

Nordic Spinal Cord Society (NoSCoS)

Minutes from the General Meeting, Copenhagen, September 12th 2019

Scandic Copenhagen, Room 1 (plenary).

Agenda

1. Minutes from the 2017 meeting in Linköping
2. President's report
3. Financial report
4. Discussion paper "NoSCoS 2.0 – Considerations for the Future"
5. Proposals
6. Elections
Candidates for renewal of Council
7. General meeting in Stockholm 2021
8. Any other business
9. Constitutory meeting of the new Executive Committee and Advisory Council

Start of the meeting

- No membership list does exist today, as there are no membership fees. The meeting decided to have as a criterion that everybody that had payed admittance fee to this congress were thereby members of the NoSCoS, with a right to vote.
- Annette Halvorsen was elected to be the secretary of the General meeting. Randi Steensgaard and Claes Hulting were elected to be adjustors.

1. Minutes from the 2017 meeting in Linköping.

The minutes have been on the NoSCoS home page since shortly after the 2017 Congress. No objections came to these minutes from the auditorium, and they were accepted without changes.

2. President's report.

First Nordic Specialist Course for Physicians in Training

The President described the course for doctors in training, which was held with participants from Denmark, Iceland and Sweden and Lecturers from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Unfortunately no participants from Norway and Finland. The course was arranged on May 17 th (Norwegian national day), which explains absence of Norwegian participants.

Nordic Advanced Spinal Cord Injury Course (NASCIR)

NASCIR is an ambitious course covering 7.5 ECTS points. There were start-up and closing days in Göteborg (October 2018 and May 2019), as well as intensive group work and individual studies in between, with members from four Nordic Countries (no participants from Finland). This course was made possible by a surplus from the 2017 Linköping NoSCoS Congress. Moreover, thanks to a generous grant from the Stena Olsson Foundation in Göteborg, the participations fee was quite modest (5000 SEK). This course was very popular among the participants and assessed by all involved to be very valuable.

ISCoS

There was considerable work concerned with attempts to introduce membership fees to NoSCoS and to ISCoS as well, by allocating a part of the Congress participation fee in Linköping to this purpose. It became quite complicated, as members needed to send in their individual application for ISCoS membership to the ISCoS secretary. Even after two reminders were sent out to the NoSCoS members, almost half of the members did not exert their right to become members in ISCoS. This procedure with combined NoSCoS and ISCoS fee, was not chosen for today's NoSCoS Congress.

Study visits

The President visited on his own initiative a few centres in Scandinavia in the past two years, among those, VCR in Viborg and Specialhospitalet in Rødovre, Denmark and Rehab Station in Stockholm, Sweden. He attended the ISCoS Congress in 2018 as well, as a representative for NoSCoS. The goal is to have paid a visit to all units before the next meeting in Stockholm in 2021 (external finance).

Working groups

Efforts to strengthen important aspects of SCI work by collaborating in working groups within the auspices of NoSCoS has started, and these activities will be promoted. NutriNord as well as the network of Nurses (Nordic SCI Nurses), are working with specialized SCI Care are the first groups to be officially recognized by the NoSCoS general meeting. A working group around pediatric SCI Care is about to start up as well.

3. Financial report.

Balance May 2017	32 008,- SEK
Revenue NoSCoS 2017	100 350,- SEK
Non-used ISCoS fees	69 244,16 SEK
NASCIR and spec course	-92 050,65 SEK
Logo	-10 000,- SEK

Administrative bank fees	-550,- SEK
Travelling WA and study visits	-23 761,- SEK
Other (home page, web hotel, ...)	-11 589,85 SEK
Total balance Sept 2019	63 650,66 SEK

A suggestion for the future was put forward during the general meeting that it would be valuable to have a budget in beforehand, which we then could act upon.

The proposal of the new logo was not popular. As a result, only the letters have been used. A “logo competition” is an option for the future.

4. Future plans.

A discussion about the future directions of the NoSCoS was held at the general meeting, based on the ideas mentioned in “Discussion paper “NoSCoS 2.0 – Considerations for the Future”, which the President sent out to members of the executive and advisory committee in advance of the meeting. The document was as well published in the NoSCoS group on Facebook

The following future tasks for the executive committee and advisory council are agreed on during the meeting:

- To present a balanced proposal for a membership structure.
- To register the NoSCoS society at the national tax board of a Nordic country to get an official status.
- To find out possibilities to arrange a professional secretary in the NoSCoS.
- To establish a forum on the NoSCoS homepage for communication within the society. Many expressed concern and did not wish Facebook to be the (only) official channel for communication within NoSCoS.
- To establish an election committee to ensure a good nomination process.
- Several of these tasks require a change of the constitution.

