### NFOG 2010 Assembly of Delegates

**Minutes** 

**Time:** June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 12.00-15.00.

Place: Room 20, Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

**Present:** 

#### **Board of NFOG:**

Seija Grénman (President of NFOG), Thea Lousen (Treasurer of NFOG), Ragnheidur I. Bjarnadóttir (Secretary General of NFOG), Reynir T. Geirsson (Chief Editor of Acta Obstet. Gyn. Scand.), Charlotte Sögaard (President of DSOG), Aila Tiitinen (President of SGY), Hulda Hjartardóttir (President of FIFK), Björn Backe (President of NGF), Ulf Högberg (president of SFOG), Alexander Smárason (Chairman of Scientific Committee), Alda Birgisdóttir (President of NFYOG), Peter Secher (Webmaster), Peter Hornnes (President of NFOG 2010).

### **Delegates:**

Denmark (5): Kresten Rubeck Petersen, Charlotte Brix Andersson, Lise Lotte Torvin Andersen, Marie Storkholm, Charlotte Floridon

Finland (5): Risto Erkkola, Merja Metsä-Heikkilä, Juha Mäkinen, Oskari Heikinheimo, Antti Valpas (not present)

Iceland (1): Arnar Hauksson

Norway (4): Kevin S. Oppegaard, Knut Hordnes, Torill Kolås, Runa S. Aabø

Sweden (5): Lena Marions, Solveig Norden Lindeberg, Pelle Lindqvist, Magnus Westgren, Göran Berg

Auditors: Ditte Trolle, internal auditor (Denmark), Nils-Erik Backas, internal auditor (Finland).

The Assembly of Delegates was open to all members of NFOG. In addition to the persons mentioned above, 43 members of NFOG attended the Assembly.

## 1. Opening of the meeting.

Seija Grénman (SG) opened the meeting

#### 2. Roll-call of delegates.

Ragnheidur Bjarnadottir (RIB) performed the roll-call of delegates.

# 3. Election of chairman and two minutes checkers.

Rolf Kirschner (RK) was proposed and elected chairman of the assembly. Charlotte Wilken-Jensen and Knut Hordnes were elected as minutes checkers.

#### 4. Report by the board for the years 2008 and 2009.

RIB presented a summary of the activities of the NFOG Board 2008-2009. She showed the names of the Board members during the years 2008 and 2009, the number of meetings and the main topics on the agenda. She showed the objectives of NFOG as defined in the statutes and summarized how the Board activities had aimed to meet them. The Visitor and Collaborative Programs were presented and the Assembly was told that 75.000 DKK was allocated to each program per year. The Twinning project was discussed, which was organized by FIGO to strengthen the national societies of obstetricians and gynecologists in developing countries. Pakistan has been twinned with Sweden and Nigeria with Denmark with the assistance of Norway. Two colleagues from Pakistan and one from Nigeria had been invited to the NFOG Congress 2010 but unfortunately the ones from Pakistan had not been able to attend due to problems in obtaining visas.

# 5. Report of the Scientific Committee.

RIB gave report of Scientific Committee for years 2008 and 2009 on behalf of Alexander Smárason. Its role in planning the scientific program of the NFOG Congress 2010 in collaboration with the local organizing committee as well as selecting abstracts for oral and poster presentations was described. In addition the Scientific Committee is responsible for the Visitor Program each year and chose the recipients of the prizes and grants awarded at the NFOG 2010 Congress; thesis presentations (5), Young Scientist award (1), Best oral (3) and poster (3) presentations and Lillehammer scholarships (2).

**6. Report of the Educational Committee.** RIB presented the Educational Committee's work in years 2008 and 2009. The Educational committee has arranged courses in non-congress years, i.e. odd years. In 2009, the course got a new structure when the Hot Topics courses were replaced with yearly Specialist courses. The first Specialist course on "Vulvar disease" was held in Copenhagen in November 2009 and was "sold out" with 147 participants. The second Specialist Course on "Polycystic Ovary Syndrome throughout life" will be in Copenhagen in November 2010.

