



Minutes for the Board meeting

Time: Tuesday 13th, November 2018, 09:00-18:00

Place: Hotel Lilla Roberts, Pieni Roobertinkatu 1-3, Helsinki

Board of NFOG:

Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann (President), Espen Berner (Treasurer), Maija Jakobsson (Secretary General), Niels Ulbjerg (Guidelines Committee Chair), Antti Perheentupa (Scientific Committee Chair), Mervi Väisänen-Tommiska (Educational Committee Chair), Elisabeth Frederika Rosen (NFYOG), Bjarne Rønne Kristensen (President NFOG 2018), Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir (President NFOG 2021), (Hanne Brix Westergaard (DSOG), Hannu Martikainen (SGY), Oskari Heikinheimo (Vice President of SGY) (until 15:15), Alexander Smáráson (FÍFK), Eva Uustal (new President of SFOG), Nils-Halvdan Morken (NGF), Lars Ladfors (Webmaster) Ganesh Acharya (Chief Editor AOGS)

Excuses: Andreas Herbst (SFOG)

1. **Opening** The President Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann (KRW) opened the meeting and welcomed the new Board members.
2. **Agenda Approval** The Agenda was approved.
3. **Minutes Approval from the previous Board meeting** Minutes were approved by small adjustments. The Board decided that it is possible to sent the Minutes for language revision.
4. **NFOG 2018** Bjarne Rønne Kristensen presented the main figures of the congress 2018. Congress had 844 participants from 29 countries. There was in total 13 pre-congress workshops with 204 participants. Fellowship programme attended only 5 trainees, but attenders liked it. The number of abstracts was 178. Congress had 48 exhibitors. The preliminary balance was 123 730 DKK, but minor changes might occur after we receive the final results from ICM. According to the statutes two thirds of the final surplus

comes to the local organizing committee and one third to NFOG. This year participants also received CME points.

5. **NFOG 2021** Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir told about congress 2021, which will be held 13-16, June, 2021. They have already chosen icelandic congress organising company with a lot of experience from medical congresses. Precongress courses could be arranged by different medical societies. Some important topics will be: ACTA celebrating 100 years. medical training in obstetrics and gynecology, NFOG collaboration with NVOG and RCOG, violence against women, ethics in obstetrics and gynecology, controversies in obstetrics and gynecology. Inspired of the FIGO-congress (“Hello doctors”-session) involving of patients was suggested.
1. **Preparing for the General Assembly (GA)** Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann
Announcement of an extraordinary General Assembly 26th April 2019 to the national societies must be done at latest 2 months before meeting. Since this is due to changes in Congress years, the board decided on, that the agenda for the extraordinary GA should contain the same points as an ordinary GA. We need election of Chairman, Treasurer and General Secretary. Nomination committees and nominations should be ready latest 4 (2) months before the GA (26th December/26th February). The Board composition in the future: there should be in balance between different countries and also there should be continuity in the Board. Next chairman is proposed to come from Finland. There was proposal from Espen Berner that treasurer should come from Denmark, since accountant is Danish. Numbers of voting members is important in the future, since in the event of parity the issues shall be decided by lot. We must therefore discuss if we need changes in the statutes. Another minor change in the statutes is that due to our privacy policy (published on the website April 30th, 2018) the General Secretary is the data protection officer of NFOG – should be included in the statutes (§6.3) – the Board decided that this can be changed next time we need revision of the statutes. Textbook suggestion should be discussed at the GA. Agreement on a process where the present product needs to be discussed in the national societies before the next board meeting, intention to have agreement in the Board in February on a proposal for the GA 2019. If decided on we need to anchor the textbook in NFOG, probably to have a separate textbook committee, which would be possible for the board to decide on according to the statutes.
6. **Economy, budget, and accounts** Espen Berner presented income statement and key moments in accounting. GA is 26th, April, 2019. All the

expenses should be sent to the accountant by 31st January. The next Board meeting is 15th February, so accountant has only two weeks to prepare documents. The Final report has to be sent one month in advance to the National societies (by 15th March). One-third of the money comes from national societies. 60% of all income comes from ACTA. Contract with Wiley is under negotiation. The board reserve has not been used for many years, and it is 903 147 DKK. Budget for 2019 was decided in Odense. Income and expenses are in balance. Deficit will be higher in 2019 -260 000 DKK. Income from ACTA can decrease in the future, so therefore we must reserve some money to make budget more sustainable.

