

## **NFOG Board Meeting Minutes 3/12**

**Place:** Hotel Scandic Simonkenttä, Helsinki

**Time:** Sunday, 04.11.12, 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), Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir (FÍFK), Alexander Smárason (Scientific Committee Chairman), Peter Secher (Webmaster), Reynir T. Geirsson (Acta Chief Editor), Tomi Mikkola (Educational Committee Chairman)

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

**2. Approval of the agenda** The agenda was approved with minor changes to the order of the items on the agenda.

**3. Approval of the minutes from the NFOG Board meeting 2/12** The minutes were approved.

**4. Educational Committee** Tomi Mikkola (TM) presented the new national members of the EC: Trond Melbye Michelsen (Norway), Kristín Jónsdóttir (Iceland), Anja Kirstein (Denmark) and Jan Brynhildsen (Sweden). The new EC will have their first meeting in December.

The main issue for the EC in 2013 will be to establish an overview of the specialist training programmes in the Nordic countries, and make an effort to harmonize the training between the Nordic countries. There will be a meeting held in the fall of 2013, where the EC aims at establishing collaboration between the Nordic countries with regards to the training of specialists.

The EC will invite national representatives from the academic staff involved in training, to the meeting. The NFOG Board will also participate. The EC has an allocation of 150.000 DKK in the Budget for 2013, and this is expected to cover the cost. Expenses exceeding this will be covered by NFOG. The NFOG Board fully supports the strategy of the EC.

There will not be room for arranging an Educational Course in 2013, in addition to the project outlined above.

**5. NFOG 2012** Knut Hordnes (KH) gave a presentation of the financial and academic sides of the Congress. There were 615 registered delegates (including speakers/NFOG Board members, etc.). Norway 245, Denmark 152, Sweden 97, Finland 75, Iceland 14. In addition 96 representatives from the industry, totalling 712 participants. The number of submitted abstracts was approximately 230. 36 were selected for oral presentations. There were 172 poster presentations, of which 48 were selected for oral poster presentations..

The Congress has a negative balance, with a deficit of 490.000 NOK. The reason for this is considered to be the shortage of sponsors. A great effort was made, but NFOG 2012 had fewer large sponsors than NFOG 2010. The reason for this is unclear, but the issue will be addressed with regards to NFOG 2014.

The final accounts were presented, and the deficit was shown to be 43.721 NOK before taxes (moms). With Taxes, this deficit added up to 299.071 NOK. In addition, expenses of 136.734 NOK paid in advance by the organizer CIC to cover travel cost for invited speakers, as well as a loan of 50.000 DKK from NFOG to LOC to cover running expenses, adds up to the deficite

of about 490.000 DKK. The bill for taxes was presented through the organizer CIC, and **the Board decided** that an external accountant is to be engaged in order to examine the results for the Congress. KH will ensure that an accountant is engaged.

On behalf of the Board GB expressed the thanks of NFOG for a very well conducted and successful Congress.

The Congress Presidents Summary is attached to the Minutes.

**6. Scientific Committee** Alexander Smarason (AS) gave an evaluation of the Congress.

The poster presentations and oral sessions were considered a success, with a good scientific level. The pre-congress courses were good, and 3 parallel sessions were considered the right number. AS pointed out, as KH had done, that the collaboration with the local committee had been good, and an important factor for the success of the Congress.

Further, AS presented the recent allocations from the Fund. DKK 429.402 were available, and 430.535 DKK were given out to 22 recipients. There were 24 applications for approximately 820.000 DKK. Not all sums previously allocated have been used. The treasurer has made a list of grants that have been used, and the SC chairman must identify those who have not used their grants. The unused grants will go back to the Fund two years after allocation.

The fact that a report must be submitted to the website before the money is sent from the treasurer was reiterated. Nordic projects will be prioritized for allocations. The Board supports this priority.

With the exception of the Norwegian representative (who will be on research leave for the last half of 2013), the entire SC will change national representatives in 2013. A special mention was made regarding Anette Tonnes Pedersen, who has been elected to the FIGO Executive Board, and therefore will leave the SC to devote her time to this important work. New members will be: Thora Steingrimsdottir (Iceland), Annika Strandell (Sweden), Antti Perheentupa (Finland).

In order to secure continuity, the Board has asked AS to stay on as an additional SC member until the autumn of 2013. He will then be the only "old" member on the Committee when the EC assesses the grant applications in October. He accepts the request from the Board.

