

NFOG BOARD MEETING

Minutes 1/2011

I.

Place: Clarion Hotel, Stockholm

Time: Monday 04.04.11, 13.30-17.30

Present: Göran Berg (President), Thea Lousen (Treasurer), Tone Skeie-Jensen (Secretary General), Aila Tiitinen (SGY), Charlotte Hasselholt Sjøgaard (DSGO), Pia Teleman (SFOG), Bjørn Backe (NGF), Hulda Hjartardóttir (FÍK), Alexander Smárason (Scientific Committee Chairman), Peter Secher (Webmaster), Alda Birgisdóttir (NFYOG), Reynir T. Geirsson (Acta Chief Editor), Knut Hordnes (President NFOG-Congress 2012), Marie Bixo (Educational Committee Chairman)

1. Opening of the meeting Göran Berg (GB) opened the meeting. It was informed that the voting members had held their meeting the same morning.

2. Approval of the agenda The agenda was approved with minor adjustments.

3. Approval of the minutes from the NFOG Board Meeting 3/2010 As referred to in item 4 of the agenda GB was to contact Peter Hornnes regarding the Congress budget. It was confirmed that the expenses of the NFOG 2010 were correctly entered in the budget. The minutes were then approved.

4. NFOG 2012 Knut Hordnes (KH) gave an update on the preliminary plans for NFOG 2012 in Bergen. The dates are June 16th-19th. Deadline for abstracts and low registration fee are set to March 1st, 2012. The preliminary scientific program was presented, and subsequently commented by the Board. All suggestions that were made will be considered by the SC Board, and further comments/suggestions from the Board were asked for. The plan is to have the scientific program finished by this summer.

The program will be structured within 5 plenary sessions, 15 parallel sessions, and 6 sponsored symposia. The handling of posters was discussed. It is planned that posters relating to the topics of each session will be mentioned by the chairmen. GB suggested commenting 1-2 posters in relation to each of the sessions. The importance of attracting young colleagues to submitting posters was stressed.

A second announcement will be sent out in June, and it is important that this gets published in the national bulletins. KH is invited to write an editorial in Acta in Dec/Jan, and GB will write an article early next year.

A budget proposal was presented. Concern was expressed that there might be a lack of sponsors. A point was made by the Board that KH should contact the biggest potential sponsors as Chairman of the Congress. The Board was clear on its financial support if there is a budget deficit. The NFOG fortune will cover a possible deficit. No personal liability will be placed with the organizing committee. Thea Lousen offered to be present at the meetings where the budget will be discussed, and this was accepted.

Further information can be found on the website www.nfog2012.no

5. Scientific Committee Alexander Smárason (AS) presented the applicants for the NFOG Fund. 647.000 DKK are available for grants this year, and will be divided between allocations in March and October. There were 23 applicants, of which 5 were rejected. 302.109 DKK were handed out to the 18 recipients. The Minutes from this meeting are kept by the SC. Again the problem of interpreting § 7 of the Statutes of the NFOG Fund was commented

upon. A proposal will be made for the next General Assembly regarding the necessary changes in the text needed for clarification.

Some points were discussed. The Danish applicants will be allowed to use the "Introduksjonsstilling" as one of the two years of specialist training needed for eligibility to apply for grants. Grants are only given for future projects, and only for one year at a time. Applications for projects in other parts of the world are only rewarded if the work is done by an NFOG member. It is unclear what expenses that can be covered, but the SC is trusted to interpret the present Statutes until the necessary clarifications can be made by the General Assembly.

6. Temporary President of the NFOG Board GB will be temporarily (4-6 weeks) on sickleave, and Charlotte Hasselholt Sjøgaard will be the functioning President for that period. This situation is not covered by the present Bylaws, and the Board will make suggestions for an amendment to be presented at the next General Assembly.

II

Place: Clarion Hotel, Stockholm

Time: Tuesday, 05.04.11, 09.00-14.00

Present: Göran Berg, Thea Lousen, Tone Skeie-Jensen, Aila Tiitinen, Charlotte Hasselholt Sjøgaard, Pia Teleman, Bjørn Backe, Hulda Hjartardóttir, Alexander Smáráson, Peter Secher, Alda Birgisdóttir, Reynir T. Geirsson, Marie Bixo, Seija Grenman

GB presided over the meeting

7. Educational Committee Marie Bixo (MB) gave a presentation of the program for the next Educational Course held in Copenhagen on November 9th and 10th, at Park Inn Copenhagen Airport Hotel. The local organizers will be Matts Olovsson, Uppsala, and Gunilla Tegerstedt, Stockholm.

