



# NFOG Board meeting August 2023

**Date:** August 26 – 27

**Place:** Hotel Clarion Brattøra Trondheim

## **NFOG Board members:**

### **Present:**

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

Presidents for national societies: Lise Lotte Torvin Andersen (DSOG), Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir (FÍFK), Christer Borgfeldt (SFOG), Hannele Laivuori (SGY), Ragnar Sande (NGF).

NFOG Committees/Activities: Terhi Piltonen (Scientific Committee), Lars Ladfors (Webmaster), Ganesh Acharya (AOGS).

### **Present part of the meeting:**

Arushma Imran Naqash (NFYOG), Marjo Tuppurainen (incoming president SGY), Niels Uldbjerg (NFOG Textbook), Pepe Salvesen (Congress President, NFOG Trondheim 2023).

#### **1. Opening, approval of invitation and agenda**

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

#### **2. Approval of minutes NFOG Board**

Minutes of the meeting held in Stockholm March 27–28, 2023, were reviewed and approved.

#### **3. Economy**

*Report of the accounts from 2021 and 2022:*

Kristina Renault provided the report of the economy. The final accounts for 2021 and 2022 that have previously been approved by all voting members of the NFOG board were reviewed. In 2021, the income from AOGS, was higher than expected whereas the income in 2022, as an expected consequence of the transition to full Open Access was considerably lower. Due to negative interest rates and value adjustment of bonds, we had financial expenses both in 2021 and 2022, and the expenses in 2022 were even higher than in 2021. The operating result was DKK 1.298.619 in 2021 and DKK –323.513 in 2022, and taken together, the total result of 2021 was DKK 881.453 and in 2022 it was DKK –1.539.611. The entire positive result in 2021 was transferred to the NFOG fund whereas no surplus could be transferred in 2022.

The total assets of the NFOG fund have been growing up to 2021. However, its closing balance reduced in 2022. The total sum of equity and liabilities reduced from DKK 15.677.394 in 2021 to DKK 13.753.867 in 2022.

In years with negative result there will be no supply to the NFOG fund and potentially less resources to provide support to Nordic clinical and scientific collaborations and to research and educational support to NFOG members.

When AOGS flipped to open access there was an anticipated initial loss of about DKK 2.000.000 during the first approximately 4 years. It is expected that the income will increase but it is challenging to foresee when.



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## *Budget for 2024 and 2025:*

Kristina Renault presented the budget for 2024 and 2025 (attached). NGF suggested that the fee should be reduced with DKK 50 per individual member. The membership fee is DKK 250 and it has remained unchanged for 25 years. There was a long and constructive discussion on whether to keep, increase or decrease the NFOG membership fee, and both the NFOG board officers and all national societies provided their opinions. An open voting was held to resolve the issue of membership fees and it was settled with a majority of 7 to 1 vote to keep the membership fees at its previous level.

The upcoming congress in Trondheim is anticipated to result in a loss between NOK –500.000 to –1.000.000 (about DKK –325.000 to –650.000).

## *Issues discussed and decisions:*

- It was agreed that the sum allocated in the budget for “Board initiative” should be transferred back to the equity if it has not been spent during the two-year period.
- It was decided to suggest to the General Assembly to approve the transfer of the whole surplus, if any, from NFOG to the NFOG fund in 2023 and 2024.
- Due to the anticipated negative result of the NFOG 2023 congress, it was decided to suggest to the General Assembly to reduce the following costs in the budget for 2024 and 2025:
  - o to reduce the budget for activities related to FIGO and EBCOG activities from DKK 100.000 per year to DKK 0 in both 2024 and 2025.
  - o to reduce the budgeted cost for NFOG board meetings from DKK 330.000 to DKK 300.000 per year.
  - o to reduce the budgeted cost for NFOG board initiative from DKK 300.000 to DKK 200.000 DKK.

## **4. General assembly preparations**

Oskari went through the agenda for the General Assembly.

The numbers of votes are distributed according to number of members as follows; Sweden has 7 votes, Norway has 5 votes, Denmark has 4 votes, Finland 4 votes, and Iceland 1 vote.

## **5. NFOG 2023**

Pepe Salvesen provided a report of the upcoming congress. In total, more than 800 participants have registered. 12 pre-congress workshops will be held with a total of 323 participants.

The scientific program and the social events were presented.

According to the prior budget the congress would result in a surplus if 700 participants registered. The price for participant registration was not changed from the previous congress 5 years ago whereas costs have increased due to global financial events. There is also a lower number of sponsors than in the previous congresses. The calculated net result is anticipated to end between NOK –500.000 to –1.000.000

## **6. AOGS**

Ganesh Acharya gave the AOGS report. Both Sweden and Denmark will have to appoint one new associate editor each in 2024 through advertisement. There has been a slight reduction of submissions from about 100 to 80 per month after the flip to Open Access. The impact factor for 2022 is 4.3.



