



NFOG Board meeting November 2021

Minutes

Date: November 3 – November 4

Place: Hotel Scandic Falkoner, Copenhagen

Present NFOG Board members:

NFOG officers: Oskari Heikinheimo (President), Kristina Renault (Treasurer), Sebastian Gidlöf (Secretary General).

National societies: Annemette W Lykkebo (DSOG), Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir (FÍFK), Mikael Algovik (SFOG), Kirsten Hald (NGF), Hannele Laivuori (SGY), Ragnar Sander (incoming president NGF), Lise Lotte Torvin Andersen (incoming president DSOG)

NFOG Committees/Activities: Inger Sundström Poromaa (Chair Scientific Committee), Arushma Imran Naqash (NFYOG), Lars Ladfors (Webmaster), Ganesh Acharya (AOGS) Ragnheiður L. Bjarnadóttir (NFOG Reykjavik 2021), Pepe Salvesen (Congress President, NFOG Trondheim 2023),

Absent NFOG Board members:

NFOG Committees/Activities: Niels Ulbjerg (Chair Guideline Committee and Chair NFOG Textbook Committee), Mervi Väisänen-Tommiska (Chair Educational Committee)

1. Opening, approval of invitation and agenda

Oskari opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. A round of presentations was held.

2. Approval of minutes NFOG Board

The minutes were approved.

3. Review of minutes from previous board meeting

The minutes from the NFOG Board meeting and the NFOG General assembly held on June 16th, 2021 were reviewed. Kristina reminded the board that the sum for board initiatives has been increased from 100,000 to 300,000 DKK and encouraged initiatives on how to use this to be put forward.

4. Scientific Committee and NFOG Fund Applications October 2021

Inger gave a short report on the work of the Scientific Committee. The applications for NFOG funding were presented. There were a total of 14 complete applications and the Scientific Committee suggested to the NFOG board to approve them all. Most applications were related to clinical and scientific visits. All applications suggested by the Scientific Committee to be funded were approved by the NFOG Board. A total of 263,655 DKK was granted.

Inger encouraged more collaborative Nordic scientific projects.



NFOG Board meeting November 2021

The board discussed if the open access fees for publication in AOGS could be covered by the NFOG fund. The board also discussed if the NFOG fund should be made available to cover for other areas than the five that are currently stated. Both these issues cannot be decided by the NFOG board, but decisions need to be taken in the General Assembly. The board decided that the Scientific Committee is responsible to make a written suggestion for the General Assembly to decide upon. The suggestion will be discussed in the next board meetings prior to next GA. The board also decided that the Treasurer writes a suggestion regarding changing §3 in the Enactment of the NFOG fund in the statutes to allow for putting money into NFOG fund even in the absence of a surplus.

5. NFYOG

Arushma gave a report of the work of NFYOG. The work has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, but regular meetings have been held through Zoom. Each society has two representatives and the NFYOG board has changed representatives meaning that all members in the board are new. NFYOG is planning a Nordic symposium on an educational topic to be possibly organized in 2022.

6. NFOG e-Textbook

Oskari gave a report on the work. Only a few chapters remain to be published and the work on updating previous chapters is on-going. Multiple-choice questions have been developed. No financial matters have occurred. The NFOG Board decided that the NFOG e-Textbook is a formal working group of NFOG with the status of a committee.

7. Educational Committee

There were no representatives from the Educational Committee present and the committee has not been active the last years. The board discussed the role of the Educational Committee and pointed out that the NFOG e-Textbook committee and NFYOG are covering educational matters regarding both for undergraduate and trainee education. This means that the role of the educational committee is not imperative.

The NFOG board therefore decided to close the Educational committee. Oskari and Sebastian will inform the current members of the Educational committee of the decision. Committee members that still want to be engaged in the educational activities will be directed to collaborate with NFYOG and the NFOG e-Textbook workgroup.



NFOG Board meeting November 2021

8. Guideline Committee

Aðalbjörg gave a report from the Guideline Committee. The work has focused on translating national guidelines that could be adopted as Nordic guidelines. It has been difficult to produce Nordic guidelines and the board recognized the difficulties in constructing Nordic guidelines. The board also appreciates that the implementation of the guidelines locally is too difficult to compensate for the hard work in developing the Nordic guidelines. Rather would it make more sense to publish the national guidelines on the NFOG website. For this purpose, it is not necessary to keep the Guideline committee.

The NFOG Board therefore decided to close the Guideline Committee. The national societies take responsibility for sending new national guidelines to the webmaster for publication on the website. The national societies will review their guidelines on the website to make sure that only the current versions are listed and remove guidelines older than 10 years of age. The webmaster informs the national societies of guidelines that are removed. Oskari and Sebastian inform the current members of the committee of the decision.

The board also decided that specialized work group can be formed to work with a specific guideline or a prespecified education related tasks. The board welcomes suggestions for such work groups and/or tasks.

9. AOGS

Ganesh gave the AOGS report. The number of submitted manuscript has increased yearly the last decade and the rejection rate has increased as well, in 2020 it was 84.4%. The impact factor has increased and was 3.6 for 2020.

Assistant Chief Editor Jeppe Schroll has indicated that he wants to leave his position early next year and the position needs to be advertised. According to previous plans, the current Chief Editor Ganesh will resign December 31, 2022. A new Associate Editor from Finland needs to be appointed.

