

NFOG NEWS – 900 participants in NFOG 2008 congress in Iceland

Dear Nordic Colleges

The first NFOG meeting in Iceland took place in 1976, the next meeting was in 1992, and the 36th congress of the Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology took place in Iceland June 14-17 2008. As said at the gala dinner by Per Bergsjö, it has always been a lot of fun !

Almost 900 participants from 30 countries enjoyed an excellent scientific and social program and warm Icelandic hospitality. One third of the 37 members of the Icelandic society belonged to the local organizing committee, and practically all members of FIK participated the NFOG 2008 congress. In fact, all Nordic societies had good representation, the Danes being at the top. One third of the active members of the Danish Society were participating the meeting !

The local organizing committee chaired by **Thora Steingrimsdottir** carried the heaviest burden of organizing the meeting. They were helped by many NFOG members especially by the NFOG Scientific Committee chaired by **Lars-Åke Mattsson**. The scientific program included interesting, carefully prepared invited lectures as well as free communications, and a number of well designed posters. The abstracts of the meeting are available at the NFOG homepage, www.nfog.org.

The opening lecture “ Addressing barriers to access to sexual and reproductive health care“ was given by the FIGO president **Dorothy Shaw**. She was impressed both by the activities of NFOG and the beautiful Icelandic landscapes and hospitality. The scientific program included a wide range of topics from the NFOG symposium entitled “Women’s health in global perspective” to a whole day program on “Skills training, simulation and assessment”. These titles and other topics of the program reflect the needs and interests of the NFOG members as well as colleges in other parts of the world. Two member countries of NFOG have recently joined **the FIGO twinning projects** to help colleges and midwives in establishing structured activities in the twinning countries. Sweden is collaborating with Pakistan and Denmark with Nigeria. The skills training sessions demonstrated clearly the benefits of using simulation in obstetric and surgical training.

The scientific committee had the difficult task of choosing the NFOG Young Scientist Award winner as well as the winners of the 3 best oral, and 3 best poster presentations. (Please see the NFOG homepage). In addition, the committee had chosen one recently published academic thesis from each Nordic country for the session entitled “ Presentation of theses”. The majority of all recently published theses on obstetrics and gynecology in the Nordic countries can be found at the Thesis Registry at NFOG homepage. The Acta prize for the best quoted paper in 2007 was given by Reynir Geirsson, the chief editor of Acta to Minna Tikkanen, Finland. The award, the prizes and other support are given to appreciate and stimulate good scientific work conducted by the NFOG members. Congratulations to the winners!

In addition to biannual congresses NFOG currently provides the members new ways to meet and collaborate with the colleges in the Nordic countries. The NFOG Visitor program was established in 2003 and since that 27 colleges have visited a clinic in a neighbour country. This program has now

been expanded to include also scientific collaborative visits. **The dead line for Collaborative Research Visits is Sep 30th**. Besides this program NFOG has possibilities to support collaborative Nordic projects and meetings. So, if you have ideas for Nordic collaboration you can send an application to the NFOG secretary general Ragnheidur Bjarnadottir (lagholt@simnet.is) or to the chairman of the scientific committee Lars-Åke Mattsson (lars-ake.mattsson@vregion.se), or contact any of the members of the NFOG board.

I want to thank everybody, who contributed to the success of the NFOG 2008 meeting - the organizers, the speakers, and the participants ! The work on NFOG 2010 congress in Copenhagen has started, and we all can look forward to the next successful NFOG meeting! Mean while, visit www.nfog.org to look at the congress abstracts and to get information on different activities and possibilities, which NFOG provides to its members



Seija Grénman

Dorothy Shaw

Thora Steingrimsdottir

with summer greetings

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