

# **Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology (NFOG)**

## **Annual Report 2020**

### **The Board of NFOG**

President: Oskari Heikinheimo, Finland. Secretary General: Espen Berner, Norway. Treasurer: Kristina Renault, Denmark. National Representatives: Eva Uustal (SFOG), Kirsten Hald (NGF), Hannele Laivuori (SGY), Hanne Brix Westergaard and Annemette W Lykkebo (DSOG), Alexander Smáráson (FÍFK). Other members of the Board: Ganesh Acharya, Norway (AOGS Chief Editor), Antti Perheentupa, Finland (Scientific Committee Chair), Mervi Väisänen-Tommiska, Finland (Educational Committee Chair), Niels Ulbjerg, Denmark (Guidelines Committee Chair), Lars Ladfors Sweden (Webmaster), Hanna Lilja Oddgeirsdottir, Iceland (NFYOG), Ragnheiður I. Bjarnadóttir Iceland (Congress President Reykjavik 2021) and Bjarne Rønne Kristensen, Denmark (past Congress President and advisor for Reykjavik 2021)

Internal Auditors: Thea Lousen, Denmark and Kevin Sunde Oppegaard, Norway

Deputy Auditor: Liselott Andersson, Sweden

External auditor: Jesper Fenger Smidt, Aaen & Co, State Authorized public accounting firm.

The NFOG Board held three meetings during 2020. Due to the Covid19 pandemic in 2020, physical Board meetings were not acceptable. Consequently, all Board meetings in 2020 were arranged virtual by Zoom. The minutes from these meetings have been posted on the NFOG website.

### **Economy, budget, and accounts**

The economy of NFOG is supervised by treasurer Kristina Renault. The income is derived from the membership fees, royalty payment from the ownership of AOGS and returns from the NFOG assets. The expenditure is generated by the activity of AOGS, and the management costs generated by the Board, the NFOG Committees, and a possible deficit generated by the NFOG Congress. According to the Statutes, 66% of the 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 NFOG General Assembly June 16, 2021.

### **AOGS (ACTA)**

Ganesh Acharya has been the Chief Editor of AOGS since 2015. In 2020, AOGS experienced a significant increase in submissions of manuscripts. Meanwhile, the Editorial board improved quality by reducing turnover time for handling the manuscripts. The impact factor for 2019 increased to 2,77. AOGS is 100 years in 2021. Therefore, the Editorial board is preparing for the 100 years celebration of AOGS and theme issues of AOGS in 2021.

NFOG Board made a principal decision in 2019 to flip AOGS to full open access (OA). Consequently, AOGS and NFOG have throughout 2020 widely discussed together with the Publisher Wiley the process of changing AOGS to OA. NFOG was advised by Wiley to await the change of AOGS to OA until 2021. Therefore, the final negotiations and signing of the new OA-contract were scheduled 1. Quartal of 2021. The objective was to announce a signed contract with Wiley at the General Assembly in 2021. There will be a transition period with hybrid journal in 2021 and a proposed effective date for a full OA-contract from January 1, 2022. Meanwhile, AOGS has prepared for OA by stopping paper version of AOGS from 2021 and increased number of published manuscripts.

## **NFOG Fund**

The NFOG Fund was established in 2010 with the purpose to support further development of professional skills, research, and clinical and scientific collaboration in the fields of obstetrics and gynecology within the Nordic countries. Applications for the NFOG fund are made electronically through the NFOG webpage, with deadlines March 1st and October 1st every year.

The Scientific Committee (SC) worked actively for the NFOG fund in 2020. The SC received 31 applications for the NFOG Fund in 2020 and handled the applications according to the Statutes of the fund. The NFOG Board approved and followed the NFOG Fund proposals made by the SC in 2020.

In addition, in 2020 the SC discussed potential amendment in the bylaws the Fund, regarding for what purposes NFOG Fund grants can be given for. The SC will explore this further and propose possible changes in the statutes of the NFOG Fund (NFOG Fund Special Enactment I to the articles of NFOG) at the General Assembly in 2023.

