



# Minutes NFOG Board meeting November 2024

**Date:** November 4–5, 2024

**Place:** Copenhagen

## **NFOG Board members:**

NFOG officers: Alexander Kristinn Smárason (President), Sebastian Gidlöf (Secretary General) (*not present for item #14*), Vasilis Sitras (Treasurer)

National societies: Lise Lotte Torvin Andersen (DSOG), Jóhanna Gunnarsdóttir (FÍFK) Christer Borgfeldt (SFOG), Marjo Tuppurainen (SGY), Solveig Bjellmo (NFG).

NFOG Committees/Activities: Michelle Kanne (NFYOG), Lars Ladfors (Webmaster), Amar Bhide (Chief Editor AOGS) (first day only), Ganesh Acharya (past Chief Editor AOGS) (first day only), Inger Sundström Poromaa (Congress President, NFOG Uppsala 2025), Niels Uldbjerg (NFOG Textbook), Anna Aabakke (EBCOG) (second day only).

Present part of the meeting through Zoom: Anne Hammer Lauridsen (Scientific Committee)

Excused: Matthildur Sigurðardóttir (FÍFK), Terhi Piltonen (Scientific Committee)

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

Alexander Kristinn Smárason (AKS) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. New members of the board were introduced. The meeting agenda was approved with slight modifications. For the first time the NFOG Board and the AOGS Board are meeting at the same time and will have a joint session.

AKS briefly summarized activity since last meeting. Interviews for the AOGS Chief Editor (CE) post were held in connection with the last editorial board meeting. There were three candidates Sebastian Gidlöf (SG), Mats Brännström and Amar Bhide (AB). The interview panel suggested to the NFOG Board that AB would be offered the post. At a Teams meeting the voting members (excluding SG) of the NFOG Board all agreed to offer the post to AB which he later accepted. The contract has been signed in line with previous CE contracts and advertisement.

### **2. Approval of minutes from NFOG Board March 2024**

The minutes from the board meeting in March had been circulated and were approved.

### **3. Scientific Committee and NFOG Fund Applications October 2024**

Anne Hammer Lauridsen (AHL) gave the report from the Scientific Committee (SC) as Terhi Piltonen was excused. In total, 31 applications had been submitted for the NFOG fund. The number of applications was the highest since 2018. Five of these did not meet the required criteria for funding. Of the remaining 26 applications, the SC recommended all to be funded albeit with modifications to the applied sum. It was decided by the NFOG board to grant the applications as suggested by the SC.

The SC suggest that the maximum age criteria for the Young Scientist Award should be increased from 40 to 45 years. It was decided by the NFOG board to increase the age limit as suggested. This means that the awardee must not have turned 45 at the time when the prize is handed over at the NFOG congress. This will be communicated by the national presidents in their respective organizations and Lars Ladfors (LL) will change the information at the NFOG website.



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## 4. Economy

Vasilis Sitras (VS) gave the report of the economy at the joint meeting together with the AOGS Editorial Board. The books for 2024 are not closed yet as the year has not ended but the overall balance is well in accordance with the budget. The report shown at the meeting will be circulated to the NFOG board members together with the minutes of the meeting.

VS still does not have formal access to the bank accounts and therefore Kristina Renault still must approve all verifications. This problem is caused by internal rules at the Danske Bank and will hopefully be sorted out soon.

## 5. NFYOG

Michelle Kanne (MK) gave the report from NFYOG. The NFYOG has circulated suggested changes to the NFYOG statutes to the NFOG board members prior to the meeting. The changes are made so the statutes reflect the current practice and that NFYOG is a NFOG committee. These changes were reviewed and approved by the NFOG board.

There has been more activity on social media (Instagram) with takeovers between countries. There were discussions on how to design an exchange program for Nordic trainees which is one of the main goals of NFYOG the coming years. The discussion also covered the increasing difficulties in recognizing training in another Nordic country as part of residency. It was decided to follow up on the topic in the next NFOG board meeting.

NFYOG has designed a new logotype. The NFYOG is collaborating with the NFOG congress and will arrange a social pre-congress day and two symposia. NGF has developed an educational campaign to increase skills in manual obstetrics. There are talks within NFYOG on how to spread this in the rest of the Nordic countries. Niels Ulbjerg (NU) suggested that the material should be translated into English. It was decided that NFYOG and NGF in collaboration investigate the costs and feasibility of this. A formal decision of approving the costs can be taken by the NFOG officers.

MK raised that there is a need for increasing the budget for NFYOG and was asked to put forward a formal budget to the Treasurer before the General Assembly.

## 6. Webmaster

LL gave the webmaster's report. It was decided to end the Zoom account due to costs. The NGF has put forward a candidate, Inga Vengen, who is interested in taking over after LL who will step down at the Uppsala congress, and it was decided by the board to formally ask her to take over. If she accepts, she will be invited to the next NFOG board meeting. NU remarked that the design of the website could be improved to be more informative and accessible.

## 7. NFOG e-Textbook

NU gave the report from the NFOG e-Textbook Committee (eTC). The NFOG e-Textbook Committee (eTC) has developed a plan on successions of the members to replace one member every one to two years to secure that not all members end at the same time.

