



Annual report 2023 from the Chairs of NFGP

This year is the last of six years for Johann A. Sigurdsson as chair of NFGP. Preparations started already last year to find a new candidate to take over and to be formally elected at NFGP's annual meeting in Copenhagen 23-24 March 2023. Roar Maagaard, GP in Denmark, was willing to step in as upcoming chair and was elected at our meeting on 24 March. According to the by-laws the term for chair is decided to begin at 1 September. Roar took over from that time. The present report is therefore written by both past and present chairs of NFGP.

The handover of chair has, according to earlier traditions, been carried out at the same year as the Nordic congress of General Practice is held. As known, the COVID pandemic changed this procedure. The NCGP in Stavanger was postponed for one year and the upcoming NCGP is to be held in Turku 2024. To adapt to these changes, some organisational changes had to be made in by-laws.

The main topics worked on in the year of 2023 have been according to the [“Mission“ from 2018.](#)

Main tasks year 2023 to March 2024

Our main tasks were similar as the last years, now with focus on:

- Arrangement of our Nordic Congress
- The Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care
- Nordic Young General Practitioners
- Professional development within WONCA
- Anniversaries
- Sustainable health care in the light of our Core values
- Nordic Leader Seminar (NLS)
- NFGP's secretariat, administration, and economy
- Other matters

Meetings year 2023 to March 2024

Besides physical meetings, virtual meetings via Zoom or Teams have been very useful. Number of Zoom meetings and tasks are shown in the table below.

Zoom/Team meetings 2023

18/1 2023	NFGP Secretarial meeting, preparing agenda for annual meeting
30/1 2023	SJPHC meeting with Anna Nager
07/3 2023	NFGP Secretarial meeting, preparing NFGP's annual meeting
05/2 2003	WONCA - Academic posts

06/2 2023	WONCA Europe – Academic posts
07/03 2023	NFGP Secretarial meeting
18/03 2023	NFGP Secretarial meeting, preparations for annual meeting

NFGP's annual meeting

As usual, the first day was spent on four parallel sessions for each structural unit i.e. a) NFGP Executive Board; b) Editorial Board; c) Congress Committee and d) Nordic Young GP's (NYGP). Reports from b), c) and d) are given separately, see below.

At the NFGP EB meeting, the around the table reports were introduced and discussed with focus on threats and opportunities in each country and what we can learn from each other. The board discussed and prepared the agenda to be introduced at the assembly meeting next day, including some changes in by-laws, internal guidelines, and upcoming tasks within WONCA Europe and WONCA World.

Anna Stavdal will step down as president of WONCA World in October 2023, where Karen Flegg from Australia takes over. This event was taking place at the WONCA World Congress held in Sydney Australia, further described below. It was decided that NFGP would jointly with the Australian College (RACGP) arrange an honorary reception for those two after the handover had taken place.

Detailed information can be found in the agenda and minutes of the meeting [here](#).



Executive board meeting with our international experts (Roar and Anna).
From left: Sanne, Anna, Marte, Louise, Johann, Margret, Bolette, Juha, Roar, and Magnus



Nordic Young GP meeting. Inspiration from Thomas Purup (FYAM/DSAM), and from left: Annika, Katrina, Ingvild, Anne-Mette, Sofia, Nazila, Linn, Sandra and Gisli



Nordic Congress Committee from left: Jaana, Päivi, Olav, Berglind, Andreas, and Anna



Editorial Board SJPHC from left: Helena, Torunn, Cecilia, Mikael Ekblad and Linda Huibers. Lackinig on photo Anna Mygind, Anna Nager, Hálfván Pétursson and Jørgen Nexøe



As mentioned above this annual meeting is the last one for Johann as chair of NFGP and Roar Maagaard is taking over. On behalf of NFGP Anna Stavdal addressed Johann and thanked him for an extraordinary effort done for General Practice in the Nordic countries – and further abroad – and for especially having taken very good care of NFGP and further developed it. His effort for our specialty has lasted for so many years that no-one came remember “the time before Johann”. A very warm applause followed, and Johann received many more thanks during the meeting in Copenhagen.

Nordic Congress of General Practice

Our upcoming Nordic Congress of General Practice will be held in [Turku, Finland 11-14 June 2024](#).

Jaana Franck, Head of Organising committee, and Päivi Korhonen, Head of scientific committee, presented their present status and further plans. About 1000 participants are expected. The motto of the congress is: „*General Practice – the bedrock of healthcare; respecting the core values*”. Discussions continued regarding the definition of doctors under education and congress fee for these participants.

