

NFOG BOARD MEETING

Minutes 2/2008

I.

Date: June 14th 2008

Place: Háskólabíó, Reykjavík

Hours: 10.30-16.30

Present: Seija Grenman (President), Martin Stjernquist (Treasurer), Ragnheidur Bjarnadóttir (Secretary General), Charlotta Grünwald (SFOG), Rolf Kirschner (NGF), Antti Valpas (SGY), Morten Lebech (DSOG), Arnar Hauksson (FÍK), Alexander Smáráson (Scientific Committee), Anders Atke (Educational Committee), Peter Secher (webmaster) and Reynir T. Geirsson (Acta Chief Editor). Peter Hornnes (**President of NFOG 2010**) Thóra Steingrimsdóttir (President of NFOG 2008) was present for points 1-4. Stig Hill (NFYOG) could not attend due to the coinciding Board meeting of NFYOG.

Seija Grenman (SG) opened the meeting at 10.30 and welcomed the Board and thanked Peter Hornnes (PH) for attending the meeting as preparation for the General Assembly.

1. Approval of agenda.

2. Minutes from NFOG Board meeting 1/2008. Ragnheidur Bjarnadóttir (RB) presented the minutes, which were approved without comments or corrections.

3. Economy, budget and accounts.

MS presented the final accountings for 2007. The economy of NFOG is stable and the main sources of income are membership fees and Acta.

4. NFOG 2008

Thora Steingrimsdóttir (TS) told the board that there will be 900 participants from 30 countries at the Congress. Due to successful recruitment of sponsors during the last months it is now possible that the economy of the congress will be without deficit. The board decided that a possible deficit would be covered from the Board reserve or from its assets up to 320 000 DKK. The board decided that the treasurer will ask for approval of this from the GA. The final economical result will be presented at the board meeting in November 2008. The board thanked the Congress president and the local organising committee for their work.

The topics coming up at the GA were discussed. RB presented slides summarising the Board activities for 2006/2007 which she planned to present at the GA and the board gave their comments.

The participation of the twinning fellows was discussed.

The 2 representatives from Pakistan, as well as the colleague from Nigeria, have all had severe difficulties in getting their visa to Iceland and have ultimately not managed to come. The board decided that the amount of money reserved for their visit (50.000 DKK) will be used for the twinning projects in the future.

5. Scientific committee

AS informed the board that the Lillehammer scholarships, 20.000 DKK each, will be given to Sofia Ström and Marija Simic

The deadlines for the Visitor programs were discussed. The deadline for the scientific program or the NFOG Collaborative program is September 30th and the deadline for the clinical Visitor program is Dec 1st. The National Chairmen are encouraged to advertise the visitor programs in all possible ways in their Societies (bulletins, websites etc).

6. Acta

Reynir Geirsson (RG) started by a short information on the Acta Editorial Board meeting in Iceland. Details will be available in the minutes from that meeting. The economical issues on development of Acta were discussed. RG promised to provide the board with a specific budget for Acta by the next board meeting. The budget should be separated into regular and extraordinary expenses and include suggestions on costs for editorial board meetings, Associate Editors, compensation percentage of the Chief Editor's salary, front page costs etc. Additionally, an economical compensation to invited reviewers should be included in the proposal from RG. A plan for recruiting advertisements, supplements and other sources of income will be discussed with the publisher.

RG informed the board that he considers it necessary to increase the amount of time he works for Acta from 40% to 50% (2 1/2 days a week). It will be considered while renewing the contract. The costs of the editorial board meetings in 2007 and 2008 have exceeded the money reserved in the budget. The board agreed that the expenses of the extra editorial board meeting in Iceland in June 2008 would be covered from the board reserves or from the assets and the cost would be considered as an investment.

A discrepancy between the number of Acta distributed to the Nordic countries (4480) and the real number of members of NFOG has been discovered. The policy of retired members having the possibility to receive Acta differs between the Nordic countries, as well as the policy of when retirees stop paying membership fees. Chairmen are encouraged to raise the question to all retired members whether they wish to receive Acta or not.

RG told the board that the readers seem to like the new front page, as well as the Editors' messages. The editorial board has had board meetings in Oct 2007 and then in March and June 2008. The electronic submission is working better after initial difficulties discussed at the meeting in March.

The article situation was discussed next. The Chief Editor reported the number of submissions so far this year.

In 2007 the rejection rate was 58%, but in 2008 it has been 77%. The manuscripts are processed more rapidly through and require at the most 3 revisions. In 2008 Acta has 500 more subscribers from the Nordic countries compared to 2006-2007, and most papers were from the Nordic countries. The impact factor has however decreased from 1,5 in 2005 to 1,3 in 2007 and Acta now ranks as number 36 of 59 Journals. Digital archiving and electronic case report supplement was discussed next. RG told the board that it was an ongoing process and a valuable asset to have all old volumes digitalized. Proposals for a separate case report supplement were discussed.

