



NFOG Board meeting April 26-27, 2021

NFOG BOARD Minutes

Date: April 26-27, 2021
Time: 09:00 – 13:00 Swe/Den/Nor, 10:00-14:00 Finland, 07.00-11:00 Iceland
Place: Zoom-meeting; <https://zoom.us/>

Participants: Oskari Heikinheimo (President), Kristina Renault (Treasurer), Espen Berner (Secretary General), Annemette W Lykkebo (DSOG), Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir (FÍFK), Michael Algovik (SFOG), Kirsten Hald (NGF), Hannele Laivuori (SGY), Antti Perheentupa (Scientific Committee), Niels Ulbjerg (Guideline Committee, Textbook), Mervi Väisänen-Tommiska (Educational Committee), Hanna Lilja Oddgeirsdóttir (NFYOG), Ganesh Acharya (AOGS), Lars Ladfors (Webmaster), Ragnheiður L. Bjarnadóttir (NFOG Reykjavik2021), Bjarne Rønne Kristensen (Odense 2018, FIGO 2021)

Excuses: Hanna Lilja Oddgeirsdóttir Monday: Lars Ladfors Tuesday: Niels Ulbjerg

NOSS-group representative, Hilde Engjom was invited to the board to preside Covid19 trial.

NFOG Board attachments (Sent to Board members before the meeting): 1) Minutes NFOG Board ZOOM-meeting May Nov 2-3, 2020, 2) NFOG Accounts 2019-2020, 3) NFOG Proposed Budget 2022-23, 4) NFOG Fund, SC proposal March 2021

1. Opening & registration of participants and approval of the invitation and agenda

NFOG President Oskari Heikinheimo opened the meeting.

Decision: *The invitation and agenda were approved.*

2. Approval of Minutes NFOG Board zoom-meeting November 2-3, 2020

Decision: *The minutes were approved*

3. Preparing for the General Assembly Agenda

The board discussed formalities and practicalities for the General assembly (GA) June 16. The announcement for the GA was sent to the national societies in accordance with the statutes, 2 months prior to the GA.

In addition, the Board discussed the election committee in NFOG Statutes §7 for the GA. This committee, consisting of a representative from each of the five national societies, shall propose electable candidates for holders of positions of NFOG. During the upcoming GA, the positions as NFOG President, Secretary General, two internal auditors and one deputy auditor should be nominated. The Treasurer (Kristina Renault, Denmark) was elected in 2019 for a period of four years. Furthermore, the GA shall elect a chairman and two minutes checkers for the meeting.

The chairs of all the NFOG Committees need to send an annual report for 2019 and 2020 to the Secretary General, within May 15th. NFOG Board members are not entitled to vote in the GA. The voting rights in the GA may be exercised only by society delegates present in person. Therefore, the names for the voting members of each national societies must be reported to the NFOG Secretary General before start of the GE.

The number of voting members during the GA is based upon the number of the number of registered members in each national society. The registered members in NFOG national societies in 2021: DSOG 1041 (5 votes), SFOG 2183 (5 votes) FÍFK 53* (1 vote), NGF 1169* (5 votes), SGY 1023* (5 votes). * = members in 2020. Therefore, SGY, FIFK and NGF need to report the updated number of members for 2021 to the secretary general before the GA.



NFOG Board meeting April 26-27, 2021

NFOG BOARD Minutes

Current Candidates for positions of NFOG:

- NFOG President: Oskari Heikinheimo (Finland), reelection
- Secretary General: no current candidate
- Chairman of the GA and Checkers of the minutes: no current candidates.
- Internal and deputy auditors: no current candidates, previous auditors (Thea Lousen, Kevin Sunde Oppegaard and Liselott Andersson) can be asked for renomination.

Decision: The Board decided that the five leaders of the national societies form the nomination committee for the GA. This committee meet May 11th, 19:00 (Den/Swe/Nor) by Zoom. The committee will nominate Secretary General candidates from Norway, Sweden, or Iceland within May 10th. If no electable candidates are nominated by the committee within this date, candidates from Finland or Denmark will be explored. The NFOG officers will suggest for candidates for the GA Chairman, Checkers of the minutes and internal auditors.

