



**MINUTES**  
**Nordic Federation of General Practice ApS**  
**Executive Board with observers Friday 27 March 2020 09:15-11:45**

**Digital meeting of the Executive Board with observers Friday 27 March 2020**

**08.15 in Iceland, 09.15 in Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and 10.15 in Finland**  
**Participants:**

The Executive Board: Johann Sigurdsson, Louise Hørslev, Salome Arnardottir, Magnus Isacson, Anders Beich, Anna Stavdal (represents NFA/Marte Kvittum Tangen with proxy) and Juha Auvinen, Sanne Bernard (secretary)

**Observers:**

- SJPHC: Editor-in-chief Helena Liira
- Congress Committee: Chairman Olav Thorsen and Gunnar Tschudi Bondevik
- Member of Wonca Europe Executive board, and Chair of the working group of specialist training: Roar Maagaard
- Wonca World president elect: Anna Stavdal
- Nordic Young General Practitioners/NYGP): Katrina Tibballs (chairmanship of NYGP),
- Tor Carlsen, secretary of NFA and leader of Leader seminar Oslo 2020

**AGENDA (below times is local Danish, Swedish and Norwegian times)**

**1. 9:15-9:27 Welcome by Johann Sigurdsson and presentation of all participants**

Johann welcomed and presented the participants in the meeting.

Thank you all for participating in our annual NFGP meeting, which is virtual this time. We certainly live in an extraordinary time because of the COVID-19 virus pandemic. This situation is historical. The world will never be the same, but yet we do not know the outcome. What we know for sure, however, is that general practice and the Federation will get a new role in re-thinking all plans and re-building a new society. In this pandemic crisis General Practice has clearly shown its importance, and as our WONCA world president, Donald Li mentioned in his Wonca newsletter, "We are, as ever, the first in and last out, irrespective of what challenges our communities face".

More attention will hopefully be paid to our mission and visions, to promote high quality primary health care and general practice to a reasonable low cost – a sustainable health care based on our core values and principles. Facing these circumstances, we now start our meeting.

**2. 9:27-9:28 Election of chair of the meeting – Johann Sigurdsson suggests Louise Hørslev as chair of the meeting**

Louise Hørslev was appointed chair of the meeting.

**3. 9:28-9:29 Appointment of person to take minutes of the meeting – Louise Hørslev suggests Sanne Bernard to take minutes**

Sanne Bernard was appointed to take the minutes.

**4. 9:29-9:30 Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**5. 9:30-9:45 A short update on the current corona situation in each country (3 minutes per country)**

All board members gave an update on the current situation in their countries.

GPs in frontline are more important than ever – keep up the good work.

**6. 9:45-9:55 Oral presentation of the work with Core values of Nordic General Practice and Nordic GPs (Johann Sigurdsson)**

Johann Sigurdsson gave an update on the work on core values.

Continuity of care (page 6 in the report) – Although the primary care health personnel is doing fantastic work by using video, audio and continuity of care through the medical records, the interpersonal level is at risk. We must focus on how we can restore this after this current crisis.

Core value statement is the result of the discussion in the working group and is partly based on the Norwegian work with 'Sju teser' and the Danish work with 'Pejlemærker'.

It was decided to present the document to the boards in each country for further discussion and to aim for a final version to be endorsed by all.

SJPHC will be pleased to publish the statement in the journal when ready, - together with an editorial.

We will aim at a timeframe of 2 month to finish the work.

**7. 9:55-10:05 Oral presentation of the work with Specialist training in the Nordic countries (Roar Maagaard)**

All countries are represented in the working group on specialist training, also the young GPs. It causes challenges with having only digital meetings.

The group held a fruitful workshop in Aalborg last year. The working group has made a statement proposal and ask NFGP to send request to all 5 health authorities in each country (maybe in August or September).

See proposal for statement [here](#).

The working group hopes that the NFGP board will endorse this paper, and the working group offers to assist on how to implement the recommendations, and how to present

it to the authorities.

Comments from the EB board to the working group;

How likely is it to have this statement endorsed by the authorities in the Nordic countries, as is might conflict with regulations in other European countries?

The current situation with corona virus creates a new opportunity to find improved ways for general practice training.

