



Annual report 2018 from the Chair of NFGP

The year 2018 has been a success for NFGP in many ways. In my report, I will briefly mention some of the important events.

NFGP annual meeting

At our last NFGP annual meeting in Copenhagen April 12th-13th, 2018, a [new vision and mission](#) was agreed upon. **The mission** below guided us further on the way in the year 2018:

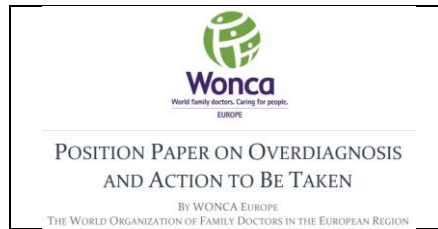
- Facilitate a professional development and research in the field of general practice and on the premises of general practice.
- Stimulate the publishing of original research and innovative analyses in peer-reviewed scientific journals relevant to general practice.
- Run the Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care.
- Run the bi-annual Nordic Congresses of General Practice.
- Promote NFGP at the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), especially WONCA Europe.
- Facilitate an active participation of our Nordic colleges in national, as well as international, networks of research (i.e. EGPRN); quality of care (i.e. EQuIP), rural medicine (i.e. Euripa), professional development and teaching (i.e., EURACT), preventive medicine and overdiagnosis (i.e. EUROPREV), and arenas for young doctors interested in general practice (i.e., Vasco da Gama Movement).
- Encourage an active participation in other congresses and meetings relevant to the vision and mission of the Federation.
- Stimulate the creation of enjoyable and rewarding professional and social arenas characterized by the development of personal relationships, support and networking among general practitioners at all career stages (from students, young doctors i.e. NYGP, to seniors) and relevant co-workers and co-thinkers.
- Promote generalist leaders; clinical, organizational, and political/societal.

Minutes from the meetings are published on the [web](#).

WONCA Europe Council Meeting May 24th, 2018 in Krakow, Poland

Our Nordic Colleges were well represented at the WE council meeting. The chair of NFGP was invited as an observer. As mentioned in earlier reports, the Norwegian College of General Practice (NFA) launched a working group on overdiagnosis in 2014. Two years later, the group's report was endorsed by NFA as a "*Policy document on overdiagnosis and related medical excess*". Shortly thereafter, all Nordic countries also adopted this document, united in NFGP. One year later, the Nordic position paper was introduced and discussed at the WONCA Europe council meeting in Praha 2017. Under the lead of Anna Stavdal, president of WONCA Europe, the Council considered it quite a challenge to unite all 47 member-organizations on overdiagnosis. To reach that goal, a working group was established (representing WONCA Europe's main networks on this matter i.e. EURPREV, EQuIP, EGPRN and EURACT), chaired by Johann A. Sigurdsson, NFGP. The group presented their draft to a position paper on "Overdiagnosis and actions to be taken" at the WONCA Europe Council meeting in Krakow 2018, where it was approved as a WONCA Europe [position paper](#).

WONCA Europe Congress, May 24th-27th, 2018 in Krakow, Poland



NFGP used the opportunity to carry on with its mission at the WE congress. We led a workshop on “*Overdiagnosis and quaternary prevention – policy and practice in the European countries*”, which was partly based on the recently approved WE position paper. Furthermore, we participated in a workshop with a related theme, i.e. “*Redefining hypertension: 130/80. Why and what are the consequences?*” and joined the activities arranged by the WW Special Interest Group on Quaternary prevention.

Preventing Overdiagnosis. Winding back the harms of too much medicine, August 21st-22nd, 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark



The annual Preventing Overdiagnosis congress was held in Copenhagen this time. As expected many of the participants were from our Nordic colleges. We were proud to observe that three of the keynote speakers were from the Nordic countries, i.e. our former NFGP chair Gisle Roksund, Norway, Henry Vogt, Norway and Háfdán Pétursson, Iceland/Sweden. Furthermore, NFGP arranged a workshop on “*Policy and practice regarding overdiagnosis and actions to be taken*”.