4. **Revision of NFOG Statues proposal for proportional votes of national societies during General Assembly**

The Board discussed revision of the NFOG Statues §5.1 regarding the proportional votes at the upcoming GA. SFOG has during several Board meetings argued for a more reasonable calculation of proportional votes, based upon the actual number of members of each national society. In addition, the board discussed a proposal from Espen Berner of an amendment in the Statues regarding Honorary Members. Finally, The board discussed a possible revision a phrase of the Statues §3.1 “non-superannuated registered members”

Decision:

SFOG will work out a proposal for revision of the statues regarding the proportional votes at the GA. The NFOG officers will work out a suggestion for revision of the phrase “non-superannuated registered members” in §3:1 of the NFOG Statues and a proposal for a new amendment in the statues regarding Honorary Members. The proposals will be discussed on among the national societies and NFOG officers on the meeting May 11.

5. **NFOG webinar**

Ragnheiður L. Bjarnadóttir (RLB) informed of the work in the Icelandic organizing committee regarding a webinar. The PCO planning the cancelled congress in Reykjavik 2021 was not interested nor experienced in arranging av Webinar. If a webinar is arranged, the Icelandic organizing committee wants this to be a joint NFOG webinar, not only arranged by Iceland. The Board discussed solutions for a webinar without external help by PCO. The national societies were all in favor of arranging a webinar in relation with the GA. The Board wants to arrange a webinar for Covid19 presented by the NOSS-group. In addition, NFOG wants to celebrate and promote 100 years of AOGS during the webinar.

Decision: The Board decided to arrange a 90-minute Webinar in connection to the General Assembly June 16th. The Zoom platform will be used both for GA and the webinar. The Treasurer will expand the current NFOG Zoom license to a larger crowd (1000 people). RLB will coordinate the webinar. The invitation to the Webinar and GA is sent out through national societies and posted on the Webpage. The webinar is arranged Wednesday June 16 from 14:30-16:00 (1430-15:30 Covid19 NOSS-group presenting.



NFOG Board meeting April 26-27, 2021

NFOG BOARD Minutes

15:30-15:45 AOGS 100 year and open access promotion. 15:45-16:00 Break. 16:00-17:30 General assembly.

6. The Covid19-trial Results

Hilde Engjom (Norway) presented the NOSS-group and Covid19-study. The board discussed the results of the study. The NOSS-group was invited to present the work and result during the upcoming Webinar June 16 in relation to the NFOG General Assembly.

7. Scientific committee and NFOG fund approval

Antti Perheentupa presented the applicants for NFOG Fund March 2021. The Scientific committee received only four applicants. This is significantly less applicants compared to earlier, probably due to the Pandemic. The Board discussed the applicants, one of the applicants did not fulfil the rules of the NFOG Fund.

Furthermore, the Board discussed the 2-year rule of using the granted money from NFOG Fund. This is currently practiced in a fairly practical manner, due to the covid pandemic.

Decision: Three applicants for NFOG Fund were approved by the Board. The Board will make a final decision on the NFOG Fund 2-year rule practice during the board meeting in November 2020.

8. Guideline committee Niels Ulbjerg (NU)

The strategy for the Guideline committee (GC) has been discussed during several previous meetings. The last Board meeting concluded to continue this discussion, to define the strategy, mandate and organization of the GC during this meeting. In general, the GC has fulfilled the obligations by publish translations of existing national guidelines into English. No other GC activities are planned in 2021.

The GC wants to develop future common Nordic guidelines. A suggestion for the next Nordic guideline is Cerclage to prevent preterm delivery. In addition, the GC has been approached by SFOG, asked translating the new Swedish guideline on endometriosis to English. This will cost some money.

The members of the NFOG GC: Sissel Saltved (SWE), Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir (ICE), Ferenc Macsali (NOR). New members from DEN and FIN need to be appointed before the upcoming General assembly. The new GC will self-constitute and choose a Chair.

Decision: The Board wants the GC to continue translating the incoming national guidelines and develop selected Nordic common guidelines. The translation of the Swedish guideline on endometriosis can be made within the budget of the GC.



NFOG Board meeting April 26-27, 2021

NFOG BOARD Minutes

9. Textbook, (NU)

The current status on the NFOG textbook: Most chapters are published. The textbook is implementing the MCQ-platform: [NFOG MCQ](https://mcq.nfog.org/). Anyone (professors, associate professors, medical students, good colleagues) can add MCQs to this platform. These suggestions will be published as soon as the reviewer of the specific chapter has approved the suggestion. We hope this will be an attractive pedagogic initiative. Promotion and advertisement of the textbook are planned within the Budget for the Textbook. Each member of the textbook committee will promote the book in her own country. The Danish Ugeskrift for Læger comes up with an article. Promotion for the textbook in AOGS and during the upcoming FIGO congress is proposed.

