

# **Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology Annual Report 2008**

## **The Board of Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology (NFOG)**

President: Seija Grénman, Finland

Secretary General: Ragnheidur I. Bjarnadóttir, Iceland

Treasurer: Martin Stjernquist, Sweden

National representatives: Morten Lebech in January 2008 (DSOG), Juha Tapanainen (SGY), Arnar Hauksson (FIFK), Rolf Kirschner (NFG), Charlotta Grünwald followed by Ulf Högberg in November 2008 (SFOG).

Other members of the board: Reynir T. Geirsson, Iceland (Acta), Lars-Åke Mattsson (Chairman of Scientific Committee), Anders Atke, Denmark (Chairman of Educational Committee), Stig Hill, Norway (Chairman of NFYOG), Peter Secher, Denmark (Webmaster), Thora Steingrimsdóttir, Iceland, Congress President of NFOG 2008.

Internal Auditors: Ditte Trolle (Denmark) and Nils-Erik Backas (Finland).

External Auditor: Bo Hendriksen, Aaen & Co

## **Board meetings**

During 2008 the Board of NFOG had 4 meetings, one of which was a telephone meeting in November.

## **Economy, budget, accounts**

The economy of NFOG in 2008 was in good balance under the surveillance of the treasurer Martin Stjernquist. The total income was 2.182.422 compared with the budget for the year 2008 which was 2.210.000. The income consisted of membership and subscription fees and payment from Taylor & Francis. The cost of the board meetings in 2008 was 368.884 DKK (budgeted 500.000 DKK). Expenses for the Scientific and Educational Committees (incl. Hot Topics) were 203.316 DKK, (budgeted 200.000 DKK. The preliminary operating result for the year was 368.448 DKK (budgeted -170.575). The preliminary net financial expenses for 2008 are 4 DKK (budgeted 150.000). The preliminary result for the year is 957.077 DKK. Surprisingly, in the light of the financial crisis, NFOG had a financial income of 407.254 DKK. This is due to the fact that financial assets are safely placed in bonds and on short term cash deposits. The preliminary result for the year is 368.448 DKK. In conclusion the NFOG finances were regarded to be in good positive balance and the surplus will be used for Special Initiatives.

## **NFOG 2008**

The XXXVI NFOG congress was held in Reykjavik, Iceland 14-17.June 2008. Thora Steingrimsdóttir was the Congress President. Participants were 904 in total, from over 25 countries. There were 93 invited speakers and Dorothy Shaw, President of FIGO, was the keynote speaker. The scientific program consisted of 5 plenary lectures, 26 session, 7 free communication sessions and 3 sponsored symposia. The number of posters was 100. The congress was considered well organized with a high scientific standard and lively social program. The negative aspect was that it left no surplus and part of the guarantee sum of 320.000 DKK previously agreed to by the NFOG board was thus needed. The severe devaluation (22%) of the ISK in March affected the congress budget seriously. Fortunately, the financial problems that Iceland suffered after the congress did not influenced the congress economy, as most accounts had already been settled.

## **General Assembly**

The General Assembly, which was held during the congress, decided to invest in Acta and in Special Initiatives. The Assembly gave its approval of using the NFOG Board reserve of 500 000 DKK for the above purpose. It was suggested to create a fund similar to the Danish FIGO fund to support

research, especially in the global perspective. It was decided that the NFOG board will present a draft of such a NFOG fund at the next General Assembly.

### **Acta**

Reynir Geirsson was the chief editor of Acta in 2008. The publisher of Acta in 2008 was Taylor& Francis. Eva Christina Sterner has continued as the Editorial assistant for the Chief Editor. The impact factor of Acta reflects a good scientific profile. The rejection rate had increased and was now 69.7 %. Acta has been gradually changing to the electronic submission system. The economy of Acta has been favorable.

### **Support to education and co-operation**

The board of NFOG started the NFOG Visitor Program in 2003 and altogether 24 specialists have visited another Nordic country within this program. In 2008, 2 specialists received support from the Visitor Program. The visitors were: Knut Hakon Bakke from Norway and Thea Brummer from Finland. The feedback on the program has been very positive. A new opportunity for scientific collaboration has been announced during 2008, "the NFOG Collaborative Program". The aim of this program is to encourage scientific collaboration between at least two Nordic countries. Four applications were approved.

### **FIGO and Twinning program**

Jerker Liljestrand is the honorary treasurer of FIGO and a corresponding member of the Safe Motherhood Committee. He has kept the board informed about the twinning project, which FIGO has organized to 12 developing countries to strengthen their National Societies of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Amongst the countries left for twinning to the Nordic countries are Pakistan and Nigeria. Pakistan has been twinned to Sweden and Nigeria has been twinned with Denmark. NGF has offered to assist DSOG in twinning with Nigeria.

### **EBCOG**

Peter Hornnes was elected president of EBCOG in November 2008. He had previously been treasurer of EBCOG. Rolf Kirschner was elected executive member.

### **Website ([www.nfog.org](http://www.nfog.org))**

The NFOG website was established in 2001. Peter Secher is the webmaster of [www.nfog.org](http://www.nfog.org). Since the beginning, the website has gained an increasing number of visitors. The number of daily visitors has increased steadily from an average of 20 in 2004 to about 40 in 2008.

In 2008 the activities consists of:

- The publication of the board meeting minutes was introduced.
- The thesis registry has been updated regularly
- The thesis registry lottery was introduced, in order to attract authors to submit new theses.
- An introduction to the members of how to get free internet access to ACTA.
- Various courses of interest to Nordic colleagues have been made available to visitors and frequently updated.

### **Committees**

Lars-Åke Mattsson was the chairman of the Scientific Committee in 2008. The Scientific Committee participated actively in preparing the program of NFOG 2008 and selected abstracts for oral and poster presentations, as well as recipients of awards and scholarships. Anja Pinborg was chosen recipient of the Young Scientist award of 2008. The aim of the Lillehammer Scholarship is to give young physicians the opportunity to visit other countries to learn about other health care systems. The recipients of the Scholarship in 2008 were Marija Simic and Sofia Ström.

Anders Atke was the chairman of the Educational Committee in 2008. The Educational Committee developed a new model for educational courses in 2008 to replacing Hot Topics meetings.

### **NFYOG**

NFYOG has been represented by Stig Hill. NFYOG held a Pre-congress symposium “Obstetrics, a threatened specialty” at NFOG 2008. The support from NFOG to NFYOG in 2008 has been 100 000 DKK.

### **General**

The aim of the present NFOG board is to enhance clinical and scientific collaboration between the Obstetricians and Gynecologists in the Nordic countries. The NFOG Visitor program has been conducted since 2003 and in 2008 NFOG introduced a travel grant to promote Nordic cooperative projects in research, diagnosis and management of rare diseases within the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The president of NFOG and the chairman of the scientific committee have written columns and news letters to the bulletins of the National Societies. In addition, news from the National Societies has been added to the agenda of the NFOG board meetings. Developing co-operation in EBCOG (European Board of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists) is considered important, too. Special interest of Nordic countries has been improving specialist training and its evaluation. Reports on both EBCOG’s and FIGO’s activities have been included in the agenda of each NFOG board meeting.

On behalf of the board of NFOG,

March 31th, 2009

Seija Grénman  
Chairman  
NFOG

Ragnheidur I. Bjarnadottir  
Secretary General  
NFOG