



# NFOG Board meeting March 2022

## Minutes

**Date:** March 24 – 25

**Place:** Hotel Britannia, Trondheim

### NFOG Board members:

#### Present:

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

National societies: Annemette W Lykkebo (DSOG), Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir (FÍFK), Michael Algovik (SFOG), Hannele Laivuori (SGY), Ragnar Kvie Sande (President NGF).

NFOG Committees/Activities: Terhi Piltonen (Scientific Committee), Lars Ladfors (Webmaster), and Ganesh Acharya (AOGS). Pepe Salvesen (Congress President, NFOG Trondheim 2023) day 2 only.

#### Present over digital link for their respective parts:

Niels Ulbjerg (NFOG textbook and Nordic cerclage trial), Arushma Imran Naqash (NFYOG)

#### 1. Opening, approval of invitation and agenda, Oskari Heikinheimo

Oskari Heikinheimo 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 meetings from previous board meeting

The minutes from the last NFOG Board meeting in November 2021 were reviewed and approved.

#### 4. Scientific Committee and NFOG Fund Applications March 2022

Terhi Piltonen gave the report from the Scientific Committee. The number of applications declined during the pandemic but is now increasing. This semester all Nordic countries submitted applications. In total, 19 applications were submitted. Sebastian Gidlöf was the applicant of one application and left the room when his application was discussed and approved. A total of 18 applications were approved for funding.

The Scientific Committee has continued the work with making a suggestion on how to improve the rules. This suggestion will be put forward in the next NFOG board meetings before submitted for approval in the General Assembly 2023. The purpose is to increase the emphasis



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on scientific projects, preferably with Nordic collaboration, and to clarify a list of priorities for funding.

### 5. NFYOG (digital)

Arushma Imran Naqash updated the board on the recent work of NFYOG. There is a plan to organize a session at the NFOG2023 congress and discussions are ongoing with the organizing committee. In addition, NFYOG is planning a webinar to be held either this autumn or in the spring of 2023. The NFOG Board cannot decide on the program of the NFOG2023 congress which is to be decided by the organizing committee. It was decided that the initiative by NFYOG should be discussed with the organizing committee and the thoughts from NFYOG are put forward to the organizing committee.

### 6. Webmaster

Lars Ladfors gave the report from the webmaster. The NFOG fund applications are working very well.

The Nordic theses are collected on the NFOG website. This work is lagging, and the collection is not complete. Only a few of all theses are being submitted by the authors and the rest need to be searched after by Susana Benedet (AOGS Editorial manager) who provides a list for the webmaster to publish on the NFOG website. In addition, it is difficult to find a direct weblink to these theses. It is decided that an excel sheet will be provided by Susana Benedet at least once a year that will be published by the webmaster on the NFOG website. Ganesh Acharya will ask Susana Benedet if it is possible for her to add clickable links to the thesis in the excel sheet. This means that submitting individual theses is no longer necessary and that part of the website will be closed. Susana Benedet will be compensated with a small reward of 10 000 SEK annually for this extra work.

Each national society will be requested to choose the best PhD thesis in OBGYN from their country defended in the preceding 2 years before the NFOG Congress is held and submit it to the NFOG Board. NFOG Board (with the help of scientific committee) will then select one of them for the Best Thesis Award which will be awarded during the upcoming NFOG Congress.



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### 7. AOGS

Ganesh Acharya gave the report on AOGS. Two associate editors (from FI and DK) have served their 8-year terms and will be replaced (FI and DK). Verdran Stefanovic has been appointed as the new associate editor from Finland and DSOG have started the process of appointing a new associate editor. In addition, the assistant chief editor (ACE) position is advertised. New ACE is expected to start in June 2022.

The number of submissions has declined slightly since the introduction of Open Access including manuscripts from Nordic countries. Still the rejection rate has increased and is now 86.4%. The preliminary expected impact factor for 2022 is approximately 3.9.

The search committee consisting of Oskari Heikinheimo, Ganesh Acharya and Ingvild Vistad has started the work to find a new chief editor replacing Ganesh Acharya when his term is done at the end of 2024.

In the new contract signed following transition to open access, Wiley has agreed to publish all accepted abstracts from the NFOG2023 congress in a AOGS supplement. This must be taken into account and NFOG Congress organizers need to coordinate this with Wiley.

Martin Rudnicki has served his term as an associate editor. He has been an outstanding editor and AOGS would benefit from his expertise. Ganesh Acharya suggested that he could perhaps continue to serve but in another role in the editorial board. This suggestion was approved by the NFOG board, and it was decided that Ganesh Acharya would discuss this suggestion with Martin Rudnicki.

