

Minutes for the Board meeting

Time: Thursday 20th (08:00-16:45) -Friday 21th April, 2018 (08:00-11:45)

Place: Hotel Siemens Gaard, Bornholm, Denmark

Present: Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann (President), Espen Berner (Treasurer), Maija Jakobsson (Secretary General), Ganesh Acharya (Chief Editor AOGS), Niels Ulbjerg (Guidelines Committee Chairman), Ulrik Schiøler Kesmodel (Scientific Committee Chairman), Katrin Kristjánsdóttir (Educational Committee Chairman), Elisabeth Frederika Rosen (NFYOG), Bjarne Rønde Kristensen (President NFOG 2018), Hanne Brix Westergaard (DSOG), Hannu Martikainen (SGY), Alexander Smáráson (FÍFK), Andreas Herbst (SFOG), Nils-Halvdan Mørken (NGF) (on Friday)

Excuses: Lars Ladfors (Webmaster)

1. **Opening of the meeting** The President Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann opened the meeting.
2. **Approval of the agenda** The Agenda was approved.
3. **Approval of the minutes** The Minutes from the previous Board meeting were approved with small adjustments.
4. **Educational committee.** Katrin Kristjánsdóttir presented preliminary programme and Budget for Educational Course that will be held from Thursday to Friday 25th -26th April, 2019, in Stockholm. The Preliminary Budget for the local is 110 040 DDK for 100 people, including lunch and dinner. Accommodation costs are not included in the Budget, Board Discussed, whether this should be included in the fee. The venue is Svenska Läkaresällskapet, which is centrally located. The maximum number of participants will be 200 (120 for the dinner). Usually there have been from 60 to 130 participants. Probably an Extraordinary General Assembly will be held in connection with this course. Board agreed that it is acceptable to pay some fees for famous speakers, if these expenses are included in the Final Budget. EC will have a new chairman, Mervi Väisänen-Tommiska, from Finland.
5. **Guidelines Committee (GC)** Niels Ulbjerg presented the members of the GC. National guidelines are presented in the NFOG website and there exist also a short English summary. Any missing guidelines should be delivered to the Chairman. The Board discussed how to spread the message about these guidelines. Chairman will discuss with Webmaster how to present guidelines more attractively in the website. GC has prepared a first NFOG guideline on progesterone for prevention of preterm delivery. This subject has been very challenging, it has not been completed. Endometriosis will be a new experiment. There will be maximum 2 members per country, who will stay 4-7 days in Oslo, until the product has been finished. Axel Forman has established this group. Concern: will they deliver? People are very busy and to have the time for the process is a problem.
6. **NFOG 2018.** Congress president Bjarne Rønde Kristensen presented the programme, which looked very attractive. The Congress has already 600 registered participants. Nordic congress on endometriosis will be held as a pre-congress course. The Board decided to try attend Reproductive Health and Rights in Low Income Countries pre-congress course. For exchange programme there are only 6 persons who are willing to attend. Congress has received 2 000 000 DDK sponsor money. Congress will have a relaxed atmosphere. Four

sponsors will have a lunch symposium. Presidents session will focus on human rights and female immigrant rights. During the congress there will be also some speeches for the public in Danish. Congress organizers have had a lot of problems MCI congress organizing company. App company has worked well.

Congress president recommended that ex-presidents should share their experiences actively.

7. **Scientific committee (SC)** Ulrik Schiøler Kesmodel (USK) presented some points from SC meeting which was held in March, 2018. The number of submitted abstracts for the NFOG congress was 246, of which 54 were accepted for oral presentation, and 186 for poster session. Only six abstracts were rejected. Some posters will be picked for a short oral poster presentation; the decision will be informed to candidates via the congress app. **The NFOG Board decided to give 10 grants of 5000 DDK to trainees who have an oral presentation, or a poster presentation accepted for the upcoming NFOG Congresses 2018 and 2021.** The grant is aimed only at NFOG members. The SC will decide who will receive the grant. **USK will write the text for the website.**

The whole SC will be chairing the thesis session. One thesis has been chosen from each country.

Ganesh Acharya suggested that NFOG thesis lottery prizes should be handed out based on the quality of the work, not randomly. **The SC will discuss this subject and suggest how to proceed.**

How to secure continuity of the work in the SC? Previously, the Norwegian scientific secretary has also been the member of the NFOG SC for two years at a time. This has been considered too short a time period, and from 2018 the Norwegian member of the SC will be separately selected. Finland and Iceland already have flexible arrangements. Antti Perheentupa from Finland will be the next Chairman of the SC taking over right after NFOG 2018.

For the NFOG Fund, the new application system has not worked satisfactorily. The cost for the current on-line system is included in the NFOG website Budget. **The President will contact the Webmaster and negotiate how to solve this problem.**

The SC received 35 applications in total. The amount applied was 910 803 DDK, of which 453 625 DDK was used on 27 applications approved in full or in part. Rejected applications either did not fulfill the explicit criteria stated on the NFOG website or were rejected for other reasons explained at the meeting. Specifically, costs relating to sitting an exam was not funded, as sitting an exam does not improve skills *per se*; costs related to organizing an obstetrical course in Nepal was not covered, because an invitation from Nepal had not been provided; a multi-center Nordic study was not funded, as no justification was provided for the number of sheep, and the protocol contained no considerations of ethics.

