

Minutes – SSAI Board meeting

August 26, 2019

Copenhagen, Tivoli Congress centre

Present: Klaus Olkkola (president SSAI; FIN), Sören Pischke (director ACTA Foundation , NOR), Mette Hyllested (DASAIM representative), Morten Hylander Møller (chair CPC; DK), Joachim Hoffman-Petersen (president, DASAIM), Annette Nyberg (SFAI representative), Siri Tau Ursin (president, NAF; from item 6), Johan Thunberg (president, SFAI), Cecilia Escher (chair EdCom; SWE), Gunnar Bentsen (NAF representative), Katrin Thormar (president Icelandic society; from item 10) Tor Inge Tønnesen (congress president SSAI2021; NOR), Per Nellgård (treasurer SSAI; SWE), Merja Vakkala (president Finnish society), Eija Junttila (FIN representative), Michael Haney (editor-in-chief, chair RC; SWE), Mads Astvad (web editor, DEN), Steffen Klove Pedersen (NYA representative, DEN), Lars Rasmussen (congress president SSAI2019, DK), Tom Silfvast (secretary SSAI, FIN).
Excused: and Gunnar Thorarensen (representative Iceland)

1. Opening of the meeting

SSAI president Klaus Olkkola opened the meeting and greeted the participants welcome.

2. Approval of minutes of previous and agenda for present meeting

The minutes of the Board winter meeting in Gothenburg on February 1 – 2 were approved, and the current meeting agenda was approved.

3. Upcoming meetings

- The next Board winter meeting is in Helsinki, January 24 - 25, 2020, with arrival of participants in the evening of the 23rd.
- Board summer meeting in 2020 will be in Oslo, June 11 -13, 2020.

4. Preparations for the General assembly

- Amendment of SSAI articles

The Board decided to propose to the General Assembly

- that representatives of the Nordic Young Anaesthesiologists (NYA) form a permanent committee of the SSAI, including the chairperson of NYA committee as an ex-officio member of the SSAI Board.
- to introduce the concept of immediate past president; remaining on the SSAI Board for one year after stepping down
- to change the domicile of the SSAI to be in Denmark and register the Society in Denmark

The corresponding changes are shown in the enclosed proposal for amended articles (**Appendix 1**) and will be posted on the website later today. The Board decided to call an extra-ordinary General Assembly later this autumn if the proposed changes are accepted by the General Assembly and the National societies approve. The extra-ordinary meeting will take place in Copenhagen.

- Election of secretary-general and treasurer

The election periods of the secretary-general and treasurer come to an end this year. The secretary is stepping down whereas the treasurer has announced that he is available for re-election. The SSAI election committee suggests that Gunnar Bentsen is elected new secretary-general for the SSAI and

that Per Nellgård is re-elected. The Board supports this proposition to be presented to the General Assembly.

5. Updates from the SSAI committees

• Educational committee; *Cecilia Escher, Joachim Hoffmann-Petersen*

The EdCom had a meeting in December 2018 and a joint meeting with the Advanced Educational Program (AEP) chairs in May 2019, in which also Klaus Olkkola participated. The committee's report is enclosed (**Appendix 2**). The committee has performed a web survey among AEP participants, and it also organizes a session on continuous professional development at the SSAI2019 congress. The offered secretarial assistance to the AEPs would be welcomed. The committee has also worked on creating common guidelines for managing and running the AEPs. Joachim presented two options for acquiring secretarial assistance (**Appendix 3**), one with DASAIM and the other with Rigshospitalet. The annual cost for a full-time secretary would be around DKK 370k – 450k.

The Board of the Acta Foundation decided the day before the SSAI Board meeting to provide economic support for the Educational committee to organise 1-2 focus meetings on separate topics to increase the activities of the SSAI and promote the continued medical education of SSAI members.

The Board decided to meet with a potential secretarial service point in conjunction with the extraordinary GA should that be organized. Cecilia, Joachim, Mette, Per and Tom will make the preparations.

• Clinical practice committee

Morten Hylander presented (**Appendix 4**). The committee has continued its work with clinical practice guidelines, aiming at 1 – 2 new guidelines annually and endorsing selected other published guidelines. Development of collaboration with quality registries in our specialty is also in progress. The committee also makes a proposal to initiate a Scandinavian SSAI PhD position.

• Research committee; *Michael Haney*

The popular course in research methodology is planned to continue. There have been discussions about an idea to run other research focus courses, or even a Grade course as an AEP. Please refer to **Appendix 5**.

