



# NFOG General Assembly June 16, 2021

## Minutes

### 2021 NFOG General Assembly Minutes

**Time:** June 16th, 2021, 16:00-17:30 (Swe/Den/Nor-time)

**Place:** electronical meeting by zoom

#### Present:

**Board of NFOG:** 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), Inger Sundström Poromaa (Scientific Committee), Niels Ulbjerg (Guideline Committee, Textbook), Hanna Lilja Oddgeirsdóttir (NFYOG), Ganesh Acharya (AOGS), Lars Ladfors (Webmaster), Ragnheiður L. Bjarnadóttir (NFOG Reykjavik2021), Bjarne Rønne Kristensen (Odense 2018).

**Delegates:** DSOG, Denmark (5 votes): Danny Svane, Lise Lotte Torvin Andersen, Malou Eva Maria Pinto Barbosa, Niels Klarskov, Anna Aabakke. SFOG, Sweden (5 votes): Radha Korsoski, Inger Sundström Poromaa, Ellika Andolf, Henrik Graner, Eva Uustal. SGY, Finland (5 votes): Terhi Piltonen, Outi Äyräs, Liisa Laatio, Pauliina Aukee, Seppo Virtanen. NGF, Norway (5 votes): Anders Einum, Nils Halvdan Morken, Yngvild Hannestad, Knut Hordenes, Kjell Å «Pepe» Salvesen. FÍFK, Iceland (1 vote): Eva Jonasdóttir.

Internal Auditors: Thea Lousen (Denmark) and Kevin Sunde Oppegaard (Norway) (not present at the meeting).

The General Assembly (GA) is open to all members of NFOG. There were 42 members (including the Board) present at the meeting.

- 1. Opening** Oskari Heikinheimo opened the General assembly (GA). Due to travelling restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic, the NFOG Nordic congress in Reykjavik 2021 was cancelled and a physical GA was not possible. Consequently, the GA was held electronically through the NFOG zoom account.
- 2. Delegate roll call:** Espen Berner carried out the roll call of the delegates.
- 3. Eva Uustal (Sweden) was proposed and elected as Chair of the general assembly. Hanne Brix Westergaard (Denmark) and Alexander Smáráson (Iceland) were proposed and elected for checking the GA minutes.**
- 4. The invitation and agenda of the were approved by the GA**
- 5. Board Report for 2019 and 2020.**

Oskari Heikinheimo presented NFOG a summary of the annual reports for 2019 and 2020 and main activities of the NFOG Board for the past two years. The minutes from board meetings and the annual reports are posted on the NFOG website. The majority of NFOG activities are done through its committees. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there were less NFOG activities in 2020. The Board has arranged four full





# NFOG General Assembly June 16, 2021

## Minutes

Board meetings during the last period, only one physical meeting (November 2019) and then three zoom meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic. The NFOG officers have reorganized with regular zoom meetings in the last two years. In addition, NFOG has facilitated several short meetings among the national societies of NFOG to collaborate during the pandemic.

During 2019, the local organizing committee (LOC) in Iceland was planning the 42nd NFOG congress in Reykjavik 2021. As the covid-19 pandemic developed in 2020, the LOC and Board evaluated the possibility to arrange the congress. In November 2020, the Board cancelled the 2021 congress in Reykjavik. The estimated NFOG expenses of cancelling the congress were ISK 2.034.566 (DKR 110.000). The Board has decided that future NFOG congresses are moved from June to be arranged in August. The next congress is planned in Trondheim august 2023.

In 2020, NFOG board prepared a Nordic application to host the FIGO congress in 2027. Unfortunately, FIGO unexpectedly adjusted its congress interval in a way that could conflict with the NFOG Congress in 2023. Therefore, the application process has been halted. Kristina Gemzell Danielsson (Sweden) still represents the Nordic countries in the FIGO Executive Board, since 2018.

NFOG Board made a principal decision in 2019 to flip AOGS to full open access (OA). Therefore, in 2020 AOGS and NFOG widely discussed and negotiated a new OA-contract for AOGS with the Publisher Wiley. The new OA-contract was signed February 2021. Meanwhile, AOGS prepared for OA by stopping paper version of AOGS from 2021 and increased number of published manuscripts.

Publication of a NFOG electronic textbook in obstetrics and gynecology for medical students was decided by the GA in 2019. Therefore, during 2019-2020, NFOG worked to establish the textbook. A publishing contract for the textbook was signed with Sundhet.dk, March 2021. Currently, most chapters are published. The remaining expenses for establishing the textbook will be used in 2021, within budget approved by the GA 2019.

In 2020, the Board used the Board initiative of 100.000 to support NOSS to support the Nordic Covid-19 study.

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

The NFOG President ended the presentation with pointing out the challenges for NFOG in the upcoming years: Planning and arranging the NFOG Congress 2023 and 2025, the process of changing AOGS to full open access, recruiting new Chief Editor of NFOG starting 2023, promoting the NFOG textbook and collaboration with EBCOG and FIGO.