The SC will consider in the future how to handle applications relating to multicenter studies.

Grants can be given for various types of costs, but the Board discussed if costs not specified in the list on the NFOG Fund webpage can be covered (for example running costs of the studies, software, sheep or other animals etc.)? **The SC will discuss this and maybe specify in more detail on the website what can and what cannot be covered.**

8. **NFYOG** Elisabeth Frederika Rosen presented ongoing projects: visibility (Facebook etc.), website. There has been some discussion if there should be password to their website, because of patient material. They are preparing information material for those who want to work in developing countries. NFYOG arranges pre-congress course during the NFOG 2018

congress. Pass on the knife 2.0 was initiated in Denmark and it is spreading also to other Nordic countries.

NFYOG and EC work together to uniform specialist training in Nordic countries.

9. **The Nordic Textbook.** Niels Ulbjerg presented the suggested logo for the textbook. There will be no author fees, open source. Textbook will include videos and podcasts. Authors for each chapter will come at least for three Nordic countries. Sweden cannot provide an author for the project, but Board still wishes to find an individual Swedish doctor to it. The Editorial Board comes from all other countries. Authors for each chapter have been nominated. Test chapters have been produced and evaluated by young people. Textbook is done by Nordic authors, but it will be utilized also in developing countries. Therefore, we can share knowledge about safe abortion and other important woman reproductive health issues. The Budget for the book is 945 000 DDK.

The money that will be needed for maintaining the content updated can be a challenging

There are several options how to cover the running costs: students pay a small amount, students donate, the faculties support, advertisements. Additional small fee for Nordic students was suggested, if it is technically possible. A new committee to maintain this project was suggested. **The Board in general supported the project of Nordic textbook.**

10. **Economy, budget, and accounts Economy, budget, and accounts** Treasurer Espen Berner presented the accounting for 2016 and 2017. The result for 2016 was a surplus of 233.611 DDK. In 2017 there was a surplus of 593.345 DDK. The positive result is due to higher income from AOGS than budget. The board reserve for have been used according to budget for the pilot phase of the electronical textbook and the remaining is reserved for upcoming cost for the textbook, if the GA in Odense decides to put forward this project. The NFOG Fund means at 2017-12-31 is 4.213.234 DKK. The total financials assets, equity and liabilities for NFOG at 2017-12-31 are 14.348.950 DKK. Budget for 2019 was presented and discussed. Due to the planned extraordinary GA in 2019, NFOG decides budget for 2019 only at the GA in Odense 2018.

The Chief Editor's salary has unchanged for several years. Ganesh Acharya has done an extraordinary job to increase the quality of AOGS. Therefore, the Board decided to give an additional bonus for the Ganesh Acharya's salary by 50.000 DKK/year from 2019. In addition, the board suggests an increase of expenses for associate editors from 2019. To further improve AOGS, extra cost for a social media editor and editorial meetings outside Scandinavia has been suggested for the 2019 budget.

The educational course in 2019 has a budget of 200.000 DKK. Additional cost for the extraordinary GA is 50.000 DKK. Running cost for electronic textbook for of maximum 100.000 DKK has been suggested for the 2019 budget. The electronic textbook should be in balance within three years. Therefore, similar expenses is expected in 2020 and 2021. Otherwise, the board suggest only minor changes in the 2019 budget, compared to previous years. In total, the board suggests a negative balance (deficit) of 260.000 DKK for the 2019 budget.

11. **EBCOG.** Hanne Brix Westergaard presented the Danish society in the previous EBCOG congress. There were a lot of participants from eastern Europe. In EBCOG congress in Bergen 2020 there should be a Nordic session. The Board discussed also about the possibility to arrange an Extraordinary General Assembly during the EBCOG congress. An excellent "Project for achieving consensus in training" book produced by EBCOG was

presented and it was strongly recommended. Board decided to add the Budget 50 000 DDK for extraordinary General assembly for 2019.