The board discussed the succession of Ganesh and whether to open for international recruitment of a new chief editor. The NFOG board decided to form a task force consisting of Ganesh, Oskari and an associate editor (to be decided at the AOGS board meeting) to work intensively with finding candidates for the chief editor position.



NFOG Board meeting November 2021

The NFOG board also recognized the current situation of transition to Open Access as a special circumstance (as indicated in the statutes) and decided to offer Ganesh a possibility for a prolonged appointment as chief editor for two more years, ending December 31, 2024.

10. EBCOG

The next council meeting will be held in the end of the month in Brussels. The financial matters between the congress organizers of the EBCOG Bergen congress and EBCOG has been settled.

11. FIGO

No Nordic candidates were elected for FIGO officer trustees or regional trustees positions. Finland was elected as member country in the council for 2+2 years thereby accompanying Sweden who is already present for two more years through Kristina Gemzell. The Finnish society will decide who represents the society in the FIGO council next week.

The board decided to allocate time for a lecture on the FIGO organization at the next NFOG board meeting.

12. Webmaster

Lars provided a brief report on the NFOG website. It was decided that Lars will investigate the costs of having a secretary being responsible for collecting the theses regularly to have a more complete list on the website.

13. NFOG 2021 Reykjavik (final accounts)

Ragnheiður presented the final accounts of the Reykjavik congress that had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. The final costs amount to 90,000 DKK.

14. NFOG 2023 Trondheim

Pepe gave an overview of the congress plans. The NFOG board discussed the aim of the congress and agreed that both social interaction and scientific collaboration between the Nordic countries are the main aims of the congress. The congress dates are August 27 – 30, 2023.

According to the NFOG statutes, the NFOG board decides (i) to allow the local organizing committee a loan from NFOG of DKK 100,000, (ii) accept that NFOG will be responsible for the overall economics of the meeting even in a case of negative budget and that a possible surplus



NFOG Board meeting November 2021

will be divided between NFOG and the local organizing committee as stated in the statutes and according to previous practice (33,3%/66,6%). The NFOG board accepted that high attendance is more important than financial surplus. The board discussed chartering a flight or train to increase attendance, but it was decided to not proceed with this. For the next NFOG board meeting the local organizing committee will prepare a detailed draft of the scientific program.

15. News from the National societies SFOG, DSOG, FÍFK, SGY, NGF

Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir (FÍFK): FÍFK is currently working with organizing information for their members. Currently there is an on-going debate on Covid-19 vaccination and menstrual disturbances.

Mikael Algovik (SFOG): The annual meeting was held in August in a completely digital manner. It has not been decided if the next meeting will be digital, hybrid or physical. The ARG reports will be solely published online. All women are offered induction of labor at gestational week 41. The development of guidelines and recommendation has changes from relying on SFOG to depend on the Swedish Medical Board. How to divide the work between the organizations is subject to an on-going debate.

Kirsten Hald (NGF): NGF recently had their annual meeting with some 460 attendants. There is a national concern of recruitment of gynecologists especially in smaller hospitals. Currently there is an on-going debate on time of induction of labor in post-term pregnancies. Further, there is a debate on how to obtain informed consent in operative vaginal delivery.

Hannele Laivuori (SGY): SGY have produced statements on several matters such as induced abortion, uterine transplantation, and HPV vaccination. SGY will arrange the annual meeting physically during next week. There is a shortage of nurses generally in Finland also affecting obstetrics and gynecology. The organization regarding registry-based studies have been changed leading to prolonged handling times and heavily increased costs.

Lise Lotte Torvin Andersen (incoming president DSOG): DSOG recently organized a theme day on informed consent in obstetrics. There is a debate on the working conditions for midwives in the labor ward. The matter of correct timing of induction of labor is being discussed. Denmark is investigating how to develop youth clinics according to the Swedish model. There is an increasing rate of women from Poland seeking induced abortion.

All societies report that the Covid-19 pandemic is still on-going and unvaccinated pregnant women are common.



NFOG Board meeting November 2021

16. Economy

Kristina gave the annual report for 2019-2020. The income from membership fees was reduced in 2020 due to a correction of membership fees from Sweden and Denmark. AOGS had a larger income than any year before. In all, the total result for 2019 was DKK 726,442 and for 2020 DKK 954,295. As decided at the General Assembly, the entire surplus was transferred to NFOG fund.

The total asset of NFOG was in the end of 2020 DKK 15,154,885. The closing balance for the NFOG fund was DKK 4,401,403 in 2020, and is thereby stable.

As decided in the last General Assembly the sum of costs in the budget will increase in 2022 and 2023 as especially the board reserve will be increased to DKK 300,000 pr year.

17. Planning/dates of upcoming Board meetings

The NFOG board decided to schedule the next meeting to be held in Trondheim March 24-25, 2022 in Trondheim.

18. Other business, Oskari Heikinheimo

Endometriosis ARG report translation

Mikael raises the question if NFOG will sponsor the translation of the Swedish ARG report on endometriosis. The translation has been estimated to cost around SEK 130,000.

It was decided by the NFOG board that the ARG report is too extensive for translation in its current form. Mikael will explore if the report can be reduced to a maximum of 10 pages to be translated into English. The authors will then present another sum and the NFOG officers can decide if the sum is acceptable before the next NFOG board meeting.

Board initiative

All NFOG board members are requested to prepare suggestions for how to use the money allocated for board initiatives. These suggestions should be presented at the next NFOG board meeting.

19. Closing of the meeting

Oskari thanked all NFOG board members for active attendance and closed the meeting.