

## Minutes

# SSAI Board meeting Helsinki, Feb 25.-26. Jan 2020

### **Present:**

Klaus Olkkola	(President SSAI; FIN),
Gunnar Bentsen	(Secretary General SSAI; NOR),
Per Nellgård	(Treasurer SSAI; SWE),
Michael Haney	(EiC, chair RC; SWE),
Sören Pischke	(Dir Acta Foundation; NOR),
Joachim Hoffman-Petersen	(president DASAIM; DEN),
Eija Junttila	(president SAY; FIN),
Matti Reinikainen	(representative, vice-president SAY; FIN)
Siri Tau Ursin	(president NAF; NOR),
Jon Henrik Laake	(representative NAF; NOR),
Katrin Thormar	(president Icelandic society; ISL)
Annette Nyberg	(president SFAI; SWE),
Cecilia Escher	(chair EdCom; SWE),
Steffen Kløve Albæk Pedersen	(chair NYA; DEN)
Tor Inge Tønnesen	(congress president SSAI2021; NOR),
Lars Rasmussen	(past congress president SSAI2019, DEN),
Mads Astvad	(webmaster; DEN)

### **Excused:**

Morten Hylander Møller	(chair CPC; DEN) – did however report CPC activity online
Mette Hyllested	(representative DASAIM, DEN),
Gunnar Thorarensen	(representative Icelandic society, ISL)
Claes Frostell	(representative SFAI; SWE)

### **Friday, Jan 25<sup>th</sup>**

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

Klaus Olkkola opened the meeting and greeted the participants welcome to Helsinki. The Board members presented themselves.

#### **2. Approval of the minutes from the Board meeting in Copenhagen on Aug 27<sup>th</sup> 2019.**

The minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Concerning **14. Advancing women in academic medicine – SSAI policy.**

**The Board decided:** All national societies should appoint one person that together with Jon Henrik Laake will draft the policy document.

#### **3. Approval of the meeting agenda.**

The agenda was approved.

#### 4. Upcoming meetings

##### **The Board decided:**

- Board spring/summer meeting in Oslo June 11-13<sup>th</sup> 2020
  - June 11.: 11:00 Officers' meeting  
15:00 Acta Foundation Meeting
  - June 12.: 08:30 SSAI Board
  - June 13.: 12:00 meeting ends, followed by optional lunch.
- Winter meeting in Sweden, Jan 21. – 23. 2021.  
SFAI will find the location.

#### 5. Updates from the SSAI committees

##### **The Clinical practice committee (CPC) – Morten (online)**

([Presentation on Basecamp](#))

- Committee members unchanged last year.
- SSAI Guidelines and endorsement of non-SSAI guidelines
  - Instructions published on website
  - No new guidelines published in 2019, but endorsement of two guidelines. Two guidelines in preparation, but one of these (Pain management) will possibly not be finalized.
  - Difficult to find participants for work with new guidelines.
  - the CPC is currently assessing two guidelines for endorsement
  - discussion with AEPs on the possibility of doing guideline work as part of the educational courses
- MAGICapp
  - 3-year contract (20.000 €/year), starting from fall 2019.
  - To be evaluated in 2022
  - The plan is to publish new and endorsed guidelines first, followed by old guidelines.
- Nordic Quality Registry
  - a descriptive study outlined
- Other initiatives
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> methodology course held in 2019 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> is planned April 14.15<sup>th</sup> 2020
  - endorsement of surviving sepsis guidelines (Paediatric 2020, Adult 2021)
- Budget proposal for 2020 presented. Total DKK 273.000 (not incl. MAGICapp).

##### **The Educational committee (EdCom) – Cecilia**

([Presentation on Basecamp](#))

##### 2019

- Web survey to participants on the AEPs
- poor response rate from pain program
- generally good ratings of the programs
- secretarial support of the programs very important
- Focus on Secretarial support and Guidelines for the AEPs
- SSAI 2019 congress – separate session
- 2 meetings and 3 teleconferences

## 2020

- Improved communication with steering committees aiming for more transparency, visibility and exchange of ideas
- Continuing web survey
- Continuing work towards secretarial support
- AEPs Guideline finalized
- Work towards better visibility at 2021 congress.
- Budget 2020. DKK 105.000.  
2 EdCom meetings planned, one together with AEP chairs.