The NFGP EB thanked Roar Maagaard and his group for their good work so far. Roar Maagaard and Johann Sigurdsson will discuss the further process.

#### **8. 10:05-10:10 Evaluation of NCGP 2019 in Aalborg (Louise Hørslev)**

The congress in Aalborg last year had nearly 1,000 participants, and approximately 850 were paying participants. The financial result of the congress ended at a surplus of DKK 150,000, which has been donated to the Sara Krabbe Fund that provides grants for Danish research projects with relevance to general practice.

#### **9. 10:10-10:20 Update on Congress matters. NCGP in June 2021 to be discussed (Olav Thorsen)**

The congress committee had a fruitful meeting yesterday. Most congresses for the months to come are postponed, and Norway is of course a little bit worried about their own congress next year, which influences on the work in the organizing committee. Both the Scientific Committee and Host Organizing Committee are working very well, - they are on good track with a strong program with good keynote speakers. However, everything is a bit unsecure and alarming in the current situation, and it is necessary to plan for alternatives. Originally, Norway aimed for around 1,500 participants, but is now operating with a breakeven at around 1,000 participants.

#### **10:20-10:30 10 minutes break**

#### **10.10:30-10:40 Update on the work with Scandinavian Journal on Primary Health Care (Helena Liira)**

Helena Liira is running the last year of her second term.

In Aalborg last year the papers of year 2018 and 2019 were celebrated, - SJPHC would like to have the same opportunity in Stavanger.

SJPHC editorial board held two workshops last year and would like to attend the Nordic conferences and WONCA conferences. This year the editors plan to meet in Copenhagen this autumn.

More papers are coming in, both from Nordic countries and other countries, and the papers are of high quality. Around 60% of papers come from members. Last year 60 papers were published. Business is running nicely, and there is now a new co-editor from Iceland, Hannes Hrafnkellsson.

The NFGP EB thanked Helena Liira and her team for their good work. SJPHC must work on finding a successor for Helena, which will be discussed at their next meeting. Helena could be willing to continue if no one wishes to take over.

### **11.10:40-10:45 NYGP – future plans and visions (Katrina Tibbals)**

Katrina and Ingvild are in front arranging the pre-congress in Stavanger. NYGP appreciate the corporation with NFGP, and Katrina informs that they now have a full NYGP board.

NYGP vision: To create a network that brings Nordic young GPs and medical students interested in general practice together.

Focus now is on arranging the next pre congress is 15-16 June 2021 in Stavanger, relaunching of the NYGP Facebook group and creating the Nordic young GPs' ideal model for specialist training, based on first-hand experience and knowledge (Katrina is part of this working group as well).

Currently the budget of DKK 50,000 is used for EB meeting and to send one NYGP member from each country to Nordic leader seminars. The NYGP ask for another DKK 10,000 to be used for meetings in connection with arrangement of the pre congresses.

NYGP would like to have a closer cooperation with the main congress in the future.

Aim at NYGP meeting in Oslo before or after the Leader seminar in Oslo.

The European Young doctors organization, the Vasco da Gama Movement, has been inspiration for NYGP, but there is a need for closer collaboration within the Nordic countries that have more similarities in common. Some members of the NYGP EB are also represented in VdGM.

### **12.10:45-10:50 Update on Nordic Leader Seminar in Oslo 27-29 August 2020 (NFA)**

The seminar is scheduled to take place on 27-29 August 2020 in Oslo. Outline with a topic for each country was made at the premeeting in Aalborg. Of course, Tor Carlsen and NFA are concerned whether it will be possible to hold the seminar in Oslo (June 20<sup>th</sup> is cancellation deadline without penalty). Further discussion about the program will continue when/if the situation stabilizes.

Minutes from the premeeting and topics can be seen [here](#).

Tor Carlsen will arrange for a second digital meeting to discuss further.

