

## **NFOG 2008 Assembly of Delegates Minutes**

**Time:** June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 12.30-14.00.

**Place:** Háskólabíó, Hall 4, Reykjavík, Iceland

**Present:**

### **Board of NFOG:**

Seija Grénman (President of NFOG), Martin Stjernquist (Treasurer of NFOG), Ragnheidur I. Bjarnadóttir (Secretary General of NFOG), Reynir T. Geirsson (Chief Editor of Acta Obstet. Gyn. Scand.), Morten Lebech (President of DSOG), Antti Valpas (replacing the President of SGY), Arnar Hauksson (President of FIFK), Rolf Kirschner (President of NGF), Charlotta Grunewald (president of SFOG), Lars-Åke Mattsson (Chairman of Scientific Committee), Anders Atke (Chairman of Educational Committee), Stig Hill (President of NFYOG), Peter Secher (Webmaster), Thóra Steingrimsdóttir (President of NFOG 2008) and Peter Hornnes (President of NFOG 2010).

### **Delegates:**

Denmark (5): Berit Jul Mosgaard, Charlotte Brix Andersson, Anette Tønnes Pedersen, Susanne Christau, Kathrine Birch

Finland (5): Risto Erkkola, Pentti Kiilholma replaced by Satu Suhonen, Juha Mäkinen, Maija-Riitta Orden, Antti Valpas

Iceland (1) : Kristín Jónsdóttir

Norway (4) : Knut Hordnes, Torill Kolås, Runa S.Aabø, Erik M. Torkildsen

Sweden (5) : Ulf Högberg, Marie Bixo, Lars Henning, Ove Axelsson, Sophie Berglund

**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, approx. 40 members of NFOG attended the Assembly.

- 1. Opening of the meeting.** Seija Grénman (SG) opened the meeting
- 2. Roll-call of delegates.** Ragnheidur Bjarnadóttir (RIB) performed the roll-call of delegates. Some replacements of delegates were announced.
- 3. Election of chairman and two minutes checkers.** Peter Hornnes (PH) was proposed and elected chairman of the assembly. Satu Suhonen and Kristín Jónsdóttir were elected as minutes checkers.
- 4. Report by the board for the years 2006 and 2007.** RIB presented a summary of the activities of the NFOG Board 2006-2007. She showed the names of the Board members during the years 2006 and 2007, the number of meetings and the main topics on the Agendas. She showed the objectives of NFOG as defined in the statutes and summarized how the Board activities had aimed to meet them. The Visitor Program was presented and the Assembly was told that 75.000 DKK was allocated per year and that all applications had been supported. The Twinning project was presented, which was organized by FIGO to strengthen the National Societies of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists 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 2008 but unfortunately they 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 2006 and 2007 on behalf of Lars-Åke Mattsson. Its role in planning the scientific program of the NFOG Congress 2008 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 2008 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 2006 and 2007 on behalf of Anders Atke. The Educational committee has arranged courses in non-congress years, i.e. odd years. In 2003, the course got a new structure and was named Hot Topics. The third Hot Topics-course was held in Helsinki, in October 2007, with 80 participants. As there have been relatively few paying participants, discussion is ongoing about replacing Hot Topics courses with other educational activities within the framework of NFOG.

**7. Report of NFOG's website ([www.nfog.org](http://www.nfog.org)).** RIB reported of the use and structure of NFOG website on behalf of Peter Secher. Visits on homepages had become more frequent as the NFOG Congresses drew close. However, the abstracts of NFOG 2002, 2004 and 2006 had been the most frequently visited area on the homepages in January 2008. 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. However, the number of theses registered has increased each year from 2005-2007 and most theses registered are from Sweden.