Evaluation of the individual chapters: Inspired by our homemade NFOG-MCQ platform we may develop a platform for user-evaluation of the individual chapters. That may constitute an important element when we discuss possible adjustment of the chapters with the authors. Initiatives. The committee is very open for new ideas including videos, animations, podcast etc.

Economy: The remaining expenses for establishing the textbook will be used in 2021, probably be less than budget. Therefore, within the budget we have accepted an additional fee of 10,000 DKR for text editing and another 10,000 DKR for Thomas Jensen who developed the MCQ platform. Link to the NFOG-MCQ: <https://mcq.nfog.org/>

10. Economy, budget, and accounts

The proposed accounts for 2019-2020 was sent to the board before the meeting. The Treasurer Kristina Renault (KR) presented the 2019-2020 accounts. The result for 2019 and 2020 is a surplus of 726.442, - and 954.295, - respectively. The surplus is a consequence of reduced expenses for travelling by NFOG board and committees and a significantly higher income from Wiley/AOGS than budget.

KR presented the 2021-2022 budget with a planned deficit of – 392.000 and -388.000 for 2022 and 2023, respectively. KR proposed to keep the annual membership fee unchanged for non-retired members: 250, -. The Board proposed adjustments in the budget, increasing the board reserve/initiative to 200.000 annually. In addition, AOGS needs to plan an overlap of new Chief Editor for 6 months in 2023 and adjust the calculation for salary for chief editor in 2022-23 according to the general increase in Sweden/Denmark. Consequently, the suggested Budget deficit will have an even higher than KR proposed.

Decision: The board approved the accounts and made minor corrections on the budget for 2022-2023. KR will present an adjusted budget during the meeting with the national societies of NFOG May 11, 2021.

11. Educational committee

The Educational committee (EC) was not discussed during the Board meeting. According to the Board meeting minutes in November 2020, the EC hopes to meet in Copenhagen in 2021, working towards harmonizing subspecialty education in Nordic countries.

12. NFOG

NFOG was not present on the Board meeting. Hanna Lilja Oddgeirsdottir will send a report for NFOG to the Board.

13. EBCOG



NFOG Board meeting April 26-27, 2021

NFOG BOARD Minutes

The national societies discussed EBCOG. All the Nordic national societies of NFOG are still member of EBCOG. The organization has changed the Chair last year. EBCOG arranges congress in Athens September 2-4, 2021.

14. FIGO-HUB? Copenhagen Oct 27–29 2021

The national societies discussed the initiative from SFOG and Bjarne Rønne Kristensen (BRK) to arrange a 2-day FIGO-HUB for around 200 participants during the FIGO World Congress in October 2021. The venue/place/town for such meeting was discussed. The Board discussed the economic terms for such meeting, it should be kept within the budget of Board Initiative, previously granted for the FIGO application.

Decision: SFOG and BRK will work out a concrete proposal with a budget for the FIGO-HUB, to be presented to the national societies of NFOG on a meeting May 11, 2021.

15. AOGS, Chief Editor report

AOGS is 100 years in 2021. Chief Editor Ganesh Acharya presented the new members of the editorial board. AOGS has made a decision to increase the number of international editors from 20 to 25. Ingvild Vistad was selected the Associate Editor of the year. AOGS has made several changes in layout on the webpage, including video-abstracts. To promote the journal, AOGS will arrange a Webinar in October facilitated by its publisher Wiley. According to the new open access contract with Wiley, AOGS will be fully Open access from January 2022. The transition to open access starts July 2021. There is an increased of submitted article to AOGS and the journal has a rejection rate of 85% (The rejection rate of manuscripts from the Nordic countries is 50%). The predicted impact factor (IF) for AOGS 2020 = 3,474. (IF AOGS 2019 = 2,770).

The Chief Editor informed the process for handling retractions, withdrawals, and expressions of concern of five articles published in AOGS. The articles and authors are currently investigated by an independent group in the country of origin of the article. The AOGS Editorial Board is considering publishing an expression of concern, before the investigation is concluded.

Decision: NFOG Board supports the AOGS Editorial Board in the work of handling the articles under investigation.

