

NFOG BOARD MEETING

Minutes 1/2010.

I.

Place: Rica Nidelven Hotel, Trondheim, Norway

Time: Thursday 04.03.2010 9.00 – 16.00

Present: Seija Grenman (President), Thea Lousen (Treasurer), Ragnheidur Bjarnadóttir (Secretary General), Ulf Högberg (SFOG), Rolf Kirschner (former NGF chairman), Björn Backe (NGF), Aila Tiitinen (SGY), Morten Lebech (DSOG), Charlotte Sögaard (future DSOG chairman) Arnar Hauksson (FÍFK), Alexander Smárason (Scientific Committee), Marie Bixo (Educational Committee), Eszter Vanky (Educational Committee) Peter Secher (Webmaster) and Reynir T. Geirsson (Acta Chief Editor), Peter Hornnes (President of NFOG 2010).

Seija Grenman (SG) opened the meeting at 09.00 and welcomed Charlotte Sögaard to the NFOG Board. She also welcomed Marie Bixo to the meeting as a representative of the Educational Committee as well as Eszter Vanky, who was invited to the meeting to present the next NFOG Educational Course. The Board members presented themselves to the newcomers.

1. Approval of agenda. The Board agreed to the agenda.

2. Minutes from NFOG board meeting 2/2009. Ragnheidur Bjarnadóttir (RB) presented the minutes from the last Board meeting. Peter Hornnes (PH) commented on point 7. (NFOG 2010), and said that the minutes should be more clear regarding who reimburses for what. The Board agreed to add to the minutes that invited speakers flights, congress fee, gala dinner and two hotel nights will be reimbursed from the Congress budget, but the costs of the NFOG Board members will be reimbursed by NFOG. The minutes were approved without other comments or corrections.

3. Economy, budget and accounts. Thea Lousen (TL) told the Board that the 3.000.000 of the NFOG fortune that was previously placed in bank accounts had now been placed in middle-long term bonds. She then presented the preliminary accounts for 2009. The income was higher than budgeted; 2.403.112 DKK vs. 2.210.000 DKK according to the budget. It consisted of membership and subscription fees in addition to an extraordinary income (royalties) of 108.112 DKK. The total costs were less than budgeted: - 2.043.746 DKK vs. -2.150.100 DKK. The operating result was: 359.366 DKK (budget 60.000 DKK). The financial income was 2.403.112 DKK (budget 2.210.000). The net result for the year 2009 was 605.799 DKK (budget 210.000 DKK), which is a higher surplus than in previous years. The cost of the NFOG Board meetings has been slightly less than budgeted (-397.694 DKK vs. -400.000 DKK). The editorial expenses of Acta are currently higher than budgeted (-1.260.646 vs. -1.219.000 DKK). Less has been used for the Committees (-174.237 vs. -240.000 DKK), including the Visitor program and for the Special Initiatives; including the Collaborative and Twinning programs (-83.655 vs. -150.000 DKK). However, not all Special Initiatives have been claimed for yet. The Educational Course on Vulva Disease had a small deficit of 35.920 DKK. The Board agreed that Irmgaard Pingels pension for the last 3 months that she lived will be paid.

4. Acta. Reynir Geirsson (RG) presented his report on Acta. The submission rate had increased by 6% from 2008 and the mean number of manuscripts per month is 67.8. The rejection rate is currently around 68%. Two special theme issues are currently being worked on, one on Tobacco and Pregnancy (April) and another on Vulva disease (June), in addition to abstracts from the recent HPV meeting and the NFOG 2010 Supplement.

The winner of the next Acta prize is Nanneli Pallasmaa, for her paper: "Severe Maternal Mortality and mode of delivery", which was published in Acta in 2008. RG will notify her regarding this.

RG then presented the tender document that Peter Hartmann, an independent publication consultant, had written on behalf of NFOG, as had been decided at the last Board meeting. The tender was read over carefully and discussed by the Board. The potential advantages and disadvantages of open-access publishing were discussed, such as an increased impact factor in open access journal but that some open-access journals are struggling financially. Four subscription models are proposed in the tender:

1. Continue with the present subscription model of 12 issue/year print and online journal where society members and institutional subscribers receive a monthly print version. Options for authors to purchase open access (OA) from the publisher at competitive prices should be considered along with proposals on embargo times from the publisher.

