

Minutes

SSAI Board meeting

Zoom, Sep 15. 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)
Jon Henrik Laake	(president NAF; NOR),
Katrin Thormar	(president Icelandic society; ISL)
Annette Nyberg	(president SFAI; SWE),
Steffen Kløve Albæk Pedersen	(chair NYA; DEN)
Tor Inge Tønnesen	(congress president SSAI2021; NOR),
Mads Astvad	(webmaster; DEN)

Excused:

Morten Hylander Møller	(chair CPC; DEN)
Mette Hyllested	(representative DASAIM, DEN),
Gunnar Thorarensen	(representative Icelandic society, ISL)
Claes Frostell	(representative SFAI; SWE)
Cecilia Escher	(chair EdCom; SWE),
Lars Rasmussen	(past congress president SSAI2019, DEN),

Tuesday 15th , CET 18:00

1. Opening of the meeting

Klaus Olkkola opened the meeting and greeted the participants welcome on Zoom.

2. Approval of the minutes from the Board meeting in Helsinki on 25.-26. Feb 2020

The minutes were approved.

3. Approval of the meeting agenda.

The agenda was approved.

4. Organisation of the SSAI Congress in Oslo 16.-18. June 2020

On behalf of the organization committee, Tor Inge reported (presentation on Basecamp)

- the congress is named "Monitoring life"
- Covid-19 impact on the congress
- possibly still restrictions concerning social distancing and travel in June

- if restrictions are the same as now, it will only be possible to have 300 participants.
- about quarantine, we don't know
- the booking of the venue can be cancelled/postponed with NO COST until Oct 30th 2020

Scenarios:

- physical conference as planned, but with maximum 300 participants
- hybrid conference (physical + streaming), probably far less than 300 participants
- virtual congress/webinar, expensive and difficult to do well
- postpone congress one year to June 2022. Venue options are June 8.-10. or 21.-23.
- postpone congress two years
- other?

Recommendation from Congress committee: postpone ONE year

The Board discussed the different options focusing on quality and economic risk.

The Board decided:

- **The congress is postponed ONE year, to June 8.-10. 2022.**
- **In order to keep the biannual cycles, future congresses will be held in "even" years, the next in 2024.**

This decision has consequences for the AEPs, discussed under agenda point 5. Point noted also to communicate with the organizers of the Scandinavian Intensivist Meeting, with the hope that they will find it convenient to make similar adjustments to their plans.

- 5. Covid-19-pandemic and organisation of the AEP courses** – Klaus EdCom held a Zoom meeting on Sept 2nd where most AEPs were represented. In this meeting EdCom was informed of the possibility that the SSAI Board could decide to postpone the congress.

Some topics discussed in the EdCom meeting relevant to the Board:

- Several of the AEPs reported difficulties concluding the ongoing programs according to schedule in a satisfactory way.
- Some programs were sceptical to the new guidelines for AEPs.
- The implementation of using the Danish Medical Association (DMA) for secretarial support is limited as of now.
- the implementation of more "distant learning" vs physical courses.

The Board decided:

The Board recommends extension of running programs with ONE year. Following this, the Board also recommends postponing start-up of the next programs with one year.

This will help the AEPs to maintain synchrony with future congresses and to ease the competition of the running programs.

The Board continued on a discussion about implementation of the EdCom guidelines for AEPs. How to stimulate adherence, and when to demand adherence. Some programs find the use of the DMA too expensive. This is a bit difficult to understand as DMA takes 5% + VAT while e.g. SFAI today charges 7%. The Board does not find it appropriate that programs generate surpluses that is not transferred back to SSAI or directly used in running future courses.

The Board decided:

- **SSAI will cover the AEPs costs related to using DMA for 2021 (in addition to 2020 decided in the previous Board meeting)**
- **All AEPs will have to adhere to the EdCom guidelines no later than from the start-up of their next program in order to be a SSAI AEP.**

On the topic on more use of e-learning, the Board would like to stimulate this (possibly with the use of Acta Foundation grants), but mostly as an improvement/addition to physical courses. The Board recognizes both the importance of the courses for building of networks and the major challenges in creating good e-learning.

6. Secretarial support: report on first experiences on the cooperation with the Danish Medical association - Klaus

Unfortunately Cecilia was unable to participate in today's meeting, and none of the other board members had much knowledge on the topic. It was suggested that we need some sort of "user guideline" for the use of the secretarial support to help the AEPs. Per volunteered to look into this together with Cecilia as a preparation to the next board meeting.

7. Update from the Acta Foundation, status of finances and grants - Søren (presentation uploaded to Basecamp)

The financial situation is good with a surplus in 2019 of a little over 1.5 mill DKK. It looks as future surpluses will rely on AF investments, not income from the journal.

A "problem" for the coming years is finding good use for AF grants (DKK about 1.3 mill in 2021):

The Board suggested

- sponsor AEPs secretarial costs to DMA in 2021
- support e-learning activities within the AEPs
- consulting all SSAI committees

An AF Board meeting is to be scheduled soon.

8. Call for extraordinary General Assembly in 2021 - Klaus

Even though the Board has decided to postpone the 2021 congress with one year, SSAI needs to hold a General Assembly (GA) in 2021. Most likely, the Board will need to suggest to our members at the GA to extend the period for GA-elected board members with one year due to force majeure created

The Board decided:

A small webinar followed by the General Assembly will be held on Zoom on June 16th 2021.

This webinar will be sponsored by SSAI and organized by Tor Inge. Klaus will consult the election committee shortly, and if the Board decides to suggest extension of election periods, this needs to be communicated clearly and early to the SSAI members.

9. Any other issues

a. Søren and Michael. How can we use ssai.info better during Covid-19? Not much has been posted about the pandemic. Michael has found that as of now there are 46 publications concerning Covid-19 with Scandinavian colleagues on the author lists. Could these publications be linked on our page.

Mads – Covid news banners would be relatively easy to construct.

Jon Henrik – suggest guidelines could be collected in a separate box.

The Board decided:

The Board supports setting up two teams to supply the webmaster with Covid-material to the web page.

Søren & Michael – work on list of all "Scandinavian" publications

Jon Henrik & Morten – work on collecting guidelines

b. Annette – what to do with the scheduled Board meeting in Sweden in January 2021?

The Board decided:

The winter meeting will be held on Zoom, January 22nd, CET 09:00.

Planned as a 2 x 2 hour meeting.

c. Gunnar – note of change in Board members.

Siri Tau Ursin has stepped down as president NAF (NOR). Jon Henrik Laake has taken the position and continues on the SSAI Board now as president NAF. NAF will elect a new representative to our Board this fall.

d. Per is candidate to WFSA (elections ongoing). A goal is to host the 2028 World Congress in Gothenburg.

e. The question about whether the Board minutes are to be published on ssai.info was raised. This was the practice until 2018. Unclear why this paused. Gunnar will re-activate this practice.

f. The SSAI economic report 2019 was not discussed in this meeting, but the report has been posted on Basecamp (Per).

10. Closing of meeting – Klaus

The meeting was adjourned at 20:20
Minutes by Gunnar