

NFOG Board Meeting Minutes 3/2007, short version

Time: October 3rd 2007

Place: Hotel Hilton Helsinki Kalastajatorppa.

Participating: entire board, see <http://www.nfog.org/board.shtml> , and Satu Suhonen (secretary general pro temp) Juha Tapanainen (future chairman of SGY),

What has been achieved since Sept. 2006

SG presented a short review on the strategy planned in September 2007 and went through what has been achieved and what is still pending and needs to be developed further. A good discussion and suggestions followed. The review and future plans will be sent to the Board separately and will be presented at the Assembly of Delegates in Reykjavik.

Timetable of board meetings in future

Starting from Jan 2008 NFOG Board meetings will be shorter, commencing on Thursday afternoon and finishing on Friday afternoon, this will cut down the costs as only one hotel night will be required for most Board members.

In future planning of the NFOG budget will be synchronized with the Assembly of Delegates. Therefore the budget for the coming two years e.g. for 2009-2010 is planned to be presented at the 2008 meeting in Reykjavik. A better margin for costs under special initiatives will be reserved.

Lillehammer stipendium

The Lillehammer stipendium was discussed. The statutes were presented for this award indicating that it is to be awarded at the NFOG congresses. The first grant was given in 2004 and was to be spent within 6 years, thus it can be awarded twice again. An advertisement for the grant (stipendium) will be prepared.

NFOG 2008.

The board discussed about the importance of advertising the NFOG congress, i.e. at Nordic and other meetings, in Acta and in the national bulletins and on the NFOG website. An information package was distributed during the SFOG week in Sweden last August. An advertisement has been sent in to the national bulletins and congress information will be updated in all the bulletins until the congress. It was decided that an individual information package would be sent to all members of NFOG. It would include letters from the congress president and from NFOG chairman as well as NFOG 2008 program. There will be an insert advertising the congress with every copy of Acta until the congress.

Inviting Baltic Fellows and/or colleagues from the twinning countries to the NFOG 2008 congress

There was a discussion of whether to invite Baltic Fellows to the congress, as has been done previously. It was pointed out that there was a historical basis for this support, but might as well be colleagues from the twinning countries (Pakistan and Nigeria). It was decided that 2-3 colleagues from the twinning countries would be invited. The expenses should be within the reserved budget.

Scientific committee.

The scientific committee had taken an active part in preparing the NFOG 2008 program. Increasing the number of abstracts was felt to be important. The importance of getting announcements out in time as well as the encouragement of the national presidents to their colleagues to send in abstracts was stressed.

Financial support for trainees who have an abstract was discussed. RK suggested a grant for those whose abstract have been approved. It was also suggested that trainees who have an oral or poster presentation should have reduced or even no congress fee. SG said that NFOG should invest in the future, i.e. the young colleagues. NFOG should cover expenses if there would be a deficit from this. No clear decision was made on this issue, since it is not included in the budget.

Educational committee.

Jens Gudmundsson (JG) discussed the Hot Topics meeting. He informed that registered participants were 70 in all, including the lecturers and the NFOG Board. It was decided to discuss the future of the Hot Topics meetings in the next Board meeting in January.

WWW.NFOG.ORG

NFYOG

The NFYOG symposium which was held in Copenhagen last June had been well attended. Dögg Hauksdóttir presented the planned activities at NFOG 2008, which involves the pre-congress and Board meeting.

The NFYOG Board will meet in Iceland in June prior to the NFYOG seminar. As it will be high season the hotel costs will inevitably be high, the total estimated costs for 2008 is therefore approx. 116 000 DKK. MS said that the NFYOG budget was doubled 2 years ago and is now 100 000 per year, but agreed to add 16 000 DKK for the year of 2008. The Board agreed that it would be beneficial to get more information from NFYOG regarding training in the Nordic countries.

News from DSOG.

Helle Meinertz (HM) reported that the limits to abortion have been debated in Denmark, - they are at present set at 12 weeks but abortion can be carried out with special permission between 12 and 18 weeks. A meeting for the society members to debate the issue will be held in October. In Denmark it was decided to centralize the treatment of ovarian cancer because

of a low national 5 year survival rate - 35%. This has caused heated discussion regarding which centers patients should be referred to.

HM said that DSOG wishes to improve their post-specialist education and that they have started a working group regarding this, looking to the Continuing Medical Education standards of the RCOG and EBCOG.

News from SFOG.

CG reported on the SFOG-week in Luleå, August 2007. There were more than 600 participants, both doctors and midwives. CG also told that discussion on the role of midwives in taking care of medical abortions is closing. Doctors will be the persons in charge, also in the future.

Prenatal screening and harmonization of principles on lengths of sick leaves have been lately discussed in SFOG. CG mentioned that SFOG has started to advertise logos of the medical companies on their website.

News from NGF.