## **Website**

The NFOG website is managed webmaster Lars Ladfors. The webpage was functional without any problems in 2020; [www.nfog.org](http://www.nfog.org)

## **Committees**

The Scientific Committee (SC) have assessed the applications to the NFOG Fund and suggest allocations for 2020.

The Educational committee (EC) has not planned further educational courses after 2019. The strategy for the EC is to work towards a Nordic education online for subspecialties. The committee has not been very active in 2020, due to the Covid19 pandemic.

NFYOG was primary working to arrange two separate sessions at the congress in Reykjavik 2021. This work was paused in 2020 due to cancelling of the congress. NFYOG is collaborating with EC to evaluate educational needs and to uniform specialist training in Nordic countries. NFYOG has not been very active in 2020, due to the Covid19 pandemic.

The Guideline committee (GC) was established 5 years ago with an initial mandate to translate the national guidelines in the Nordic countries into English. In addition, the GC was asked to develop consensus Nordic guidelines. The GC has completed the task to translate the national guidelines and recommendations from the Nordic countries. In addition, the NFOG guideline on Progesterone for prevention of preterm birth was published in 2019. There are 2000 clicks on the NFOG guideline webpage, annually. In 2020, the Board discussed the role, mandate, and structure of the GC. Consequently, the GC has not been active in 2020 awaiting the Board discussion. The Board has agreed on the importance in continue translating new national guidelines from the Nordic countries into English.

The textbook. The General Assembly in 2019 decided to approve a project of to establish a Nordic electronic textbook for medical students. The project works as a NFOG committee and should be regarded as this. The project shall be evaluated within five years. During 2020, the work of establishing the textbook has progressed and most chapters are published. The remaining expenses for establishing the textbook will be used in 2021, within budget approved by the General Assembly 2019. The textbook implements the MCQ-platform and evaluation of individual chapters. The promotion and advertisement of the textbook are planned within the Budget for the Textbook.

## **EBCOG**

NFOG is not member of EBCOG, but the national societies of NFOG are members. The board facilitate discussions among the Nordic societies regarding EBCOG. The EBCOG congress in Bergen May 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid19 pandemic. NFOG had planned a Nordic session during the congress. After the cancellation, there has been an economic disagreement between EBCOG and the PCO in Norway. Consequently, both NFOG and the national societies of NFOG are concerned with the collaboration with EBCOG regarding future congresses. Therefore, national representatives within NFOG collaborated in preparation for EBCOG Council in November 2020. The next EBCOG congress is arranged in Athens September 2-4, 2021.

## **FIGO**

Kristina Gemzell Danielsson from Sweden have represented NFOG in the FIGO Executive Board. In 2020, NFOG prepared a joint Nordic application among the Nordic societies and NFOG to host the FIGO congress in 2027. Denmark was the planned candidate for the venue. NFOG Board was prepared to use 100.000, - DKK through the board reserve 2021 to promote the candidacy. Unfortunately, FIGO sent out information in January 2021 of a change in the Congress schedule. Therefore, the plan to apply for a FIGO congress is postponed.

## **NFOG Environmental policy**

An NFOG environmental policy was developed and approved by the Board in November 2020. The environmental policy is published on the NFOG webpage and shall be implemented in all NFOG activity.

## **Cancellation of the NFOG Congress in Reykjavik 2021**

NFOG has throughout 2020 monitored the Covid19 pandemic and evaluated the possibility to arrange the planned Congress in Reykjavik in June 2021. The Board and the local organizing in Iceland estimated the total economic cexpences of cancelling the congress to be ISK 2.034.566 (DKR 110.000). During a Board meeting in November 2020 NFOG decided to cancel the NFOG Congress Reykjavik 2021. The expenses for cancellation of the 2021 congress will be paid by NFOG. NFOG has already decided to arrange a NFOG Nordic Congress in Trondheim in August 2023. Therefore, this will be the next congress arranged by NFOG. A decision concerning the country and location of the congress in August 2025 will be made at the General Assembly 2021.

## **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. NFOG works to improve the reproductive health of women worldwide. The assets of NFOG are used to promote this aim, and the NFOG Fund is an important tool 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 31<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Oskari Heikinheimo  
President

Espen Berner  
Secretary General