2. Continue subscription model with monthly electronic version and a printed version monthly but option to choose online only to save production costs. Options for authors to purchase open access (OA) from the publisher at competitive prices should be considered with proposals on embargo times from the publisher.

3. Same as scenario 1 with a quarterly printed issue of selected articles instead of monthly.

4. Same as scenario 2 with a quarterly printed issue with option to choose online only. The thought behind a quarterly issue is to provide subscribers/society members with a printed issue in the traditional way, but at the same time reduce printing and postage costs.

The Board agreed that all 4 options should be included in the tender and a final decision on the subscription model then made based on the incoming proposals. Peter Hornnes (PH) stressed that the royalty and percentage from the publisher should be guaranteed and this was agreed on by the Board. PH also advised that an estimate should be made of how many NFOG members would receive Acta in 5 years time and this was also agreed on the Board. The national chairmen should provide the estimations by the end of May so that the correct figures can be put in the agreement with the publisher.

5. Educational committee. Marie Bixo (MB) attended the meeting on behalf of the Educational Committee (EC) as Pepe Salvesen had resigned as chairman of the Committee. The new Norwegian EC representative is Jakob Nackling but the EC had not yet decided who will be the new chairman. The EC has decided to have the next Educational Course in Copenhagen on the 17th -18th of November 2010. The topic will be: "Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) from conception to menopause". Eszter Vanky (EV) presented the programme, which the Board agreed was very interesting. It will be a one and a half day programme and be held at the Park Inn Hotel in Copenhagen. It was agreed that neither a young scientist presentations or poster exhibition will be included in the program. SG stressed the importance of advertising the course in the National Bulletins, on the NFOG website and at the NFOG Congress. RG suggested an Acta supplement on PCOS. The budget for the Educational Course, including the fee for participants will be presented at the next Board meeting. A discussion followed regarding whether the speakers should be paid a fee for their lectures. TL pointed out that this should be discussed with the auditors as it would mean that tax authorities should be notified. The Board decided to reimburse all expenses for Nordic speakers and give them a gift certificate for up to 600 DKK (?). TL will consult the auditors regarding payment for the external (non-NFOG) speakers.

6. NFOG 2010

Peter Hornnes (PH) presented the Scientific programme for the next NFOG Congress, which will be held in Copenhagen 15.-18. June 2010, and said that the final program will be ready in April. The updated programme will be posted on the website and advertised in the National bulletins. There will be 13 pre-congress workshops on the 15th of June. All five plenary sessions have been confirmed as well as 8 sessions with invited speakers and the NFOG session on "the environment and reproduction". There will be five 90-minute sessions for free communications, giving time for 45 communications. In addition, there will be an electronic poster session. The

National Chairmen will send PH a list of proposed chairpersons for the sessions. The deadline for abstracts was the 1st of March 2010 and 140 abstracts for oral/poster presentation were received, which is similar to the number received in the last NFOG Congress. A total of 273 participants had registered by 1st of March 2010, most from Denmark (122), and Norway (77) but few from Finland (23) and Sweden (21) had registered. The congress budget should “break even” with 650 paying participants. The Board Meetings during the Congress will be held on Tuesday, June the 15th from 09.00-13.00 and on Thursday, June the 17th at 17.00-18.00. The General Assembly will be held on the 17th of June from 12.00-15.00.

7. www.nfog.org

Peter Secher (PS) reported from the website. Daily visits are stable and a discussion forum will soon be added. There is still a steady decline in the number of thesis registered. PS will update information on the website regarding the NFOG Board and Committees.

8. Scientific committee

Alexander Smarason (AS) gave a report from the Scientific Committee (SC). The SC had evaluated the abstracts that were sent in to the Congress and chosen 44 for oral presentation. There will be oral sessions at the congress of which three will be obstetric and two gynaecological. He explained the new opportunity of e-posters and told the Board that 5 videos had been sent in for presentation. He told the Board that Anna Kanerva had been chosen for the Young Scientist award. It was decided that RG will prepare a gift certificate letter and TL will prepare an information letter for this award. In addition, the Lillehammer Scholarship will be awarded for the last time; two grants of 20.000 DKK each. The deadline for the Lillehammer scholarship is the 1st of April but no applications have been received yet. Finally, two thesis from 2008 and two from 2009 will be drawn from the thesis registry and awarded a prize of 2500 DKK each.

