

# NFOG BOARD MEETING

## Minutes 3/2008

**Date:** November 21<sup>st</sup> 2008

**Place:** Hotel *The Square*, Copenhagen

**Time:** 08.30 – 16.00

**Present:** Seija Grenman ( President), Martin Stjernquist (Treasurer), Thea Lousen ( Future Treasurer), Ragnheidur Bjarnadóttir (Secretary General), Charlotta Grünwald (SFOG), Ulf Högberg (Future Chairman of SFOG), Björn Backe (NGF), Juha Tappanainen (SGY), Morten Lebech ( DSOG), Arnar Hauksson (FÍFK), Lars-Åke Mattsson (Scientific Committee), Anders Atke (Educational Committee), Peter Secher (Webmaster) and Reynir T. Geirsson (Acta Chief Editor). Peter Hornnes (President of NFOG 2010) and Thóra Steingrímsdóttir (President of NFOG 2008). Stig Hill (NFYOG) had notified the Board that he could not attend the meeting.

Seija Grenman (SG) opened the meeting at 08.30 and welcomed the Board. The Board introduced itself to the new members, Thea Lousen (TL) and Ulf Högberg (UH).

**1. Approval of agenda.** It was suggested to take point 12. ([www.nfog.org](http://www.nfog.org)) after point 4. and to omit point 14. ( News from the National Societies) to save time. The Board agreed to these changes.

**2. Minutes from NFOG board meeting 2/2008.** The minutes were approved without comments or corrections.

**3. Economy, budget and accounts.** Martin Stjernquist (MS) presented the preliminary budget for 2008. The preliminary income of NFOG in 2008 was 2.182.421 DKK (budgeted 2.210.000). The income consisted of membership and subscription fees and payment from Taylor & Francis.

The preliminary operating result for the year was 718.349 DKK (budgeted -170.575). The preliminary net financial expence for 2008 is 238.728 DKK (budgeted 150.000). The preliminary result for the year is 957.077 DKK. The surplus for 2007 was 450.000 DKK and for 2006 it was 436.000 DKK. This surplus can be used for Special Initiatives.

A discussion followed regarding an updated NFOG members list. The board decided that Reynir Geirsson (RG) would ask the publisher for a updated list of members receiving Acta, which he would then send to the National Chairmen who could compare this list to their list of National Members. RB will send the National Chairmen an empty table to fill in numbers of their members, including active members, retired ones and trainees.

**3. Educational committee.** Anders Atke (AA) introduced plans for the new NFOG educational courses which will be aimed at specialists and be held every year. The first such course will be held in November 2009 at the Hotel Park Inn at Copenhagen airport. The

topic will be Vulvar diseases with both Nordic and International speakers. It will be a 2 day course, starting at 10.a.m on the first day and finishing at noon the following day. Up to 100 participants are expected to attend. The preliminary program will be available by 31<sup>st</sup> December and the final program and registration available by 31<sup>st</sup> March. The deadline for early registration will be 31 July 2009.

The Board supported a low early registration fee of 1500 DKK per person to encourage good attendance. About 45.000 DKK is expected from sponsors. The NFOG budget has set aside 75.000 DKK per year for Specialist Courses, which could cover the cost for invited speakers. AA will send the preliminary program to RB, who will in turn circulate it to the Board.

SG discussed that National Chairmen could find out the “strengths” of various centres as they could then organise specialist courses and also offer visitors through the visitor program. Arnar Hauksson (AH) will write a letter to the National Chairmen asking for centres with “special skills”. Morten Lebech (ML) suggested “Round table” lunch meetings at the specialist courses to encourage collaboration between different centres.

**5. www.nfog.org.** Peter Secher (PS) presented the website shortly. As before, it is cheap to run and has more visitors each month. However, the Thesis registry is still incomplete. The Board decided that the National Chairmen would encourage their members to submit their thesis to the website. The Board suggested that the NFOG 2010 Congress would be made more obvious on the website. It also suggested that the webmaster would send a newsletter in PDF, pointing out what was relevant on the website, deadlines etc to the webmaster of the National websites twice a year. The webmasters could then send this newsletter by e-mail to the registered members.

