



## Minutes NFOG Board meeting

**Time:** Tuesday, 5th November, 2019, at 9:00-15:00

**Place:** Hotel Thon Opera, Dronning Eufemias Gate 4, Oslo

Present:

**The Board of NFOG:** Oskari Heikinheimo (**President**), Espen Berner (**Treasurer**), Kristina Renault (new **Treasurer**), Maija Jakobsson (**Secretary General**), Niels Ulbjerg (Guideline Committee chair), Antti Perheentupa (Scientific Committee chair), Mervi Väisänen-Tommiska (Educational Committee chair), Bjarne Rønne Kristensen (President NFOG 2018), Ragnheiður L. Bjarnadóttir (President NFOG 2021), Hanne Brix Westergaard (**DSOG**), Annemette W Lykkebo (President elect of the **DSOG from April 2020**), Hannu Martikainen (**SGY**), Hannele Laivuori (Vice President elect of the **SGY**) until 11:00, Alexander Smárason (**FÍFK**), Eva Uustal (**SFOG**), Nils-Halvdan Morken (**NGF**), Kristen Hald (President elect of the **NGF**), Lars Ladfors (Webmaster), Ganesh Acharya (Chief Editor **AOGS**), Hille Sellevoll (**NFYOG** representative).

- 1. Opening.** Oskari Heikinheimo (OH) opened the meeting. The Board and new members presented themselves.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda** Agenda was approved with minor changes.
- 3. Textbook** Niels Ulbjerg presented timeline of the textbook. Separate committee for textbook has been suggested. All new committees must be approved by General Assembly. Usually there will be five members for the committee. The contract with platform must be approved by the Board in the next meeting. The textbook could be promoted in FIGO congress in Sydney and also locally in National Societies.
- 4. FIGO 2027. DSOG and** Bjarne Rønne Kristensen presented an idea to have FIGO 2027 congress in Copenhagen. Malmö in Sweden could be also available for accommodation and events. Congress requires large venues and hard work. Deadline for proposal of submission is 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. **The Board approved that NFOG applies this congress together with the Danish society. The Board decided also that 50 000 DKK from Board reserve can be used for this.**
- 5. NFOG 2021** Ragnheiður L. Bjarnadóttir presented the preliminary program for the congress. The opening lecture will be held by Jeanne A. Conry from FIGO. Some ideas of the plenary lectures were suggested. Environmental issues are important topics in this congress. There will be not be pre-congress courses. Topics on Monday will cover urogynecology, maternal-fetal medicine, ultrasound in labour, vulvar dermatology. On Tuesday topics will cover

education, fertility, chronic pelvic pain, induction of labour, gynecological-oncology, preterm birth, placental dysfunction, hormones and the brain through women's reproductive age, when things do wrong and second victim concept. There will be several sessions for free communications. Research and collaboration in the Nordic countries will be on the program. The ACTA will celebrate 100 years anniversary. **National societies should read carefully these topics and suggest speakers and give comments on the program.** Congress dinner will have a symbolic fee to make sure that participants make decision whether they attend or not. There will be four different sessions simultaneously in some days.

**6. NFOG strategy** OH summarized discussion in the strategy meeting.

Strengths and weaknesses of the NFOG were discussed. Some suggestions from the local societies:

-There is a need to do environmental strategy and to use phone meetings instead of travelling. Meetings should in general be organized in Nordic countries, unless there is a reason to visit some specific place. The Board decided to have a phone-meeting by using Zoom system next spring.

-The Board decided to buy secretarial services to improve service for the members.

-The Board wants to improve research, the use of national registers and facilitate inter-Nordic randomized studies.

-Rapid response to hot topics was considered to be important. The work for the Guidelines Committee has been considered to be too slow, we need more rapidly acting statements. The principle statements to specific issues could be even posted on the website. An e-mail group only with the Presidents and secretary will be made.

-The NFOG wants to help collaboration of the Nordic subspecialist societies, a special enquiry for them was suggested and Eva Uustal will work on that.

-It is essential to ensure continuity in the Board, since the Presidents of the National Societies stay in the Board only for a short period. Structure of some committees should be evaluated and revised in the future.

- EBCOG meeting in May could promote NFOG values and women rights.

-NFOG could promote the work of FIGO more in their national societies.

Homework:

-To discuss about NFOG in the national meetings and benefits of the membership.