9. News from the National Societies.

SGY: Aila Tiitinen (AT) said that less members of SGY attend the national meetings and most want to attend sub-speciality courses and workshops. There has recently been a tendency in Finland to merge the departments of Obstetrics/ Gynaecology and Pediatrics in hospital with mixed results.

DSOG. Morten Lebech (ML) said that there was an interest in DSOG and lots of applications to the FIGO fund. DSOG’s educational committee has been organising courses and there has been good attendance in pre-specialisation courses but post-specialisation courses have been more difficult to arrange and have occasionally been cancelled due to poor attendance.

NGF: Björn Backe (BB) said that NGF has had a new board since January and that the society is thriving. The trainee’s society was working well and arranging courses. Recruitment to the speciality has been going well.

FIFK. Arnar Hauksson (AH) said that the Icelandic Society has held joint educational meetings with other specialities such as endocrinology, psychiatry and urology. There has been increased centralisation of Ob/Gyn services in Iceland with closure of small units in the vicinity of Reykjavik.

SFOG: Ulf Högberg (UH) said that Ob/Gyn services were more de-centralised in Sweden than in other Scandinavian countries and that discussion had been ongoing regarding unequal services. SFOG has reference groups that have published four new books on working rules in the last year. There is an ongoing joint project on Safe delivery intervention with the Society of Midwives and Society of Pediatricians with the aim of lowering neonatal mortality and increase patient safety during delivery. He said that there is much interest in 3rd world OB/Gyn in SFOG.

SG closed the meeting at 16.00

II.

Place: Rica Nidelven Hotel, Trondheim, Norway

Time: Friday 05.03.2010 9.00 – 15.00

Present: Seija Grenman (President), Thea Lousen (Treasurer), Ragnheidur Bjarnadóttir (Secretary General), Ulf Högberg (SFOG), Rolf Kirschner (NGF), Björn Backe (future NGF chairman), Morten Lebech (DSOG), Charlotte Sögaard (future DSOG chairman) Arnar Hauksson (FÍFK), Alexander Smáráson (Scientific Committee), Marie Bixo (Educational Committee), Peter Secher (Webmaster) and Reynir T. Geirsson (Acta Chief Editor), Peter Hornnes (President of NFOG 2010), Christian Tappart (NFYOG) during point 13.

10. NFOG fund

TL presented the final proposal of the special enactment for the NFOG Fund. The special enactment, now referred to as special enactment 1 (SP1) was read over carefully and approved by the Board after some minor changes, see attachment. The special enactment will be presented at the next General Assembly (GA). It was decided that the draft will be available on the NFOG website and the relevant link added to the announcement for the GA. After approval at the GA the NFOG Fund will also be introduced in Acta and on the website. The National Chairmen will present the Fund in their respective National Societies and in the National bulletins and websites.

11. Amendments of NFOG bylaws.

RB presented amendments to the NFOG bylaws, which involve merging the Assembly of Delegates with the General Assembly (GA), now referred to as the GA. The amendments entail that the General Assembly will be open for all members of the Nordic societies, who will now be allowed to speak. As before, only the Delegates of the National Societies will be able to vote. In addition, RB presented an amendment to the statutes replacing the Editor of the NFOG Bulletin with the Webmaster. The amendments were read over carefully by the board and approved after some minor changes, see attachment. The amendments will be presented and voted on at the next GA. RK had previously suggested that the Nordic representative in the FIGO Executive Board should in the future attend the NFOG board meetings on a regular basis and that travel expenses for these meetings be reimbursed by NFOG, as well as the travelling costs to the FIGO Executive board meetings. The Board had supported this suggestion but had considered that this would require an amendment of the NFOG bylaws. Rolf Kirschner (RK) explained to the board that there is no need for amendments as it is stated in § 6 in the bylaws that “Temporarily coopted members may, at the request of the Board or the individual member society entitled to comment on proceedings, be granted the opportunity to be present at the consideration of a particular, specified matter during a board meeting”. The Board agreed to that this did apply and agreed that the expenses for the FIGO representative for 2010 will be taken from the board reserve and the future expenses put on the budget for 2011 and 2012.