**8. Report of NFYOG.** RIB gave the report on the behalf of Stig Hill. There are 2 representatives from each Nordic country in the NFYOG board, also from Iceland. In June 2007, NFYOG arranged a seminar with the topic 'Is their a future for Obstetrics'. The evaluation of the seminar was positive and a report of the seminar is published on [www.nfog.org](http://www.nfog.org) under 'trainees'. During NFOG 2008, NFYOG arranged a pre-symposium under the title; "Obstetrics, a threatened speciality". 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 has been issued for 78 years, for NFOG. He said that the mean number of manuscripts per month is 67 and that the rejection rate had increased from 55 to 75%. The electronic submission is working well after initial difficulties. The changes to Acta had been well received, both the new front page, as well as the editorials. He asked the Assembly whether "Scandinavica" should be dropped from the title, and the Journal called the AOG or AOGS. Unni Kirste, Norway, pointed out that the current name reflected the link with NFOG. RTG replied that perhaps the name should be changes to Acta Nordica as not all Nordic countries are part of Scandinavia. PH suggested that changing the name should be discussed further within the National Societies and put on the Agenda for the next Assembly of Delegates in 2010. RTG also asked the Assembly if the subscription fee could be increased from 200 DKK, to 250 or even 300 DKK in 2009 as it has been unchanged for 14 years. This was discussed by the Assembly but decided to keep the subscription fee as it is and support Acta instead through the assets of NFOG. RTG reminded NFOG members of the importance of sending good quality manuscripts to Acta. *PH stressed the importance of referring to papers that have been published in Acta as increasing citations will raise Acta's impact factor.*

**10. Financial report.** The Treasurer Martin Stjernquist (MS) showed the financial reports for 2006 and 2007. Total income of NFOG in 2006 was 2.644.360 DKK (budgeted 2.110.000) and in 2007, 2.357.280 DKK (budgeted 2.110.000). The income consisted of membership and subscription fees and payment from Taylor & Francis. The positive balance of the year 2006 was also explained by the profit from NFOG 2006 which gave a surplus of 365 720 DKK. Costs from board meetings were exceeded from budgeted costs in both years: in 2006 (congress year), 517.796 vs. budgeted 500.000 DKK and in 2007, 437.986 vs. budgeted 400.000 DKK. Expenses from Acta, Hot Topics-course and committees were close to budgeted in this 2-year period. Total costs in 2006 were 2.253.995 DKK (budgeted 2.305.000) and in 2007, 2.047.463 DKK (budgeted 2.265.000). Operating result for 2006 was 390.365 DKK (budgeted -195.000) and for the year 2007 309.817 DKK (budgeted -155.000). The result of the year was positive for both 2006 and 2007; 436.959 (2006) and 480.186 (2007). Total assets for 2006 were 8.938.519 DKK and 9.696.491 DKK for the year 2007. The result of the year has been positive during a long period, yielding a continuously increasing fortune for the Society.

**11. Auditors' report.** MS had received reports for the years 2006 and 2007 from the external auditor Bo Hendriksen on December 29th 2007 and June 4th 2008, stating that the external auditor complied with independence requirements contained in the law and had received all the information requested. However, internal auditors represented by Ditte Trolle (DT) had received the budget for 2007 only few days before the congress. She considered ensuring good standard as the task of auditors and this should be guaranteed in a better way in the future by providing the auditors with documents according to the timetable agreed. DT made some remarks to the accounts. The auditors presented criticism on handling of invoices by the Acta editors and suggested different ways of reimbursement, i.e. either only against invoices or as an annual salary, which would then be taxed. MS was of the same opinion as the auditors but also informed the Assembly of Delegates that the board had considered the present system less expensive than paying a salary. PH suggested that a solution to this matter would be resolved by the Chief Editor and the NFOG board and presented at the next General Assembly. This was supported by the GA.

DT also asked about the cost for the Treasurers secretary 2007, which was 54.152 DKK but MS informed her that the cost also included 2006 and is thus according to the budget (2 x 25.000). PH asked the Assembly and members to present ideas to use the fortune of NFOG in good purposes also between the congresses. DT pointed out that the Board reserve, an amount of 500.000 DKK, had neither been used in 2006 nor 2007. She also pointed out the NFOG now has a considerable fortune of close to 10 million DKK. SG and MS asked the Assembly if the Board could use the surplus for special initiatives. UK suggested that it should be used to invest in Acta and therefore it was not necessary to raise the subscription fee. The Assembly of Delegates decided to invest in Acta and in Special Initiatives. SG asked the Assembly if the Board could already use the surplus of 2005-2007 for these purposes. She considered important that the board has tools to operate and support good ideas in addition to those mentioned in the budget. The Assembly gave its approval and urged the NFOG Board to use the surplus of previous years to invest in special initiatives and Acta.