Nordic Leader Seminar, August 23rd-25th, 2018 in Helsingør, Denmark



From left: Sanne Bernard, Niels Saxtrup, Anders Beich and Johann Sigurdsson

This year, our bi-annual Nordic leader seminar was held in Helsingør, Denmark, arranged by our Danish colleagues. Anders Beich (DSAM) and Christian Freitag (PLO) welcomed the participants, which included all the leaders of the academic units (NFGP), Nordic unions (PLO, AF, GPF-ry, FIH, and DLF), leaders from Nordic Young General Practitioners (NYGP), as well as our guest

Anna Stavdal, and Roar Maagaard from WONCA Europe. The minutes from that meeting are published on our [web](#).

Many interesting topics were raised at the meeting, followed up by a [position statement](#) published on our web. The leader seminars are arranged by the national colleges and unions in the host country. At this meeting it was agreed that the chair of NFGP would be involved in the planning and arrangements of future seminars, thus bridging with other Nordic activities. The next Nordic leader seminar will be held in Norway in 2020. Read more about the Nordic leader seminar on the [NFGP website](#).

WONCA World Council Meeting, October 13th-16th, 2018 in Incheon, South Korea

At our last NFGP council meeting in April 2018, our Norwegian College, NFA, decided to nominate Anna Stavdal, at that time the president of WONCA Europe, as a running candidate for WONCA World President-Elect. This suggestion was supported by NFGP. Accordingly, one of the tasks for our Nordic Colleges was to work on the campaign for her election at the upcoming [WONCA World Council meeting](#) to be held in October at Incheon, South Korea.



The Nordic representatives at the WONCA World Council meeting in South Korea, together with WONCA World president Amanda Howe.

From left Merja Laine SYLY/Finland, Roar Maagaard DSAM/Denmark, Amanda Howe WW president, Anna Stavdal NFA/Norway and Johann A. Sigurdsson FIH/Iceland and proxy for SFAM/Sweden

At the last day of this council meeting, assemblies of the members and the chairs for committees and for working parties took place, as well as the election of the President-Elect. There were two candidates for this position i.e. Dr Anna Stavdal (Norway) and Dr Henry Lawson (Ghana). Anna won this election. This means that she will leave her position as president of WONCA Europe and will become WONCA World President-Elect for the next two years. She will take over as WONCA World president at our next WONCA World conference in Abu Dhabi in November 2020. This is of course a great honor for her in particular, but Anna Stavdal is not alone. Her values and background are based on her experience as a GP in Norway and as a leader of many of our associations - among other things as the architect of, and the first chair of, NFGP. Therefore, new challenges and opportunities lie ahead for the NFGP to promote general practice in the upcoming years. NFA and NFGP plan a tight contact as well as meetings with our representatives in WONCA World and WONCA Europe for these purposes. Furthermore, NFGP and NFA have to plan and prepare a welcome reception to be held in Abu Dhabi November 28th, 2020 when Anna Stavdal takes over from Dr Donald Li as the president of WONCA World.

WONCA World Congress, October 17th-21st, 2018 in Incheon, South Korea



The Gang Nam Style

It was a challenge for us to explore if our Nordic/European values, statements and position papers on overdiagnosis and overtreatment would appeal to our colleagues in a global setting. Therefore, the WONCA World congress in Seoul was a new opportunity. We arranged one oral presentation and one workshop on Overdiagnosis and preventive measures, similar to those introduced earlier in this report. These events were met with enthusiasm and participation from various continents. To many, these concepts were unfamiliar. The concept “Quaternary prevention” awoke curiosity and positive attention from many as it had something to do with prevention. It was my impression that it would be easier to approach these topics by combining them with other concepts, e.g. to address them within the discussion on our core values.

Our working groups

In 2018, we established two working groups. The working group on Specialist Education in the Nordic Countries is now fully staffed, and chaired by Roar Maagaard, Denmark. The group has recently started its activities and is planning to hold a workshop on this topic at the Nordic Congress in Aalborg. Roar has been invited to our annual meeting in Copenhagen April 2019 for further discussion.