7. **Educational Committee (EC)** Mervi Väisänen-Tommiska presented the preliminary programme for the educational course, advertisement and budget. The course that will be held on 25th- 26th April, 2019. The total deficit is 203 430 DKK, which is in the budget. Venue is in the Svenska Läkäresällskapet.
8. **Scientific Committee (SC)** Antti Perheentupa presented the NFOG Scientific Fund decisions. Application system has worked well. There were 32 applications with sum of 855 307 DKK. There were 246 375 DKK left from the previous round. In total 20 applications were approved. Incomplete applications (8) were not supported. Due to limited funding the SC needed to prioritize clinical visits between the member countries. Application number 218 – a Nordic collaboration study (which has been funded repeatedly) applied 140 000 DKK for several meetings. They have recently received 2 million DKK funding, which was not included in their budget. Application number 227 was considered to be a very nice project, but SC needed to see a more detailed plan of the workshop, research plan, protocol development etc. The SC suggest some additions /clarifications to the application instructions for the next round. **The Board decided to support SC decisions for the Fund.**

Application of the funding Nordic-Dutch meeting Stockholm 7-8, March, 2019. An initiative to a Nordic-Dutch scientific collaboration was taken when the SC and the Swedish Network for National Clinical Studies in Ob/Gyn (SNAKS) visited the NVOG Consortium (Dutch Consortium for Healthcare Evaluation and Research in Obstetrics and Gynecology) in Amsterdam 2017. The visit inspired the national societies of Denmark and Norway to form research network similar to SNAKS. The NVOG Consortium has now posed a question to the SC and SNAKS; to gather for an unprejudiced meeting, suggesting perinatal mortality in the Nordic countries and the Netherlands to be the base for the discussion.

To be able to arrange a collaborative meeting with Nordic representatives and host the Dutch guests SC applied for a grant of 47 200 DKK.

Alexander Smáráson suggested that the NOMBIR-group should be involved in this collaboration. The number of the participants should not be too high. **The Board decided to support this application and use some of the Board reserve for this meeting.**

9. **Guideline Committee (GC)** Niels Uldbjerg (NU) presented the first Nordic guideline on progesterone in prevention of preterm birth (grading through “Grade”). There have been many difficulties in the guideline work. It is essential that people who are nominated to the guideline committee are the same people that are willing to do the hard work. Jeannet Lauenborg (DK) has done a huge job. Guideline will be published on NFOG-website and Board discussed whether it would be possible to publish also an abstract or commentary in AOGS. NU encouraged the national societies to translate national guidelines to English – at least with an English abstract. Thereby they can be published on the NFOG-website. The “pope model” should be discussed in the GC.
10. **NFOG website** Lars Ladfors The application form for the Fund has been a challenging project, but now the system seems to work well. The Board suggested some minor changes to the website.
11. **NFYOG** Elisabeth Fredrika Rosen (EFR) presented latest NFYOG activities. Exchange programme during the Congress 2018 was only attended by a few students, but they all were satisfied. Trainee dinner was also successful where the maximum of 100 participants was reached. NFYOG participated in one of the precongresses, Global work from a trainee perspective, where their global platform was presented. The Global platform is now running and added to the NFOG website. Due to budget limitations no meeting has been held since the congress in Odense. Next meeting will be early 2019. NFYOG will during that meeting go through the EBCOG trainee audit and suggest a collaboration with EC to try to create Nordic trainee recommendations that could be presented on the next NFOG congress in Reykjavik, where focus will be on training. EFR has been the president for almost two years, and NFYOG will elect a new president next spring.
12. **FIGO** Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann told that the two Nordic session in FIGO was very well attended and successful. The representatives did a huge work. The Nordic collaboration regarding the organisatory matters was

also very successful Kristina Gemzell Danielsson was elected for the Executive board (EB) in FIGO. Our influence supported candidates that ensures that the democratic process in FIGO was further improved. The next congress place after Sydney is still open. Dubai has been suggested, but there are huge women right problems and it is also impossible for African delegates to get visas. It is essential to have Nordic representatives in FIGO EB also in the future. **The Board decided that the NFOG president will write a letter to the FIGO about concern having the FIGO congress in Dubai.**

2. **EBCOG** Oskari Heikinheimo presented a book about “Achieving Consensus in Training”, which is also available in the website. He presented websites for EBCOG congress that will be held 14-16, May, 2020 in Bergen. The Board discussed how to attend and impact this congress. NFOG could apply for several sessions, a Nordic session every day (four) will be suggested to the EBCOG organizing committee. four was suggested. The SC will also work on that. There is also a possibility to have a Board meeting during the congress. **The National societies need to discuss this theme and suggest topics and also who could take the lead on this project so NFOG can continue with preparing Nordic sessions.** The SC will also work on that. There is also a possibility to have a Board meeting during the congress.