### **13.10:50-11:00 Other international activities (Anna Stavdal and Johann Sigurdsson)**

*Most conferences are postponed which has serious economic consequences.*

*Currently WONCA World is working on accreditation on digital consultations. This already has a huge impact on how GPs are working now, and probably also in the future.*

*A Core Values – European working group has been established. The idea is to work on the document from the Nordic arena and take it on to WONCA Europe when ready. The work is a bit on standby in the current situation.*

**We propose that the Executive Board approves that NFGP co-badges the Reform Disease Definitions (ReDD) meeting to be held in Oxford 11-12 of**

**September 2020.**

**Background**

NFGP has been in the frontline fighting for sustainable health care. In this connection NFGP has approved a position paper on how to minimize Overmedicalization, Overdiagnosis and Overtreatment (2017). This Nordic initiative was later introduced and partly adopted by WONCA Europe 2018 as a position paper "Overdiagnosis and Action to be Taken". Both these documents enlist a continuous process to improve quality of healthcare by avoiding OD/OT. Inspired by these activities, an independent working group was established focusing on Reforming Thresholds on Disease Definition, now called the ReDD group. The group published a paper in BMJ-EBM 2019, where their action plans were described. At the NFGP annual meeting 2019, the paper was endorsed. The ReDD working group has now planned to arrange a 2 days meeting with invited guests around 50 persons, consisting of stakeholders of health care to initiate further action plans and strategies.

Late in 2019, our NFGP chairs approved by e-mail our participation in this meeting. Furthermore, by co-badging we provide financial support.

This meeting is at present arranged by The Bond University, BMJ, Royal College of General Practitioners, NFGP, WONCA World, etc.

*Proposal the NFGP supports with 20,000 DKK – to be decided at the general assembly.*

**We propose that the Executive Board approves that NFGP is co-badging a reception in Abu Dhabi in honor of Anna Stavdal as a new president of Wonca World**

**Background**

At the NFGP annual meeting 2018, NFA announced the nomination of Anna Stavdal as a candidate for the position as President Elect in Wonca World. NFGP supported this idea, followed by a support letter to the WW EB. At the Wonca World council meeting in Incheon, South Korea in November same year the election took place. Anna won this election. She will formally take over as president of Wonca World at the upcoming Wonca World congress in Abu Dhabi November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. At this occasion and by tradition, the national college (NFA in this case) and supporters (NFGP in this case) invite to an honorary reception the day before installation. Key persons within WW will be invited. Estimated number of guests about 200. Time schedule: 18.00-20.00

*Proposal that NFGP supports with 50% of the costs (a maximum of DKK 20.000) - to be decided at the general assembly.*

**14.11:00-11:05 We propose that the Executive Board approves the amended By-Laws.**

**Background**

After going through old minutes and the By-laws of NFGP ApS, we have discovered that decisions made in 2013 unfortunately have not been incorporated in the By-laws.

The following was decided upon in 2013:

- Only members of one of the Nordic Colleges can be elected as Chairman
- Maximum term of office as Chairman is 6 years
- There are 6 members of the congress committee, one from each country and two from the country organizing the next congress

Please see the actual minutes from 2013 [here](#) and the By-laws [here](#) (The By-laws are unfortunately only in Danish).

**Therefore, you will find enclosed proposed revised By-Laws.**

In the revision of the By-Laws you will also find the proposal regarding the change of period of elected term from 2 years to 3 years. This is to ensure the Chairman enough time to learn about the organization and all the tasks that the election brings along.

In addition to this, the colleges of each of the five countries have been choosing the members of the committees over the past years; and not the general assembly. We therefore propose that this is changed in the By-laws, too.

*The suggested proposal in By-Laws is mainly what we have been practicing the past years, e.g. the host country elects their own chair of their congress.*

*No comments from the Executive board.*

**15. 11:05-11:08 We propose that the Executive Board discusses and decides to reelect the Chairman.**

**Background**

When going through the By-Laws of NFGP ApS it has been discovered that the Chairman must be formally elected every two years. Unfortunately, we missed this last year. Johann was elected as Chairman in 2017, and his first term was 2017 to 2019. His second term (also the current term) is 2019 to 2021. Therefore, we formally have to reelect the chairman. According to the By-Laws the term is for two years, which will be through 2021, as the current term runs from 2019 to 2021.

Proposal has been made that the Chairman is to be elected for a three years term instead of a 2 years term. If this suggestion is approved by the Executive Board, it will be possible to reelect Johann for a 3 years term in 2020 that will end in 2023. This will also be Johann's last term as he will have to resign due to function time.

