

The Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology (NFOG) Annual Report 2016

The Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology Board

Presidents: Knut Hordnes, Norway, and Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann, Denmark
Secretary General: Tone Skeie-Jensen, Norway, and Maija Jakobsson, Finland
Treasurer: Thea Lousen, Denmark

National Representatives: Lotti Helström and Anderas Herbst (SFOG), Seija Grenman and Hannu Martikainen (SGY), Thomas Larsen (DSOG), Maarit Lieng (NGF), Alexander Smáráson (FÍFK)

Other members of the board: Ganesh Acharya, Norway (Chief Editor of AOGS); Peter Secher, Denmark; Lars Ladfors, Sweden (Webmasters); Oskari Heikinheimo, Finland (President of NFOG Congress 2016); Bjarne Rønne Kristensen, Denmark (President of NFOG Congress 2018); Ulrik Schiøler Kesmodel, Denmark (Scientific Committee Chairman); Tomi Mikkola, Finland; Katrin Kristjánsdóttir, Iceland (Educational Committee Chairmen); Niels Ulbjerg, Denmark (Guidelines Committee Chairman); Anne Cathrine Hofgaard Munk, Denmark (NFYOG)

Board meetings

The NFOG Board held two meetings in 2016. The minutes from these meetings are posted on the website. The General Assembly was held during the NFOG Congress 2016.

Economy, budget, and accounts

The economy of NFOG is supervised by Treasurer Thea Lousen. The income is derived from the membership fees, AOGS (*Acta Obstetricia 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 were presented in detailed at the General Assembly in June of 2016.

AOGS

Ganesh Acharya has been a Chief Editor of AOGS since 2015. Jens Langhoff-Roos was appointed to a 20% position as Assistant Chief Editor. In 2015, the impact factor of AOGS was up to 2.191, and it was the fourth ranked journal covering general obstetrics and gynecology in the world. There have been major changes made to the International Editorial Board (IEB), which will have a maximum of 20 members. Agreeing to review 10 manuscripts per year is a prerequisite for a position at the IEB, and members will be asked to submit articles and write editorials. All six continents are represented on the IEB. Major changes have also been made to reduce the handling time of submitted manuscripts, which was shortened markedly.

These changes will optimistically contribute to the submission of higher-quality articles, which would subsequently improve the impact factor. Furthermore, effort has been made to increase the visibility of AOGS through social media and professional networks.

The NFOG fund

The NFOG fund awards applicants twice annually. The total amount applied for in 2016 was 400,797 DKK. There were 28 applicants in 2016. Some of the applicants did not fulfill the criteria, and therefore did not receive a grant. The website has been updated, and a model of application was made.

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

A report from the recipients of grants from the fund must be written and posted on the website prior to reimbursements. This will increase the awareness of the fund by the NFOG members.

Peter Secher was succeeded by Lars Ladfors as a Webmaster in 2016. Bernskiold Media was chosen as the new, modern webpage partner.

Committees

The main function of the Scientific Committee (SC) in non-congress years is to assess the applications for the NFOG fund and suggest allocations. The standard application is to be presented on the new NFOG website.

The SC has discussed how to define, and subsequently fill in, knowledge gaps by actively promoting cross border studies within the Nordic countries. The discussion was inspired by the Dutch Consortium for Healthcare Evaluation (www.studies-obsgyn.nl) and the new Svensk Nätverk för Nationella Kliniska Studier (www.sfog.se).

The SC planned a visit to the Dutch Consortium in Amsterdam in the spring of 2017 to get inspired by their study collaboration.

The Educational Committee (EC) worked on a biannual educational course ("Hormones – Friend or Foe?"), which was held in Copenhagen in April 2017.

The Guidelines Committee (GC) presented a project that aims to produce a Nordic survey about the role of progesterone in the prevention of preterm birth. Two members from each Nordic country were nominated to this group. A Delphi round was performed among multi-disciplinary specialists. The GC has decided on translating the national guidelines within the Nordic countries into English.

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

NFYOG- Nordic Federation of Young Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

NFYOG worked together with the EC in arranging the educational course in Copenhagen. It has been active in planning the possible implementation of e-learning courses and video lectures for trainees. The trainee dinner during the 2016 NFOG Congress had many active participants and was very successful. NFYOG has evaluated some tools that could be used to evaluate and assess surgical training in the Nordic countries.

EBCOG- European Board & College Of Obstetrics And Gynaecology

Knut Hordnes has reported EBGOG news to the board. NFOG is not part of the EBGOG, but national societies are. Therefore, it is essential that national societies are active in EBGOG and those members report EBGOG news to the board.

FIGO- The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics

Seija Grenman (Finland) and Anette Tønnesen Pedersen (Denmark) have represented the Nordic countries as members of the FIGO Executive Board. Seija Grenman was elected as the Vice President. Lesley Regan held a workshop at the NFOG Congress 2016 pre-congress called "Women's sexual and reproductive rights." The intent of congress workshops is to increase awareness of the fact that the rights of women are violated in numerous respects. In the budget, there is 100,000 DKK reserved for the NFOG symposium during the FIGO Congress 2018 in Rio de Janeiro.

NFOG 2016, Helsinki

The NFOG Congress 2016 program was built by the local Helsinki organizing committee and the SC. Local organizations and the central organization add value to every congress in different ways. Abstracts were reviewed by both committees. There were 875 participants from 29 countries. In pre-congress courses, there were 133 participants, which was slightly fewer than expected. Pre-congress courses were on Sunday, which might have affected attendance. Hands-on courses were the most popular. Industry-sponsored symposia had a high level of registrations. Social events were well-attended; the most popular event was the NFOG dinner, which had 606 participants. There were 11 sponsors, but they made the final attending decisions quite late. The exhibition was sold-out several times. Income came from registration fees and exhibition fees, totaling 652,700 € (~4,857,000 DKK). Congress did make some surplus.

General remarks

The aim of the NFOG Board is to promote the clinical and scientific collaboration between the obstetricians and gynecologists in the Nordic countries, and to work to achieve a high standard of training at all levels in obstetrics and gynecology. Furthermore, 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

May 10th, 2017

Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann
President

Maija Jakobsson
Secretary General