The board discussed shortly the name of the journal. It was decided that the matter needs further evaluation and no suggestion will be presented to the GA. It was decided to encourage all National Chairmen to write about this matter in the national bulletins.

The Acta prize (20.000 DKK) for the most quoted paper will be given to Minna Tikkanen, Finland.

7. Educational committee (AA)

Anders Atke (AA) presented a new model for educational courses that had been discussed at the Meeting of the Educational Committee in Copenhagen in May 28th with all 5 members present. He said that Hot topics not suitable for continuation due to few participants and especially few paying members. Following alternatives had been discussed:

1. To close down the Educational Committee
2. To let it continue as a passive organ, meeting once a year, to exchange ideas and report on educational activities in the Nordic countries
3. To let the Educational Committee continue to arrange courses which were more focused on specialists or subspecialists.

The Educational Committee supports the last option and thus suggests NFOG Specialist courses. They concluded that the best permanent location for such courses was in Copenhagen as it was most convenient for most Nordic members. The Educational Committee suggested a duration of 2 days, with a late start on day 1 and an early finish on day 2, so that the hotel cost could be limited to one night. Weekdays would be preferable and the frequency one course each second year. Shorter intervals could be considered. Topics should be highly specific to attract specialists rather than trainees. Speakers should be top quality specialists. The budget should reflect top quality speakers when necessary and sponsorship sought whenever possible. The sum guaranteed for future courses would be unchanged. In case the principal course location is decided, additional costs covering secretarial assistance might apply. AA said that the Educational Committee suggested unchanged economical support for the Committee. He estimated two meetings a year to arrange the specific courses. According to preliminary discussion the Committee would next meet in October.

A discussion followed. RK suggests the course to be every year. The Board supported the suggestion, and agreed on the location in Copenhagen every year, with assistance from the DSOG. The Board agreed that the level should correspond to specialist level and be directed primarily to specialists in the Nordic countries (CME-CPD-course). Potential topics were presented. Collaboration with national special interest groups will be encouraged. The possibility to broadcast the course was brought up.

8. NFOG 2010

PH informed the Board that the next NFOG Congress will be held in Bella Centre in Copenhagen, from Wednesday the 16th to Friday the 18th of June 2010. The organizational committee has started its work as indicated by the first announcement in the congress bags. A preliminary budget was presented, the organizers count on 800 participants. The low registration fee will be 4000 DKK and the high registration fee 4.700 DKK.

A preliminary plan with plenary sessions in the mornings and afternoons and 3 parallel sessions in between was presented.

ML raised the question of the handling of the possible surplus from the NFOG Congress. In the Congress statutes it is only stated that 1/3 goes to NFOG but the use of the 2/3 is not defined. In the autumn meeting this issue will be discussed further.

9. NFOG 2012

NFOG 2012 will be in Bergen 16-19 of June and Knut Hordnes will be the Congress President.

10. EBCOG

RK reported from the EBCOG Council in Lissabon and the successful Congress there. He told the Board that there will be an election in the autumn for President, Vice President and Treasurer of EBCOG.

II.

16.06.2008

Place: Háskólabíó, Reykjavík

Hours: 17.00 – 18.00

Present: Seija Grenman (President), Ragnheidur Bjarnadóttir (Secretary General), Charlotta Grünwald (SFOG), Morten Lebech (DSOG), Arnar Hauksson (FÍK), Lars-Åke Mattsson (Scientific Committee), Anders Atke (Educational Committee), Peter Secher (webmaster), Reynir T. Geirsson (Acta Chief Editor) and Stig Hill (NFYOG).

11. FIGO

The position of President-Elect will be open when Dorothy Shaw is succeeded by Gamal Serour from Egypt, the present President-Elect.

12. NFYOG

Stig Hill (SH) told the Board that the NFYOG symposium at the NFOG Congress 2008 had been successful with 45 participants. SH promised to give a summary of specialists training in the Nordic countries to be posted on the NFOG website and give a summary of future NFYOG activities.

13. www.nfog.org.

The website has developed to be a valuable source of information to the NFOG members, and it is used increasingly. The Thesis Registry was discussed. Peter Secher (PS) said he was receiving more theses but that they were still fewer than expected, especially from Denmark. He told the Board that the lottery from the Thesis Registry will be performed on June the 16th. The winners in 2007 are Sophia Ehrström, Sweden and Karin Siwe, Sweden. The winners in 2006 are Saruh Turkmen, Sweden and Mette Hornum Bing, Denmark.

14. Other matters.

15. Coming Board meetings

The next Board meeting will be in Copenhagen 20th -21st of November. The Voting members will meet on Thursday the 20th from 17-19. The following day the board will meet from 08-16.

16. Any other business

RG suggested that an Icelandic delegate should be considered as the next Nordic representative in the Executive Board of FIGO. It was decided to discuss this further in the next Board meeting.

In witness thereof, Reykjavík, June 25th 2008

Ragnheidur I. Bjarnadóttir

Charlotta Grunewald, President of SFOG

Secretary General of NFOG

Secretary pro temp