This years topic is "Chronic Pelvic Disorders – a challenge". A interesting program with the subtopics: dysfunctional urinary bladders, impact of mode of delivery on chronic pelvic disorders, endometriosis, and sexological problems, was presented. The program was well received by the Board. The importance of early announcement of the program in the national bulletins was pointed out. The budget was discussed. The possibility of raising the fee was mentioned, but the Board is of the opinion that this event reaches many of the NFOG members, and thus is money well spent for the NFOG. Last year the meeting had a deficit of about 80.000 DKK, but hopefully there will be some sponsors for this years meeting. The 2012 Educational Course will also be held in Copenhagen.

8. ACTA Reynir Geirsson (RG) gave a presentation of the activity related to Acta since the last Board meeting. There have been submitted 96 manuscripts pr month so far this year, as opposed to 67 pr month last year. There has been an increase in workload without increasing the number of national editors. Because of the shortage of Associate Editors reviewing obstetrical manuscripts, the workload is unevenly distributed. RG therefore has suggested a change in the payment of the Associate Editors, with a fixed minimum amount of 20.000 DKK and € 60 for each manuscript assigned. Further, it has been proposed the appointment of between 8 and 10 International Editors. They are to receive the same fee for handling manuscripts, but no fixed minimum fee. The NFOG Board **accepted both proposals**, but the decisions need the ratification of the General Assembly in 2012.

Lisbeth Nilas has replaced Margit Dueholm as Associate Editor. The Editor's office will be located at Salgrenska University Hospital in Göteborg. Work will proceed to replace Eva Christina Sterner as Editorial Manager of AOGS, as she is retiring.

The NFOG Board **approved the appointment of an Assistant Chief Editor** of Acta. The position will be advertised, and the same total remuneration as given to the Associate Editors will be given to the Assistant Chief Editor.

Finally the question of prolongation of Chief Editor Reynir Geirsson's appointment was discussed. His four year period expires on June 30th, and RG has agreed to stay for another 2 years, which is within the statutes. The Board **approves the 2 year appointment**. GB will discuss the new contract with RG on behalf of the Board. The search for the Chief Editor who will replace RG is on the agenda as this process will take time.

The following will be focused on in 2011:

- appointing international associate editors
- appointing 2 more Nordic editors
- improve the efficiency of the office
- to start using additional facilities proposed by Wiley-Blackwell

9. Economy, budget and accounts Thea Lousen (TL) presented the results for 2010. The economy of NFOG is sound and in good balance. The result for 2010 amounted to 681.526 DKK, of which 66% was transferred to the NFOG Fund. This gives NFOG a result of 231.719 DKK. The complete budget is attached to the Minutes.

10. www.nfog.org Peter Secher gave an orientation about the status of the website. There are still too few theses being sent to the thesis registry. The national societies must increase their effort to get the University Hospitals to notify PS about each new thesis. The suggestion was made that the national webmasters could report to PS.

Further it was stressed that reports from the NFOG visitors program must be submitted to the web-site before a reimbursement is made.

TL will make an overview of questions/problems regarding reimbursement of travel expenses etc., and this will be available on the web-site.

Advertisements for meetings and congresses will not be accepted, but a Congress calendar will be put on the web-site. The exception will be congresses "sponsored" by NFOG. Nordic congresses and meetings are important to promote, and an updated Congress calendar will contribute.

GB will send a letter to Sven O. Skouby regarding the request to advertise the 9th Congress of the European Society of Gynecology, and inform of the Congress calendar.

11. NFYOG Alda Birgisdóttir gave an orientation. No meetings have been held since the last NFOG Board meeting. There will be a meeting in London in May, in association with the ENTOG meeting. NFYOG will meet with the Board of ENTOG, exploring the possibility for ENTOG collaboration. On September 23.-24. there will be held a course in Stockholm with the topic 1st trimester ultrasound. The difference in practice of the Nordic countries will be elucidated. The seminar fee is put at € 50. An effort is being made to get sponsors for the meeting.

