from their meetings. Each awarded application is given a number, which makes it lucid for the treasurer to trace, and thus make sure that the right payments are made. It was suggested by GB that the SC should make a chart with the nationality of the recipients.

The SC has suggested changes made to §7 of the "Statutes of the NFOG Fund". After being discussed by the Board, **it was decided** that grants will be given only to activities that take place after the deadline of applications for the grants. There are two set dates for application pr year, which gives the applicants ample time to apply before the start of their projects. The suggested new statutes will be **presented to the General Assembly** of the NFOG 2012.

7. ACTA Reynir Geirsson (RG) gave a presentation of the activity of ACTA during the past six months. RG has, during his 5 month stay in Copenhagen, had close collaboration with the Wiley Blackwell offices. Letters of cooperation have been sent to the Australian and Japanese journals ANZJOG and JOGR, that are within the Wiley system. Plans are made in order to gain access to each others websites.

RG has, among a wide variety of other tasks, visited the new editors of ACTA. The new Assistant Chief Editor Henriette Svarre Nielsen, Copenhagen, started in November, and is appointed for 2 years. The position of Editorial Manager, replacing Eva Christina Sterner, has been advertised, and interviews are taking place in November. The editorial office will also in the future be located at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Göteborg.

The average number of manuscripts/month has increased to 82 so far in 2011, from 67 in 2010. The number of manuscripts is likely to pass 1000 in 2011, from 805 in 2010. The rejection rate is 80% so far this year. The impact factor has risen to 1,86. The Editor has a constant focus on improving the quality of ACTA. RG has arranged workshops on writing manuscripts, both in the Nordic countries and in the Baltics.

An Editorial Board meeting is planned in connection with NFOG 2012 in Bergen.

Future matters/visions of AOGS:

- improve the online presentation
- increased the global profile
- impact factor > 2.0 by 2014
- faster publication 5 days/5 weeks (not counting time taken for printing)
- improved financial return; adverts, sponsorships
- increasing the Nordic electronic subscription use

8. Economy, budget and accounts Thea Lousen (TL) presented the respective budgets for 2011, and results so far this year, for ACTA, "Committees & Initiatives" and "Additional

costs". For all the posts presented the results were within the budgets, and there is no post that is likely to exceed the budget by the end of the year. The result for NFOG and ACTA as a whole is so far +1.078.458 DKK, well above the budgeted +630.000 DKK. TL emphasised that the aim is not to increase the NFOG fortune, but to use the resources of NFOG for the benefit of its members.

The Board decided to accept the request from RG to be compensated of the loss in value of the Icelandic krone over the last 3 years. This amounts to 132.000 DKK. He is compensated up to 350.000 DKK pr year for his work in ACTA, but the payment through the University of Iceland is payed in Icelandic kroner. RG is responsible for reporting the payment to the taxation authorities. A clause dealing with the possibility of this matter reiterating will be incorporated into the new contract.

The twinning projects with Africa will be closing this year, and before the next budget is presented for the General Assembly future collaborators must be discussed. Countries in Asia may take over as collaborating countries.

As requested by TL and the accountants, the following issues were discussed:

* The use of netbased banking in order to reduce banking costs, that presently amount to approximately 30.000 DKK. The security will be upheld through the use of authorization by the treasurer.

The NFOG Board **accepted the proposal.**

* It is suggested that a revised "Årsrapport" is written every other year, in order to reduce costs related to auditing. The "Årsrapport" will be presented in connection with the General Assembly. If desired, an unrevised account can be presented every year.

A **proposal** will be made to the **General Assembly** in favour of the suggestion.

* The treasurer has not been able to obtain vouchers for expenses claimed by, and payed to, the Associate Editors prior to 2007 (mainly prior to 2000)

This issue was discussed at the General Assembly in 2010, and **it was decided** that NFOG no longer shall seek to obtain these vouchers. Unfortunately this was not registered in the minutes from the General Assembly. Contact has been made with the previous Secretary General Ragnheidur Bjarnadottir who confirmed that this is the case.