RG presented a revision of the Acta enactment which was discussed and approved by the Board, see attachment. Appointment as a national editor is for four years but may be extended by two years at a time for a maximum of two times, giving a maximum time of 8 years. The same time limits will apply to the Chief Editor. ML presented a revision to the Special enactment relating to the NFOG Congress, which was agreed to, see attachment.

12. Other issues for the General Assembly

The GA will be held on Thursday, June the 17th from 12.00-15.00 in room 20 at the Bella centre. A light lunch will served between 12.00 and 12.15. The notice to attend the GA will be on the NFOG website and in the national bulletins not later than 2 months before the meeting; that is not later than April the 17th. It will also be

included in the final programme of the Congress. It was decided that the Scientific and Educational committees, webmaster and NFYOG will send their reports to RB by 1st of April, who will present them at the GA to save time. It was suggested that the power-point presentation of the reports could be published on the NFOG website. The Board then discussed the coming elections at the next NFOG congress, when a new President and Secretary General must be elected. The National Chairmen have discussed this in their National Societies and nominate candidates. It was decided that the National Chairmen will represent their National Societies in the nomination committee. The nomination committee's proposal for the candidates, shall be distributed with a notice to attend an GA, not later than two months before that assembly, that is the 17th of April. UH told the Board that SFOG has decided that the NFOG Congress will be held in Stockholm on the 11-13th of June 2014 and Magnus Westgren will be the Congress president. This will be announced at the next GA.

13. NFYOG

Christian Tappert from Trondheim attended the Board meeting as a representative of NFYOG, although he is not one of their board members. He told of various problems that NFYOG has been facing. First, NFYOG does not have a president at present but that the board will have a meeting in Oslo on the 6th and 7th of March where hopefully a new president will be appointed. He said that the Swedish trainees are very active attending courses and meetings for trainees within Sweden and that many of them therefore do no longer wish to have yearly NFYOG meetings. However, trainees in the other Nordic countries wish NFYOG to continue. He said that Novo Nordisk will not continue sponsoring NFYOG due to cut-downs within their company, but at the NFOG Congress Sanofi Pasteur will sponsor the NFYOG symposium, which will be held on the morning of the 15th of June.

14. Writing the history of NFOG.

SG presented a letter from Per Olof Janson (POJ) where he proposes to write the history of NFOG. The Board discussed this proposal. RG discussed the possibility of an Acta supplement of approximately 25-30 pages. He suggested that this might coincide with the 90th anniversary of Acta in 2011. The Board agreed that it would like the history of NFOG to be written and linked with the history of Acta and a brief history of the National Societies. The Board agreed that POJ should be asked to be principal author. The Board considered a 25-30 page supplement of Acta should be aimed for and that POJ should be asked to present a budget for this enterprise. This should be taken up again at the next Board meeting in the fall of 2010.

15. EBCOG

PH, president of EBCOG gave a report from EBCOG. EPCOG has strengthened its links with parliamentarians of the European Union (EU) by discussions with an EU working party on Women's Health. There has also been focus on EPCOG accreditation and "Training the trainees". It has proven problematic to set up common European guidelines but their aim is to set up standards of care. EBCOG will hold the 21st European congress in Antwerp 5th-8th of May 2010.

16. FIGO

SG told the Board that she will attend her first meeting in the FIGO Executive Board in Dar es Salaam in June. The Board will support colleagues from the Twinning Societies to attend the coming NFOG Congress. SFOG will choose two colleagues from Pakistan and TL will contact Charlotte Grunewald regarding this. DSOG will invite two colleagues from Nigeria and ML will contact them. PH will send the guests a letter of invitation to facilitate their visa applications They will be asked to send their travel plans/budget to TL.

17. Coming Board meetings

The next two NFOG Board meetings will be held at the NFOG congress in Copenhagen; the first on the 15th of June from 09-13 and the second will be a short meeting from 17.00-18.00 on the 17th of June to welcome the new NFOG President and Secretary General.

18. Other business.

The Board discussed the logo for NFOG 2012 in Bergen, which shows a fetus in breech position high in the pelvis surrounded by forceps. The Board members agreed that the image was negative and even raised associations of obstetrical disasters. It was decided that Björn Backe would ask the coming Congress president Knut Hordnes to reconsider the logo.

19. Closing.

SG closed the meeting at 15.00

In witness thereof, Reykjavík, March 29th 2010

Ragnheidur I. Bjarnadóttir
Secretary General of NFOG