Acta. Reynir Geirsson (RG) gave the Board a report about Acta. The number of review articles has almost doubled. Acta now receives on average 45.4 manuscripts per month and the number has increased by 35% since the electronic submission was taken up. The rejection rate has been over 70% in 2008. The impact factor was 1.538 for 2006-2007. RG explained the 20/80 rule that 20% of manuscripts usually make up 80% of a journals impact factor and review articles are important in this sense. SG reminded the Board of its previous agreement to pay up to 10.000 DKK for an invited review articles. The Board agreed to use for this purpose 100 000 DKK from the NFOG assets. RG suggested a special Associate Editor with responsibility for reviews and this was approved by the Board. 35.000 DKK per year will be reserved for this purpose. Three new National Editors will join the Editorial Board. These are Saemundur Gudmundsson for Iceland, Ulla Poistula from Finland and Torbjörn Backström from Sweden. He then presented a structured budget for 2009 which included regular costs and extraordinary costs. A new agreement with Informa healthcare for 2009 is being prepared and will be discussed further by RG and the Voting Members at a telephone meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> of November. Juha Tappanainen (JT) suggested that readers that did not want Acta in paper could ask for only the electronic version. This would reduce printing and particularly mailing costs. The Board discussed this idea and suggested

including an insert in Acta with instructions regarding how to access it through the internet and also giving readers the opportunity to decline the printed version.

**7. NFOG 2008.** Thora Steingrimsdóttir (ThS) presented some statistics regarding the recent congress. Participants were 904 in total, of these 245 were from Denmark, 201 from Sweden, 148 from Norway, 97 from Finland, 65 from Iceland and 4 from the Faroe Islands in addition to guests from over 20 other countries. There were 93 invited speakers (89 attended), most from the Nordic countries but also from U.K., U.S.A., Canada and others. The scientific program consisted of 5 plenary lectures, 26 session (3-4 simultaneously), 7 free communication sessions and 3 sponsored symposia. The number of posters was 100. There were 35 sponsors and of these, Sanofi and Organon were Gold sponsors. The exhibition consisted of 31 stands and covered an area of 208 m<sup>2</sup> and the posters were distributed among the stands. The social program included a Get together, an opening ceremony, a speaker's dinner and a gala dinner. In addition, participants had the option of excursions after the congress. ThS said that the positive aspect of the congress had been its high scientific standard, the good and close cooperation between the local organising committee and the Scientific Committee and the Board and lastly, the satisfaction of the guests. The main negative aspect was that it left no surplus. She then presented to the Board the financial results from the congress.

The total expenses were -44.2 million ISK, the sponsor fees +15.1 million ISK, the registration and Gala dinner fee was +26.0 million and NFOG guarantee sum received in 2006 was +0.6 million ISK. This gave a net income of +41.7 million ISK and thus a negative balance of -2.4 million ISK (approx. 104.347 DKK according to the currency in November 2008). Part of the guarantee sum of 320.000 DKK previously agreed to by the NFOG board will thus be needed. The local organising committee had already received 50.000 in 2006. ThS explained that the preliminary budget was made on certain grounds, i.e. that speakers among NFOG members would only get the registration fee paid. As a reaction to some complaints from them, the Board decided in January 2008 to increase the payment to them by also paying travel expenses and one night at the congress hotel. The guarantee sum was increased due to this change. The additional cost due to this decision was 3.6 million ISK, which was at that time 300.000 DKK. ThS also explained that the severe devaluation (22%) of the ISK in March had affected the congress budget seriously. Fortunately, the financial problems that Iceland has suffered during the last few weeks, has not influenced the congress economy, as most accounts had already been settled. She recommended that the registration fee should be considerably higher in future congresses. After ThS presentation the board members thanked the local organizing committee of a successful meeting and considered the negative economical result acceptable.