*Johann Sigurdsson is willing to take another period.*

**16. 11:08-11:10 We propose that the Executive Board approves general recommendations regarding the use of Logos used within the regi of NFGP**

**Background**

At present three types of logos exist within the umbrella of NFGP, that is a) logo for Scandinavian Journal of General Practice; b) Logo for the Nordic Congresses of General Practice and: c) logo for the Nordic Federation of General practice. Some of these logos or at least the icon of these have existed before the Nordic Federation was established year 2005. No recommendations exist on the use of these logos.

**Recommendations:**

We recommend that the logo shall be used when expressing the meaning: "On behalf of", or "supported by". In this context, the logo for the Scandinavian Journal can be used on all internal matters within the Editorial board. In a similar way, the Congress logo can be used by the committee and organizers of the congresses.

However, when the NFGP committees and working parties are expressing their mandate for a bigger audience, the NFGP logo shall be considered. For example, when announcing the Nordic congresses the NFGP logo should be used, not the Congress

logo. Furthermore, our Scandinavian journals shall be identified by the NFGP logo.

**17. 11:10-11:15 Proposal ([based on letter from Ronny Gunnarsson and Magnus Isacson](#))**

**It is proposed that the Nordic congresses will be changed from Nordic to European, from general practice oriented to research oriented congresses, and from focus on general practice to focus on primary health care.**

**Background**

Changes in Europe the last decades affect research activities in primary health care. At present, many primary care researchers are competing for large research funds within EU. Close research collaboration between primary care researchers within EU is considered to be a key to success. To succeed with the EU funds we have to take notice of the fact that the EU commissions prioritize proposals based on inter-disciplinary/inter-professional and inter-sectoral fellow networks.

*Thanks to Ronny Gunnarsson and Magnus Isacson for their forwarded proposal, which was discussed at the meeting.*

*The Nordic congresses are very popular in their current form, with a wide range on the quality of abstracts. Many of the attendees at the Nordic congresses are actually GPs, and the existing form with research useful for GPs and researchers becoming inspired by "real life" has shown fruitful.*

*Everybody agrees that of course a certain level of quality in the scientific program is important, which indeed is an ongoing focus area for the scientific committees (no reason to accept poor abstracts). The Nordic Congresses have a good reputation when it comes to the quality of the scientific program. Furthermore, there has not been any obstacles at the former congresses to give interested researchers time and space to present their projects. The organizers of the upcoming Stavanger congress, welcome all researchers who want to present their research at that congress.*

**18.11:15-11:20 If there are any matters to be discussed before the Annual General Assembly, they can be presented at this item.**

**19.11:20-11:25 Information of current matters (Johann Sigurdsson)**

The current situation makes our core values more important than ever.

**20.11:25-11:30 Presentation and discussion of the annual financial account (by accountant)**

- Annual Financial Report 2019
- Audit Records 2019
- Internal Annual Financial Report 2019

Tine Kristiansen Büniger went through the financial reports.

**21.11:30-11:35 Preparation of the discussion of the budget 2020 and 2021 (by accountant)**

Tine Kristiansen Büniger went through the proposal for budget for 2020.

It was agreed that NYGP will be given DKK 60,000 from NFGP this year. The extra DKK

10,000 will be taken from another item.

#### **22.11:35-11:40 Any other business**

The order of upcoming congresses 10 years ahead can be seen at the [NFGP website](#). We will keep the order, but we can consider having a congress every year instead of biannual.

Should we arrange an executive board meeting on Core Values in 2-4 weeks' time? Johann Sigurdsson will follow up.

#### **23.11:40-11:45 We propose that the Executive Board decides a date for the Annual Meeting in year 2021.**

##### **Background**

The Executive Board meets every year for the Annual NFGP Meeting in Copenhagen.

The Chairman and the Director suggest that the Annual Meeting will take place on March 25-26 March 2021 or 8-9 April 2021.

The Executive Board is asked to decide upon one of the suggested dates for the next meeting. The secretariat will book venue and hotel and call the board meeting through e-mail as usual.

The next meeting will be on 25-26 March 2021.

**15 minutes break before we start the general assembly 12:00**