



2018 NFOG General Assembly Minutes

Time: June 12th, 2018, 16:00-17:30

Place: Odeon, Odense

Board of NFOG:

Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann (President), Espen Berner (Treasurer), Maija Jakobsson (Secretary General), Ganesh Acharya (Chief Editor AOGS), Niels Uldbjerg (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), Lars Ladfors (Webmaster)

Delegates:

Denmark (5 votes): Annemette Lykkebo, Pia Ertberg, Malou Barbosa, Jeannet Lauenborg, Julie Tharin

Sweden (5 votes): Helena Kopp Kallner, Liselott Andersson, Eva Uustal, Ove Axelsson, Elin Svensk

Finland (4 votes): Outi Uimari, Mervi Väisänen-Tommiska, Oskari Heikinheimo, Seija Grénman

Norway (5 votes): Stine Andreasen, Marit Lieng, Hans Kristian Opøien, Yngvild Skåtun Hannestad, Thea Mikkelsen

Iceland (1 vote): Sigrún Hjartardóttir

The General Assembly (GA) is open to all members of NFOG. Fifty-one members (including the Board) attended the meeting.

1. **Opening** Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann (KRW) opened the meeting.
2. **Agenda Approval:** KRW presented the Agenda and it was approved.
3. **Delegate roll call:** Maija Jakobsson (MJ) carried out the roll call of the delegates.
4. **Election of Chairman and delegates for checking of the minutes:** Knut Hordnes (KH) was proposed and elected as Chairman of the GA. Stine Andreassen (Norway) and Eva Uustal (Sweden) were proposed and elected for the task of checking the GA minutes.
5. **Board Report for 2016 and 2017:** MJ presented the members of the Board for GA. MJ summarized the main activities of the NFOG Board for the past two years. NFOG members can access an overview of the Board's activities in the meeting minutes, posted on the website. Annual reports are also posted on the website.

Usually NFOG congresses and GA are held biannually, but to avoid competition for participants with EBCOG 2020 Congress in Bergen, the next NFOG Congress will be in Reykjavik 2021. **Therefore, the Board have decided to have an Extraordinary GA (April 26th, 2019) in conjunction with the Educational Course** that will be held April 25th-26th, 2019 in Stockholm. **The subsequent GA will be held during NFOG 2021 Congress.**

The majority of NFOG activities are done through its committees and are presented by the committee chairmen. International collaboration with FIGO is very important for NFOG. Seija Grénman has been the Vice President of FIGO since 2015. Anette Tønnes Pedersen and Margit Steinholt represent the Nordic countries on the Executive Board of FIGO.

The Nordic countries have decided on a common Nordic candidate for the Executive Board at FIGO GA 2018, since the terms of Seija Grénman and Anette Tønnes Pedersen will end. NFOG will also arrange two scientific sessions during the FIGO 2018 Congress.

6. Scientific Committee (SC) Report: Ulrik Schiøler Kesmodel (USK) gave a presentation of the work done by the SC. The main work is the assessment of the applications to the NFOG Fund. The application form has been revised and is now completely electronic, but it still needs some improvement.

The SC also handles, evaluates, and scores the abstracts for the NFOG Congress. Further, it evaluates the presentations and awards prizes for Young Scientist and best oral and poster presentations. SC is planning a multicenter study in collaboration with Netherlands in 2019.

7. Educational Committee (EC) Report: Katrin Kristjánsdóttir presented members of the EC. The EC has arranged educational courses biannually, most recently in Copenhagen (April 27th-28th, 2017). The topic was *Hormones - Friends or Foes?* The next course will be called *Do the Right Thing! - Everyday Dilemmas in Obstetrics and Gynecology and How to Deal with Them.*"

8. Guidelines Committee (GC) Report: Niels Ulbjerg (NU) presented the composition and activities of the GC. The NFOG website has a summary of the current national guidelines translated into English

9. NFOG website Report: Lars Ladfors (Webmaster) presented the website.

10. NFYOG Report: Elisabeth Frederika Rosen presented NFYOG committee and their aims. NFYOG is planning to have a surgical platform and a global platform for trainees who are planning to work abroad. NFYOG arranged a trainee dinner during the NFOG 2018 Congress. The dinner was very popular.

11. Report from AOGS (Acta Obstetricia et Gynecologica Scandinavia): Ganesh Acharya presented the Editorial Board and the International Editorial Board. The Editorial Board meetings are educational events.

The rejection rate at AOGS has been very high (80%). Manuscript handling times continue to decrease. In 2017, the total number of submissions was 927. Income from the journal has been substantial for NFOG. In 2017, it was approximately 1.8 million DDK. AOGS also encourages manuscript submissions from developing countries. The impact factor was 2.48 in 2016, and is expected to exceed 2.51. AOGS will celebrate its 100-year anniversary in 2021.

12. Textbook: Niels Ulbjerg (NU) presented the Nordic textbook project, which aims to support teaching for Nordic medical students. There is also a global perspective to support the teaching of medical students in the third world and to spread Nordic knowledge. Many international societies have extensive training and knowledge-sharing programs. The textbook could be a good way to promote NFOG and Nordic values.