Chair of the Organising Committee, Anna Davelid, and chair of the Scientific Committee, Andreas Stomby, informed about the planning of NCGP 2026. The congress will be held in Jönköping on 26–29 May.

The schedule for the already planned upcoming NCGP congresses can be found [here](#) – and the plans for further congresses will be made in due time.



Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care 40 years



Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care (SJPHC) is one of the cornerstones of our Federation, and one of the landmarks of our history. The journal was conceived year 1982, with birth of its first issue 1983. This year we celebrated its 40 years anniversary with a cake and some talks about the milestones of our discipline and the journal, further described in an [editorial](#) in SJPHC. This year also brought changes to our editorial staff. Helena Liira, our Editor-in-Chief since 2016 was stepping down.

Our new editor, Anna Nager from Stockholm, took over this year. The NFGP board expressed its sincere gratitude to Helena Liira for her extraordinary job as Editor-in-Chief and welcomed our incoming editor and her new board. The editorial office will now move from Helsinki to Stockholm. Some changes have been made in the editorial board. National editors (usually two from each country) will now both get the title “national editor” and participate



at our annual meetings. Detailed report from Editor-in-Chief is available [here](#).

Working group on specialist education of general practice in the Nordic countries

The working group held a workshop during the Stavanger Congress addressing the NYGP's wishes for a good specialist training scheme in the Nordic countries.

Both present – and in the very near future - changes will be made to GP specialist training in more of our 5 countries, so it is still important to keep this committee under the NFGP umbrella, so that each country can get inspiration and help from Nordic colleagues in the GP training field.

Nordic Young General Practitioners (NYGP)

Former chairs Ingvild Vatten and Katrina Tibbals (Norway) have now handed over chairmanship of NYGP to Annika Kolster and Kati Lempinen (Finland). NYGP is working on a research based on a “well-being questionnaire” among young GP's to identify factors that promote staying a GP. In connection with the NCGP in Turku, the pre-congress for young GP's will be held 10 – 11 June with the theme ‘*Dare to be the change*’. Their annual report can be found [here](#).

SFAM 50 years

As described elsewhere, our academic general practice units have reached major milestones in the last decade. Our Danish College (DSAM) celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2020, WONCA turned 50 in 2022, and now our Swedish College of General Practice (SFAM) celebrated its 50th anniversary in Kalmar, 10-12 of May, followed by greetings from NFGP at the banquet. The Swedish health authorities have claimed their goal to increase the number of GP's aiming to reach 1100 inhabitants per GP. At the celebration banquet we observed a relaxing atmosphere among our SFAM chair, Magnus Isacson, having Lena Hallergren, former minister of health on his right hand (to the left on picture) and Acko Ankarberg Johansson, present minister of health, on his left hand.



WONCA Europe – New definition of General Practice/Family Medicine



The WE Council meeting was held in Brussels 6th of June 2023. An impressive revision of the definition of the core competences of GP's and the General Practice/Family Medicine was introduced and endorsed. “*The main message in this revision is summarized in a new sentence underneath the WONCA tree: One Health, Planetary Health and Sustainability create the bedrock, allowing a new integrated approach to all of the six core competencies, twelve characteristics and three additional features essential in their application.*” This definition is a direct follow-up of WE's new definition of its Vision and Mission accepted in London 2022 and inspired by earlier work of NFGP. It can be read [here](#).

At our last meeting in 2022, NFGP EB accepted new recommendations of [qualifications for academic posts](#) within GP/FM. The content of this document was endorsed at our WE Council meeting in London 2022, but some adaptive changes were needed for the European region. At our WE Council in Brussels, a new version named “*WONCA Europe Recommendation on Qualifications for General Practice/Family Medicine Academic Posts in the Universities and Academic Units*” was introduced and accepted. It can be read [here](#).

In relation to WONCA Europe there has also been some follow-up work for Roar after the latest Council meeting in Brussels in June 23. Pharma sponsoring of WONCA Europe conferences is problematic, and the Nordic colleges have raised this issue at the Council meetings in WONCA Europe. Roar is participating in an ongoing work on this – and it is hoped that a suggestion for change can be presented at the next Council meeting in Dublin in September 2024. We have especially good support from the Netherlands and France. We also try to point out the problematic in the WE Special Interest Group on Lifestyle Medicine. Both these initiatives are on behalf of the 5 colleges, as NFGP as such is not a WE member. More on these two issues will follow in 2024.