6. Update from the Nordic Young Anaesthesiologists

Steffen Kløve Albæk Pedersen presented. The group was formed during the SSAI2017 congress in Malmö. The group has now organized itself as a committee, to be included as a permanent committee of the SSAI with representation in the SSAI Board. The Board discussed the proposed articles of NYA and synchronized them with the suggested amendment of the SSAI articles. The articles were approved, and Board decided to nominate the chairperson of NYA as an ex-officio member of the SSAI Board.

7. Update from the Acta Foundation

Søren Pischke presented the annual report of the Foundation and the current status of the Foundation. Overall, the financial situation is good. The decision to reallocate a proportion of the assets previously exclusively in bonds also into shares caused a decrease in the market value of the Foundation's assets at the end of 2018 due to market fluctuation, but the situation has now improved. Please see **Appendix 6**.

8. Update from the Journal

Michael Haney presented (**Appendix 7**). Annually there are more than 1000 submissions, which are evaluated within avg. 21 days from submission. The acceptance rate is 23 %. IF 2.23. The general state of clinical research in the Nordic countries generates concern in view of decreasing publication activity. Open access and Plan S is a threat to journals.

9. SSAI administrative issues

The Board discussed ways of recognizing members who have made significant contributions in promoting the values and impact of the SSAI. The question about honorary membership and other ways of awarding were raised. The Board decided to institute "The SSAI Award" to be given to members for successfully promoting SSAI values, visibility or activities on different levels and fora. This congress the SSAI Award will be given to Jannicke Mellin-Olsen. The Award consists of a diploma and DKK 5.000,-.

10. SSAI financial issues/report from the treasurer

Per Nellgård informed that the financial situation is good. The assets have increased with almost DKK 1M. After 2022, income from ACTA grants will end due to the new structure of the publishing contract with Wiley. The question how to deal with this issue needs to be discussed. Possible solutions are to increase membership fees, consume assets or prioritize or downscale activities. The financial situation as presented at the General assembly is in **Appendix 8**.

11. The SSAI congress in Oslo in 2021

Tor Inge Tønnessen, president of the congress, told about the current status of the arrangements. The congress will be held June 16 – 18, 2021 with the theme "Monitoring life!" The congress location is in the heart of Oslo, at the newly built Clarion Hotel The Hub. Kongress & Kultur AS has been chosen as PCO.

12. Update on the SSAI 2019 congress

Lars Rasmussen informed. Currently 840 registrated participants from 42 countries. Estimated profit DKK 200k.

13. Update from webmaster and ScanFOAM.

Mads Astvad informed about the hacking of the SSAI website in late July, rendering it inaccessible. Mads managed to fix the problem and took steps to prevent this from happening in the future. He also told about selected presentations at the SSAI2019 congress being recorded and made available for a larger audience.

14. Advancing women in academic medicine – SSAI policy

Siri Tau Ursin presented an initiative from the Norwegian Society. Several scientific societies have issued policies on how to promote gender equality in their organisations and activities. NAF suggests that SSAI issues a policy on this matter, which could be published in the Journal. The Board decided that NAF asks Jon Henrik Laake to coordinate drafting of an SSAI statement on gender balance.

15. Updates from the National Societies

Merja Vakkala/FIN: Substantial change in specialization process: applicants must apply for positions with motivation letter stating qualifications, interview and conditional initial training period. Selection takes place twice annually, it has created a lot of worries among the residents-to-be.

Johan Thunberg/SWE: A new categorization of medical specialties has been introduced, where anaesthesiology and intensive care medicine, as well as surgery and internal medicine as knowledge areas, have been left out among the 23 defined areas. Another topic has been the relationship

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between emergency medicine and anaesthesiology and intensive care medicine. SFAI is preparing a bid to host the World congress of the Federation of intensive care medicine societies in 2025, in Malmö.

Katrin Thormar/ICE: There is a new president and secretary in the Icelandic society. Small society with main challenges related to the limited number of specialists. Emphasis on guidelines and cooperation.

Siri Tau Ursin/NOR: New accreditation of teaching in all hospitals. Compulsory post-education training requirements to be introduced. Difficult to recruit people to work for the scientific societies.

Joachim Hoffman-Petersen/DEN: Struggle with the emergency medicine specialist training regarding airway management and prehospital care. The anaesthesiologists have declined to teach intubation and do not accept EM physicians in the prehospital settings. The new computerized information system in Copenhagen hospitals is still problematic.

16. Update: The SSAI position paper

Klaus Olkkola informed that the previously made decision to update/revise the position paper has not been put forward, partly because of Klaus' long sick leave this winter-spring. A writing group was earlier formed, chaired by Klaus who will now get in touch with the group members as well as with representatives from the CREM and POMM AEPs to get specific input from these areas.

16. Closing of meeting

Klaus Olkkola closed the meeting at 17.30 and extended the Board's warm thanks to Lars Rasmussen for excellent meeting arrangements.