16. Corona updates in the Nordic Countries

Denmark:

A lot of testing in Denmark: 35 mil tests in total, in average 6/pers. 250.000 persons are infected and 2500 dead. Staff in hospitals and schools are tested twice a week if not vaccinated. Masks are mandatory in all public areas and at work. Partner can participate at visits, birth and after. Mother and partner are tested upon arrival to the birth clinic and if hospitalized in pregnancy. Last week, the hospitals opened for other visitors (max 2 pr patient).

Pregnant COVID: (March 2020 to 30. Okt 2020): 418 cases. Risk factor: not born in Denmark. Risk for getting COVID: Asthma. 23 has been hospitalized all after week 22 of pregnancy. Risk is for severe infection is increased after week 22.



NFOG Board meeting April 26-27, 2021

NFOG BOARD Minutes

Sweden:

Almost 1 million cases of Covid19 and 14.000 died in Sweden. Masks are not mandatory in the society. The SFOG has kept on working during the pandemic. The office staff of 2 people has continued working from home as much as possible and most board meetings have been by Zoom. Both the SFOG working groups and the Swedish medical society have used recurring web meetings for continuous updates and we've cooperated to quickly form recommendations to improve care in the pandemic. Since most of the board now are vaccinated, we actually had a 3-day physical meeting a few weeks back and that was very stimulating.

In regard to Covid-19 there are ongoing studies to follow the progress of the pandemic and patient outcome, but also to examine how the staff is handling the burden of this new disease. From the Intensive Care registry, we've learned that out of 187 women between 20 and 39 receiving intensive care, 60 were pregnant. 3 pregnant women have died.

Norway

Covid19 (update 26.04.2021): Total in hospitals: 207, on ventilator: 42, dead: 736
Vaccines: 1.189900 (1. shot) Pfizer and Moderna. The Astra-Zeneca vaccine is paused (permanently?) after 130 000 vaccines and 4 dead AZ-vaccinated health workers. There have been only a few pregnant women with complications from Covid19 infection. The current national lock-down restrictions in Norway: Private homes 5 max guests. Public events: 10 persons indoors without fixed seats/100 with fixed seats. Open restaurants, alcohol served until 10 p.m. (Oslo/some other regions: Restaurants and shops closed/No alcohol served). The national borders almost closed: Negative test before entrance, Covid test at the border and 10 d quarantine. Therefore, problems with recruiting staff to hospitals from abroad.

Finland

The reported cases of Covid19 in total: 86,161 (+224*) after total 4,419,900 (+31,200*) tested samples. The cumulative number of reported deaths associated with the disease: 908 (+2*) Number of patients in specialized medical care wards: 70 (-7*). The number of patients in primary healthcare wards: 30 (+4*) and there are Currently 32 (-1*) patients in intensive care. The highest incidence of Covid19 in the Helsinki area and at the Helsinki University Hospital: 50 women hospitalized, 10 in the intensive care unit, one in ECMO. SGY has no updated information on mild Covid19 disease. There have been 12 women with premature delivery, to improve lung function.

Iceland:

Covid continues to influence life and work in Iceland but the health care system has managed well, and we are hopeful that the vaccinations will bring us a more normal situation soon. In total: 29 dead of Covid19 in Iceland. There were 16 new cases of Covid19 in the last 24 hours. Currently, 24 patients are hospitalized and there are no patients in intensive care units. Masks are mandatory in public areas. The quarantine rules upon arrival in Iceland early in the pandemic reduced the pandemic.

17. **News National societies**, national societies.

Denmark – DSOG:

General assembly, a virtual was held April 16. This meeting included an educational part with the themes: Trafficking, Gyn.obs 2040 and COVID sessions.

There is a rising number of births in Denmark and a lack of midwives. This gives media attention. An extra funds of 24 mil kr in the region of Copenhagen to improve the



NFOG Board meeting April 26-27, 2021

NFOG BOARD Minutes

obstetrics Public focus: In the last 5 months DSOG has given 52 interviews for paper, radio and television. Ongoing work for DSOG includes 1) National clinical recommendation regarding induction of labour, 2) Guidelines for Antenatal care and organization of Birth-help (from the National health ministry). 3) Testing of an electronically pregnancy journal, sharing information with general practitioner. 4) PRO-data (Patient relate outcome) as an integrated part of the pregnancy journal. 5) Revision of the education of medical doctors in Denmark.