12. **AOGS.** Ganesh Acharya presented AOGS annual report for 2017. He highlighted the research dissemination process from research discovery to post-publication peer-review assessment and verification. Data repositories were introduced. Marketing objectives and strategies were discussed. Two objectives (aim to increase App downloads and to increase Impact Factor from 2.48 to 3) and strategies to achieve these were introduced. Wiley and AOGS Strategic plan for 2018 was introduced. Some developments in 2017-2018: New updated author guidelines, minor changes to decision letters, changes in statements regarding preprint publication/servers. Approval by NFOG Board to extend Assistant Chief Editor's duration of appointment to 4 years and possibility of overlap (1 years). Two new IEB members, appointment of new International Associate Editor, appointment of a new Deputy Chief Editor, small increase in reimbursement to the Associate Editors and transition to electronic reimbursement. Rejection rate was 81.9 % last year. Acceptance rate for manuscripts from the Nordic region has remained quite the same during the last years. Impact factor is predicted to rise to at least 2.5 this year (to be published in June 2018).
13. **General Assembly,** Discussion on Extraordinary General Assembly or Special enactment Election of chairman, webmaster and secretary general. Current chairman is willing to continue one year more. The next chairman would probably come from Finland. Treasurer was elected for 4 years since 01/2017. Webmaster is also willing to continue. There have been some problems with NFOG website. In the Board there was discussion how to solve these problems. The President will discuss with the Webmaster.
The Board suggests to General Assembly that an Extraordinary General Assembly will be arranged in 2019 in conjunction with an Educational Course. The cost of the General Assembly will be added to the Budget. In 2020 there will be extra Educational Course or Nordic session during EBCOG congress.
14. **News from the National Societies**
In Sweden (**SFOG**) has completed 11 courses for specialist training. Swedish Board has considered to have a new member for the Board, who will focus on post-specialist training. Currently there are two subspecialities: gynecological cancer and infertility. Late abortions can be performed up to 21+6, there has been discussion about the upper limit. The government has given 1.8 billion SEK to improve obstetric care. This money was somewhat unexpected, it is related to increasing number of deliveries (120 000 deliveries per year), but also to social media. Some of the money can be used also for education. There has been suggestion whether chairman of the SFOG could have for example 20% of the salary paid from the Society.
In Iceland (**FÍFK**) General Assembly as well the main scientific meeting was held recently. Curriculum for specialist training for 5 years has been completed. With lower attendance of women in the national cervical cancer screen program, women are younger and with more advanced cancer at diagnosis. Therefore the cancer screening programme has been discussed. Currently the program is organised and run by the Icelandic cancer society which is a private non-profit organisation. HPV vaccination is established as a national programme. There is a big problem with midwives wanting to leave their jobs because of a long delay in negotiations over their salaries.
In Norway national society (**NGF**) has some financial problems and there has been discussion if the annual fee should be increased.

Denmark (**DSOG**) is concerned about 25% rise in the number of deliveries. Because of the hard workload and low salary midwives are quitting and therefore Denmark has a high lack of midwives. Midwives would like to have midwife-led delivery units without doctors, which the national Society does not approve. Subspecialization programmes has been discussed lively. HPV vaccination has had a decline in uptake and due to a huge campaign the uptake is now increasing.

In Finland national society (**SGY**) will have a 90-year anniversary in autumn. SGY secretary has a high workload, some improvements, or salary have been suggested. The Health Care Reform is a huge project that is still ongoing. Training programmes have been improved, selection of trainees will be more systematic in the future. Programmes have been structured better. In Finland the number of births is still declining, the reason for that remains unclear.

15. **Data sharing issue** AOGS can encourage data sharing, expect data sharing, or mandate data sharing. There are still problems how to use repositories, which repositories could be used and how to share data without breaking the laws. AOGS should advice authors which repositories could be used and how. Board accepted that “AOGS will encourages authors to share the data and other artefacts supporting the results in the paper by archiving it in an appropriate public repository. Authors should include a data accessibility statement, including a link to the repository they have used, in order that this statement can be published alongside their paper.” The Chief Editor and the Chairman will work to achieve more detailed instructions for the authors. The AOGS also needs to have a data protection policy. The Chief Editor will contact Wiley and negotiate about the details.

16. **Feedback from the National Societies.**

Can NFOG-congresses be held week 34-36 (from 2023) to obtain more swedish colleagues to the NFOG congress? In general, August was not considered to be problematic, this will be further discussed in the future.

Are you interested in formal education after specializing? Can we share/harmonize courses/education-plans within the Nordic countries and/or with RCOG? How about maintaining skills – CME/CPD? Societies have worked hard to improve training programmes in many countries. Nordic exchange, harmonizing training programmes and sharing experiences were encouraged. NFOG courses and the 2021 NFOG congress should obtain CME points to encourage continuous medical education.

17. **FIGO** The Board discussed about the Nordic sessions and speakers. There have been some cancellations and the NFOG President will negotiate about the final speakers. The Board decided that the Chairman should attend FIGO congress and NFOG will cover the expenses. Ganesh Acharya suggested that since NFOG President is attending the congress herself, she should chair the Obstetric session in the Nordic Symposium instead of Ganesh Acharya, which she accepted. Nordic FIGO officers Anette Tønnes Pedersen and Seija Grénman will stop. It would be very important to have some members of NFOG working for FIGO. SFOG suggested to nominate professor Kristina Gemzell Danielsson for the position of the vice president or an executive officer. The Board decided to support her nomination. Professor Seija Grenmán has asked the Board to support Violence against women working (VAW) group by providing some gravel grants for delegates. Unfortunately, this suggestion come too late and such money has not been reserved in the Budget.

18. **Upcoming Board meetings:** Next meeting will be in Odense, Sunday 10th June, afternoon and very short meeting on Wednesday, June. The next meeting will be in Helsinki starting from Monday 12th November with dinner and lasting Tuesday, 13th.
19. **Other business.** There were no other businesses, so the President closed the meeting.

Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann

Maija Jakobsson

President

Secretary General