-Antti Perheentupa suggested that NFOG should also have a social media plan. The NFOG Board members should use utilize social media. WhatsApp or mailing list for the presidents of the National Societies was suggested.

**7. Economy, budget, and accounts** Espen Berner (EB) informed the Board of the number of NFOG members for 2019; 5 482, an increase of 208 (3.8%) members from 2018. This gains a total membership fee from the national societies of 1.370.500, - DKK (+70.500,- DKK more than budget). The economy for NFOG is solid and robust, but currently there is uncertain times in the publishing business. NFOG has for several years received significantly more from AOGS royalties than the minimum guarantee royalty. This has contributed in great extent to the NFOG surpluses in recent years. A new AOGS 5-year publishing contract with Wiley was signed before the summer, starting January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. Unfortunately, the minimum guarantee royalty in the previous contract (140.000, - GBP) is no longer in the contract. Therefore, the royalties in this contract is adjusted from 57% to 58%. In addition, NFOG received a sign-on-fee of 25.000, - GBP by signing the contract. An eventual change to of AOGS to Open Access

has been estimated from Wiley to reduce income of around total 2.0 milj DKK during a period of five years. If NFOG decides to change AOGS to open access, a new contract needs to be negotiated with Wiley. The Chief Editor, Ganesh Acharya has signed a new 3-year contract for the years 2020-2022, according to the budget accepted by the General Assembly 2019. At the end of this period, he would have had this position for 8 years. Therefore, and according to the byelaws of AOGS, this will be his last contract. A 2-year contract for Editorial Manager Susana Benedet and Sahlgrenska University Hospital needs to be renewed from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. EB suggest annual increase in the Editorial Managers salary of 3.1 %. EB informed of extraordinary expenses due to extra workload of Deputy Chief Editor Amar Bhide. **The Board decided to approve EB suggestions for the salary for the Editorial Manager contract and for the extraordinary expenses for Deputy Chief Editor.**

8. **Report from AOGS (Acta Obstetricia et Gynecologica Scandinavia)** Ganesh Acharya (GA) informed that one of the Swedish Associate Editors has resigned. GA requested the SFOG president to announce the position immediately to fill the vacant position. He also informed that a new Assistant Chief Editor and a Social Media Editor have been appointed. GA Introduced the recent changes in the International Editorial Board. The impact factor (IF) in 2018 increased to **2.741** (up from 2.649 in 2017) and AOGS now ranks 21/83 among OBGYN journals. GA showed that BJOG and AOGS have similar number of manuscripts submitted per year, but there are huge differences in the resources utilized with AOGS having substantially less than what BJOG has. In 2019, submissions came from 62 countries, there are substantially more submissions from English-speaking countries. The rejection rate was 78% in the year 2018. Education of the editors, reviewers and scientist is essential and AOGS prioritizes that. Associate Editors' and International Editors' performance is evaluated regularly. AOGS publishes theme issues regularly (about once a year) and they have been quite popular. The 2020 theme issue will be on *State of the art in PGT and non-invasive prenatal diagnostics* and in 2021, on *Women's global sexual and reproductive health in low income areas*.

Open Access (OA) issue is very important. Guidelines regarding plan S and main principles of immediate and fully OA are becoming clearer. Coalition S is supporting different models for OA which is important in the transitional period, eg. hybrid OA and allowing institutions to have direct OA contracts with publishers to facilitate implementation of Plan S. New deadline for full and immediate OA is now set for 2021 by Norwegian Research Council and some others. AOGS would like to go full OA by 2021. However, how can NFOG facilitate this transition how would economy work, will there be a substantial loss of revenue in the initial period and how to tackle that, and how to negotiate a new contract with our publisher? These are some important issues. **These issues will be discussed in more detail in the next board meeting.**

9. **Scientific Committee** Antti Perheentupa presented the Scientific committee Fund decisions. The total amount applied in October 2019 was 583 455 € There was in total 25 application, of which 19 was approved. The reason to rejection was incomplete application or mistakes to follow the rules. PEACE-palliation in gynecological -oncology has applied money for programming of the case electronic database. The Fund money is aimed for meeting costs etc., but not for coding. Applicant was NSGO- Nordic Society of Gynecological Oncology, which is another society. One application from the Norwegian society went to the wrong

email address, but it was still approved. One applicant had received a grant recently, but was granted again. **The Board decided to support all SC Fund decisions.**

**10. Educational Committee** Mervi Väisänen-Tommiska told that EC has arranged Educational Course that was held in April 2019 with 48 attendees only. The purpose of the EC should be more than to arrange biannual courses that “no one” attends. The latest EC meeting was held as a joint meeting with NFYOG in Budapest, which was considered to be useful. The aim is to work with the NFYOG to harmonize specialist education within the Nordic countries. Discussion on differences in training is essential. The EC may take on other relevant educational roles. According the EC strategy which comes from the statutes, goals are to promote Continuous Medical Education (CME) / Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for specialists and trainees.