## **6. Updates from the SSAI committees (continued)**

### **Nordic Young Anaesthesiologists Committee (NYA) – Steffen** ([Presentation on Basecamp](#) , [Budget on Basecamp](#))

- First SSAI board meeting as official SSAI committee.
- NYA board formed; 2 members from each country (DEN, SWE, NOR, FIN).
- NYA articles established
- Logo created
- Meeting in adjunction to 2019 congress
- Planned NYA meeting in Stockholm, March 2020. Planned 3-4 teleconferences in addition.
- Goal: help improve the education of anaesthesiologists. How to do that? Finding the ways is the current focus.
- Budget 2020. DKK 98.500.

#### Discussion:

- how to make NYA relevant?
- Visibility at national meetings?
- Exchange?

**Decision:** The Board ask NYA to draft a plan for an exchange program for young anaesthesiologists between Nordic clinics. This can be followed by an application for an Acta Foundation grant for the purpose of exchange.

### **The Research committee (RC) – Michael presented** ([Presentation on Basecamp](#))

- No physical meetings.
- New member needed from SWE.
- Research methodology course held in 2019 (arr. Haney and Møller (CPC)). New course in April this year on systematic reviews and meta-analysis.
- Difficult to engage the whole committee.
- Suggestion to pursue arranging GRADE course.

- Budget 2020. DKK 200.000.

**Decision:** the Board supports the effort to create a GRADE course.

## **7. Update from the Acta Foundation (AF) – Søren**

([Presentation on Basecamp](#))

Søren gave an overview of the Foundation's aims and functions.

Economy: gain of approx. MDKK 1,5 in 2019, total assets as of Jan 2020: 15,3 MDKK. The Foundation prioritise a low risk investment strategy with approx. 30% shares.

DKK 890.000 paid out as grants in 2019. The plan for 2020 grants presented (approx. MDKK 1,5). *The national societies are reminded to apply for yearly grant of DKK 10.000 from the Foundation.*

Søren summarized how AF supports the national societies, important being economic support to the congress and payment for editorial board members recruited as faculty during the congress.

Election of new national representatives to AF from all countries is needed.

### **Election results:**

FIN: Klaus Olkkola

ISL: Katrin Thormar

NOR: Siri Tau Ursin

SWE: Annette Nyberg

DEN: Steffen Kløve Albæk Pedersen

Acta Foundation Board elected Klaus Olkkola (FIN) as President of AF.

## **8. Update from the Journal – Michael presented.**

([Presentation on Basecamp](#))

2019 approx. 800 submissions, accept ratio 23%

Focus on short submission-to-decision time, average 21 days.

Publishers report 2019 not yet finalized.

- Challenges:
  - to find new editors, to find skilled peer-reviewers (Four editors added over the last two years).
  - Plan S
  - Publisher manoeuvring
  - State of Nordic research within our field

## **9. SSAI administrative issues**

- **Registration of the SSAI in Denmark** – Klaus

The revised SSAI articles were approved during the Extraordinary General Assembly in Copenhagen on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 2019. Klaus highlighted the main changes.

[The registration of SSAI is in process](#) with the "Centrale virksomhedsregister

- **Secretarial support** – Per, Joachim

[The offer from the Danish Medical Association \(DMA\)](#) was presented.

Cecilia addressed the problem that the offer **do not** include storage of data and website support. DMA does not have a solution for this. Mads suggested we explore possibilities linked to our website. This will require external help.

**Decision:**

- The Board accepts the offer from the DMA (DKK 222.000 per year).
- SSAI will take the costs for 2020 (free for the AEPs during 2020).  
The cost for the AEPs, starting 2021, will be 5%+VAT of total course fee, but minimum DKK 5000+VAT per course. Subject to adjustments if necessary.

- **Administration of the Advanced Educational Programs & Guideline for Steering Committees draft** – Cecilia and Klaus

The AEPs Guideline draft was presented, and the arguments for strict and transparent selection criteria were given.

**Decision:**

The Board endorsed [the AEPs guideline](#).

The guideline should be evaluated in 2022 (responsibility: EdCom).

