



## NFOG Board meeting November 2023

**Date:** November 8, 2023

**Place:** Digital meeting

**Present members:**

NFOG officers: Alexander Kristinn Smárason (President), Kristina Renault (Treasurer), Sebastian Gidlöf (Secretary General), Vasilis Sitras (Incoming Treasurer)

National societies: Lise Lotte Torvin Andersen (DSOG), Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir (FÍFK), Hannele Laivuori (SGY), Marjo Tuppurainen (incoming president SGY), Ragnar Sande (NGF), Solveig Bjellmo (Incoming president NFG).

NFOG Committees/Activities: Terhi Piltonen (Scientific Committee), Arushma Imran Naqash (NFYOG), Ganesh Acharya (AOGS), Pepe Salvesen (Congress President, NFOG Trondheim 2023), Inger Sundström Poromaa (Congress President, NFOG Uppsala 2025), Niels Ulbjerg (NFOG Textbook)

**Excused members:**

Christer Borgfeldt (SFOG) and Lars Ladfors (Webmaster).

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

Alexander Kristinn Smárason opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. A round of presentations was held and the agenda was approved.

**2. Approval of minutes NFOG Board**

The minutes from the last NFOG board meeting have been circulated and were approved.

**3. Scientific Committee and NFOG Fund Applications October 2023**

Terhi Piltonen presented the applications to the NFOG Fund. The number of applications for funding is increasing steadily after the Covid-19 pandemic. A total of 18 applications were submitted of which 17 were complete. The Scientific Committee suggested that all these applications should be funded. The proposal was approved by the NFOG board. The NFOG board members Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir and Vasilis Sitras had both submitted applications and did therefore not participate in the meeting when the applications were discussed and when the NFOG Board decision was made.

The Scientific Committee will update the priority order for grants in 2024 and is planning to fund the upcoming Nordic SNAKS collaboration meetings.

**4. NFYOG**

Arushma Imran Naqash gave the report from NFYOG. There have been several new members of the board. NFYOG arranged a successful workshop during the NFOG2023 congress and are planning a symposium and a workshop at the NFOG2025 meeting. There will be a change in chair as Arushma Imran Naqash will hand over to Michelle Kanne from Sweden in the spring of 2024.



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### 5. Webmaster

Lars Ladfors was not present. The board acknowledged the brilliant work made by him as webmaster and noted that he will reach the end of his term after the Uppsala meeting. Lars has been informed and all board members were encouraged to seek new candidates.

### 6. AOGS

Ganesh Acharya gave a short report from AOGS. The workshop on scientific writing and publishing during the NFOG2023 congress was successful. The number of submissions to AOGS declined after the flip to Open Access but is now increasing again. The contact person at Wiley have changed to a more junior person. There have been some issues regarding retraction of published articles as reported previously. Wiley has not been particularly quick in handling this process and effectively implementing editorial board decisions.

The draft for the advertisement text for the Chief Editor position has been submitted to the NFOG Board prior to the meeting for circulation, comments, and additions. The advertisement will be published as soon as possible, and the deadline will be in early March before the next NFOG Board meeting in Uppsala. At that meeting the NFOG board will decide on who will be in the interview committee as it may depend on who the applicants are.

### 7. EBCOG

The next EBCOG meeting will be held in Brussels November 24 and elections will be held for important positions. Oskari Heikinheimo is running for president and is supported by NFOG and all its member societies. A Nordic pre-meeting to cooperate regarding votes will be held next week.

### 8. FIGO

The last FIGO congress was organized in September in Paris. Kristina Gemzell Danielsson ran for vice-president but was not elected. Sweden ran to be a member of the FIGO council but was not elected. Finland has already a position in the council and will stay for another term.

### 9. NFOG2023 Trondheim

Pepe Salvesen gave the report from the NFOG2023 congress. The goal was to make a scientifically and socially memorable meeting and both these goals were fulfilled. In total, 831 delegates attended the congress, almost everyone being NFOG members. The books have now been closed and the deficit amounts to –1.7 million NOK. However, after VAT tax deduction the deficit will decrease to –1.2 million NOK. The main reason for the deficit is increased pricing for particularly social events after the budget was planned and accepted. The price for registration was set to the same levels as the NFOG2018 congress in Odense also adding to the net deficit.

### 10. NFOG 2025 Uppsala

Inger Sundström Poromaa presented the upcoming NFOG2025 congress in Uppsala that will take place August 24 – 27, 2025. The venue will be *Uppsala Konsert och Kongress*, a modern



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three stories congress center in the city center. The planned pre-congress courses, symposia and lectures were broadly presented as well as the social activities.

All NFOG board members were encouraged to submit suggestions of speakers directly to Inger Sundström Poromaa. It was acknowledged that close cooperation between the congress organizers and the NFOG scientific committee is important.

### **11. Economy**

Kristina Renault and the incoming treasurer Vasilis Sitras will meet in Copenhagen together with the external accountant Peter Ildal to secure a smooth hand over.

### **12. NFOG e-Textbook**

Niels Uldbjerg did not have any serious matters to discuss and will provide a more thorough report in the next meeting.

### **13. Planning/dates of upcoming Board meeting (suggestion March 11–12 Uppsala)**

The next NFOG board meeting will be in Uppsala March 11–12, 2024. The meeting will start in the morning of Monday March 11 and end around lunchtime Tuesday March 12.

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

All member societies reported briefly of the current national statuses.

### **15. Other business**

No other business was discussed.

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

Alexander Kristinn Smáráson thanked everyone and closed the meeting. Hannele Laivuori and Ragnar Sande participated in their last board meetings and were sent gifts as a token of appreciation.