

Minutes

Board meeting of the SSAI Reykjavik, January 12 – 13, 2018

Present: Klaus Olkkola (president SSAI; FIN), Martin Holmer (president SFAI), Sören Pischke (web editor, NOR), Mette Hyllested (DASAIM representative), Morten Hylander Møller (chair CPC; DK), Joachim Hoffman-Petersen (president, DASAIM), Lill Blomqvist (SFAI representative), Siri Tau Ursin (president, NAF), Annukka Vahtera (chair EdCom; FIN), Gunnar Bentsen (NAF representative), Mikael Bodelsson (past congress president, SWE), Tor Inge Tønnesen (congress president SSAI2021; NOR), Per Nellgård (treasurer SSAI; SWE), Merja Vakkala (president Finnish society), Michael Haney (editor-in-chief, chair RC; SWE), Kari Hreinsson (president Icelandic society), Lars Rasmussen (congress president SSAI2019, DK), Tom Silfvast (secretary SSAI, FIN).
Excused: Lasse Raatiniemi (FIN).

1. Opening of the meeting

SSAI's newly elected president Klaus Olkkola opened the meeting and greeted the participants welcome. The meeting agenda was approved with minor changes made to the presentation order of the items.

2. Approval of the minutes from the Board meeting in Malmö, September 5, 2017.

The minutes were approved.

3. Presentation of the SSAI

Klaus gave the new Board members a short presentation of the SSAI for orientation.

4. Schedule for next Board and Officers' meetings

The Board decided:

- Board meeting in Copenhagen on June 15 – 16, 2018 with the Officers' and Acta Foundation board meeting on June 14.
- Officers' meeting on October 9, 2018. Location and mode to be decided.
- Board meeting in Gothenburg on January 18 – 19, 2019 with the Officers' and Acta Foundation board meeting on Jan 19.

5. Updates from the SSAI committees

The Clinical practice committee (CPC)

- Morten presented. In 2017 there were 3 guidelines issued, together with the Canadian Critical Care society. Three guidelines are in process, and two have been scheduled. The CPC has hosted two meetings on with the Nordic anaesthesia and intensive care quality registries,

ultimately aiming at a Nordic quality registry with common indicators.

POWERPOINT 1. ATTACHED.

- The Board discussed publication and collaboration regarding guidelines. One or two new guidelines annually were felt to be good to aim for. SSAI Clinical practise guidelines will also in the future be prepared according to GRADE methodology. We should also aim to include health economic implications and aspects in the guidelines. High quality national guidelines can be sought endorsed by SSAI by "submitting" the guideline to the CPC for evaluation, and subsequently sanctioned by the Board (outlined in the guideline workflow document on the SSAI homepage).

The Educational committee (EdCom)

- Annukka presented. All SSAI advanced educational programs (AEPs) are running. The critical emergency medicine (CREM) program received 42 applicants, and 24 participants will attend the first module which will start in Norway in April 2018. The coordination between the SSAI and the AEPs was discussed according to the outlines of the previous Board meeting. The EdCom has prepared a survey to both the AEP leaders as well as the participants regarding management and finances of the AEPs. It was decided that the survey will be done during this spring and the results presented and discussed during the joint EdCom-AEP meeting in April. After that, a proposition on how to organise and manage the AEPs will be thoroughly discussed at the Board meeting in June. **POWERPOINT 2. ATTACHED.**

Annukka brought up the issue of misconduct relating to the theme of the #metoo campaign. A possible case within an AEP has been brought to the attention of the EdCom. The Board took a very strong view on zero tolerance on such behaviour and discussed the matter on a general level. The stand point will be brought up and discussed at the joint meeting in April with the AEP directors, and an SSAI Code of Conduct will be prepared and made available on the SSAI homepage.

The Research committee (RC)

- Michael updated on the activities of the RC. The committee evaluated the grant applications and arranged for the poster presentations at the Malmö congress. The first SSAI research methodology course, themed clinical trials, will be held in April and it has gained a huge interest with more than 40 applications. The budget is approx. DKK 120.000,-. The Board discussed about what would be the best ways for the RC and the SSAI to allocate support for various activities. Financially supporting research projects per se may not be as productive as e.g., arranging educational courses and supporting SSAI members' training in scientific methodology. It was decided to aim for annual SSAI research courses.