5. Proposals.

Working committees

A proposal was put forward at the General Meeting to formally acknowledge working groups that have been continuously active within NoSCoS. The General meeting voted and accepted unanimously that the Nutri-Nord and the Nordic Network of Spinal Cord Injury Nurses should be acknowledged as official working groups within NoSCoS. Participants that are interested in pediatric SCI care have started to work together and they also plan to apply for a similar official NoSCoS status in the near future, e.g. at the next NoSCoS meeting.

Educational activities

There is a strong general interest to have a renewed NASCIR course, which was a very popular and highly recommended course. The Executive Board of NoSCoS are planning to consider the practical feasibility of holding a new NASCIR course, and also to make a preliminary economic plan, including approximate participation fees. Even the possibility for other educational activities, e.g. more introductory or profession-specific courses, should be considered.

NoSCoS Executive Committee and Advisory Council

The president proposed that the EC should meet at least four times per year (1-2 physical, 2-3 per video or phone) and the AC at least one to two times per year. The meeting supported this.

6. Elections.

Present members of Executive Committee 2017-2019

Wolfram Antepohl MD (2015), President
Annette Halvorsen MD (2017), Secretary/Treasurer
Fin Biering-Sørensen MD (2015), Chairman OC 2019
Aki Vainonpää MD (2015)

New elected Executive committee

Wolfram Antepohl, MD, President (elected 2017, confirmed for two more years)
Annette Halvorsen MD, Secretary / Treasurer, (elected 2017, confirmed for two more years)
Randi Steensgaard RN, (2019, elected for four years)
Claes Hultling MD (adjunct as Chairman of the OC 2021).

Present members of Advisory Council 2017-2019

Dorte Dahl Hoffman PT (2013),
Sarlotta Souminen PT (2015),
Páll E Ingvarsson MD (2015)
Claes Hultling MD (2015)
Lena Lindbo RN (2015)
Naja Bøje Casupe, Psychologist (2017)
Linda Sørensen, OT, (2017)
Anne Beate Melheim, Consumer, (2017)

New elected Advisory Council

Naja Bøje Casupe, Psychologist, Denmark (elected 2017, confirmed for two more years)
Ingibjörg Tómasdóttir, RN, Iceland (2019, elected for four years)
Anne Beate Melheim, consumer, Norway (elected 2017, confirmed for two more years)
Hanne Slettahjell, nutritional physiologist, Norway (2019, elected for four years)
Johanna Wangdell, OT, Sweden (2019, elected for four years, adjunct member)
Britta Quistgaard, PT, Center Director, Denmark * (2019, elected for four years)

Marie Todén, MD, Finland (2019, elected for four years)

Rikke Middelhede Hansen, MD, Danmark * (2019, elected for four years)

* New members for the EC/OC were proposed by the president. A discussion arose, whether a representative from a private unit could participate fully in the NoSCoS work and be elected into the Advisory Council was discussed. Specialhospitalet in Copenhagen was mentioned in this context. A presentative from RYK (The Danish interest organization for people with SCI) objected against Britta Quistgaard, as Specialhospitalet is not highly specialized SCI unit like Rikshospitalet/Hornbæk or VCR Viborg. Britta mentioned that she presents a non- profit organization. The president stated that the constitution allows every member to be proposed and run for an office and that interest in contributing to NoSCoS work was a very relevant factor. Rikke Middelhede Hansen from VCR, was proposed as an alternative candidate. However, after a lengthy discussion and due to the fact that the constitution advices a physiotherapist on the AC, it was decided that the AC could have 8 members (7 ordinary, 1 adjunct) instead of 7 for the next election period. Johanna Wangdell is adjunct member during this period.

7. General meeting in Stockholm

Next general meeting will be in Stockholm 2021. Marie Toden from Finland will inform the president if it will be possible to organize the NoSCoS in 2023 in Finland.

8. Any other business

9. Constituary meeting of the new Executive Committee and Advisory Council.

A short Constituary meeting for the new EB and AC was held at the end of the general meeting and a date for a first Skype meeting agreed (October 21).

Copenhagen, 13.09.2019,

Annette Halvorsen, secretary.

Randi Steensgaard and Claes Hulling,adjustors.