



NFOG Board meeting March 2024

Date: March 11–12, 2024

Place: Uppsala

NFOG Board members:

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

Presidents for national societies: Lise Lotte Torvin Andersen (DSOG), Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir (FÍFK), Christer Borgfeldt (SFOG), Marjo Tuppurainen (SGY).

NFOG Committees/Activities: Terhi Piltonen (Scientific Committee), Lars Ladfors (Webmaster), Ganesh Acharya (AOGS), Inger Sundström Poromaa (Congress President, NFOG Uppsala 2025).

Present part of the meeting through Zoom: Michelle Kanne (NFYOG), Solveig Bjellmo (NFG), Niels Ulbjerg (NFOG Textbook).

Excused: Pepe Salvesen (Congress President, NFOG Trondheim 2023).

1. Opening, approval of invitation and agenda

Alexander Kristinn Smáráson (AKS) 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 digitally in November 2023 were reviewed and approved without comments.

3. Economy

Kristina Renault (KR) and Vasilis Sitras (VS) provided a report on the economy. VS has taken over the responsibilities but there is a formal change that need to be approved by the bank.

The final accounts for 2023 and 2024 will be presented at the general assembly at NFOG2025 in Uppsala. In preliminary accounts for 2023 were reviewed. The total income for NFOG in 2023 was DKK 2.975.735 compared to the budget of DKK 3.200.000. The income from membership fees was about the same as the budgeted income although there was a discrepancy of the budgeted income from AOGS of DKK 2.000.000 to the result of DKK 1.792.235. The income from AOGS decreased after the flip to open access but the income has increased from DKK 1.626.349 to DKK 1.792.235.

The congress in Trondheim 2023 ended with a deficit of DKK –1.292.791. Although the total asset of is DKK 12.056.913 in 2022 and 2023 the closing result was negative

In the budget for 2024 and 2025 the sum for budgeted costs of NFOG activities was reduced to almost 50% per year. The budgeted result for 2024 is DKK –279.000 and for 2025 it is DKK –546.500.

Lise Lotte Torvin Andersen (LLTA) raised the problem that Denmark still has no agreement to pay for APC costs for Danish authors. The chief editor has the right to waive the fees for five articles



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per year and all these articles have been Danish. In addition, Danish authors have had the opportunity to apply for NFOG funding to cover their costs as 300.000 DKK (the total Board initiative in 2023) was set aside for this purpose. The NFOG board acknowledge the problem but also that it must be solved by the Danish authorities.

4. Scientific Committee

Terhi Piltonen (TP) gave the report from the Scientific Committee. Jóhanna Gunnarsdóttir will be replaced by Heiðdís Valgeirsdóttír and Solveig Bjellmo will be replaced by Agnethe Lund. Terhi will stay as chair and the DSOG will decide next month who will replace Niels Klarskov. Ann Josefsson will continue.

The SC have updated the rules and they will be presented on the NFOG website shortly after the meeting.

For the March 2024 application round 23 grant applications were submitted. The SC suggests that 16 should be approved and therefore granting. VS had applied and did not take part of the discussions on grant applications. The SC suggest that a total DKK 323.003 should be granted. The suggestions from the SC were approved by the NFOG board.

There is an initiative to construct a Nordic collaboration regarding multi-center studies. There is a functioning network in Sweden, SNAKS and the idea is to organize a similar structure for all Nordic countries.

The SC will work closely in 2024 together with the organizing committee of NFOG2025 in Uppsala regarding abstracts, prizes etc.

5. AOGS

a. General presentation

GA presented the situation of AOGS. The impact factor for 2022 is 4.3. The number of full-text views has increased yearly and was around 2.7 million in 2023. AOGS received a total of 1.185 submissions of which 54% received a direct decision without further review. The acceptance rate is stable around 22% and the average time from submission to first decision is 4 days. Two new associate editors have joined the board, Charlotte Kvist Ekelund from Denmark and Pia Teleman from Sweden. There is a need for three new editors in 2024, one each from Finland, Sweden, and Iceland respectively. The number of international editors has increased to 28. A new themed issue "A Decade of Human Uterus Transplantation" has been planned and is open for submission.

It was agreed that the presentation on AOGS report should be made available on the NFOG website.

Christer Borgfeldt (SFOG) suggested and emphasized the importance of getting AOGS on the Norwegian list of level 2 journals. GA explained that several attempts were made over the past few years in Norway to get AOGS recognized as a level 2 journal. The last



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attempt was made in 2023. However, despite a strong support and recommendation from the specialty representatives, the Norwegian Nasjonal publiseringutvalget (NPU) did not accept it.

The assistant chief editor Tina Tellum has served two years and it was decided to offer her another two-year term.

b. APC costs

Lise Lotte Torvin Andersen (LLTA) raised the problem that Denmark still has no agreement to pay for APC costs for Danish authors. The chief editor has the right to waive the fees for five articles per year and all these articles have been Danish. In addition, Danish authors have in 2023 had the opportunity to apply for NFOG funding to cover their costs. The NFOG board acknowledge the problem but also that it must be solved by the Danish government.

c. ePDF advertisement

Since the last NFOG board meeting the NFOG officers decided together with GA to allow digital (ePDF) advertisement when downloading full-text articles. It is estimated by Wiley that it will increase the income from AOGS with about \$8.000 per year to NFOG and the chief editor will approve or disapprove all adverts. This will be followed up the coming year.

d. Chief editor applications

Three applications for the post of chief editor of AOGS have been submitted. Amarnath Bhide Deputy chief editor of AOGS, Sebastian Gidlöf associate editor of AOGS and Mats Brännstöm associate editor of AOGS. They will be invited for interviews on the 4th of April in Copenhagen in connection with the AOGS biannual editorial meeting. AKS president of NFOG and 3 or 4 people from SGY, DSOG and NGF with good knowledge of editorial work, will make up the interview panel and the voting members of the NFOG board (excluding Sebastian Gidlöf, General Secretary) will attending by Zoom/Teams.

