



NFOG Board meeting March 2023

Date: March 27–28

Place: Stockholm

NFOG Board members:

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

Presidents for national societies: Annemette W Lykkebo (DSOG), Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir (FÍFK), Christer Borgfeldt (SFOG), Hannele Laivuori (SGY),

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

Absent: Ragnar Sande (NGF), Arushma Imran Naqash (NFYOG), Niels Ulbjerg (NFOG Textbook).

1. Opening, approval of invitation and agenda

Oskari Heikinheimo opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. The meeting agenda was approved with slight modifications.

2. Approval of minutes NFOG Board

Minutes of the meeting held in Copenhagen October 24–25, 2022 were reviewed and approved without comments.

3. Economy

Kristina Renault provided a financial overview. We are still waiting for the final financial report for 2022 from Willey, so we cannot calculate the final balance for 2022. The total assets have increased yearly the last 10 years but declined between 2021 and 2022 from DKK 15 699 766 to approximately DKK 14 649 900. The income from membership fees has declined slightly because of changed rules. The income from AOGS has increased considerably until 2021, but due to the flipping over to OA, we expect a decrease in the income in 2022. The net financial income has declined because of negative interest rates and negative exchange as the bonds have been written down. We expect that the preliminary operating result is positive (appr. DKK 665 627) but due to the negative financial income the net result for 2022 will be appr. DKK -550 471 and maybe even lower.

The NFOG fund has decreased from DKK 5 232 120 to DKK 4 678 518 in 2022. The main reason for the decline is that grants approved in the previous years and not used due to the COVID-19 pandemic were reimbursed in 2022.

For 2023, the amount of funding that the Scientific Committee can approve is appr. DKK 516 772. This sum is arrived at by adding the mean interest of the fund during the last four years (DKK 19 087) to the mean donations from the NFOG net result during the last four years (DKK 497 685).

4. Scientific Committee and NFOG Fund Applications October 2022

Terhi Piltonen gave the report from the Scientific Committee. The number of applications has declined during the pandemic but has now increased again to similar level as before the pandemic. The approval rate has been stable around 80%.



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A total of 30 applications were evaluated. The Scientific committee suggested to reject 6 applications and to approve 24 for a total sum of DKK 376 342. The suggestion was approved by the NFOG board.

The Scientific Committee has written a suggestion to updating the rules regarding grants that will be decided upon at the upcoming General assembly.

The bylaws concerning the NFOG funds do not specify how money not spent within two years after being awarded should be used. Kristina Renault will write a suggestion how to update the bylaws and circulate it among the NFOG board members. The final suggestion will then be proposed for approval at the NFOG General assembly.

The Scientific Committee suggests that the total amount of grants should be fixed regardless of surplus and clarified in the statutes. Kristina Renault will write a suggestion of how to manage this in practice.

5. NFOG

Arushma Imran Naqash was excused and could not provide a report.

6. NFOG 2023

Pepe Salvesen gave the report on the upcoming NFOG 2023 congress.

The deadline for Early bird registrations was April 1 but has been extended to April 16. The budgeted income is NOK 9 070 000 of which about half comes from the delegates. For the budget to be in balance, 700 delegates need to register.

The number of invited speakers is 17. Of the abstracts, 52 have been accepted for oral presentations, 29 for short oral and 126 for poster presentations.

The congress has been approved by the Ethical Medtech Europe. To be approved all social events must be charged, which is why all social activities are accompanied with small fees.

7. Webmaster

Lars Ladfors gave the report from the webmaster. There were no outstanding questions. Terhi Piltonen suggested that a short description of NFOG prizes should be presented at the NFOG website. This was agreed.

8. AOGS

Ganesh Acharya gave the AOGS report. Two special issues are coming up, one on Pelvic pain and one on Cancer during pregnancy. Ingrid Volløyhaug and Meryam Sugulle have joined as new associate editors from Norway in 2023. The number of international editorial board members has increased and is now 26.



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The number of submissions has declined moderately since the introduction of APC but has stabilized around the same levels as in 2019. The rejection rate has decreased somewhat from 84.4% in 2021 to 78.4% in 2022. However, the rejection rate has stayed between 75–85% every year since 2012.

In 2021, 256 items that will be calculated for the impact factor were published. This is a historically high figure and was necessary due to the flip to open access. This means that it is likely that the impact factor will decrease. The impact factor for 2021 was 4.544 and the predicted impact factor for 2022 is 4.009.

9. EBCOG

Lars Ladfors reported from the last EBCOG meeting. Frank Louwen from Germany will take over as president for EBCOG. It was decided by the NFOG board to nominate Anna Aabake from Denmark as a candidate for secretary and Oskari Heikinheimo as a candidate for president elect.