* An assessment of the Danish laws on taxation, with regard to an organization like NFOG's obligation to pay taxes, has not been made for the last 10 years. This will be looked into by the accountants.

9. www.nfog.org Peter Secher was not able to attend the meeting, and no issues were discussed.

10. NFYOG Alda Birgisdottir was refrained from attending the meeting, but she submitted a written presentation that is attached to the minutes.

RG suggested that one future priority for NFYOG may be to harmonize the education in gynecology and obstetrics within the Nordic countries. It was decided that this issue will be discussed at the next meeting, when a representative of NFYOG is present.

11. EBCOG No report has been submitted to the NFOG Board.

12. FIGO Seija Grenman (SG) gave a presentation of FIGO activities. The whole presentation is attached to the minutes.

There are 34 FIGO members in the FIGO Council, of which 24 are voting members, including Finland. SG is elected for 6 years. The members are divided into 7 FIGO Committees, and SG presented some of the work done in the committee for "Capacity Building in Education and Training". The aims of this committee are among others "To work with FIGO's member

societies to enhance educational and training capabilities” and ”To promote the educational objectives of FIGO in the field of women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights”. SG asked for comments from the NFOG Board to the next Executive Board meeting in 2012. The NFOG Board recommends that the FIGO Congress is held every 3 years. The next FIGO Congress is held in Rome on October 7th-12th, 2012.

13. News from the National Societies Hulda Hjartardóttir (FÍFK) informed of further possible cutbacks in specialist care due to the still difficult economical situation. A hospital outside of Reykjavik has been closed down, and the patients are now referred to Landspítali in Reykjavik. The gynecological unit of Landspítali is still closed on the weekends. An HPV vaccination programme has been made available from the age of 11.

Charlotte Hasselholt Sjøgaard (DSOG) informed that issues discussed within the Danish society are, among others, that patients treated in the IVF programme are most likely not going to have to pay for treatment in the future. Further, an extension of the present HPV vaccination programme, including women up to age 26, is likely to be implemented. The Danish Society will have a change of President in April, 2012.

Bjørn Backe (NGF) informed of the newly imposed regulations by the health authorities on the management of post-term pregnancy. Women must now be induced if they exceed 42 weeks of pregnancy. NGF has recently concluded its work on an update of its Guidelines, but these have now been set aside. Norway has implemented HPV vaccination at 11-12 years of age. It was further informed that Knut Hordnes will take over as leader of NGF from 2012.

Aila Tiitinen (SGY) informed that the smallest delivery units are now being closed in Finland. HPV vaccination of 11-12 year old girls is being discussed, and implementation of a vaccination programme is expected by 2013.

Pia Teleman (SFOG) had left the meeting at this point, and GB informed that implementing an HPV vaccination programme is discussed also in Sweden. So far no national programme is decided upon. Stockholm is starting its own vaccination programme for girls aged 11.

14. Proposed visit to the RCOG RG informed of his contact with RCOG, and a visit will be possible. It will most likely take place in the fall of 2012. The programme of the meeting will be discussed at a later Board meeting.

15. NFOG 2014 GB informed that the matter of finding the venue for the congress in Stockholm is in progress. The best place for the congress is considered to be Stockholm Waterfront, but an estimation of the cost is still not in place.

16. Coming Board meetings The next meeting will be held in Reykjavik on March 19th-20th. The meeting will start in the morning on the 19th, and end by lunchtime on the 20th.

17. Other business The application sent by Ditte Trolle seeking financial support for traveling expenses etc. for meetings in the newly formed PCOS group was discussed. The Board **decided to turn down** the request recommended that the group send an application to the NFOG Fund. GB will write to Ditte Trolle.

Further, Pelle Lindqvist applied for funds for NOSS. The Board **decided to turn down** the request and advised him to apply to the NFOG Fund as well. GB will write to Pelle Lindqvist.

Gøran Berg
President NFOG

Tone Skeie-Jensen
Secretary General