The eTC asked the NFOG board to exceed the budget for online indexing and to improve the search function. It was decided that the eTC can proceed to investigate the costs and it will probably fit into the budget post of *Board initiative* if below DKK 100.000.



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The number of times chapters have been opened is increasing. Most users of MCQ-questions come from Norway and Denmark. Different ways to encourage usage of the textbook were shared among the board members.

There will be a symposium at the NFOG congress in Uppsala regarding the e-Textbook.

### 8. Joint session with AOGS editorial board

AB opened the session that started with a round of presentations after which he gave the report on the status of the journal. This was followed by a report made by representatives from Wiley.

AKS presented the NFOG organization, its history, and present work to the assembled NFOG and AOGS board members.

VS gave the report on the economy (please see above under item #4).

The leaving Chief Editor Ganesh Acharya (GA) provided a presentation of his reflections on his time at AOGS and the incoming Chief Editor AB presented his vision for AOGS.

### 9. EBCOG and FIGO

#### a. Presentation of EBCOG and how NFOG and EBCOG can collaborate

Anna Aabakke (AA), Northern Region EBCOG executive member, provided a presentation of EBCOG, its structure and work. After the presentation there was a discussion on the relation between EBCOG and NFOG and the national societies respectively. It was noted that the influence of Nordic countries needs to be improved in EBCOG. It was discussed by the the NFOG board to ask AA to draft a strategy for increasing Nordic influence before the next NFOG Board meeting.

#### b. NFOG sessions at the coming EBCOG meeting

NFOG will have two sessions at the upcoming EBCOG meeting, one on hormonal contraception and the other on cesarean sections. It has been decided previously to cover the costs of some of the speakers.

### 10. NFOG 2025

Inger Sundström Poromaa (IPS) provided an update on the status of the NFOG 2025 congress. The work is proceeding according to plan. All keynote speakers have been confirmed as well as most speakers at symposia. The budget has been updated with slightly increased fees in accordance with the NFOG board suggestion at the last meeting.

### 11. Courses

Lise Lotte Torvin Andersen (LLTA) raised a proposal of arranging a NFOG course for specialists called the *Nordic Next Level Obstetrics*. In short, the proposal is a 2-day course to be held every second year (alternating with the NFOG congress), focusing on medical complications relevant for clinicians. The plan is to hold the first course in the spring of 2026. It was agreed that this was a good initiative and there was unanimous support among the NFOG board members. It was suggested that the group led by LLTA should form a budget and submit it for funding for starting up from the NFOG fund. The course should then aim to be financially self-sustainable based on course fees.



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### 12. News from the National societies

**SFOG** (Christer Borgfeldt): There has been a debate on planned home births and SFOG has together with the midwife organization produced a leaflet. The abortion law will be revised concerning home abortions, preliminary in 2025. There has been media attention regarding misdiagnosing of endometrial intraepithelial neoplasia causing unnecessary hysterectomies.

**DSOG** (LLTA): There has been a lot of work put into guidelines and how to put the concept of choosing wisely into these guidelines. In the next year, there will be a new health reform in Denmark focusing on pre-hospital care. There are hearings around a revised abortion law. There has been a lot of media attention on hormonal IUDs and cancer risk.

**SGY** (Marjo Tuppurainen): The NFOG board was provided a presentation of the SGY organization. The birth rate is declining. The NFOG congress in 2027 will be hosted by Tampere with the preliminary dates of August 23–27. The congress president will be Karolina Louvanto.

**FÍFK** (Jóhanna Gunnarsdóttir): There has been a debate on how to respond to “free birth” home deliveries. There is an ongoing work to increase quality registries and data sharing from medical records to registries. There has been a debate on a controversy regarding the discrimination between private and public healthcare.

**NGF** (Solveig Bjellmo): NGF has worked with guideline meetings like the work in Denmark. There is a lot of media attraction during planned unassisted home deliveries. NGF and the midwife organizations are actively advocating safe assisted birth and taking part in the discussions. Further, there is an ongoing discussion on sustainable work life for obstetrician and gynecologists. In December, there will be a new abortion law.

### 13. Planning/dates of upcoming NFOG Board meeting spring 2025

The upcoming meeting will be held in Reykjavik March 31–April 1. Extra time will be set aside for economy. The suggested course on obstetrics and EBCOG will be followed up at the meeting.

### 14. Other business

#### *Deputy Chief Editor posts of AOGS*

Before AB was appointed CE of AOGS he was the Deputy Chief Editor (DCE) in a 20% (DKK 200,000) post. The post was advertised and there are two applicants, SG and Kenny Rodriguez-Wallberg who have both been associate editors of AOGS. They both gave excellent presentations at interviews which were held in connection with this meeting. The interview panel (AB, AKS, VS, LLTA) recommend to the NFOG Board that the two candidates will both be offered to be DCE of AOGS. In the budget of AOGS DKK 100,000 is allocated for proof reading, which is not used anymore, and would therefore be allocated to the costs for DCE, thus totaling in DKK 300,000. The voting members of the NFOG Board had previously been informed of this idea and now agreed that both candidates will be offered to be DCE of AOGS for DKK 150.000 per year.

### 15. Closing of the meeting

AKS thanked everyone for participating and closed the meeting.