The EC would like to focus on: medical education, subspecialist training, post graduate training, CME/CPD, certification. An invitee-only seminar (in relation to the NFOG conference). CME in the different countries. The EC would also like to attend the forthcoming AMEE Conference in September 2020. This was discussed, but not yet decided, as the above was suggested to be of more relevance.

**11. Guidelines Committee** Niels Ulbjerg told that GC aims to publish translations of existing guidelines into English. Guideline group has produced one guideline on progesteron in the prevention of the preterm birth. Very rapidly acting committee that could produce recommendations would be needed. SFOG produces a lot of guidelines and recommendations. **Each Society should propose new members to the Guidelines Committee by the next meeting. The role of this committee will be further discussed.**

**12. SWEPIs study.** Lars Ladfors informed about the study, which will be published on 23<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. Study compared induction of labour at 41 gestational weeks vs. expectant management and induction until 42 weeks. There were no deaths in the induction group and six perinatal deaths in the expectant management group. A Health Technology assessment (HTA) will be published on the 21<sup>th</sup> of January, 2020. If deliveries are induced earlier at week 41, the amount of inductions will increase substantially. The study and the reactions in Sweden were discussed and the Board agreed to support the Swedish HTA and await further assessment. Also, we agreed to share relevant information regarding the study, as it is of utmost importance.

**13. NFYOG** Hille Sellevoll told ideas how to make work of NFYOG more visible. The goal is to harmonise training in the Nordic countries. There have been reduced fee in the NFOG congresses for the trainees. NFYOG is planning to have a Board meeting during the EBCOG meeting.

**14. EBCOG** Oskari Heikinheimo told that a special NFOG session will be held at the EBCOG meeting. For the topics Nordic register studies have been suggested and to promote AOGS 100 years anniversary. Some Danish or Norwegian speakers were suggested. SWEPIs study was also suggested as a topic. Aura Pyykönen from Finland was suggested as a speaker from Finland. Oskari Heikinheimo and Lars Ladfors were nominated as chairs of the session and they will finalize the session program together with the National Societies.

**The Board decided to pay President, Chair of the Scientific committee, Presidents of the National Societies, President of the NFOG2021 and two persons from the NFOYG to the EBCOG 2021 meeting.** Congress fee, travel expenses and accommodation will be included.

- 15. Upcoming Board meetings.** Previously the Board have decided that the next meeting will be held during the EBCOG meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>, May 2020 (09:00-17:00) in Bergen. Participants will have to arrive already on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, when there will be dinner. There will also be a dinner on Wednesday evening. Before that there will be Zoom meeting that will be held in March, 2020. Secretary general will sendt a doodle enquiry. The fall meeting will be in Reykjavik from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2020 (participants will have to arrive on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2020).
- 16. News from the National societies.** In Finland declining birth rate has been a huge problem. In Iceland the problem is the same, fertility rate has declined from 2.2 to 1.7 during the last 10 yrs. In Iceland a new abortion legislation has been accepted and in practice from 1.9.2019. Women decide if they want termination of pregnancy up to 22 weeks (21+6). The abortion committee has been abolished and signatures from two doctors or social worker is not needed anymore. In Denmark the number of deliveries is estimated to rise 10-15 % for the next 10-15 years. Lack of professionals is therefore a problem. Guideline on the organization of deliveries is in process. A model for subspecialisation has been introduced. In Sweden midwives has formed a union which is very vocal in the social media. Big issues in social media about various issues. New gradings for perineal tears. Discussion on prolapses and meshes. In Norway there is discussion about abortion and delivery care in Norway.
- 1. Closing.** Closing OH closed the meeting at 15:07.

Oskari Heikinheimo

President

Maija Jakobsson

Secretary General