



**MINUTES**  
**Nordic Federation of General Practice ApS**  
**Meeting of the Executive Board with observers**  
**Friday 31 March 2017 - 09.00-11.00**

## **Venue**

Venue: Scandic Palace Hotel, Rådhuspladsen 57, 1550 København V

## **Participants**

The Executive Board

Observers: Editor-in-chief and chairman of the Congress Committee

Gisle Roksund, Lotte Hvas, Anders Beich, Tuomas Koskela (substitute for Seija Eskelinen), Thorarinn Ingolfsson, Petter Brelin, Hans Thulesius (substitute for Hanna Åsberg), Johann Sigurdsson, Helena Liira, Elinborg Bardardottir, Sanne Bernard (secretary) and our accountant

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Election of chair of the meeting**

Gisle Roksund was appointed chair of the meeting.

### **2. Appointment of person to take minutes of the meeting**

Sanne Bernard was appointed to take the minutes.

### **3. Approval of the agenda**

Agenda approved.

Gisle Roksund suggested a discussion about vision and mission of NFGP under item 11.

### **4. Congress matters re NCGP in June 2017 to be discussed (Elinborg Bardardottir)**

So far 1,331 delegates are registered for Nordic Congress (NCGP) at Iceland, including 484 Young Doctors (36 delegates from the Baltic countries have been allowed to register at Young Doctor fee as for previous congresses).

50 persons have signed up for the pre-congress (for Young Doctors) on Tuesday, and the event is therefore now fully booked.

Iceland expects a maximum of 1,400-1,500 delegates for Reykjavik (the main auditorium can take up to 1800 delegates).

Registrations from the Nordic countries so far:

426 from Denmark  
79 from Finland  
56 from Iceland  
442 from Sweden  
176 from Norway

So far 21 countries will be present at NCGP 2017.

There will be no printed abstract book, but a conference app as for the WONCA conference last year. The dinner will be a standing dinner (the alternative was to reject further dinner registrations). There will be plenty of wine, food and good music, - and the setup with standing dinner will provide even better possibilities for networking with many different colleagues.

The price did not increase after the deadline for early bird, this mainly due to the change in the currency exchange rate, but also due to the fact of many registered participants already.

Around 300 abstracts have been submitted, and most of them have been accepted. The program will consist of 16 symposiums, 37 workshops, 34 oral presentations and 74 posters. There will be around 12-14 parallel sessions at the time. 40 abstracts origin from outside the Nordic countries.

Denmark will host NCGP 2019, which will take place in Aalborg in Jutland, Norway and Stavanger will host NCGP 2021, and Finland and Turko will be hosts in 2023.

It is not convenient for anyone that the WONCA Europe Conferences take place too close to the Nordic Congresses (very often both events take place in June). This discussion should take place at a WONCA Europe Council meeting.

The meeting decided to write an official letter from the NFGP Executive Board to WONCA Europe, kindly asking for considering avoiding holding WONCA Conferences in the month of June in the future. This should be in our common interest (the Nordic countries find it difficult to promote WONCA Europe conferences, if those are placed too close to our Nordic congresses). Because we live far up north, we find it difficult to arrange our conferences in the autumn.

## **5. Update on SJPHC matters and changes**

There has been a lot of changes since last year. Helena Liira has taken over the position as chief editor after Peter Vedsted. Anne Møller has replaced John Brodersen, and Tuomas Koskela is new national editor from Finland.

A new abstract submission system has been implemented (Editorial Manager), and the "old" system will be entirely phased out over the coming months. Helena, Gisle and Johann will meet up with the publisher this afternoon to negotiate for a new contract. The collaboration goes well, and more papers were published last year. Our current contract allows us to publish up to 60 papers per year, - the number of incoming papers is larger now and the process goes faster.

The increased number of papers leads to more work for the editors. The editorial board had good discussions on Thursday about how to improve the process - the actual main challenge is recruitment of reviewers, and how to develop the best strategy of using them.

The quality of GP research is good in the Nordic countries, - the flow of papers is steady at the moment - submissions this year estimated to around 120 papers with the main part coming from the Nordic countries.

A discussion took place about how the journal is promoted in the Nordic Countries, - and whether it is realistic to make GP's interested in reading the journal.

A possibility could be to send out clinic relevant papers as newsletters from the national colleges to create further interest. Each board member are therefore kindly asked to send name and contact info to Helena of the person in charge of sending out newsletters in his/her country.

Next editorial board meeting will be in Zagreb in October, where SJPHC has a slot in the COPOC conference.

Helena is happy with the SJPHC team and for her position for SJHPC, and the NFGP Executive Board is very satisfied with the work of SJPHC.