6. Review of the revision of the position paper

Previous SSAI president Sigga Kalman reviewed the background for the position paper, which was published in the Journal in 2010. The Board has decided to update the paper, based on SWOT analyses of the specialty's evolution between

2008 – 2017 made during the two previous Board meetings. A core group formed by Sigga, Klaus and Michael has been working to set up the frame for the work. The group will request data from each member society, and a writinggroup with one or two representatives from each society will then draft a manuscript to be presented to the Board. Presently, the members are Maja Ewert (SWE), Joachim Hoffman-Petersen (DK), Klaus Olkkola (FIN), Hans Flaatten (NOR) and Kari Hreinson (IS). The Board agreed that an update is needed, and stated that it is important to also formulate a vision and a direction for where the specialty is heading in its different domains. **POWERPOINT 3. ATTACHED.**

Klaus thanked Sigga Kalman for her long and fruitful work in the SSAI Board and as president of the SSAI now that her mandate has come to an end.

7. Report from Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica

Michael presented. The Journal has adopted the new visual look of the SSAI. Michael briefly reviewed the history and development of the Journal, informed about its current status and the about the contract with the publisher, and touched on the future perspectives using a short SWOT analysis. **POWERPOINT 4. ATTACHED.**

8. The webmaster's report

Sören presented. The major part of the webmaster's work in 2017 was with the new visual look of the SSAI, launched at the congress in Malmö. The website has been harmonised with the new look and updated with info about the Board members. An important issue and challenge is the scarce input of news and information from the national societies to be put on the website.

Collaboration with the ScanFOAM team resulted in a project involving the publication of live recordings of SSAI 2017 congress presentations via the SSAI website for public viewing. The result was a success and the work found to be worth continuing. The Board decided to ask Sören to contact ScanFOAM to work out a contract of cooperation with the SSAI for three years. **POWERPOINT 5. ATTACHED.**

Sören also announced that since he has been appointed manager of the Acta Foundation, he would like to step down from the position as web editor.

9. Updates from the national societies

- Iceland – Kari: Despite the small number of the Icelandic anaesthesiologists (approx. 45), the society is represented in all SSAI committees. Specialisation is with the British Royal society of Anesthetists and then training mainly in Swedish hospitals.
- Finland – Merja: The health care reform being made in Finland transfers the organisation of health care from 300 municipalities to 18 regions. Full-scale on-call services will be centralised into 12 hospitals, while the remaining hospitals will deal with less critical patients.
- Sweden – Martin: There is collaboration with the Swedish College of Surgeons on specialty training and scientific work. National program groups are creating standards for the specialties, but anaesthesia and

intensive care is not included, the SFAI is working to correct this lack. The annual SFAI meeting is being redesigned.

- Norway – Siri: NAF has 1300 members with 3 new members on the Board; Jon-Henrik Laake is one of them. A new specialty, emergency and emergency admission medicine, is being implemented. The new specialists will not be dealing with emergency airway management.
- Denmark – Joachim: The politicians have legalised medical cannabis and impose pressure on doctors to prescribe it to people requesting it. One year ago it was decided to introduce emergency medicine as a specialty. There is a large debate about the nature and content of the new specialty's daily work and quarrelling about training demands. Despite this, the issue will probably be solved in a positive way. There is a problem with the Danish Patient Safety Authority increasingly taking controversial actions on medical professionals who have been accused for misconduct.

The meeting was adjourned at 16.30.

Saturday, January 13

10. Update on the Acta Foundation (AF) and election of AF Board members.

Sören gave an overview of the Foundation's aims and functions. The management of AF has been reorganised after the step-down of its previous manager Ivar Gothgen. The AF Board has subsequently taken an active role in running the activities of the AF and set up a new mechanism for managing its financial transactions. The transition has made it clear, though, that the AF still needs a manager, and the AF Board has on January 11, 2018 appointed Sören Pischke as manager of the AF. Sören explained how the recently decided decrease in SSAI membership fees is connected to the AF functions and the publication contract with Wiley and how it will affect the future financial role of the AF in relation to the SSAI.

POWERPOINT 6. ATTACHED.

Election of Board members of the Acta Foundation. The SSAI Board decided to appoint Gunnar Bentsen (NOR), Lill Blomqwist (SWE), Klaus Olkkola (FIN), Joachim Hoffman-Petersen (DK) and Kari Hreinsson (IS) as AF Board members.

11. Financial issues

Per presented the current financial status of the SSAI, which is stable. The management of the SSAI assets has been quite difficult due to communication problems with Danske Bank. One current aim is to establish contact with the Danish doctors' pension fund (Lægernes Pension og Bank) to discuss their services, because of the good references from DASAİM. The financial and organisational matters relating to the SSAI advanced educational programs need to be better coordinated and the SSAI currently has a limited insight into most programs.