The textbook is planned to be open-sourced. Each chapter will feature authors from at least three different Nordic countries. NU presented a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of the project. The analysis determined that the strengths are the concept and enthusiastic Nordic colleagues. The opportunities are easy updates and global aspect. Running costs are estimated to be around 100,000 DDK annually.

Several delegates expressed a very positive attitude toward the textbook project, emphasizing that this is the kind of Nordic project for which the Board Initiative was created, that this is a pioneer project, and that this project can be of great value to our Nordic medical students as well as students in the third world. However, concerns were raised about whether such a project should be done at all, about the decision process, and about funding (for instance, if access should be free or if there should be a fee).

The Norwegians request a more detailed plan concerning the economy of this project, including the possibility of downloading the book for free. They also want suggestions of alternative platforms for the project. They remark that the Agenda is not according to the Statutes because this topic was included only one day before the GA, without any time for suggestions. The GA is therefore unable to vote on any proposal and needs to prepare for the next GA.

The Norwegian and Swedish national societies do not feel as though their questions on how to make this project sustainable, both practically and economically, have been answered. This issue needs to be investigated and presented at the next GA.

Some societies are also concerned about the running costs. The Swedish Board has discussed this concept and Swedes are not sure if they need such a textbook. The textbook will need updated frequently, which requires a lot of work. The Swedes would prefer to promote NFOG guideline work. They commented that women's rights in the Nordic countries are probably more interesting for the rest of the world than basic gynecology and obstetrics.

The Board has already decided to use Board Initiative money for the textbook's pilot phase. The work is well underway. The Chairman emphasized that a decision on either closing down the project or supporting a full project would be premature and unwise since the concept should be presented in full and the matter should be on the Agenda with proper notice. The GA agreed that the project should continue as a pilot project until a proper status and evaluation

can be done at the GA in Stockholm next year (April 2019). The evaluation will require an updated Budget and adequate prior notice. The cost should be covered through the Board Initiative until this evaluation.[See 15. Budget Proposals for 2019].

The final decision on the textbook will be made at the next GA.

13. Financial report: Espen Berner (Treasurer) (EB) presented the financial results of 2016 and 2017. The economy of NFOG is sound, and the results are in line with the Budget. EB presented the annual financial report of the NFOG and the independent auditor's report. Income comes from AOGS membership and subscription fees. Some income comes from financial incomes and financial expenses. Surplus has mainly come from AOGS. Of the surplus, 66% is transferred to the Fund. The total asset is 14 million DDK. The Board allowance has until now been utilized only marginally. The NFOG Fund balance is 4.2 million DDK. Educational courses and the website have resulted in some deficit. The complete Budget and results can be found on the website with the GA minutes.

14. Auditor's report: EB received reports for 2016 and 2017 from the external auditor, Bo Hendriksen, stating that the external auditor complied with the independent requirements stated within the law, and that they had received all of the information requested. Internal Auditor Johanna Mäenpää had sent an internal auditor's statement, which was presented in the meeting. Charlotta Grünwald did not attend GA. **Discharge of liability was granted by the GA.**

15. Budget proposals for 2019: EB presented the 2019 Budget. The Chief Editor will get an additional bonus for his extraordinary work. The Social Media Editor expenses are a new cost in the Budget. The Associate Editor expenses will increase for the next year. Editorial meetings that will take place outside of Scandinavia have been added to the Budget. **The Board had suggested 100,000 DDK additional funding for the textbook, but that was not approved.** The Board Initiative was granted a budget of 100,000 DDK, which is substantially less than last year. **Thea Lousen suggested transferring the 100,000 DDK originally allocated to the textbook project to the Board Initiative instead. This transfer was accepted.**

16. Proposals from the Nominating Committee for positions of trust in NFOG: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, KRW presented the nominees for the positions of trust within NFOG:

President: Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann (Denmark)

Internal Auditors: Thea Lousen (Denmark) and Kevin Sunde Oppegaard (Norway)

Deputy Auditor: Elin Svensk (Sweden)

17. Election of NFOG President: Karen Reinhold Wøjdeman presented herself to the GA and was re-elected as President of NFOG for one year.

18. Election of NFOG Auditors: Thea Lousen and Kevin Sunde Oppegaard were elected as Internal Auditors. Elin Svensk was elected Deputy Auditor.

19. NFOG 2021: Congress President Ragnheiður L. Bjarnadóttir (RB) presented the 42nd NFOG 2021 Congress venue in Reykjavik. Their website has already been introduced.

20. NFOG 2023: Norway was suggested and decided to be the location for the NFOG 2023 Congress. The city and the Congress President will be announced at the next GA.

21. Closing of the meeting: KRW closed the meeting.

Odense, June 12th, 2018

In witness thereof:

Maija Jakobsson
NFOG Secretary General

Knut Hordnes
Chairman of the General Assembly

Stine Andreasen
Checker of the Minutes

Eva Uustal
Checker of the Minutes