Sustainable development

DSAM, together with Center for Evidence Based Medicine (CEBM) arranged the international “Preventing Overdiagnosis Congress (PODC)” in Copenhagen 14-16 August. Some of us participated on behalf of NFGP. Compared with earlier PODC’s last years, the content of the congress had more focus on Sustainable Health, as well as overdiagnosis, and climate changes. NFGP’s Core value statement fits very well into this sustainable health vision, especially when comparing our values with United Nations’ „*Sustainable Developmental Goals*“. Looking back, our workshop participation there can be seen as a „flyveøvning” for the proposal to NFGP regarding a working group/network on these matters, later introduced at NFGP’s extra meeting in Helsinki on 23 August.

From here Roar is taking over as the main author of the text.

I am starting in this new position as chair of NFGP with great humility - and at the same time I am very grateful for the trust shown by the Nordic colleges to my person. I will try to live up to this trust.

My clear belief is that the NFGP is in excellent shape:

- The organisation is well supported by the 5 Nordic Colleges of GPs.
- Johann Sigurdsson has been an excellent leader of NFGP during the last 6 years.
- Director Louise Hørslev and secretary Sanne Bernard in the NFGP secretariat are the secure foundation for our organisation. *They make things happen!*

Nordic Leader Seminar – Helsinki

Each second year the 5 Nordic Colleges together with colleagues representing the Nordic GP unions meet 3-4 days at the “**Nordic Leader Seminar**”. It always takes place in the country hosting the next Nordic congress. In the best possible August weather, we all met in [Hanaholmen](#), Helsinki at a seminar very well arranged by our Finnish colleagues – this included a very fine social program, too.

Some of us participated in a pre-symposium arranged by the Finnish Medical Association where the topic was a mutual inspiration on the organisation of health care and in particular primary care in the Nordic countries – and in Estonia.

The board of the colleges also held a little board meeting to discuss more urgent matters.

At the Leader Seminar we had inspiration from all the 5 countries – and not to forget the future GP's and leaders of our profession: NYGP. There are minutes from the seminar, so I will not report in detail about the content – but just mention one issue we discussed rather much in detail. Digital solutions in GP – including e-communication, video consultations and “digital first” solutions – give many possibilities and perhaps even more challenges in primary care. The challenges differ somewhat between countries, but we all thought that this area need much more research and “surveillance” before it can be implemented further. Implementation must be done wisely and in close cooperation with GP's and their organisations.

We tried to agree on a Helsinki statement on this topic, but national political considerations in one country did not make this possible right now - but the discussion on this issue will surely continue.



Representatives from the younger generation (NYGP) at NLS. From left: Katrina Tibbals (NO), Sandra Asgeirsdottir (IS), Anne-Mette Torp (DK), Annika Kolster and Kati Lempinen (FI) and Nazila Mansimli (SE). To the right Kati's daughter is studying Core Values.



The NFGP board and secretariat during Nordic Leader Seminar, Helsinki, August 2023.

Nearly all participants at NLS, Helsinki

Meetings, July 2023 – February 2024

6.7.23.	Online	SJPHC (Anna Nager and Johann Sigurdsson)
7.8.23.	Online	Secretariat meeting – preparing Nordic Leader Seminar
23.8.23.	Online	Secretariat meeting – preparing Nordic Leader Seminar
23.8.23.	Physical	Symposium, Finnish Med. Association, Helsinki
23.-26.8.23	Physical	Nordic Leader Seminar, Helsinki
27.9.23.	Online	Secretariat meeting – including new website?
9.10.23.	Online	Working group on WE pharma sponsoring
22.-24.10.23	Physical	WONCA World Council meeting, Sydney
23.10.23.	Physical	Working group on WE pharma sponsoring
26.-28.10.23.	Physical	WONCA World Conference, Sydney
6.11.23.	Online	Secretariat meeting – more issues, including website
13.11.23.	Physical	Opening of “Lægedage 2023”, Copenhagen
25.11.23.	Online	Sustainability preparatory group
4.12.23.	Physical	Secretariat meeting
14.1.24.	Online	Sustainability preparatory group
6.2.24.	Online	SJPHC (Anna Nager)

WONCA World Council and Conference.