12. EBCOG No new report has been given by Peter Hornnes.

13. FIGO NFOG pays the expenses for the Nordic FIGO member to attend one Board meeting per year. Seija Grenman (SG) gave a comprehensive presentation of FIGO activities.

FIGO Board meetings are held at locations in different parts of the world where there are ongoing projects. This enables the Board to keep in contact and monitor the projects. A topic that is discussed within the FIGO Board is the frequency of the Congress. SG wanted the opinion of the NFOG Board with regard to the possibility of having the Congress every other year. The view of the Board seems to favour every 3rd year, but each of the Societies will give SG their written response.

The complete presentation given by SG is attached to the Minutes.

14. News from the National Societies Bjørn Backe (NGF) informed of the development related to the ongoing discussion regarding small delivery units (<300 pr year). The Norwegian Health Authorities have finally decided to close some small units, with the approval of NGF. Further there is an ongoing discussion about introducing routine ultrasound examinations in week 12. This however is not concluded, as it is a matter of prioritizing health services.

Aila Tiitinen (SGY) informed that it in Finland also is an ongoing discussion about small delivery units (defined as <1000 pr year). The SGY will make guidelines as to what shall be minimum medical requirements for running a maternity ward.

There is an ongoing audit of the University Hospitals and the Central Hospitals done by SGY, using EBCOG guidelines.

There is an effort made to start a twinning project between Finland and Kenya. An updated database of health personell who have experience from working in developing countries is in progress.

Hulda Hjartardóttir (FÍFK) informed that in Iceland there are still delivery units with <100 deliveries pr year, and where the general surgeon does the operative deliveries.

Geographical conditions makes it difficult to change this practice.

Because of the financial crises the gynecological unit at Ladnspítali in Reykjavik is forced to close every weekend, and the patients are moved to other wards within the hospital.

Pia Teleman (SFOG) informed that the main issue of concern for SFOG at present is the politically motivated changes being made in the organization of prenatal and maternity care.

An increase in number of privately run healthcare services is seen, especially among the healthcare chains like Capio. The reason given by the authorities is the patients right to chose their caretaker. As an example midwives are encouraged to start private ultrasound screening, as are private firms. No quality standards are required, and teaching is not an issue. The public hospitals are not allowed to participate in "competing" for new patients on equal terms.

Further, SFOG is working on a strategy with the aim to recruit mail colleagues to the field of gyn./obst.

Charlotte Hasselholt Sjøgaard (DSGO) informed that the incidence of dehydration and malnutrition among the newborn in Denmark has shown a threefold increase over the last 4 years. The Health Directorate has concluded that the national guidelines are not being followed, and a discussion about the lack of resources is ongoing.

There is work ongoing with the aim of revitalizing the twinning project with Nigeria. One of the main problems is finding a local coordinator.

Finally CHS is the new Danish representative with EBCOG.

15. Assignment of Per Olof Janson to write the history of NFOG and Acta It is **decided by the Board** that this is a matter of interest for NFOG. The work will be done by Per Olof Janson, and Eva Christina Stern will be reimbursed for her typing work. The aim is that it shall be published in Acta within the year.

16. Proposed visit to RCOG RG and HH will contact RCOG to explore the possibility of a visit. The visit will not be carried out until 2012. RG will inform at the next Board meeting.

17. NFOG's support to keeping Misoprostol on the WHO EML for treatment and prevention of postpartum hemorrhage TL informed that there are forces that want to take Misoprostol off the WHO list, where it has been placed since 2009. NFOG has given its written support to the work of keeping it on the list.

18. Coming Board meetings The next Board meeting will be held in Copenhagen, on Nov 10th and 11th, in association with the Educational Meeting. The voting members of the Board will have their meeting on Thursday, after the Educational Course, and the regular Board Meeting will be held on Friday.

The Board meeting in the spring of 2012, will be held as early as possible because of the Congress, but after the SC has held its meeting deciding on the NFOG Fund allocations. The SC will have their meeting on the 7th-10th of March. The possibility of having the meeting in Iceland has been discussed.

19. Other business No matters were presented.

Göran Berg
President of NFOG

Tone Skeie-Jensen
Secretary General