**7. ACTA** Reynir Geirsson (RG) gave an overview of the activity for 2012. Acta received approximately 800 manuscripts, and the expected number for the year will be around 1000 as last year. The rejection rate has been 73.5%, while the aim is 80%. The impact factor has fallen to 1.77. This is most likely due to the large number of articles printed in 2010 and 2011. This year Acta has accepted 117 main research articles, 30 commentaries/reviews/overviews, 26 short research reports, 13 letters. Obstetrically related articles are about 55%, and gynecological 45%. All articles are screened for plagiarism. Submissions from the Nordic countries: Denmark 58 articles (64% accepted), Finland 25 (64%), Norway 22 (68%), Sweden 55 (58%). New Editors are Juha Räsänen, Anja Pinborg and Ganesh Acharya.

A co-operation agreement with ANZJOG and JOGR, and the respective National Societies, was signed in October. RG represented NFOG. This will give Acta a larger potential market. Acta was also well marketed at the FIGO Congress.

Some aims for 2013: Reduce the number of printed issues by 2/3 in order to reach financial targets. Reduce the number of printed items, and thereby contribute to an increase in impact factor. Work towards getting new Associate Editors from Sweden and Denmark.

RG and GB had a meeting in September with Wiley-Blackwell, and an agreement has been made for improving the financial result. The number of printed issues of Acta is approximately 4500. To reduce cost, the number must be reduced to between 1000-2000 copies. From Jan. 1st Acta will be published online, and each subscriber must make a request in order to get a printed copy. The last copy of Acta for 2012 will have an insert explaining to

the subscribers the changes that have to be made. In addition, the National Societies must inform their members of the changes. Wiley-Blackwell has suggested a fee of £ 20-28 for members wanting a printed issue, but this will not be implemented in the trial period of 6 months.

The change to online publication is absolutely vital for economical reasons, as the number of advertisers have dropped. (Read Minutes 1/12 issue 6 for background.) In addition it is regarded as a change that is in line with current publishing.

A prerequisite for success is that the online login is easily accessible, which is a matter for the publisher to solve.

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**Place:** Hotel Scandic Simonkettä

**Time:** Monday 05.11.12, 08.30-12.00

**Present:** Göran Berg, Thea Lousen, Tone Skeie-Jensen, Johanna Mäenpää, Kresten Rubeck Petersen, Pia Teleman, Knut Hordnes, Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir, Alexander Smáráson, Peter Secher, Reynir T. Geirsson, Harald Almström (Chairman of SFOG from 2013), Magnus Westergren (President of NFOG 2014)

**7. ACTA cont.** GB raised the issue of Chief Editor of Acta after the present contract expires at the end of 2013. RG informed the Board that he is willing to take on a new period of 2 years. GB will have a discussion with RG, and inform the Board of the outcome.

**8. Economy, budget and accounts** Thea Lousen (TL) presented the NFOG Budget and Result for 2011 and 2012. Due to sickleave on the part of the accountant, the result for 2012 is known only as far as September. The result for ACTA is by the end of September well within the budget for 2012. For Committees and Initiatives the situation is the same. The EC has not been functioning this year, and consequently this post has not been used. The posts Editorial Expenses-Acta and Additional Costs will also end within the budget. That leaves a surplus also for 2012, as the deficit for the NFOG 2012 has already been budgeted for. A surplus for 2012 will go to the Fund, and thus back to the members of NFOG.

TL raised the question of investing 3 of the 4 million DKK that is currently in a highrate bank account. The issue has been raised by our accountant because of the low bank interest rate. Such an investment must have a low risk profile, and Bonds are a likely object. **The Board decided** to ask Ildal to give advise on this issue.

**9. NFYOG** NFYOG was not represented at the meeting.

**10. EBCOG** Pia Teleman informed that the next meeting will be on Nov.30th-Dec.1st.

**11. FIGO** Seija Grenman was not able to attend the meeting, but a newsletter is posted on the website. Anette Tonnes Pedersen has been elected a new member of the FIGO Executive Board. The Board supports the work initiated by Seija Grenman and others for developing the FIGO General Assembly.

**12. [www.NFOG.org](http://www.NFOG.org)** Peter Secher (PS) gave an open invitation for ideas and suggestions for the website. GB commented that the Board is very satisfied with the way the website is run. Further effort will be made in order to make the site available for iPhone. The Fund reports are posted on the website, and a reminder of the thesis registry was given.

**13. NFOG 2014** Magnus Westergren (MW) gave a presentation of the planning so far. The programme is largely planned by now by the local committee, and comments were made by the Board as this was presented. The Board pointed out that a distribution of lecturers between the Nordic Countries is important, as the Congress is a joint venture.