WONCA World had its Council meeting in Sydney in October and 4 of the countries were present in Sydney by persons (Merja Laine, Finland; Marte Kvittum Tangen, Norway; Johann Sigurdsson, Iceland; Roar Maagaard, Denmark) and Sweden by proxy. We had excellent cooperation in Australia – including regarding the important votings: Viviana Martinez-Bianchi from the US was elected as President-elect – and Cape Town, South Africa was chosen for Conference venue in 2027.

Of course, we were all especially happy to be able to thank the outgoing WW President, **Anna Stavdal**, for her great work for the worlds GP’s. I will add that we were also proud on her behalf. We also welcomed the incoming President Karen Flegg from Australia. During the following WONCA World Conference there was arranged a reception for Anna and Karen. The reception was given by NFGP, the Norwegian College and the Royal Australian College. We were well represented by Marte and Johann (as I had to be on my way home at that time).



Nordic delegates at WONCA World, Sydney

Anna Stavdal in Sydney with WONCA World’s CEO and secretarial staff

The Global Core Values Project

During her time as president of WONCA Wold, Anna Stavdal has prepared a ambiguous “*Global Core Values Project*,” - a worldwide brainstorming focused on the defining principles and values of Family Medicine” This project is a continuum of the processes of Nordic countries last decade in our efforts to promote general practice the last decades, and where Anna has been the main ideologist, and advocate. The Global Core Values Project was formally launched at the WW conference in Australia.

Sustainable and value-based health care

The board of NFGP has decided to ask a preparatory working group about this question: Can you give the board of NFGP recommendations in relation to creation of a working group on “Sustainable and value-based health care”. This preparatory work is still ongoing, and recommendations will be ready for the upcoming NFGP board meeting.

There will be separate reports on our journal, on our congresses and on NYGP – but I would like to stress that these are still the important pillars of our organisation.

Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care with its new chief editor **Anna Nager** is a valuable journal for the Nordic researchers in primary care and the NFGP secretariat and I will do our best to support Anna in her important work for the journal. **The Nordic Congresses of General Practice** are now back on track again after the COVID 19 interruption. I think we all are happy that the Stavanger team was able to run such a successful congress despite the threatening odds in the preparation phase. Now I look forward to **Turku** in June this year and to **Jönköping** in May 2026. I see it as a very important role for me to support the teams in Turku and in Jönköping.

The young doctors in **NYGP** are the future for all of us – and I hope I will be able to support their important work in 2024.

On the inner lines in NFGP we are challenged by an outdated website that due to technical reasons cannot be supported by our IT company. So, a new solution must be established, and this process the secretariat and I have prepared during the last months. We are looking forward to further discussion and a decision on this issue in Copenhagen in April.

NFGP’s secretariat, administration and economy

Luckily, there have been no changes at NFGP’s headquarters. As before secretarial and administrative assistance (part time secretary and director), are partly financed by DSAM and located in Copenhagen. Communication and co-operation between NFGP’s secretariat and the chairs of the NFGP (wherever they are...) by e-mails, zoom meetings, and physical meetings have been working in a pleasant and smooth way.

Meetings and congresses ahead:

2024

NFGP annual meeting in Copenhagen, 11-12 April

NYGP pre meeting 10-11 June Turku, Finland

[Nordic Congress of General Practice, 11-14 June, Turku, Finland](#)

WONCA World virtual Council meeting, time to be announced.
WONCA Europe Council meeting in Dublin 25th September 2024
[WONCA Europe Conference, Dublin, 25-28 September 2024](#)

2025

NFGP Annual meeting in Copenhagen (to be decided at next meeting)
[WONCA World conference, Lisbon 17-21 september 2025](#)
WONCA World Council meeting – prior to the conference – dates to be decided
WONCA Europe Council meeting - prior to the conference – date to be decided

Thanks

We want to bring special thanks our closest coworkers and friends - Sanne Bernard our secretary and Louise Hørslev our director of NFGP and Dorthe Pedersen for their extraordinary caretaking of NFGP in its everyday life.

Both of us have had privilege and pleasure to work with all former and present chairs of our colleges - thank you all. And on behalf of NFGP we want to bring special thanks to our immediate past president of WONCA World, Anna Stavdal for her enthusiasm and efforts promoting General Practice last decades, both nationally as well as internationally.

Reykjavík and Copenhagen February 1, 2024



Johann A. Sigurdsson, former chair
of NFGP



Roar Maagaard, chair of NFGP



We will all miss Johann! – but sure, he will be around in the future, too.