



## Minutes from NFGP digital meeting on 22nd October 2020

**Participants:** EB: Johann Sigurdsson, Louise Hørslev, Marte Kvittum Tangen, Salome Arnardottir, Juha Auvinen, Anders Beich and Sanne Bernard

**Magnus Isacson (Sweden) was unable to attend**

**Invited guests:** Jaana Franck (chair of Organizing Committee – Finland), Päivi Korhonen (chair of Scientific Committee – Finland) and Olav Thorsen (chair of Organizing Committee – Norway)

### 1. Welcome (by Johann)

Louise Hørslev was appointed to chair the meeting and Sanne Bernard to take minutes.

Johann explained the main reason for this extra meeting as the COVID pandemic has forced our Federation to re-consider earlier plans.

### 2. Around the table – a 3-5 minutes update from each country regarding the COVID-19 challenges (by Juha, Salome, Marte and Anders)

Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Denmark all gave an update on the current situation in each country.

The main conclusion is that the COVID pandemic has clearly illustrated:

- Primary care/general practice as an important link in the health care service.
- The importance of general practice as the first level of contact.
- That the pandemic caused an enormous increase in workload at least in the beginning of this year.
- Based on experience and flexibility of our practice, we were much better prepared to meet the demand of the second and third wave of the COVID pandemic.
- That, in spite of the pandemic, we have been able to take care of our patients with other health problems.
- That we as healthcare providers must take care of our own health, by ensuring all necessary protective equipment, as well as our mental and physical health.

### 3. How do we ensure a good Nordic collaboration and knowledge sharing in those days with no possibility for physical meetings?

*Should we have shorter Zoom NFGP board meetings on a regular basis (e.g. every two months)?*

*Should we establish a common digital platform for discussions (e.g. a closed Facebook group or alike)?*

Most important NFGP tasks are still the Nordic congresses and the journal, and to maintain the contact with NYGP (our Nordic young doctors).



Marte: Very useful to have digital NFGP board meetings every 6 month, or more often if needed. Otherwise mails are working fine.

Salome: Important to follow news from the other Nordic colleges and unions. It would be fine with a possibility to keep track of main news from each country - to share them with each other.

Anders: Could the NFGP homepage be used as a platform to share knowledge, experiences, and possibilities? How do we deal with different matters in our Nordic countries? We could e.g. share public links at the NFGP website.

Johann, Louise and Sanne will look further into the possibilities for making a "knowledge sharing forum" at the NFGP website.

#### 4. Future Nordic congresses

*General information and short history of Nordic congresses (by Johann)*

At every annual NFGP meeting we decide 10 years ahead the actual years for the Nordic congresses. Normally the congresses are held biannually with only a few exceptions.

*Date and year for the next Nordic congress in Stavanger (by Marte and Olav)*

NFA and the organizing committee for the Stavanger/Norway congress have come to the conclusion that because of the COVID pandemic, it will not be realistic to hold the next NCGP in June 2021. Therefore, NFA has sent a letter to NFGP and asking for postponement of the Stavanger congress.

Marte and Olav informed that digital event had been considered but concluded that this would not replace a Nordic congress and has therefore investigated possible dates for 2022 for space at the congress hall and concert hall in Stavanger.

New suggestion from NFA is that the next NCGP will take place in Norway year 2022. This was accepted by the NFGP board.

NFA suggests the dates 22-24 June 2022 and same town and venue as planned before. This is endorsed by NFGP.

Norway is considering making a digital "teaser meeting" next year - e.g. half a day – with a keynote speaker and invitation for the Nordic congress in Stavanger the following year – more information will follow later.

Marte and Olav will now make an official statement in Norway regarding the new dates (and maybe an updated logo with the new dates?), and share the information with the rest of us to share with our members in Sweden, Finland, Iceland, and Denmark.

*Date and year for the following Nordic congress in Turku (by Juha, Jaana and Päivi)*

Finland would like to move the congress to 2024 - if possible at the same dates. The NFGP board accepts the postponement of the upcoming congress in Finland to 2024.



*Will decisions on the Congress in Finland, affect decisions for upcoming congress thereafter, i.e. Sweden*

According to the plan the year for the next congress in Sweden should be 2025. As Magnus Isacson is not participating at this meeting, the NFGP Board decided to postpone further decisions until our next meeting in March 2021.

However, the NFGP suggestion is that the rest of this "congress wave" will also be postponed by one year, so the Swedish congress will take place year 2026, Iceland year 2028 and Denmark year 2030.

#### **5. NFGP annual meeting in Copenhagen in 2021 (by Johann)**

*Suggestion for postponement of the physical annual meeting. New date? (please check your calendars **before** our meeting)*

Everybody agreed to postpone the NFGP annual meeting to June as it will be more likely that we can meet by then.

Suggested dates were discussed  
3 and 4th June 2021 – not possible for Norway  
10 and 11th June 2021 - OK (first priority)  
17 and 18th June 2021 - OK

Dates are now checked with Magnus, and **we will aim to meet in Copenhagen for the next NFGP annual meeting on 17th and 18th June 2021**

*However, we do need to hold a short digital meeting in March to agree upon formal matters (financial reports and budgets).*

**Therefore, please keep the date 26 March reserved for a digital NFGP meeting (10:00 – 12:00 Danish time).**

#### **6. Nordic Leader seminar in Oslo (by Marte)**

*Should we consider (and decide) new dates – e.g. August 2021 or alternatively in the beginning of 2022?*

It is not very likely to meet in February - and Norway will therefore try and investigate dates end of August 2021.

#### **7. WONCA Europe – update on current situation (by Johann)**

The letter which has been prepared will be send to WONCA World as agreed, within this week.

How do we bring this topic up at coming council meetings - that we - the Nordic countries - advocate for democracy and transparency? It was agreed that Johann will be our Nordic spokesman at the coming council meeting.

#### **8. NFGP financial matters (by Louise)**

As most events have been cancelled, we have had less costs than planned. We therefore suggest we do not collect subsidies this year. This will however give a deficit of DKK 150.00, but this can be covered by the NFGP savings. Everybody accepted that no subsidies will be collected in 2020.



## 9. Any other business

Thanks to Johann for using a lot of his time gathering information, writing letters etc. on behalf of NFGP.

Johann informed that there will be a meeting soon with Taylor and Francis in order to negotiate a new contract for SJPHC. Helena Liira, Johann, Louise and Dorthe (our NFGP accountant) will participate.

As agreed we will aim for a digital meeting on 26 March, and maybe one before if needed. Otherwise hopefully we will be able to hold a physical NFGP meeting in Copenhagen in June.

We will continue to communicate by mail and work on setting up a “knowledge sharing forum” at the NFGP website.

Thank you all for your participation.