RK told that there are now 780 members in NGF. Centralizing of deliveries has been discussed. The way media is approached has also been taken up in NGF. It was considered important to first have an internal discussion before going public. As the governmental offices for health insurance and unemployment are now working under the same organization, unjustified spread of information from patient records might be possible. This has raised concern and debate.

News from SGY.

JM reported that training has currently been the major focus area of SGY. Harmonizing training and nationwide logbooks has been the aim of the society. He also informed about the new fertility law (came in force on September 1st, 2007).

A discussion in the NFOG Board on HPV vaccination followed. In Norway, a recommendation for vaccination has been made, but no decisions. In Sweden, there is no recommendation yet. In Denmark, a recommendation exists among professionals but the national health authorities have not made any decision yet, either. In Finland, the experts are for vaccination at the age of 11-12, but no official vaccination decisions have been made. In Iceland, no recommendations exist. Those requesting vaccination must pay for it themselves.

News from FIK.

AH said that FIK has 34 active members. Costs for EBCOG membership, though reduced, takes 1/5 of the budget of the society. FIK is aiming at organizing education, including postgraduate education. Guidelines on prenatal care and on information concerning prenatal screening are under preparation. Reducing number of IVF multiples has been discussed, too.

Peter Secher (PS) discussed the website, amongst other things the NFOG 2008 information and the Thesis Registry. It was decided that PS would put a short version of the minutes from Board meetings on the website as well as links to national thesis registries.

EBCOG.

JM reported about the last EBCOG Council meeting in Brussels. JM was elected in the last meeting as a new member for Standing Committee of Training Assessment (SCTA). Tele-communicational and electronic learning system are being evaluated and developed in EBCOG by a separate group. The future of the EBCOG Journal (Clinics in Obstetrics and Gynecology) was discussed. The journal focuses on review articles, and RK informed that it is difficult to get people write for the journal. Resignation of the chief editor makes running the journal more difficult. The election of executive Board of EBCOG took place in June. As Peter Hornnes is an officer of EBCOG (treasurer) and Suzan Lenz member of the executive Board, the Board considered it difficult to get a new Nordic Board member. Professor Attila Pal from Hungary was elected as a new member of the Executive. The next EBCOG council meeting is in Vienna, and is preceded by an ENTOG meeting. The next EBCOG congress is in Lisbon in March 2008. Board considered the timing of EBCOG and NFOG congresses favorable for both congresses.

FIGO, twinning project.

Jerker Liljestrand (JL) presented the organisation of FIGO and described the FIGO Safe Motherhood and newborn Health Project.

- CG presented the experience of twinning between Sweden and Pakistan. This is a 4 year project and an updated program plan for this has been sent out. The project is based in the outskirts of Karachi. She said that the birth statistics were very unreliable. Almost all women deliver at home and there is no information regarding maternal deaths, but this is assumed to be high. The operative theatre at the emergency centre has been renovated so that is now possible to perform cesarean sections. She said that is a challenge to staff it for 24 hours. CG told the Board that people have access to cellphones in the villages, which opens possibilities. JL said that SM(N)H projects with mentor, manager/researcher/MW are one thing, but the task of NFOG should be to strengthen the capacity of the professional societies. SG said that money will be reserved in the budget for Swedish and Danish twinning projects. Interested colleagues from other countries can help in these projects. JL said that SOGP is “suitcase” society. FIGO has never in writing defined what constitutes a national society. Obstetricians and gynecologists are not invited to conferences on maternal mortality etc., as they are not viewed as credible partners. He told the Board that the International Confederation of Midwives has given out assessment tools to strengthen midwives associations. He said that NFOG should put efforts into the twinning projects and that it should be a 10 year project at least. JL thanked the Board for inviting him to their meeting, he said that NFOG has much experience to share and advised to collaborate with midwifery associations in the twinning projects.

Acta.

RTG took over from PO Janson on 1st July.

The image of Acta will be changed. Instructions for authors are being updated, correspondence and book reviews sections will be improved and electronic submission is

starting from November 1st, 2007. The number of supplements, short reports, letters to the editors, reviews and commentaries will be increased.

It is offered, subject to sponsoring, to publish abstracts of NFOG 2008 as a supplement. This idea was well received by the Board and Congress President. Theme numbers, perhaps on key topics of national meetings could be published as supplements, too. In every issue, a review will be included, but at the same time it is necessary to improve their quality. Case reports (CRs) are no longer accepted but there is interest among readers for them.

RTG expressed his wish to have a new cover for Acta. After a discussion a basic red cover colour was suggested along with the main contents of the issue announced on the front page, subject to what was possible after discussion with the publisher and Editorial Board. It was agreed that RG circulates template copies of the possible covers to the Board. RTG proposed that the name of Acta should be changed, i.e “Scandinavica” could be left out of the name. The Board supported this in general, but SS reminded the Board that the decision must be discussed in the next Assembly of Delegates in June 2008. This was agreed to, also by RTG.