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There were a few outstanding questions for the NFOG board to decide, see below.

### *Decisions:*

- It was decided by the NFOG board to allow for an extension of the deputy chief editor for another 2+2 years, and
- to allow for the international associate editor for another 2+2 years.

### **7. NFOG Textbook**

Niels Ulbjerg gave a report on the background and progress of the NFOG Textbook. The number of times a chapter has increased steadily since publishing in the spring 2022. Not all Nordic medical faculties are uniformly recommending the textbook for the students yet and all NFOG board members are encouraged to influence the local responsible teachers to recommend the book for their students.

### **8. Scientific committee**

Terhi Piltonen gave the report from the Scientific Committee. In March 2023, a total of DKK 376.342 was granted to applicants. This is the highest amount since 2018. It has previously been agreed that a fixed amount of DKK 700.00 can be used for grants in 2023. This is a slightly higher amount than previously and is made possible because of awarded grants that have not requested reimbursement.

The Scientific Committee has revised the guidelines for grant applications to emphasize on Nordic collaborations and scientific activities.

All NFOG board members are encouraged to promote more applications to the NFOG fund from their colleagues.

### **9. News from the national societies SFOG, DSOG, FÍFK, SGY, NGF**

**SFOG** Christer Borgfeldt updated from Sweden. There is an on-going public discussion on home births where SFOG has hold the position of being restrictive in recommending home births outside of one specialized unit. There is also a political debate whether to keep small low-volume delivery wards.

**DSOG** Lise Lotte Torvin Andersen reported that DSOG have been very involved in influencing the upcoming revision of the legislation regarding induced abortions. There has recently been a debate regarding using misoprostol in labor induction at home which is current practice in Denmark. There is a financial problem in the whole healthcare sector resulting in longer waiting lists etc. This also leads healthcare providers being forced to develop recommendations on wise decisions to keep costs low. There is a shortage of midwives in the labor wards. On the same time the number of home deliveries is rather high compared to the other Nordic countries, 3%, and all hospitals are obliged to send a midwife to the women that opt for home delivery

**FÍFK** Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir reported from FÍFK that the Icelandic government has decided to finance patients seeking private gynecologists.



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**SGY** Hannele Laivuori reported that SGY has nominated Oskari Heikinheimo as candidate for president-elect for EBCOG, which has been supported by all Nordic national societies. SGY has been approached by the government in the question of financial aid for healthcare to immigrants, in which SGY are strongly advocating to keep liberal support to this group. There is an increased awareness around disorders related to menstruation and menopause and SGY have been approached by several media. The new abortion law, making it easier for women seeking induced abortions, will become effective in September. Marjo Tuppurainen will take over as president for SGY after Hannele Laivuori in November.

**NGF** Ragnar Sande reported that NGF have developed their guideline meetings similarly to the Danish society.

There has been a fatal obstetric case in a rural part of the Northern region that rose a debate regarding the drawbacks of decentralized healthcare.

There was an initiative to start a clinic for elective cesarean sections that evoked a lot of debate, ultimately the decision has been postponed.

Further there is a lot of discussion regarding the well-being of younger trainees and how to secure a succession of competence.

### 10. NFYOG

Arushma Imran Naqash provided the report from NFYOG. The NFYOG has arranged a webinar on female genital mutilation and arrange another webinar in the fall on induced abortions. NFYOG is also arranging a pre-congress course at NFOG 2023 on obstetrical tears.

We have received an invitation from the Dutch society to join a multi-country meeting regarding specialist training. It was decided that it was too short notice to attend the meeting and Sebastian Gidlöf will respond to the invitation.

### 11. Webmaster

Lars Ladfors gave the report and raised the issue of sending out information through emails to all eligible members, it was agreed to proceed with this suggestion. Lars will also work with summarizing the history of NFOG and publish it on the NFOG website.

### 12. EBCOG

Oskari Heikinheimo has been nominated as a candidate for the president-elect of EBCOG and the nomination is supported by all members countries of NFOG. Lars gave a further report regarding the last EBCOG meeting. The next meeting is scheduled in Brussels in November 24–25 and all national presidents are encouraged to participate to cast their votes for Oskari Heikinheimo.

### 13. FIGO

In October, there is an upcoming meeting in Paris at which the elections for vital positions within FIGO will take place. Kristina Gemzell-Danielsson, Sweden, is running for vice-president. All member societies of NFOG supports her candidacy.

### 14. Other businesses



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- a. Dates of upcoming Board meetings
  - i. 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).
  - ii. The NFOG board meeting in the autumn will be held digitally November 8 13:00–16:00 (CET).
  - iii. 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.
  
- b. Frank Louwen is running for president-elect of FIGO and have asked to meet the NFOG board. His request was granted, and a meeting is to be arranged August 30.

### 15. Closing the meeting

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