**8. NFOG 2010.** Peter Hornnes (PH) presented plans for the next NFOG congress which will be held at Bella Center, Copenhagen on 15.-18<sup>th</sup> June 2010 ( Tuesday to Friday). The deadline for abstracts will be 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2010 and the deadline for low registration fee

1<sup>st</sup> of March 2010. PH presented a preliminary budget. The estimated number of participants is 800, the low registration fee will be 4.000 DKK, the high registration fee 4.700 DKK and on site registration 5.000 DKK. There will be a reduced fee for trainees (2.500-3.000 DKK). According to the budget, there will be 65 invited speakers, 20 of whom will have their travel costs and accommodation reimbursed (non NFOG speakers). The estimated income is 4.215.000 DKK, expenditure 3.951.250 DKK giving a result of 263.750 DKK. There will be 5 plenary sessions (75 minutes each) and 10 sessions with invited speakers (90 minutes each). The plans were discussed and approved of by the board. RG suggested a session on writing scientific papers and JT suggested a session on environment and reproduction. These suggestions will be considered by the organising committee.

**9. NFOG 2012.** Björn Backe (BB) told the Board that this congress will be held in Bergen and that Knut Hornnes will be the Congress President.

**10. Scientific committee.** Lars-Åke Mattsson (L-AM) presented the Scientific Committee's evaluation of NFOG 2008. The NFOG congress in Reykjavik was considered a success both scientifically and socially. The venue function worked out very well and the atmosphere was friendly and welcoming.

The following points were positive:

1. The level of the scientific content was considered high.
2. The section for thesis presentation was very good.
3. The quality of the free communications was in general very high.

It was discussed whether or not the length of presentations should be increased from 8+2 minutes to 10+5 minutes.

4. The cooperation during the preparation of the scientific content between the scientific committee and the local organizing committee was good.
5. Well organized sessions.

The following points called for improvement:

1. The placement of posters in the basement was not optimal.
2. No poster presentation was held and it was advocated that this could be changed to the next NFOG meeting.
3. It would have been optimal for the Scientific Committee to have an undisturbed room for their daily meetings.
4. The evaluation of posters and free communications should be shared among a larger group of colleagues and not only members of the Scientific Committee in the future.

The above points were discussed and the Board supported the suggestion.

It was also discussed that the Lillehammer scholarship should be granted for the last time at NFOG 2010. The deadline for application will be 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2010.

(L-AM) then presented the applications for the NFOG Collaborative Program.

In summary all applications were approved by the Board up to a total sum of 100.000 DKK for the applications for the Collaborative Program. MS told the board that a total of 150.000 DKK had been allocated for both the Visitor Program and the Collaborative Program for 2009.

A discussion followed regarding setting up a NFOG fund, as had been suggested at the GA. TL and ML described the experience from the Danish FIGO fund. It was decided that the scientific committee would discuss this further at their next meeting and present a preliminary suggestion at the next board meeting.

**11. NFYOG.** As Stig Hill had not been able to attend the meeting, he had sent all board members a letter describing NFYOG's recent activities. There was therefore no further discussion at this point.

**12. FIGO.** Charlotta Grunewald (CG) suggested that the 30.000 DKK not used at NFOG 2008 be used to invite the colleagues to attend the FIGO meeting in Capetown 2009 instead. This proposal was discussed and approved of by the Board.

**13. EBCOG.** PH told the Board that the next EBCOG meeting would be held the following week-end in Brussels. He reminded the board that he is running for President of EBCOG and Rolf Kirscher for the Executive Board. The Board supports them both and wished them success.

**14. Coming Board meetings.** A telephone meeting was decided on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November. The next Board meeting will be in Turkuu 2-3<sup>rd</sup> of April.

Reykjavík, 17.12.2008

Ragnheidur I. Bjarnadóttir

Secretary General of NFOG