# NFOG General Assembly June 16, 2021

## Minutes

### 6. NFOG Committee reports. Oskari Heikinheimo presented the committee reports.

- 6.1. The NFOG Fund and the Scientific committee (SC): The SC has worked actively for the NFOG fund. In 2019, the application procedure for the Fund was completed as an electronic application, through the NFOG webpage. The SC has assessed the applications and suggest allocations according to the statutes. The NFOG Board has approved the funding suggestions made by the SC. The SC has received less applications for the fund during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 6.2. The Educational committee (EC) arranged the educational course in Stockholm April 2019, with 48 participants. The theme of the course was “Ethical issues in obstetrics and gynecology”. The EC has not planned further educational courses due to the pandemic. The committee has not been very active in 2020, due to the Covid19 pandemic. The current strategy for the EC is to work towards a Nordic online education for subspecialties.
- 6.3. The Guideline committee (GC) completed the task to translate the national guidelines and recommendations from the Nordic countries in 2020. In addition, the GC develop and published a NFOG guideline on Progesterone for prevention of preterm birth in 2019. 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 agreed on the importance in continue translating new national guidelines from the Nordic countries into English.
- 6.4. NFYOG prepared two separate sessions at the congress in Reykjavik 2021, the 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.
- 6.5. From 2020, the editorial board of the NFOG textbook is organized as a NFOG committee. Therefore, the textbook has an annual budget with the mandate to develop and revising chapters of the textbook. The textbook shall be evaluated by NFOG within five years.
- 6.6. The NFOG webpage is functional without current problems in 2020.

### 7. Financial report

The NFOG Treasurer, Kristina Renault presented the financial results of 2019 and 2020. 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.

In 2019, the Board identified a difference in reporting the number of members among the national societies of NFOG. SFOG and DSOG had for several years reported and paid annual fee also for retired members. This has caused an overpayment in





# NFOG General Assembly June 16, 2021

## Minutes

annual fee to NFOG from SFOG and DSOG. The Board decided to compensate the overpayment by reducing the annual fee in 2020-2021, accordingly.

The economy of NFOG is well balanced and the results are better than budget. The result for 2019 and 2020 is a surplus of 726.442, - and 954.295, - respectively. A total surplus is more than 1,5 mi. DK-kr. 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. The board reserve has been used for the electronic textbook, research related to the Covid-pandemic and the NOSS-project.

The complete result of 2019 and 2020 is published on the website, with the minutes of the GA. **The Board proposed that the retained earnings (remaining surplus) of 246.990, - from 2019 and 324.460, - from 2020 should be referred to the NFOG Fund. This was accepted by the GA.**

8. **Auditor's report:** Kristina Renault presented the auditor reports for 2019 and 2020 from the external auditor, Jesper Fenger Smidt, (Aaen & Co, Denmark) stating that the external auditor complied with the independent requirements stated within the law, and that they had received all the information requested.  
Kristina Renault presented the auditor reports from the internal auditors Thea Lousen (Denmark) and Kevin Oppegaard (Norway).
9. The Chair asked the GA to grant the Board discharge of liability. **Discharge of liability was granted by the GA.**
10. **Budget and annual fee for 2022 and 2023.** Kristina Renault presented the Board proposal of the budget for upcoming two years, with a planned deficit of -622.000 and -707.500 for 2022 and 2023, respectively. The Board proposed to keep the annual membership fee for non-retired members of national societies at 250, - DKK, unchanged for many years.  
Hanne Westergaard (Denmark) proposed increasing the board initiative from 200.000 to 300.000, annually. The GA discussed the proposed budget from the Board and the alternative budget proposal from Westergaard.  
**The GA decided to increase the annual board initiative to 300.000 DKK. The GA decided the annual fee to be 250, -DKK for non-retired members of the national societies of NFOG. Otherwise, the proposed budget by the Board was accepted. Consequently, the projected deficit in Budget is -722.000 and -807.500 DKK for 2022 and 2023, respectively.**
11. **Oskari Heikinheimo (Finland) was re-elected as NFOG President**, for a period of two years.
12. **Sebastian Gidlöf (Sweden) was elected as new NFOG Secretary General** for a period of four years.





# NFOG General Assembly June 16, 2021

## Minutes

**13. Thea Lousen (Denmark) and Espen Berner (Norway) were elected as internal auditors and Outi Äyräs (Finland) was elected as deputy auditor** the next period of administration.

**14. Next NFOG congress: 2023.** Pepe Salvesen, the Congress President for 42nd NFOG Congress in Trondheim August 28-30, 2023, presented the city, venue, and preliminary program for the congress.

**15. The NFOG Congress in 2025.** The NFOG Congress in 2025 was proposed to be held in Uppsala, Sweden with Inger Sundström Poromaa as Congress President. **The proposed location and Congress president were accepted by the GA.**

**16. AOGS (Acta Obstetricia et Gynecologica Scandinavia) Report.** Chief Editor Ganesh Acharya presented the Editorial Board and the International Editorial Board during the NFOG Webinar. AOGS is 100 years in 2021. 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 predicted impact factor (IF) for AOGS 2020 = 3,474. There will be a need for a plan for recruitment of a new chief editor in 2023. Furthermore, associated editors are still wanted, so the national societies should motivate local colleges of interest.

**17. Revision of NFOG Statues.** Espen Berner presented the proposed amendments of §3.1 and the § 5.1 of the NFOG Statutes (Articles of the Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology). The amendment of §3.1 was a minor specification of wording, to avoid misinterpretation. The amendment in §5.1 was as more reasonable calculation of the proportional votes during the general assembly, based upon the actual number of members of each national society. **The proposed changes were accepted by the GA.** The revised amendments are found on [www.nfog.org](http://www.nfog.org).

**18. No other business**

**Closing of the meeting:** The Chair Eva Uustal and Oskari Heikinheimo closed the meeting at 17:45 (Swe/Nor/Den-time)

Oslo, Uppsala, Copenhagen, Reykjavik, June 16th, 2021

In witness there of:

Espen Berner  
NFOG Secretary General

Eva Uustal  
Chair of the General Assembly

Hanne Westergaard  
Checker of the Minutes

Alexander Smáráson  
Checker of the Minutes