- 10. SSAI financial issues/The treasurer's report** – Per presented  
([Presentation on Basecamp](#))

The current financial status of the SSAI is good. Total funds have increased from MDKK 10.248 as of 1.1.2019 to 13.208 by 1.1.2020.

Budget for 2020-2022 was presented, turnover approx. MDKK 1.500. We must be prepared for when the AF grants stop (2023?).

The Danske Bank's service is poor (Odense branch), would like to change to another bank in Copenhagen.

Suggest issuing credit cards for the AEPs, the SSAI Treasurer and the SSAI President. The AEPs credit cards could be linked to individual bank accounts for each AEP. SSAI will transfer DKK 100.000 to each of the AEPs (loan, not gift). Showed an overview of who should attest for who within the Board and the AEPs ([see presentation](#)).

**Decision:**

- the Treasurer will find a new bank contact in Copenhagen
- the AEPs get their individual bank account and credit card. On request the AEPs can have a loan of DKK 100.000 from SSAI.
- The President and Treasurer are issued credit cards.

- 11. Update from webmaster and ScanFOAM** - Mads  
([Presentation on Basecamp](#))

Demanding to find the time to run the web page.

The traffic on the page is relatively unchanged this year.

Major problem during 2019: unawareness of interest-lists for the AEPs.

Resolved with all the programs now. Unknown of anyone was "injured" by this mishap. No one has so far claimed so.

**Decision:** webmaster will send a short mail to the people on the interest-lists with an apology. Will also recommend signing up for newsletters where recruitment will be announced.

Discussions: Mads informed about post congress material. Not much out yet, but more is coming soon. How can this be speeded up for future congresses? Issues concerning login access to Wiley was discussed. This has to be handled through the national societies. [A guide is uploaded at Basecamp.](#) Concern expressed from Board members about delay of web page updating.

## 12. The SSAI congress in Copenhagen Aug 2019 – Lars

([Presentation on Basecamp](#))

117 abstracts received, 15 rejected. 61 invited speakers, 39% women.

Almost 50% from Denmark.

882 participants from 44 countries (50% from Denmark).

5 parallel sessions and workshop track. All of the pre-congress workshops had to be cancelled.

Used the same App as in Malmö 2017. Worked well.

Strict rules for congress activities dictated by industry. Future organizers need to be aware of potential problems this can cause.

Finances: expenses DKK 3.648.183. Income DKK 4.338.355. Balance: +DKK 690.000.

The updated congress manual ("[white book](#)") is uploaded at Basecamp.

The Board thanks Lars for a job very well done, for a very good congress.

## 13. The SSAI congress in Oslo 2021 – Tor Inge

([Presentation on Basecamp](#))

"**Monitoring life!**" at Clarion Hotel The Hub. June 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2021

Plenary sessions in the morning followed by 4-6 parallel sessions.

Many different other activities (simulations, discussions etc)

Plan to start Tuesday afternoon with dinner for all AEPs.

Themes and social events presented.

## 14. Closing of meeting

*The meeting was adjourned at 17:00*

**Saturday, Jan 26<sup>th</sup>**

## 15. Updates from the National Societies

- Finland – Eija

- First round of application for training positions within the new specialist training structure has been completed without much problems. Are in a transitional phase from time-based towards a competence-based system. Some uncertainty among candidates concerning this.
- Concerns on the falling number of thoracic surgery procedures in other hospitals than university hospitals due to the centralisation.

