

Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology Annual Report 2009

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

President: Seija Grénman, Finland

Secretary General: Ragnheidur I. Bjarnadottir, Iceland

Treasurer: Thea Lousen, Denmark

National representatives: Morten Lebech (DSOG), Juha Tappanainen (SGY), Arnar Hauksson (FIFK), Rolf Kirschner (NFG), Ulf Högberg (SFOG).

Other members of the board: Reynir T. Geirsson, Iceland (Acta), Alexander K. Smarason (Chairman of Scientific Committee), Anders Atke, Denmark (Chairman of Educational Committee), Stig Hill, Norway (Chairman of NFYOG), Peter Secher, Denmark (Webmaster), Peter Hornnes, Denmark, Congress President of NFOG 2010.

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

External Auditor: Bo Hendriksen, Aaen & Co

Board meetings

During 2009 the Board of NFOG had 2 meetings.

Economy, budget, accounts

The economy of NFOG was in good balance in 2009 under the surveillance of the treasurer Thea Lousen. According to the preliminary accounts, the total income was 2.403,112 DKK compared with the budget for the year 2008 which was 2.210.000 DKK. The income 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 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; which includes 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 operating result was: 359.366 DKK (budget 60.000 DKK). The financial income was 2.403.112 DKK (budget 2.210.000). The preliminary result for the year 2009 was 605.799 DKK (budget 210.000 DKK), which is a higher surplus than in previous years.

Acta

Reynir Geirsson was the chief editor of Acta in 2009 and worked together with the Editorial Board to improve the journal. More resources were given to Acta, and a special Review Editor was nominated from among the existing editors (Niels. Uldbjerg). The publisher of Acta in 2009 was Informa Healthcare. Eva Christina Sterner continued as the Editorial Manager with the Chief Editor. A slightly increasing impact factor of Acta and an even higher 5-year impact factor (1.699) reflected a good scientific profile. The rejection rate increased and was around 67-70 %. Acta changed wholly to electronic submission system in 2009. The economy of Acta was favorable.

Support to education and co-operation

The board of NFOG started the NFOG Visitor Program in 2003 and altogether 29 specialists have visited another Nordic country within this program. In 2009, 5 applications were approved for the Visitor Program. In addition, seven applications for the Visitor Program for 2010 were reviewed by the Scientific Committee and five of them approved. 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 for the Collaborative Program were approved in and three applications have been reviewed and approved for the year 2010.

Website (www.nfog.org)

The NFOG website was established in 2001. Peter Secher is the webmaster of 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

Alexander K. Smarason was the chairman of the Scientific Committee in 2009.

The Scientific Committee assessed the applications to the Visitor and Collaborative programs.

Anders Atke was the chairman of the Educational Committee in 2008. The Educational Committee developed a new model for educational courses in 2008 to replace the Hot Topics meetings. The first NFOG Specialist course was held in Copenhagen 18-19th of November 2009. The topic was Vulvar disease and the course was "sold out" with 147 participants and considered to be a success. The aim is to have yearly NFOG Educational courses in the future.

NFYOG

NFYOG has been represented by Stig Hill. The support from NFOG to NFYOG in 2009 was 100 000 DKK. NFYOG held their symposium, "Third world challenges in obstetrics and gynecology: issues, facts and personal experiences" in Copenhagen 12th-13th of June 2009.

EBCOG

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

FIGO and Twinning program

Seija Grenman was elected member of the executive board of FIGO in 2009. She will attend Board meetings at least once a year to keep the NFOG board informed about the activities of FIGO. The twinning project, which FIGO has organized to 12 developing countries to strengthen their National Societies of Obstetricians and Gynecologists was ongoing in 2009. Pakistan was twinned to Sweden and Nigeria was twinned with Denmark but NGF has offered to assist DSOG in twinning with Nigeria.

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 grant to promote Nordic collaboration 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. 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 30th, 2010

Seija Grénman
President
NFOG

Ragnheidur I. Bjarnadottir
Secretary General
NFOG