

The Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology (NFOG) Annual Report 2017

The Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology Board

President: Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann, Denmark

Secretary General: Maija Jakobsson, Finland

Treasurer: Espen Berner, Norway

National Representatives: Seija Grenman (SGY), Andreas Herbst (SFOG), Thomas Larsen (DSOG), Marit Lieng (NGF), Alexander Smáráson (FÍFK)

Other members of the board: Ganesh Acharya, Norway (AOGS Chief Editor); Ulrik Schiøler Kesmodel, Denmark (Scientific Committee Chairman); Bjarne Rønne Kristensen, Denmark (President of NFOG 2018); Katrin Kristjánsdóttir, Iceland (Educational Committee Chairman); Lars Ladfors (Webmaster); Elisabeth Frederika Rosen, Denmark (NFYOG); Niels Ulbjerg, Denmark (Guidelines Committee Chairman);

Internal Auditors: Charlotta Grunewald, Sweden; Johanna Mäenpää, Finland

Deputy auditor: Martin Andresen, Norway

External auditor: Bo Hendriksen, Aaen & Co

The NFOG Board held two meetings in 2017. The minutes from these meetings are posted on the website.

Economy, budget, and accounts

The economy of NFOG is supervised by Treasurer Espen Berner. The income is derived from membership fees, AOGS (Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica) subscriptions, and returns from the NFOG assets.

The expenditure is generated by the activity of AOGS, the management costs are generated by the board and the NFOG committees, and a possible deficit is generated by the NFOG Congress. Sixty-six percent of the budget surplus is transferred to the NFOG fund, and is thus distributed to the members of NFOG.

The economy of NFOG is well-balanced. The budget and accounts will be presented at the General Assembly in June of 2018.

AOGS

Ganesh Acharya (GA) is the Chief Editor of AOGS. There have been major changes made to the International Editorial Board. Professor Anthony Odibo from the University of South Florida (Tampa, FL, USA) was appointed to Deputy Chief Editor in January 2017. He stepped down after one year to accept the position of Chief Editor of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology. After advertising the position, and after a proper evaluation, selection and interview process, Amarnath Bhide from St. George's University Hospital (London, UK) was appointed as the new Deputy Chief Editor. He will

take up the position in January 2018. It has been agreed to extend the appointment of the assistant chief editor (ACE) by two years (creating a four-year term), conditional upon satisfactory performance. There will be an overlap of one year with the current ACE and new ACE to provide a better learning opportunity, better continuity, and a smooth handover.

The impact factor of AOGS has increased from 2.191 in 2015 to 2.480 in 2016. The 2017 impact factor will be available in June 2018, and it is predicted to increase further. AOGS has regularly published special theme issues, and they have been very popular.

The collaboration with the publisher (Wiley) has been good, and the journal has a very healthy economic situation.

The data sharing issue was discussed with the NFOG Board in 2017. The International Committee for Medical Journal Editors recommends journals to have a policy on data sharing, and will mandate that such a policy be in place for clinical trials starting July 2018. The publisher of our journal has requested to have a policy in place regarding whether to encourage, expect, or mandate data sharing for our journal as soon as possible. Although data sharing was considered to be a good thing to promote transparency and reduce research waste, some problems were also recognized. Data ownership, safety of information sharing, and cost of data sharing are some of the issues that need further clarification. Currently, due to the uncertainty regarding legal and ethical issues related to universal data sharing, the board has decided to not sign any of the above three policy options. This matter will be put in the agenda and discussed in the next meeting in April 2018, and a decision is expected to be made at that time.

The NFOG fund

A new electronic fund application system has been introduced. Despite the great effort made by the Scientific Committee (SC) to inform NFOG members of the requirements for receiving grants, many applications still do not fit the criteria, and are therefore rejected. Unclaimed grants will go back to the fund after two years.

An annual report for the NFOG fund is posted on the website for further details.

Website

The new website (www.nfog.org) has been introduced by Webmaster Lars Ladfors, including a new electronic travel-reimbursement system.

Committees

The main function of the SC in non-congress years is to assess the applications for the NFOG fund and suggest allocations. The application procedure for the NFOG fund has been changed into an online application form with one or more attachments. The previous form required a submission of one single file, which had to include the application form and attachments. The board has introduced a declaration of interest form for the members of the SC and the board to be declared. The SC has made a visit to the NVOG Consortium in Amsterdam to learn from their research collaboration and to establish similar collaborations in the Nordic countries. The board suggested

that a special working group led by Ulrik Schiøler Kesmodel be created to further work with this idea.

Annual reports from the NFOG committees are posted on the website for more detailed information.

The NFYOG (Nordic Federation of Young Obstetricians and Gynaecologists) president has created a NFYOG Facebook group and a website. NFYOG will collaborate with the Educational Committee to further evaluate educational needs. EC and NFYOG should write a proposal for Nordic requirements for specialist training. NFYOG is planning to have a surgical platform and a global platform for the trainees who are planning to work abroad.

[EBCOG- European Board & College Of Obstetrics And Gynaecology](#)

Hannu Martikainen and Lars Ladfors have represented their national societies in the previous EBCOG meetings. In general, there have been very few Nordic participants in those meetings.

[FIGO- The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics](#)

The board has decided to arrange a Nordic symposium during the FIGO Congress that will focus on two subjects: “how to maintain low caesarean section rates” and “how to avoid cancer.”

[Nordic textbook](#)

A common Nordic textbook for medical schools would increase collaboration in the Nordic countries. The GA will decide in 2018 whether this project will proceed. The Editorial Board is working to make a couple of chapters ready for the GA. The Swedish society could not provide the national chief editor for this project, but there are still some Swedish doctors who have already agreed to participate in this project.

[General remarks](#)

The aim of the NFOG Board is to promote the clinical and scientific collaboration between obstetricians and gynecologists in the Nordic countries, and to work to achieve a high standard of training at all levels in obstetrics and gynecology. Further, the work of NFOG is aimed at improving the reproductive health of women on a worldwide basis. The assets of NFOG are used to promote this aim, and the NFOG fund is an important tool in order to achieve these goals.

The present NFOG Board will make every effort to continue and expand the important work of NFOG.

On behalf of the NFOG Board

April 1st, 2018

Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann
President

Maija Jakobsson
Secretary General