# 7. Report of NFOG's website (www.nfog.org).

RIB reported of the use and structure of NFOG website on behalf of Peter Secher. The number of daily visitors has increased steadily from an average of 20 in 2004 to about 50 in 2010. In the last 2 years, the minutes of the board meetings and General Assembly have been added to the website. In addition, various courses of interest to Nordic colleagues have been made available and frequently updated on the website. However, the Thesis registry, which was started in 2003, is still incomplete as it does not cover all theses in obstetrics and gynecology in Nordic countries.

## 8. Report of NFYOG.

RIB gave the report on the behalf of Alda Birgisdóttir. There are 2 representatives from each Nordic country in the NFYOG board. NFYOG arranged a Symposium with the topic "Third world challenges in obstetrics and gynecology: issues, facts and personal experiences" in Copenhagen 2009. During NFOG 2010, NFYOG arranged a Pre-congress Symposium under the title; "Transplantation of female genital organs". The support from NFOG had been raised to 100 000 DKK in NFOG congress years and to 140 000 DKK in seminar years. NFYOG members have also worked actively in ENTOG.

# 9. Report of Acta Obstetricia et Gynecologica Scandinavica.

Chief Editor of Acta, Reynir T. Geirsson gave a report for Acta. RTG stressed the importance of Acta, which will be 90 years old in 2011, for NFOG. The mean number of manuscripts per month is 68 and the rejection rate is currently around 66% with more review and overview articles being published. The electronic submission is working well. The changes to Acta had been well recieved; both the new front page, as well as the editorials. He said that Acta would be changing publishers in the near future. A tender had been made to prospective publishers and and Wiley–Blackwell been decided on upon as a preferential publisher for further negotiations. RTG reminded NFOG members of the importance of sending good quality manuscripts to Acta.

### 10. Financial report.

The Treasurer Thea Lousen (TL) showed the financial reports for 2008 and 2009. Total income of NFOG in 2008 was 2.118.310 DKK (budgeted 2.110.000) and in 2009, 2.403.112 DKK (budgeted 2.110.000). The income consisted of membership and subscription fees and payment from Informa/Taylor & Francis. Costs of Board meetings were considerably lower than budgeted; costs in both years: in 2008 (congress year), 376.397 DKK vs. budgeted 500.000 DKK and in 2009, 194.636 DKK vs. budgeted 400.000 DKK. Expenses from Acta, Hot Topics/Specialist courses and committees were close to budgeted in this 2-year period. Total costs in 2008 were 2.378.592 DKK (budgeted 2.305.000) and -1.946.659 DKK (budgeted 2.265.000) in 2009. Operating result for 2008 was -260.282 DKK (budgeted -195.000) and for the year 2009 it was 456.453 DKK (budgeted -155.000). The result of the year was positive for both 2008 and 2009; 142.295 (2008) and 992.196 (2009). Total assets for 2008 were 9.927.123 DKK and 10.684.608 DKK for the year 2009. The result of the year has been positive during a long period yielding a continuously increasing fortune for the society.

# 11. Auditors' report.

TL had received reports for the years 2008 and 2009 from the external auditor Bo Hendriksen on April 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 and May 7th 2010, stating that the external auditor complied with independence requirements contained in the law and had received all the information requested. Internal auditors represented by Ditte Trolle (DT) had received the reports for 2008 and 2009 well in advance of the congress. She considered ensuring good standard as the task of auditors and said that this had been guaranteed by providing the auditors with documents according to the timetable agreed. DT approved of the present handling of expenses by the Acta editors, which is now only against invoices.

# 12. Question of granting discharge of liability to the board of NFOG.

The chairman asked the Assembly of Delegates whether it grants discharge of liability to the board, and discharge was granted.

# 13. Budget proposal for years 2008-2010.

TL then presented the budget proposal for 2010, 2011 and 2012. The proposal was done for 3 calendar years in order to have an approved budget for NFOG until its next General Assembly in 2012. The main incomes of NFOG are the membership fees, Acta subscriptions and net results from Wiley-Blackwell. The extraordinary income is uncertain and depends on the results of the NFOG congresses, and is thus not included in the budgets. The income from the NFOG membership fee and from the Acta subscription will rise due to an increase in the number of members in the National Societies.

The total costs are estimated to 2.250.000-2.775.000 per year, and the main expenses are costs for Acta (1.219.000), the board (400.000-500.000), committees (200.000-240.000), special initiatives (290.000-360.000) and additional costs (141.000).