## **6. Update on NYGP (Nordic Young General Practitioners)**

Ulrik Bak Kirk – manager of NYGP – was kind to join us to give a fresh status on NYGP.

NYGP Vision: To create a network that brings Nordic young GP's and medical students interested in general practice together.

NYGP Mission: To create platforms where we can mutually inspire each other and exchanges ideas, knowledge and experiences.

The plan is to hold a pre-congress prior to the Nordic congresses every second year, and in the opposite year to hold a summer seminar for Young Doctors.

The first pre-congress takes place in Iceland and is already sold out. The NYGP group will arrange for exchanges/practice visits for the young doctors.

In May this year, the Danish Young Doctors are having their first planning meeting with the organizing committee of NCGP 2019 in Denmark.

A Facebook group has been established, and information about NYGP can be found on the NFGP website.

NYGP suggests building up a formal structure for NYGP – maybe as a more fixed part of NFGP – also financially. NFGP and NYGP should work together on this aspect in the coming year. The NYGP executive board is willing to consider financial support to partly cover travel expense for NYGP board members to e.g. the summer seminar in 2018. NFGP will await further information from Ulrik Bak Kirk and NYGP.

## **7. If there are any matters to be discussed before the Annual General Assembly, they can be presented at this item**

No new matters for this item.

## **8. Information of current matters (Gisle Roksund)**

[Policy documents on overdiagnosis](#) are to be promoted through WONCA, inclusive Wonca News,- Gisle and Johann are working on this.

John Brodersen, who is part of the Copenhagen organizing committee for the POD (preventing overdiagnosis) conference in 2018, has asked NFGP for assistance to promote this conference, and the executive board can support this.

The Nordic seminars are historically seminars organized by the unions with participation of the national colleges. However, in the later years the colleges have taken more care of the practical planning. The next Nordic Seminar will be held in Denmark 23-25 August 2018, right after The POD conference (20-22 August 2018).

The preconference will be held in Reykjavik on Thursday 15 June 2017 from 12:00-14:00 at "Icelandair Hotel Reykjavík Marina" (around 700 meters from Harpa Conference Hall).

***Executive Board members, - do not hesitate to book the dates already now, and please assist the secretariat in inspiring your own union leaders to take part in the preconference in June and the seminar in 2018.***

## **9. Presentation and discussion of the annual financial account (Lotte Hvas)**

Please see attached for financial report:

- [Annual Financial Report 2016](#)

Tina Doktor went through the accounts for 2016. At this stage, we are having an "income" of approx. DKK 333,000 - the board decided to return DKK 300,000 to the colleges as paid back subsides. To avoid this situation in the future, we will begin to make two payments per year per country, this in order to adjust the second payment to the actual costs that year.

A suggestion came up about the possibility of creating a kind of a trust, in order to "save up" money for e.g. educational purposes. As this would require a complete change in the company setup of NFGP, Lotte Hvas and Tina Doktor are to consider the possibilities and inform the NFGP board members accordingly.

## **10. Preparation of the discussion of the budget 2017 and 2018 (Lotte Hvas)**

[Please see attached for the final budget.](#)

Tina Doktor went through the budget for 2017.

Congress fee will be increased to DKK 130,000, and subsides will remain the same. The surplus of DKK 55,000 can be considered to be used as a contribution for the NYGP seminar next year, or alternatively to be regulated by the second payment of subsides in 2017.

## **11. Any other business**

Change of vision and mission – a proposal had been sent out from Johann and Gisle prior to the meeting.

Johann explained about the history and background of the foundation of NFGP. The original purpose was to promote NCGP and SJHPC, but now it is time to set higher objectives.

One of the ideas is to make the organization more active and visible externally. Each country is to inform and discuss the suggestions for changes with their board members of their national colleges at an ongoing basis.

Johann will continue "modernizing" the vision and mission together with the NFGP board

members by e-mail. The aim is to finalize this work latest at the next general assembly in 2018.

Regarding the Nordic conferences: The responsibility and the economy for the Nordic congresses lie with the organizing country alone, but the arrangement with regard to timing, venue, opening ceremony, closing ceremony and content in cooperation between the Nordic colleges/Nordic Federation of General Practice.

**12. Proposal for election of new chairman of NFGP** (official handover date will be 1 September 2017)

Johann Sigurdsson has accepted to be the new chair of the federation. The executive board suggests Johann Sigurdsson to be elected.

**13. Date for next annual NFGP meeting in 2018**

The executive board suggests that 12-13 April 2018 will be the dates for the Annual NFGP meeting in 2018.