13. Report from AOGS (Acta Obstetricia et Gynecologica Scandinavia)

Ganesh Acharya (GA) presented the Editorial Board (EB) and the International Editorial Board (IEB). The Chief Editor does not choose EB, but educates them. Therefore, EB meetings are educational meetings. Some of the skilled Editors have changed during the last two years. GA presented some of the recent special issues. New article format has been introduced by Wiley. The number of manuscript submissions per year has remained stable in the last few years. The rejection rate is around 80 % and it is still increasing. In total 56% of the papers are rejected after editorial evaluation by the Chief Editor himself in 2017. The average time from submission to first decision has been decreasing continuously since 2015 and was 17.6 days in previous 12 months. Currently average time from acceptance to on-line publication is 38 days. Editor performance varies. The number of articles submitted from English speaking countries has been increasing. Current impact factor is 2.649 - the highest ever. AOGS is the fourth well considered Journal in general Obstetrics and Gynecology. Self-citation rate (5.5%) is lower than in many other journals in our specialty that have an average self-citation rate of 10.5%. Citation breakdown was presented. The most cited articles in AOGS were original research and review articles.

Worldwide the proportion of subscription of journals shrank between 2012 and 2016 giving way to more open-access (OA) and hybrid journals. Global trends: most of the funding organisations demand OA publication. The European commission has agreed to have all papers OA by 2020. A declaration called “cOAlition S- making Open Access a reality by 2020” has been announced. The hybrid model of publication will not be accepted by many funding organizations anymore. OA will most likely be more prevalent in the next 2-3 years. Subscription model will continue to exist, but is about to go through a fundamental evolution. We cannot say what that will be, but believe that new measurements of value will become more important. AOGS should consider embracing open science by flipping to gold OA model, as we know this may need to happen in the future anyway. Other options are to continue Wiley representative has been asked to present a budget and consequence analysis of flipping to gold OA model. **The board need to discuss this further. GA will try to arrange a presentation for the next meeting about this subject,** KRW, EB and GA had a recent meeting with the publisher and suggestion with budget and consequence analysis turning to open access from Wiley will be ready for the next board meeting.

14. **Textbook** Niels Ulbjerg explained the concept and presented examples of the textbook form different platforms. He also addressed all the previously questions from the board and provided the board with an updated product of the textbook and the processes. This will be taken to the national societies Textbook is aimed to Nordic medical students, perspective. In the future (maybe 2-3 years) it could also be global including low-income countries. SFOG has appointed Kristina Gemzell Danielsson as a Swedish Editor. Argument in favor of the NFOG textbook: identification of best practices, unites Nordic colleagues and facilitates new collaborations, expose worldwide the NFOG approach to women and may facilitate the NFOG guideline collaboration.

Some concerns were raised by the Board. NU presented that “it is an excellent means to use the excess money that has been accumulated”, that sentence suggested to be removed. There was a concern about the need for the book worldwide. Swedes thought NFOG should concentrate on the Nordic medical students first, global perspective could be a future challenge. NFOG would like to add some material for the medical students as well.

The number of potential users was discussed. Authors had estimated that in the Nordic countries there are 4 470 medical students, if 20 % of them will download the book it will make 1 000 downloads, perhaps even more.

NU asked Aarhus students and 60% of them voted for electronic books.

Electronic platforms were discussed. In general, most of the private companies are not interested in this project. NU stressed that open source (company Sundhet.dk) is the best way of spreading knowledge. If there would be a small fee from the users it would make the project more sustainable. Especially Norwegians were concerned about the running costs. What happens if income changes, would the bill be forwarded to the national societies? One option is to accept a budget for example for 5 years – and in the worst of all cases the textbook – if not a success – would be closed after 5 years. There should also be a plan, how to advertise this book. There was a concern about robustness of the organization. The editorial board includes five professors appointed by each of the NFOG societies. This ensures management similar to that of other textbooks with different authors for different chapters. There was also a concern whether the textbook will undermine the NFOG-guideline-committee, if it is correct that resources used at the textbook could have been used at guidelines. One can argue that the guideline work and the textbook work go hand in hand, i.e. that the collaboration established by colleagues from different NFOG countries in one of the project may further develop into a collaboration on the other project.

