

NFYOG - Status report

Since the last NFOG board meeting NFYOG has had 2 board meetings. The first one in London in May. It was held in conjunction with the ENTOG meeting. At the suggestion of Nuno Martins, previous president of ENTOG, NFYOG had been discussing possible cooperation between the two organizations. I was invited to make a short introduction of NFYOG at the ENTOG council and afterwards we had a meeting with the ENTOG board discussing cooperation. They were interested and positive towards our work and we considered we could learn a lot from their work, especially with respect of improving the trainee programs within the Nordic countries. It was decided that the next meeting of the two boards would be held in Tallinn Estonia in conjunction with next ENTOG meeting and thereafter every year or every second year.

The main topic of the NFYOG meeting in London was then the seminar in Stockholm we were planning in September (See enclosed Minutes and Seminar plan). Our main worry was that few people would sign up and how to attract them. We decided that a fee would be necessary so people wouldn't sign up unless they were planning to come, given our previous experience, and set the fee of 50 Euros. We also made the decision that a minimum of 20 participants would be required for the seminar to be held and advertised a deadline for signup, the 15th of August.

Our second board meeting was held in Uppsala in September and was supposed to be held in conjunction with our seminar, but since only 4 persons signed up the seminar was canceled as previously decided.

The main topic of the Uppsala meeting was why there was so little interest for the Seminar and whether we could have done anything different to attract more trainees. The majority of the board was of the opinion that trainees within the Nordic countries have a lot of mandatory courses that they get for free and a paid leave to attend. It could be difficult to get the day off for an extra non-mandatory course. One idea would then be to have the seminar on a weekend but that has proven to be unpopular since people consider the weekend a family-time they are not willing to sacrifice. The expenses are probably also a big issue since everyone has to cover their own traveling and accommodation. The topic of the seminar was interesting but maybe not special enough to attract. If compared with the ENTOG seminars for example the topic was maybe not focusing enough on being a trainee and trainee situations within the Nordic countries which we will in the future try to emphasize more.

We also had a good discussion about the future of NFYOG and whether we felt that what we are doing now is beneficial for the trainees of the Nordic countries. For the last years the majority of the work of the board has focused on organizing seminars that very few trainees attend. Our work is thus only benefitting 10-20 trainees out of hundreds. We came to the conclusion that NFYOG was not as well known as it should be and we should try to be more visible and a part of that would be to update the webpage and create an obvious link on the webpages of the national organizations of trainees.

We discussed planning a pre-congress seminar for the NFOG 2012 but came to the conclusion that trainees, including our selves, would be more interested in the workshops and thus expected poor attendance and decided to try something different. This year we are planning a sponsored dinner for trainees, with a short presentation from a sponsor, and then a presentation of NFYOG, what we stand for and our future plans, including a plan for the NFYOG seminar 2013. We are then hoping for discussions and ideas from the trainees on how we can get them to come. Our ideas of future seminars include, combining a seminar and visitations to Nordic hospitals, 2 days for example and 2 trainees from each of the Nordic countries, chosen by the national organizations would be sponsored. I plan to present more detailed ideas regarding change of emphasis of NFYOG's work in the future on the next NFOG board meeting and will then be grateful for your feedback.

We also discussed an invitation to participate in the WATOG project (WATOG: World Association of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynecology). We concluded that we should rather focus on improving our work within the Nordic countries for the time being.

Our next board meeting will be held in Tallinn in May and thereafter we will meet in Bergen in June.

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NFYOG President