- Work in progress in defining what should be defined as emergency surgery.
  - **SSAI 2023, Oulu, president will be Janne Liisanantti.**
- Sweden – Annette
    - National program areas. Finally, there is now an area for “Perioperative care, intensive care, and transplantation”, BUT: there are a lot of confusion as to who has responsibility for what. Specialist organisations and university have no place in this structure.
    - New program for basic training (internship) will be implemented this year. Medical school should be 6 years. Licence issued after those 6 years.
    - SYA is performing a survey among surgical specialties concerning postgraduate education. The survey is concerning education for the residents.
    - SFAI has issued a Manual on acute situations within anaesthesiology.
    - Per Nellgård nominated for WFSA council.
    - SFAI has established an ethics committee.
  - Norway – Siri
    - No major issues. However, increasing problem finding candidates for society work.
    - New specialist educational structure now in place. Too early to judge the effects yet, but one consequence is that all elective courses are removed. No room for variation.
    - Working groups within intensive care had started working with endorsement of guidelines on behalf of NAF. NAF approached the working groups to ensure quality was guaranteed. Has had the consequence that most of this work has halted.
  - Iceland – Katrin
    - No major issues, but much the same issues as Siri described from Norway.
    - Specialist training program different from the other countries. Most of training abroad, but now with the collaboration with the Royal College UK, candidates can do some of the training in Island.
  - Denmark – Joachim
    - Male ritual circumcision – a lot of discussion concerning this. For DASAIM this is about paediatric anaesthesia, not ethics. A report from a national board of safety stated this ok to do in local anaesthesia. DASAIM disagrees and has been clear on this in public.
    - There is now an agreement between anaesthesiologists and emergency physicians on who should do what. Prehospital work and establishing invasive airways are the domains of anaesthesiologists.

The Board had an exchange of experiences with the new specialist training programs being implemented throughout the Nordic countries. There are certainly differences in which bodies has responsibility (university, clinic) for the training and to what extent time is allocated to do this in a good way. This will certainly be a recurring topic in the coming years.

## 16. Any other business not in the agenda

- **A Scandinavian survey of suicides among anaesthesiologists** – Joachim  
DASAIM has decided to repeat [the Yentis study](#) on “Suicide amongst anaesthetists” from UK 2019 based on [a template](#) from the Association of Anaesthetists. The other national societies are invited to participate.
  - Conclusion: DASAIM will start the work making necessary alterations to the survey template. The other national societies will discuss if they want to perform the survey and communicate this on Basecamp.

- **Continuing professional development and the SSAI** – Joachim  
At SSAI Congress 2019 there was a session about CPD. In UK the General Medical Council has issued a [guideline for doctors on CPD](#). The Board discussed how SSAI can be involved in this. Should SSAI establish common Nordic recommendations? Establish a working group?

### **Decision:**

- the Board will support, also financially, establishing a SSAI CPD working group.
  - the national societies will by the end of February 2020 identify one representative from each country, and report the name and contact details on Basecamp.
  - the Secretary will set up a “CPD-group” on Basecamp.
  - the CPD-group is asked to present a plan for their work at the next Board meeting in June 2020.
- **Selection of participants to advanced educational programmes: Case Karl Chevalley** – Klaus & Cecilia  
This should now be well covered by the AEPs guideline.
  - **SAMBA: possible collaboration between SSAI and SAMBA** – Klaus  
**Decision:** the Board does not want to establish a formal collaboration as of now.
  - **WFSA, supporting Nordic candidates regarding election to Council** – Klaus





Per Nellgård is nominated for Council. There are a few Nordic nominations for Committees (Jonas Wrigstad and Doris Østergård, both to Safety and Quality of Practice).

Difficult to see how we can influence these processes, but all are encouraged to contact NASC and ESA members and lobby for our Nordic candidates.

- **Update of "white paper"** – Jon Henrik

This update was agreed on a few years ago. The work has come to a standstill. How to progress? What should be the focus?

Thoughts around the table were aired.

**Decision:** an updated position paper is needed. The writing group is asked to present a draft to the Board during spring 2020. The Board members should give feedback on this before the June 2020 meeting. After that, a second draft is to be presented before a final paper is agreed on, hopefully at the winter meeting 2021.

**17. Critical emergency medicine – an essential part of our speciality? –**  
Lars

([Presentation on Basecamp](#))

Lars took us through definitions of Critical Emergency Medicine (CREM) and Emergency Medicine (EM) in Europe, Scandinavia, and Denmark. Tasks and procedures, we in Scandinavia see as CREM-tasks, are included in the European EM curriculum.

EM is now a recognized speciality in the Nordic countries (ISL?). The names differ a bit.

**Decision:** the Board agreed that there is a need for a SSAI position paper on CREM vs EM. Klaus will contact the CREM AEP steering committee to clarify their role and participation. The national societies will suggest one candidate each on Basecamp by the end of Feb. The Board would like see a first draft at the board meeting in June.

**18. Closing of meeting – Klaus**

The meeting was adjourned at 13:20.

*minutes by Gunnar*