Budget was calculated for two different options. A) Open source (Sundhet.dk) and B) Private electronic platform (company Munksgaard) A: Total cost will be 945 000 DKK. (100 000 DKK running costs/year + 100 000 DKK for NFOG-improvement). B: Total cost will be around 1 250 000 DKK (200 000 DKK running costs/year + 50 000 DKK to NFOG-improvement), Option B is more expensive, but the system is also more professional.

Until the next Board meeting the local committees should discuss and decide whether to support the textbook or not. Using NUs paper and the above questions, including price and service. The Board encourages them to see the videos from A and B.

15. News from the National societies

Nils-Halvdan Morken (NGF) recently had a national meeting with almost 300 delegates. National society is responsible for revising obstetric guidelines that will take place in 2019. Revision should be done every 5 years, there is a board with 4 dedicated people. Update takes a year. During the last 4 weeks there has been a huge debate about abortion due to the very small party Kristelig Folkeparti. They have negotiated with the prime

minister to change the abortion legislation. The aim is to remove the paragraph stating the right to an abortion after 12 weeks if the fetus has a serious conditions. NHM has together with a colleague written an article where they strongly advice the government to vote against this proposal.

Alexander Smárason (FÍFK) told also about possible changes to the abortion legislation. The current law is old and discriminate against disabled people which is not allowed according to international treaties. Up to 16 weeks women can apply for termination for social or medical reasons and two doctors, or social worker sign the papers. After 16 weeks terminations are allowed for fetal or maternal health problems with an approval from a special committee. The health minister from a left/right coalition has submitted to Alþingi a suggestion for a new law which would allow termination up to 22+0 weeks. With proper consultation the woman can decide and ask for termination without permission from any committee or signatures. It must be noted that this would not change the current medical practice except opens up the possibility of social termination after 16 weeks for a very small group of women. Already there is heated discussion in the society and media.

Eva Uustal (SFOG) told about actively working groups. The Swedish Board raised the question about having SFOG meeting every other year to facilitate attendance rate in the NFOG congress. Sweden ask NFOG to discuss again if the Nordic congresses in the future could be in August. In Sweden abortion discussion has also been active. They have made a statement about resuscitation of the aborted fetuses is unacceptable. The mesh use in incontinence and prolapse has been discussed. Long-term follow up data is required. The Swedish Board had raised the proposition to arrange SFOG meeting every other year to facilitate attendance rate in the NFOG congress. At the Annual Meeting for the SFOG (august 2018) the members decided to arrange the SFOG-meeting every other year if the NFOG will arrange the NFOG-meeting at the end of August in the future. A decision about this will be at the next board meeting.

Hannu Martikainen (SGY) told that SGY is having 90 years anniversary this week. A discussion about abortion legislation has been active, since foreign minister is catholic and against abortion. There is also a member of parliament who has written a book against abortion. A new system how to choose residents in the future will come.

Hanne Brix Westergaard (DSOG) the number of deliveries is increasing abut 15% annually. Therefore, there is lack of personnel. There has been

discussion about which kind of parturient is suitable for home deliveries. National society is making leaflets about pros and cons about home deliveries. In Copenhagen a new midwifery-led delivery unit is under construction. Augusta® -misoprostol company has made a leaflet in which they say that all inductions should be performed in hospitals. In Denmark they have also given mistoprostol for home use. Last week there was a law proposal on hymen reconstruction for emigrants who are afraid of domestic violence.

16. **Other business.**

Data protection officer was nominated to be General Secretary.

17. **Summary**

The main conclusions were summarized and they are bolded in Minutes. The Agenda for next meeting should include:

Composition of the Board: is it possible to have a Danish candidate for treasurer? (Nominations should be ready)

Norwegians should present suitable venues for the NFOG congress 2023 in the next GA.

New president of the NFYOG. GA will invite prof Baski Thilaganathan to continue discussing about about Open Access subject.

EBCOG – Nordic sessions

Textbook ready for General Assembly.

18. **Upcoming Board meetings.** Iceland 15-16, February, 2019. (arrival 14th since meeting on 15th is from early morning, 16th till 12) – premeeting for General Secretary, Treasurer and President 14th, February. The educational course that will be held in Stockholm will be 25-26, April, 2019. Board meeting will be on Thursday morning on 25th at 09:00. This means that some members have to arrive already on Wednesday evening. The new Board has to meet immediately after the GA (13:30-15:30) on Friday 26th, April, 2019. Meeting will stop at 18:00. The next meeting will be in the end of October, probably in Oslo. The decision will be made in February, 2019.

19. **Closing** KRW closed the meeting.

Helsinki 13th, November, 2018

Karen Reinhold Wøjdemann
President

Maija Jakobsson
Secretary General