- The Board decided that
- Per will further explore the benefits, disadvantages and practical requirements related to establishing an SSAI owned company for the management of the SSAI financial activities. He will bring the results to the Board meeting in June.
 - Beginning from 2019, the SSAI Board requires that it shall have a good insight into the structure and finances of all SSAI advanced educational programs. This aim will be discussed during the joint meeting of the EdCom and the AEPs in April. Klaus, Per and Tom will also participate in the meeting.
 - the SSAI aims at creating a list of all its members' e-mail addresses to be able to reach members and spread information. Together with the decision to enhance insight into the AEPs and provide them with support to manage their activities, this would probably necessitate "professionalising" the SSAI functions by e.g. having a professional secretary. The SSAI officers will work out a proposition to the next Board meeting how to proceed.

12. The SSAI congresses

Report from the congress in Malmö in August 2017

Mikael gave a report of the congress. There were 1217 participants, 2/3 from Sweden, participating in 47 sessions. 160 abstracts were presented. The net result was roughly SEK 1.069 000,-. **POWERPOINT 7. ATTACHED.**

The next SSAI congress in Copenhagen in June 2019

Lars presented the plans for the congress to be held on August 28 – 30, 2019 in the Tivoli congress center. www.ssai2019.com provides more and up-to-date information. **POWERPOINT 8. ATTACHED.**

The 2021 SSAI congress

Tor Inge informed about the SSAI congress to be held in Oslo in 2021. There is a limited number of locations in Oslo which can cosily host a congress with approx. 1200 participants. A PCO and a suitable facility is currently being looked up.

Organising SSAI congresses

Klaus brought up for general discussion pro's and con's regarding the current way of arranging our congresses. The practical arrangements rely very much on the anaesthesia department in the city hosting the congress, which may pose problems to small departments. The SSAI whitebook on arranging congresses is of substantial help, since with the current system a congress returns to the same location approximately once every 50 years. Good flight connections are of great importance to ensure numerous participants. The Board found the current rotation system satisfactory, with professional help from a local professional congress organiser and not a single designated one taking care of all congresses. The role of the SSAI Board could maybe be strengthened, e.g.

by assigning one or two Board members as congress coordinators to support the local congress organiser.

Tom brought up the question about payment arrangements and - responsibilities in conjunction with the SSAI congresses now that the Acta Foundation does not give a start-up allowance to the local congress organiser. The Board decided that Tom will draft up principles for a new practise to be presented at the next Board meeting. The Board also decided that the SSAI can loan the local congress organiser a start-up capital to enable payments of expenses arising before congress cash flow starts to run in.

13. Cooperation with the young anaesthesiologists in the Nordic countries.

Representatives of the specialists in training members ("Young anaesthesiologists") of our national societies had a meeting during the Malmö congress. They discussed Nordic collaboration and would like to explore the possibility of having the SSAI as an umbrella for their activities. The minutes of their meeting has been sent to the SSAI (**POWERPOINT 9. ATTACHED**).

The Board took a very positive view on the suggestion and welcome closer cooperation with our young colleagues. The Board decided that Klaus sends a letter of invitation to the participants in the meeting and the chairs of the national societies to have a joint meeting with the SSAI Board and representatives of the young anaesthesiologists during the Board meeting in Copenhagen next June. The presidents of the national societies agreed to pay the travel expenses for one representative from each national society's young anaesthesiologists to participate in a one-day meeting in Malmö.

14. Future vision for the SSAI

Klaus brought up for discussion ways to enhance the work of the SSAI Board. He presented the practise of several societies with a system of president-elect, who later takes over the presidency, and past-president. He also asked would it be sufficient to have only the presidents of the national societies in the Board and abandon the position of the second nominated representative for each national society, because national rotation and hence representation also is guaranteed through the committee chairs who are also Board members. The Board currently has 22 members. No decisions were made, and the discussion will continue.

The Board also had a lively discussion about how to enhance the visibility of the SSAI and its activities. Input to the webmaster about relevant topics in the national societies, use of Twitter and Facebook are important parts of the visibility.

15. Any other business

Siri presented a draft for an SSAI of code of conduct, which has been amended from several organisations' similar statements. The Board found

a statement very relevant and preliminarily agreed on the following wording:

SSAI Members are expected to maintain a high standard of personal conduct and to treat members and others with respect.

SSAI has a zero tolerance policy for all types of harassment, including sexual harassment.

SSAI does not accept any form of discrimination, whether it is based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religion.

SSAI will not allow bullying, intimidating or offending behavior towards or amongst its members.

It was decided that any issues arising from the violation of this statement should be reported to Klaus Olkkola or Lill Blomqwist who will take appropriate actions.

16. End of meeting

Klaus expressed his warm thanks to Kari for organising an excellent and very successful meeting and closed the Board meeting at 15.30.

minutes by Tom