**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.** MS then presented the proposal for 2008, 2009 and 2010. The proposal was done for 3 calendar years in contrast to previous budgets in order to

have an approved budget for NFOG until its next General Assembly in 2010. The main incomes (2.210.000) of NFOG are the membership fees (210.000), Acta subscriptions (800.000) and net results from Taylor & Francis (1.200.000) The extraordinary income is insecure 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. Negotiations with Taylor & Francis might result in increased income in 2010, but this possible change is not included in the budget. The total costs are estimated to 2.360.000 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). The operating results are estimated to -150.000, balanced by net financial expenses of 150.000, and thus yielding budgets in total balance with results of the years of zero.

- 14. Nomination Committee's proposal of persons to the positions of trust.** HM presented Nominations Committee's proposal of President (Seija Grénman, Finland, president of NFOG) of Treasurer (Thea Lousen, Denmark) and Deputy Auditor (Kim Toftager-Larsen, Denmark). She told the Assembly that Thea Lousen had been unable to attend and presented her CV. The present external auditor Bo Hendriksen and internal auditors Ditte Trolle, Denmark and Nils-Erik Backas, Finland agreed to continue.
- 15. Election of the President of NFOG.** Seija Grénman was re-elected President of NFOG. She thanked for the confidence.
- 16. Election of the Treasures of NFOG.** Thea Lousen was selected Treasurer of NFOG from 01.01.2009 in absentia.
- 17. Election of the Deputy Auditor of NFOG.** Kim Toftager-Larsen was elected as Deputy Auditor. He thanked for the confidence.
- 18. NFOG 2010.** Peter Hornnes, president of NFOG 2010, presented the first announcement of the congress and told that the local organizing committee has commenced its work. He welcomed all to Copenhagen in June 16-18<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- 19. NFOG 2012.** Rolf Kirschner (RK) informed the Assembly of Delegates of the proposal of NGF that Bergen would host the NFOG Congress 2012 with Knut Hordnes (KH) as congress president. The proposal of NGF was supported. KH welcomed all to Bergen in June 16-19<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- 20. Discussion of NFOG's future strategies.** RIB presented the suggestions that had been voiced at the Assembly of Delegates in 2004 and 2006 and how the Board had been able to meet them. In 2004 it had been suggested to have a trainee in the local organizing committee for NFOG Congresses and to make "play rules" for the pharmaceutical industry. This had been done. It had also been suggested that the support to the Visitor Programs should be increased. The support has been increased from 75.000 DKK to 150.000 DKK. Currently the program includes both clinical and scientific visits (NFOG Collaborative Program). In 2006, it was suggested that NFOG would be made more visible. This has been attempted with the development of website and News letters from the Chairmen and Committees on the website and in the National Journals. SG asked the GA to come up with other ideas to increase the visibility of NFOG. The twinning program had been suggested at the AD in 2006 and had been started in 2007. In addition, a plan of how to use the NFOG's money had been called for in GA 2006. RIB showed how the money had been used for motivation and stimulation of NFOG members; through awards and prizes, supporting NFYOG and the Baltic fellows, now replaced by twinning fellows. The Board called for more ideas from the Assembly to support scientific

and clinical cooperation, training and global reproductive health. RK, Norway, suggested a training program for laparoscopic surgery which could be developed into a Nordic training module. Arnar Hauksson (AH), Iceland suggested a list of centres of excellence in various fields to facilitate the Visitor Program. Ulf Högberg, Sweden suggested that Nordic collaborative projects like the one by Jens Langhoff-Roos should be supported. RIB told that this project had been supported according to the board decision in Oct 2007. Lone Hvidman, Denmark, suggested establishing a fund similar to the Danish FIGO fund to support research, especially in the global perspective. SG suggested that a draft of NFOG fund would be made and presented at the next General Assembly. She thanked the participants for good ideas and told that the future strategy of NFOG is to invest on the development of Acta and to increase the support to projects suggested by the NFOG members.

**21. Any other business.** None.

**22. Closing of the meeting.** PH closed the meeting and thanked the board of NFOG, the Assembly of Delegates and members for active attendance.

In witness thereof,

Reykjavík, June 25th, 2006

Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir  
NFOG Secretary General

Peter Hornnes  
Chairman of the Assembly of Delegates

Satu Suhonen  
Minutes Checker

Kristín Jónsdóttir  
Minutes Checker