6. NFOG2025

Inger Sundström Poromaa (ISP) showed the meeting venues Uppsala Konsert and Kongress. There are three larger lecture halls and several smaller rooms for separate meetings. The main hall can host 1.200 participants. The board was showed the facilities suggested for poster and industry exhibitions.

ISP presented the social program. All activities will be within walking distance. The speakers' dinner on Sunday will be in Linné's Garden and NFYOG will arrange an event at the same time for participants not joining the speakers' dinner. The get-together on Monday will be held at Flustret. The NFOG dinner will be served at the Uppsala Castle.



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There will be 16 pre-congress courses. ISP viewed the different symposia (n = 20), including two NFYOG symposia on labor induction and reproductive medicine ultrasound.

ISP made the board aware that a loan from NFOG to the organizing committee is needed. This has been used before for previous congresses and was approved by the board.

The budget was reviewed and approved by the board. The sum of costs is SEK 6.989.500 which is considerably smaller than NFOG2023 in Trondheim. There is a budgeted net result of SEK +44.000. It was agreed to categorize prices into delegates and students with different prices depending on date of registration.

7. NFYOG

Michelle Kanne (MK) is the new president for NFYOG. MK is a resident in Varberg's Hospital in Sweden. NFYOG held a meeting last week and are planning activities at the upcoming NFOG2025 congress in Uppsala. NFYOG is also planning webinars every semester for all residents in the Nordics. It has been noted that Icelandic resident doctors that travel to other countries to complete their training sometimes need to redo courses and educational activities. The NFYOG are looking into solutions for this problem.

AKS suggested that NFYOG should try to schedule their upcoming autumn meeting in conjunction with the NFOG board meeting to have a mutual exchange of ideas on how to attract young obstetricians and gynecologists to Nordic collaborations.

CB presented a suggestion from SFOG that NFOG should support the travel costs for accompanying persons to look after small children to allow NFYOG members on parental leave to continue to join their meetings. It is acknowledged by the NFOG board that it is important to encourage young members to work with NFYOG and support the suggestion. However, the NFOG board are not able to change the current budget that was approved at the last general assembly but concludes that NFYOG are free to decide how to use the budgeted DKK 100.000.

8. Webmaster

Lars Ladfors (LL) gave the webmaster report. After successfully serving for NFOG since 2014, LL will leave his term at the NFOG congress in Uppsala August 2025. It was noted that since the previous webmasters have been from Denmark and Norway and therefore finding an incoming webmaster from another country would spread representation among the member societies.

9. EBCOG and FIGO

Anne Aabake is running for one of the officer roles in the EBCOG executive committee and if successful it was decided to invite her to the upcoming NFOG board meeting in the fall 2024.

No particular news from FIGO. To improve our understanding of the work in FIGO it was decided to invite Kristina Gemzell and Bo Jacobsson, both active in different parts of the organization to



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the NFOG board meeting in 2025. It was decided to invite the FIGO president Dr Anne-Beatrice Kihara to give a talk at the NFOG2025 congress.

10. NFOG Textbook

Niels Ulbjerg provided a report on the status of the NFOG Textbook. The number of opened chapters have increased steadily and reached 28.666 in the autumn semester 2023. The number of MCQ-question has increased. In all Nordic universities the NFOG textbook to be equal or primary alternative to the national textbooks. The title has been slightly changed to fit better to Google searches. There are considerations to include more videos and illustration, gamification, podcast, etc.

It was recognized that the Textbook committee should plan for a succession so that not all editors stop at the same time. This will be brought up at the upcoming committee meeting.

11. NFOG statement related to crisis and conflicts

It was decided that NFOG needs to publish a statement related to armed conflicts. It was decided to publish the following text on the NFOG website:

NFOG recognizes repeated reports on systematic sexual violence against women and children being used as part of warfare in several conflicts around the world. NFOG acknowledge that women's rights and women's health are often severely affected in conflicts and strongly condemns all violations against human rights including sexual violence. NFOG asks politicians to work for peaceful solutions and recognize the impact these conflicts have on women's health.

12. Planning dates of upcoming NFOG board meeting

The next NFOG will be scheduled for November 4–5, starting in the Monday morning and ending lunchtime on the Tuesday.

13. News from the national societies

SFOG (CB): There is a large discussion regarding planned home births, that even though the constitute an extremely small proportion of all births it attracts a lot of attention and SFOG is working with a statement and a patient information. SFOG is also working with several issues related to continuous education.

DSOG (LLTA): Denmark has a similar situation related to planned home births. There is an anticipated political decision related to abortion legislation in the spring. The surgical residency training is attracting a lot of attention as there is a decline in the number of procedures.

DSOG has approached politicians to gain funding for writing national guidelines.

There is a focus group on combining good life quality with continuing a clinical hospital career.

SGY (Marjo Tuppurainen): The birth rate in Finland is decreasing. There is a financial problem leading to shifts such as reducing availability for for instance sterilizations.



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FÍFK (Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir): Iceland recognizes a problem with residents. Most train three years in Iceland and then go abroad where their course is not always recognized. It has been decided to follow the RCOG curriculum. FÍFK has organized a NFOG funded symposium on preeclampsia. Previously a similar symposium on menopausal hormonal treatment was held.

NGF (Solveig Bjellmo): The new NGF board has recently formed. There is a work regarding a new abortion law. There is a lot of media attention related to home birth although the rate is extremely low.

14. Other businesses

None.

15. Closing of the meeting

AKS thanked everyone for participating and closed the meeting.