According to earlier decisions, NFGP is aiming for a common agreement on the core values, principles and purposes of the Nordic GPs, based on earlier work from NSAM/NFA, DSAM and FÍH. The aim of the working group is not only to translate the Scandinavian languages to English, but also to facilitate a debate and a general discussion among GPs on the content of these values and principles. Furthermore, the group will analyze any possible barriers or threats, that may compromise our values and principles.



NSAM/NFA 2001



DSAM 2016



FÍH 2018



NFGP

The work has been done in many parallel steps. As expected, it took time to establish a working group within our NFGP. Therefore, we started in early spring with a think tank; the so called “Bygdo group” which worked on the translation of the Norwegian “Sju taser” and the Danish “Pejlemærker” to English. The Bygdo group delivered its first draft to the NGGP working group chaired by Johann Sigurdsson. Anna Stavdal WONCA World President Elect has been invited to our annual NFGP meeting 2019 where our core values will be discussed further. The group is also planning to arrange a workshop at the Nordic Congress in Aalborg in June 2019.

The Nordic Congress of General Practice, June 17th-20th, 2019 in Aalborg, Denmark



We are all looking forward to the next Nordic congress to be held in Aalborg in June 2019. Of course, our Danish colleagues have been busy the last years preparing for this congress under the lead of professor Jette Kolding Kristensen. This has been done in co-operation with NFGP. The theme of the congress is *“How do we promote general practice perspectives?”* Please see more [here](#).

Other upcoming international congresses 2019-2020



Our WONCA Europe congress in 2019 will be held in Bratislava, Slovakia, shortly after our Nordic congress, on June 26th-29th. As usual the WE council meeting will take place on the first day of the congress. The chair of NFGP has been invited as an observer at the council meeting. According to the new WE president, professor Mehmet Ungan, core values will possibly be on the agenda at the council meeting, as they are preparing for the same topic at the WONCA Europe congress in Berlin June 24th-27th, 2020. Furthermore, we have submitted an abstract on the topic of core values for the Bratislava congress.

As mentioned before, Anna Stavdal will take over as WONCA World president at the WW congress in Abu Dhabi November 25th-29th, 2020. Our involvement in that event will be discussed further at our annual meetings.



Director of NFGP

Niels Saxtrup left his post as medical manager for DSAM and also thereby as director for NFGP at the end of August. DSAM appointed Louise Hørslev as their new office manager. She also accepted to take over as NFGP director.

Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care, SJPHC

The Editor-in-Chief is professor Helena Liira, Finland. It was a pleasure for NFGP and the Editorial Board that professor Liira accepted to continue as Editor-in Chief for the next three- year-period. The contract with our publisher, Taylor and Francis is running out in March 2019. In 2018, our Editor-in-Chief has had discussions with other publishers in order to find out if we can get better contracts. A new publisher could however threaten our Manuscript Manager system, which works well at the moment. Negotiations will continue in 2019. See the Editor-in-Chief's annual report for further information. Check out the website of the journal [here](#).

Nordic Young General Practitioners, NYGP

The last years, NFGP has supported young general practitioners and their organization NYGP. During the last year the NFGP secretary and the chair of NFGP has supported leaders within NYGP to create a formal network of NYGP, by creating By-laws, vision and mission, and financial platform.

Thanks

We thank Niels Saxtrup, our former director of NFGP, for his enthusiasm and professional work within NFGP and his work regarding the planning and the organization of the Nordic Leader seminar in Helsingor. As mentioned above, NFGP has expanded its tasks with the aim to promote general practice. This was done by involving more colleagues, who are willing to participate in all our voluntary work. We thank all our working parties for their valuable contributions and cooperation during the past year. Furthermore, we want to thank Sanne Bernard for her attendance to, and caretaking of, NFGP in its everyday life, and we are looking forward to work with our new director Louise Hørslev.

Reykjavik, February 3rd, 2018.

On behalf of NFGP



Johann A. Sigurdsson, Chair