Sweden – SFOG:

Another big discussion during the past year is whether to induce labor at 41 instead of 42 weeks, as has been the rule before. There has been a shift in this policy so now there is an increase in earlier inductions. It's going to be very interesting to see how that change impacts rates of CS and VE. Our activity with SFOG courses for the interns have continued almost without interruption using web-solutions, and some of the courses, eg. basic surgical training, have continued to be physical. We hope that the pandemic will not interfere to much so that the interns won't get their exams on schedule. The continued education for specialists has also been almost at the same level as before but of course in digital versions. We also keep on working to find our role in the new context of "knowledge steering" with the health care regions. We are worried that the professional voice might get muted, and we really need to work hard to be heard in the continuous flow of information.

Norway NGF:

Preparations for political elections in Norway: Abortion discussion in the political parties about the mandatory decision board that women have to apply to have an induced abortion carried out beyond week 12 in the pregnancy. Some of the parties want to extend the period of women's self-decision to week 18 or 22. Other ongoing matters for NGF: Revised Guidelines, Planning for "real life" annual meeting in October (27—28), planning the NORBIRTH-study on induction of labor. "The nationwide Norwegian team will by the end of the project period establish NORBIRTH - the Norwegian Network for Obstetric Research, hosted by The Norwegian Association of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (NGF). This network has already been in use informally in the previous assessment of induction of labor in Norway, a project which paved the way for the proposed SAINT project. We will establish a steering group with researchers from all Norwegian health regions with the aim to facilitate large, rigorously designed, nationwide clinical studies in obstetrics aiming to strengthen the scientific basis for improved clinical decisions for pregnant and laboring women and their families."

Finland – SGY

Report from The Finnish Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The virtual spring meeting of the The Finnish Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, April 15-16, 2021. Current work themes for SGY: Covid-19, Dealing with challenging patients, Contraception, Genetics, Ovarian cancer, On-call reform, Regulations on working and rest time. Reply to the enquiry of the The Finnish Medical Association. Competence-based medical training, Entrustable professional activities (EPAs), Implementation of the first EPAs: Gynecological emergency patient and Elective Caesarean section

Iceland - FÍFK

FÍFK arranged a Zoom annual general meeting in the beginning of December, a new board was elected. In January the cervical screening program was transferred from a privately



NFOG Board meeting April 26-27, 2021

NFOG BOARD Minutes

funded organization (Cancer Society) to the primary general care. The main project of the new FÍFK board has been trying to influence how the screening program is organized. The samples are sent to Denmark for analyses which is a controversial decision. The system around the cervical screening was not ready when the public system took over and still is not. The work on this is not nearly over but hopefully we will end up with a well-organized and safe screening program. FÍFK is looking for better ways to reach women and educate them about their body in health and disease, to have professional information they can trust.

18. Date & place for next NFOG Board meeting.

The NFOG officers will meet June 15 for final planning the GA. The Board usually hold a meeting in relation to the Nordic congress and General assembly.

Decision: The Board plan to hold a short board meeting in the morning June 16, 2021, before the GA. A Zoom-link will be sent to the Board. The new elected board meeting will meet after the GA June 16 to self-constitute and schedule the time/place for the Board meeting in November 2021.

19. Other business

Espen Berner (EB) reminded the Board on the following regarding the GA:

- A decision for the NFOG Congress in august 2025 must be made during the GA June 16. The Congress should be held in the Nordic countries in turn. The board has considered hosting the congress in Iceland, but currently next in order is Sweden. Therefore, SFOG should come up with a candidate for location (city) and Congress President before the GA.
- The names for the voting members for the national societies during the GA must be sent to Secretary General within June 1.
- The national societies must send the number of registered members in the national society for 2021 to the Secretary General before the GA. (*Correction minutes: By mistake the Secretary General asked the national societies asked for the number of non-retired members, but the proportional votes the during the GA is based upon the number of registered members*).
- The Chairs of all NFOG committees must send an annual committee report to the to the Secretary General to within May 15th.
- The NFOG President and Secretary General will make the NFOG annual report for 2019-2020.

This was Alexander Smárason last meeting in the NFOG Board and NFOG President Oskari thanked Alexander for his contribution to NFOG in over 20 years. The Board concurred. A gift to Alexander is shipped to a local store in Iceland.

20. Closing

Oskari Heikinheimo closed the Board meeting 13:18 (Swe/Den/Nor-time).