The matter on article processing charge (APC) for open access publication was addressed. Danish and Icelandic authorities have not signed a contract with Wiley to cover APC, meaning that individual researchers must pay for the publication. The board decided that NFOG members who are not affiliated to an institution covering the publication fees and have no other funding for publication costs (such as research grants that cover APC) will be able to apply for funding for publication costs in AOGS from the board initiative (a total of DKK 300,000 will be allocated for this). This is to cover half of the publication costs. Authors whose applications are approved will be reimbursed by NFOG. It was decided that currently this temporary initiative will last until December 31, 2022.



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### 8. EBCOG and Ukraine situation

Lars Ladfors gave the report from EBCOG. There has been a change in presidency. The next in person meeting is planned in May in Brussels. Oskari Heikinheimo added that EBCOG has released a statement on the war in Ukraine. The statement has also been endorsed by all Nordic national societies, and it is included on the NFOG.org website.

### 9. FIGO

Oskari Heikinheimo provided a report from FIGO. The new council has been formed, the next council meeting is April 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The next FIGO meeting will be held in Paris in 2023.

### 10. NFOG 2023

Eszter Vanky presented the draft of the scientific program and the pre-congress courses. The NFOG board gave advice on amendments, and it was decided that Eszter Vanky should contact members of the board separately for suggestions of speakers on topics in basic science.

Pepe Salvesen brought forward the matter of international speakers' fees. The NFOG board clarified the routines from the previous congresses that costs may be reimbursed for flights in economy class, hotel, and congress fees. Further, it was discussed the best methods to promote the congress among the national societies.

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

*Annetette W Lykkebo (DSOG):* The government has put an amount of DKK 50 million aside to improve conditions at the labor wards. There is a huge effort to get national agreement on the new guidelines on post term inductions. There is a backlog of healthcare that was postponed due to the pandemic. Several refugees from Ukraine arrive and the organization of the reception is being formed. The next national meeting will be in April. Further, there is a debate on free choice in matters like cesarean delivery on request, labor induction on request and labia reduction. There is also a debate on insurance matters regarding birth injuries.

*Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir (FÍFK):* FÍFK is trying to influence decision makers to include boys in the HPV immunization program. FÍFK is arranging educational evening meetings for their members. There are efforts in starting a center for vulva disease.

*Michael Algovik (SFOG):* The annual SFOG meeting is planned in August. National guidelines for prenatal diagnosis and post term induction have been developed and will be implemented during this year. There is an ongoing debate regarding the shortage in midwives.



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*Hannele Laivuori (SGY):* National guidelines for hypertension in pregnancy has now been introduced. SGY is organizing a virtual spring meeting. There is an ongoing enquiry on the situation and need for specialists until 2035. However, gynecology remains a popular specialty in Finland with more application than openings.

*Ragnar Sander (President NGF):* There is an ongoing debate regarding the shortage in gynecologists both in small and large hospitals. There is even difficult to hire residents. NGF is trying to bring attention from media and other stakeholders. Further, there is a debate on new guidelines leading to increased costs such as first trimester doppler and post term labor induction.

### 12. NFOG e-Textbook (digital) and Nordic cerclage trial

Niels Uldbjerg gave a report on the status of the NFOG e-Textbook. All chapters except one in obstetrics have been published. The economy is in balance. The committee is stable with no current plans of replacement. All national societies are asked to promote the textbook and Oskari Heikinheimo will promote it at the upcoming FIGO council meeting.

The Nordic cerclage trial, which is a randomized trial comparing abdominal vs. vaginal cerclage, is sponsored by NFOG. It is decided that the trial can use the NGOG logo and it is also decided that all collaborative studies including more than one Nordic country receiving funding from NFOG will be entitled to use the NFOG logo.

### 13. Economy

Kristina Renault gave the financial report. Peter Ildal has taken over as the principal accountant. The fiscal years are combined for 2021 and 2022. Kristina provided the preliminary report for 2021. There might be some adjustments as Willey have not yet cleared their accounts for 2021. The preliminary income for 2021 is DKK 4,100,000 which is about one million DKK above budget. The results for 2021 was DKK 1,085,000. As decided as the last general assembly the whole result was transferred to the NFOG fund. The total assets have increased from both 2019 and 2020 and now amounts to DKK 15,881,145.

### 14. Planning/dates of upcoming Board meeting

It was decided that the next NFOG board meeting will be held in Copenhagen October 24-25, starting in the morning on Monday and ending at lunchtime Tuesday.



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### **15. Other business**

No other matters were discussed.

### **16. Closing of the meeting**

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