GB commented that the programme was good, and that the local committee had achieved much in the short time it had been active. As has been common practice with the last NFOG Congresses, the SC shall work together with the local committee. The SC will be involved in assessing the abstracts and choosing the free communications.

**14. Surgical training, with respect to hysterectomies** Kresten Rubeck Petersen (KRP) informed of the ongoing discussion in DSOG aimed at achieving a consensus on the level of surgical qualification a trainee must have at the end of specialist training. The procedure that is discussed is hysterectomy. On behalf of DSOG KRP has asked the Chairmen of the National Societies to answer some questions in order to compare the level of skill that is required in the Nordic Countries. As the result will be of interest to everyone engaged in specialist training, the result of the Danish debate will be shared with the Board.

**15. Proposed letter to FIGO regarding papal visit to the Congress** GB gave an account of the matter. The SFOG had initially reacted with a written statement criticizing the fact that the Pope was invited to FIGO, as this is a non-religious organization. The NFOG Board had considered sending a similar written reaction, but refrained from doing so because the Board was not unanimous. The reaction was by some considered to come too late.

**16. How to "activate" the Nordic collaboration with the assistance of NFOG** GB gave a short presentation of his views, but it was decided to postpone the discussion to the next meeting.

**17. News from the National Societies** Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir (FÍFK) informed of the aim of the Society to increase the national awareness on screening for cervical dysplasia. The incidence of stage II cervical cancer has increased from approximately 20 to 40 % over the last years. It seems to be the young women that skip the screening. The FÍFK is arranging a meeting on pelvic pain in January. A suggestion of establishing an endometriosis clinic has been proposed in Parliament.

Pia Teleman (SFOG) informed that Svenska Läkemedelsverket (Medical Products Agency) has issued a report on the use of misoprostol for the induction of labour. It concludes that the documentation is extensive, and that it is considered safe to use the medication. They have tested drugs used in Malmö and at Södersjukhuset, Stockholm, where they dissolve misoprostol in water. The conclusion is that the concentration of misoprostol is reliable. They state that drugs that are registered for the indication should be used, which is not the case with misoprostol. The project on safe delivery has been concluded, and a pilot on handling pelvic floor injuries will start this spring.

Knut Hordnes (NGF) reported from the annual meeting of NGF that had been held a week ago. The updated version on Guidelines in Obstetrics will be finished in March 2013. NGF is now going through the courtcases in gynecology and obstetrics with the organization for "Norsk pasientskadeerstatning" with the aim to improve clinical practice.

Johanna Mäenpää (SGY) informed that the annual meeting will be held in 2 weeks. The main issue will be the renewing of the bylaws. The previously reported reduction in the number of delivery units to 15 for all of Finland will likely be implemented in 2013. A draft decree has been circulated according to which all delivery units are required to have an anesthesiologist

and an obstetrician on duty at all times. The participation in cervical screening has gone down. HPV vaccination for adolescent girls will be introduced in 2013.

Kresten Rubeck Petersen (**DSOG**) informed of the discussion that has been going on in the Danish Society with regards to whether the subspecialties like fetal medicine and urogyn belonged in DSOG. The result was unanimously in favour of continuing in DSOG.

Misoprostol will be commercially available in Denmark within a year. It will be imported from Spain, where it is registered. A national programme focusing on safe deliveries with the use of fetal surveillance and oxytocin is being introduced. The aim is to reduce the incidents of asphyxia by 50%. The HPV vaccination programme is well established, 5 years after it was introduced. A "catch-up" programme is introduced where women under 26 are offered the vaccine.

**18. Proposed visit to RCOG** RG informed that he has arranged for a meeting with the 6 key officers of RCOG. The Board will also meet with the heads of the different departments, and be shown around the grounds. The RCOG is interested in improving relations with Europe, and both the Spanish and the French Societies have been on similar visits.

**19. Coming Board meetings** The next Board meeting will be in London on March 21.-22. The Board will arrive Thursday morning, and start their meeting at lunchtime. The meeting will last the full day on Friday.

**20. Other business** GB and TSJ will at the next meeting give a suggestion as to what is to be stored by the Secretary General in the NFOG archives.

RG asked that the meetings on Endometriosis in Turku on May 23.-24., and on Hypertension in Pregnancy held in Tromsø June 12.-14., be announced within the National Societies.

Göran Berg  
President NFOG

Tone Skeie-Jensen  
Secretary General NFOG