# 14. Nomination Committee's proposal of persons to the positions of trust.

Björn Backe presented the Nominations Committee's proposals: President (Göran Berg, Sweden), Secretary General: (Tone Skeie Jensen, Norway), Internal Auditor: (Harald Almström, Sweden) and Deputy Auditor: (Kristina H. Johannessen, Sweden). He told the Assembly that Tone Skeie Jensen had been unable to attend and presented her CV. The present External Auditor Bo Hendriksen and Internal Auditor Ditte Trolle, Denmark agreed to continue. However, Internal Auditor Nils-Erik Backas, Finland and Deputy Auditor Kim Toftager-Larsen wished to resign from their posts.

### 15. Election of the President of NFOG.

Göran Berg was elected President of NFOG. He thanked for the confidence.

### 16. Election of the Secretary General of NFOG.

Tone Skeie Jensen was elected Secretary General of NFOG in her absence.

#### 17. Election of the Internal Auditor of NFOG.

Harald Almström was elected as Internal Auditor.

#### 18. Election of the Deputy Auditor of NFOG.

Kristina H. Johannessen was elected as Deputy Auditor.

### 19. NFOG 2012.

Knut Hordnes, president of NFOG 2012, presented the first announcement of the congress and informed the GA that the local organizing committee has commenced its work. He welcomed all to Bergen in June 17-19<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

### 20. NFOG 2014.

Ulf Högberg (UH) informed the Assembly of Delegates of the proposal of SFOG that Stockholm would host the NFOG Congress 2014 with Magnus Westgren (MW) as congress president. The proposal of SFOG was supported. MW welcomed all to Stockholm in June 11-13<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

# 21. NFOG Fund.

TL presented the proposed NFOG Fund, which, if approved of, would become "Special Enactment I" to the articles of NFOG. The purpose of the NFOG Fund is to support further development of professional skills, research, and clinical and scientific collaboration in the fields of obstetrics and gynecology. Members of NFOG who are specialists in obstetrics and gynecology or trainees who have completed two years of specialist training are entitled to apply for grants for the following main fields within obstetrics and gynecology. The GA approved of the proposal for the fund.

### 22. Amendments to NFOG bylaws.

RIB presented amendments to the Articles of NFOG, where the Assembly of Delegates is combined with the General Assembly (GA) and in the future referred to as General Assembly. It is also stated that all members of the national societies are allowed to attend the Assembly and speak, although as before, only the National Delegates can vote. These amendments were approved of by the GA. The GA was also informed of the inclusion of the Nordic FIGO representative in some Board meetings, as well as the sharing of expenses, which does not require an amendment of the Articles of NFOG. In addition,

amendments to the special enactments related to the NFOG congresses, were presented and approved of. Lastly, amendments to the special enactments relating to Acta, were presented and approved of. See amendments on www. nfog. org.

# 23. Discussion of NFOG's future strategies.

A plan of how to use the NFOG fortune for its members had been called for in GA 2006 and at the GA in 2008 it was suggested to form a fund similar to the Danish FIGO fund to support research, especially in the global perspective. A draft of a NFOG fund now been presented and approved of by the GA. SG pointed out that the biannual GA was a powerful tool for NFOG. She reminded the GA that NFOG had an important task in involving its members, especially the young ones, in NFOG's activities. She said that the former board had managed to strengthen Acta and that the agreement with the new publisher was promising. She also stressed that the NFOG Fund would present many possibilities, as would the NFOG Specialist Course which had already proved popular.

#### 24. Other business.

Risto Erkola proposed that National Societies of the Baltic Countries should be included in NFOG in the future. He suggested that the future NFOG Board should contact the Baltic National Societies and present a proposal for this at the next GA, in collaboration with them,.

# 25. Closing of the meeting.

RK closed the meeting and thanked the board of NFOG, the Assembly of Delegates and members for active attendance. He also thanked the former NFOG President and Secretary General for their contribution to the society.

In witness thereof,

Reykjavík, July 13th, 2010

Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir Rolf Kirschner

NFOG Secretary General Chairman of the Assembly of Delegates

Charlotte Wilken- Jensen Knut Hordnes
Minutes Checker Minutes Checker