

Annual report 2019 from the Chair of NFGP

The tasks and decisions

As before, I feel that the year 2019, has been both successful and challenging for NFGP. In my report I will briefly mention the most important events.

Let me start at our last NFGP annual meeting in Copenhagen 4 - 5th of April 2019. The agenda and minutes of the meeting can be found [here](#)



The Executive Board, NFGP secretariat and invited guests.

From left: Roar Maagaard, chair working group on specialist education; Louise Hørslev, NFGP director; Salome Arnardottir, chair FIH/Iceland; Seija Eskelinen, chair SYLY/Finland; Gro Tove Hem Johnsen representing NFA/Norway; Johann A. Sigurdsson, chair NFGP, Annika Larsson, chair SFAM/Sweden; Anders Beich, chair DSAM/Denmark; Aleksi Varinen representing working group on core values; Anna Stavdal, WONCA World President-Elect; Sanne Bernard, NFGP secretary.



Johann



Presentations at the annual meeting



Anders

Our main work is according to the [NFGPs vision and mission](#), at present focusing on:

- Our Nordic Congresses of General Practice
- Nordic Leader seminars
- Professional development within WONCA
- The Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care
- Nordic Young General Practitioners
- Specialist education of general practice in the Nordic countries
- Core values of Nordic general practice
- Actions taken against overdiagnosis and overtreatment (The ReDD group)
- NFGPs secretary, administration and economy
- Other international activities (outside our Nordic countries)

Our Nordic Congresses

The Executive Board revised and agreed upon the schedule for the upcoming congresses in the [next ten years](#). Minor changes were made regarding the process of hosting the congresses. The host country is mainly responsible for the arrangements. The chair of NFGP will be informed or involved in the decision making of plenary lectures at the congresses. As decided upon, NFGP will also be involved in the organization of the opening and the closing sessions.

Pre-Meeting for Nordic Leader Seminar in Aalborg June 17th

The Nordic Leader seminars on General Practice are the forerunners of our Nordic collaboration on general practice. At one of these seminars, the “Allmänmedicinsk seminar” held in Tylösand, Sweden 1977, the idea was launched to arrange a Nordic congress in general practice. This was confirmed in a meeting in Helsinki, October the 10th 1977, and followed up by our first Nordic Congress in General Practice in Copenhagen 1979. At present our Nordic Leader Seminars consist of leaders representing the academic units of general practice, and the unions on general practice within each country. These seminars have been held biannually, last time in Helsingør, Denmark 2018, arranged by DSAM. Now it is

NFA/Norway's turn to arrange the next meeting in 2020. For this purpose, we have the pre-meetings, usually in connection with our Nordic Congresses. Tor Carlson, secretary at the Norwegian Medical Association was in charge. Our next meeting will be held in [Askeladdens hus](#), Soria Moria /Oslo, August 27-29th 2020. At this meeting the preliminary program including topics will be discussed and planed.

21st Nordic Congress of General Practice, Aalborg, 17-20 June 2019



Workshop on our core values

Our [21st Nordic Congress](#) was held in Aalborg 17th -20th of June 2019, organized by DSAM chaired by Anders Beich, Anneli Sandbæk chairing the scientific committee and Jette Kolding Kristensen, chairing the organizing committee. As expected, the congress was well organized and full of exciting events. On behalf of NFGP we brought our warmest greetings to all the organizers, DSAM's secretariat, committees and all our colleagues involved for making this congress so successful.

WONCA Europe Council meeting in Bratislava, June 26th 2019



From left Merja K. Laine (SYLY/Finland); Petter Brelin (NFA/Norway); Salóme Arnardóttir (FÍH/Iceland); Anna Stavdal/WONCA Europe, past president), Roar Maagaard (DSAM/Denmark); Magnus Isacson (SFAM/Sweden) and Johann A. Sigurdsson (NFGP).

This time, tension had escalated within the WONCA Europe Council before our annual meeting in Bratislava. An unusual situation on governance issues had been discovered. According to the by-laws, the "*executive board membership in any capacity will be for a maximum of ten years*". Professor Mehmet Ungan took over as WE president year 2019, after Anna Stavdal. At the time of his election, the fact was overseen that he had already been in the EB for several years and would fulfill this ten year period already year 2020. The

traditional presidency covers however two years and one year as past president. It was debated within the council if by-laws should be changed so Mehmet Ungan could fulfill his post or if he would step aside earlier than planned. Our Nordic opinion was clear. NFGP regretted this administrative mistake and declared in forehand to the meeting that we should keep to the laws. The problem was solved at the meeting. Mehmet Ungan will stay as WE president until our next council meeting in Berlin and resign at the end of 2020.

At the Council meeting, our work within NSAM/NFA, DSAM, and NFGP on the core values and principles of general practice were introduced and followed by a proposal on further work on this matter within WONCA Europe. At the meeting it was decided to establish a WE working group on the core values. Anna Stavdal is leading this group. The chair of NFGP is onboard in this group. According to the Councils decision, the aim is to involve representatives of all the WE networks, i.e. EURACT, EQuIP, EUROPREV, EGPRN, EURIPA and Vasco de Gama.

Royal College of General Practice (RCGP) proposed to host the WONCA Europe congress in London year 2022. NFGP supported this proposal which was well appreciated by their leader, professor Mike Holmes. He even used our logo as supporter when introducing their proposal to the council, which was approved.

Wonca Europe Congress in Bratislava June 26th -29th 2019



As a part of the WE council decision, representatives of our core value group together with our Dutch colleagues held a workshop on our core values.

Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care, SJPHC

At our last annual meeting, our Editor-in-Chief, professor Helena Liira, Finland pointed out that her three years period as Chief editor soon was on end. She declared that she was willing to carry on three years more. Our board is very pleased with all the work the editor, national editors and other colleagues have done for SJPHC. The board encouraged professor Liira to continue her work as Editor-in-Chief the next three years period. Furthermore, the NGFP board encouraged the editors to start the headhunting process for a new Editor-in-Chief after February 2022. The web site for the journal can be seen [here](#). Further information on the journal is to be found in the annual report by the Editor-in Chief [here](#)



The NFGP chair has pointed out that our SJPHC papers only have the logo of the publishers (see picture above). The question arose if we can have the NFGP logo there, too.

Nordic Young General Practitioners (NYGP)

Our new union, the Nordic Young General Practitioners ([NYGP](#)), is now well established. As before it gets financial and organizational assistance by NFGP. The leadership is now in the hands of our Norwegian colleagues, Ingvild Vatten Alsnes and Katrina Tibbals. In 2019 it was decided that NYGP annual meeting will be held as parallel section to our annual NFGP meeting, starting already 2020 as all the complicated logistic around accommodation was firmly solved by Sanne Bernard. Our NFGP is very pleased with this arrangement. The report from NYGP can be found [here](#)

Specialist education of general practice in the Nordic countries

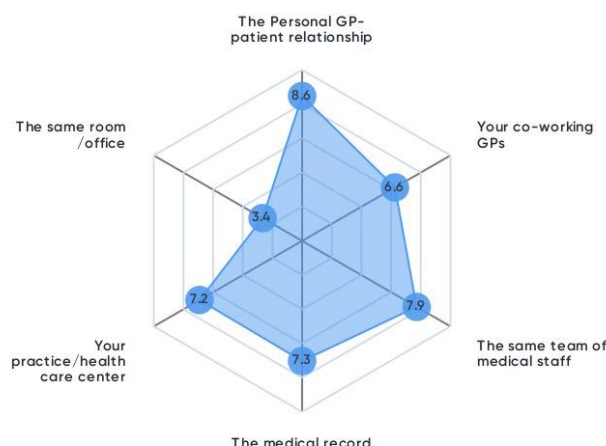
Our working group on the specialist training is doing well. As at our last meeting, there were many similarities, but also diversities. The status report from the working group will be forwarded in March.

Core values of Nordic general practice

The draft on the core values statement from our last meeting has been pending with our group and further introduced and discussed at our workshop in Aalborg. The picture below shows the opinions from that meeting regarding the most important elements in continuity of care:

Lack of organisation and lack of GPs was considered the main threats or obstacles to practice-based continuity of care. In year 2919, Carl Edvard Rudebeck, one of our

Important elements regarding continuity of care



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representatives published an important [paper](#) in SJPCCH on this topic. [Link to the report from the working group will follow soon.](#)

Actions taken against overdiagnosis and overtreatment (The ReDD group)

At our last annual meeting the working group on reforming diagnostic threshold definitions (now with the acronym ReDD) was introduced and the recently published paper on this matter endorsed by the NFGP EB. This is an independent group, with the chair of NFGP onboard. The group has had Skype meetings and one meeting in Sydney December 4th. The ReDD group is planning a seminar to be held in Oxford 11-12 of September 2020. NFGP accepted to co-badge this seminar (including financial support), together with Bond University, Australia, RCPG, WONCA World and others.

NFGP's secretariat, administration and economy

NFGPs headquarters, secretarial and administrative assistance (part time secretary and director), are partly financed by DSAM and located in Copenhagen. Communication and co-operation between NFGPs secretariat and the chair (located in Iceland and/or Norway), by e-mails, skype meetings, and physical meetings have been working in a pleasant and smooth way.

Other international matters

Anna Stavdal/NFA will take over as WONCA World president in Abu Dhabi November 28th, 2020. NFGP is supporter to NFA. Although NFGP's role is mainly considered to a mental support, based on ideology and our Nordic values, NFGP was also willing to share some of the economic obligations with NFA. Therefore, the chair of NFGP has had meetings with Petter Brelin, former chair of NFA, Marte Kvittum Tangen, present chair of NFA, professor Jørund Straand, General practice University of Oslo and Anna Stavdal. The aim is to

illustrate our Nordic support to Anna by the presence of a team of her co-workers in Abu Dhabi, and to celebrate this occasion by a reception. We are looking forward to the Abu Dhabi meeting in November.

Upcoming events and tasks

According to our vision and mission, we will try to make the world better by promoting general practice nationally as well as internationally. We aim to join the following upcoming events in 2020/2021:

Realistic Medicine. Copenhagen, January 28th, 2020 (arranged by DSAM)

Medisinsk overaktivitet – kunnskap, dilemmaer, strategier. Oslo, February 6th, 2020

WONCA Europe Council meeting in Berlin, June 24th, 2020

WONCA Europe Congress in Berlin, June 24th-27th, 2020

Nordic Leader Seminar at Soria Moria/Oslo August 27th-29th, 2020

ReDD Seminar in Oxford September 11th-12th, 2020 (NFGP co-badging)

WONCA World Council meeting Abu Dhabi, November 22nd-24th, 2020

WONCA World Congress, November 25th-29th, 2020

22nd Nordic Congress of General Practice, Stavanger, Norway, June 16th-18th, 2021

And other important events ahead

Thanks

On behalf of NFGP, we thank all our working parties for their valuable contributions and cooperation during the past year. Furthermore, we want to bring special thanks to our secretary Sanne Bernard and our director Louise Hørslev for their attendance to and caretaking of NFGP in its everyday life.

Reykjavik, January 22nd, 2020.

Johann A. Sigurdsson, Chair NFGP