10. FIGO

NFOG has been offered to hold a breakfast session for a limited number of participants. It was decided that it is not worth the effort and costs, and we will decline the offer.

All presidents of the national societies were encouraged to propose candidates for the FIGO committees.

11. NFOG e-Textbook

Oskari Heikinheimo reported from the e-Textbook work group. Chapters have been constantly reviewed and revised if necessary.

12. Planning/dates of upcoming Board meetings

- a. The next NFOG board meeting will be held August 26–27 in Trondheim.
- b. At the NFOG 2023 congress, immediately after the General Assembly, the NFOG board will hold a constitutive meeting August 29 16:15–16:45 (CET).
- c. The NFOG board meeting in the autumn, it was decided that it should be held digitally November 8 13:00–16:00 (CET).
- d. The NFOG board meeting in the spring 2024 will be held in Uppsala but the exact dates will be decided at the autumn meeting in November. Both Pepe Salvesen and Kristina Renault should be invited to this meeting.

13. General assembly preparation

The statutes and enactment were reviewed by the NFOG board.

Each national society is to identify members to represent their society for possible voting at the General assembly. The voting member cannot be a member of the NFOG board.

The NFOG officers will send out the invitation and agenda for the General assembly at least two months before the meeting. The financial report will also be sent out two months ahead of the meeting.



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A nomination committee was formed consisting of each president of the national societies. Alexander Smaráson from Iceland was suggested as candidate for chairman of the NFOG. The nomination committee will need some more time to identify a candidate for the role of Treasurer.

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

SFOG has elected a new president, Christer Borgfeldt, associate professor at Lund University. The courses are a large part of the society's activities and those have run as planned similarly as the specialist exams.

Christer Borgfeldt suggest a review of all courses in the Nordic countries to see if it is possible to collaborate between the countries. He also suggested to investigate possibilities to collaborate regarding quality registries.

Lars Ladfors reported on the process of new digital medical record systems.

DSOG have been engaged in the revision of the Danish abortion law. It is likely that the upper limit will be prolonged.

DSOG are planning the annual meeting in April when they will also celebrate their 150 years anniversary. Annemette will step down as the president and be replaced by Liselotte Torvin Andersen.

Denmark has introduced a law requiring all maternity clinics to offer at least two day hospital stay for primiparous women after birth. DSOG and the Danish midwife organization have both been critical of the legislation, but the system has now been introduced and DSOG is following the development closely.

There is a current decline in the birth rate in Denmark. The decline is rather paradoxical as there are more couples in reproductive age.

There is a shortage in employed midwives. There has been a national agreement to stop rent-midwives that has been successful in reducing costs and improving continuity.

The number of private health service providers affects the surgical volumes in the hospitals providing specialist training.

Subspecialization has been formalized into six programs in different fields of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive medicine.

FÍFK have held monthly meetings with educational activities. FÍFK held a symposium funded from the NFOG fund with invited speakers. Angelique Flöter Rådestad to give a talk on testosterone treatment in menopausal women and Arne Rådestad gave a talk on endometrial ablation. Elisabeth Epstein gave a talk on transvaginal ultrasound diagnostics on endometrial lesions and ovarian malignancies.

It has been a pandemic of invasive group A streptococcus in Iceland affecting broadly in the healthcare system.

SGY reported on revised legislation. The new abortion legislation approved in October 2022 allows for free abortion until gestational week 12. For abortions beyond 12 weeks and up to 20



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weeks (24 weeks in cases of fetal conditions) an approval from National supervisory authority is still required. Further, sterilization is no longer required as part of transgender treatment. Harmonizing specialization training between university hospitals in on its way. There is an upcoming spring meeting in April.

NGF (Pepe Salvesen) reported that national guideline meetings have been launched, both in obstetrics and gynecology.

The abortion law has been discussed. There will be a proposal for a revised law. NGF has sent out a questionnaire and half of the members thought the law was not necessary to change the Norwegian abortion law.

There is a lot of political attention on the challenges for the health care system and a new report was recently published.

A new act on biotechnology regulates that all pregnant women should be offered NIPT and first trimester scan regardless of risk factors.

15. Other business

Revision of special enactment

Ganesh Acharya will review the Enactment on AOGS and suggest a revised enactment to the General Assembly if necessary.

NFOG congress 2027

The NFOG board suggested that the next congress would be held in Iceland. Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir will investigate the possibilities of Iceland arranging the NFOG congress in Iceland 2027. She will report to the NFOG officers no later than April 15 if Iceland accept the proposal and if so, who will be the congress president. If Iceland ultimately declines, Finland will arrange the congress.

NB! Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir reported back April 13 that Iceland is not in a position to host the congress in 2027.

16. Closing of the meeting

Oskari thanked everybody for a good meeting. Annemette W Lykkebo was thanked for her time served on the board and given with a gift as a token of appreciation.