Nordic Neuromodulation Society (NNS)

Nordic Neuromodulation Society’s 2nd Annual Meeting and General Assembly

10th June 2015, Fairmont QE Hotel, Montreal, Canada

1) Webpage

The NNS webpage is now running and fully functional. It can be found at http://nordicneuro.org

Members are encouraged to supply useful links to the Links section at http://nordicneuro.org/resources/links.html and useful documents for the Documents section at http://nordicneuro.org/resources/documents.html

The ambition is to make the homepage the place to find useful information for people working with neuromodulation in the Nordic region.

Please do contribute with your resources by sending links and documents (.pdf only) to neuro@kaare.org

2) Forums

The NNS has a full set of functioning forums that can be found at http://nordicneuro.org/forum/index.php

...the problem is that if they are to make any sense, members need to start using them, which is not the case presently.

a) Forum usage

The meeting participants found the forums a good idea and pledged to start using them.

b) Forum registration

The two important facts of registration were repeated:
- I need to approve each registration manually, which may mean a short delay.
- Due to massive spambot attempts, members should register with the full name (as in eg. “Kaare Meier”) so I can easily tell them apart from the robot names.
c) *Forums mechanism of action*

It turned out that many members are not so familiar with forums. I presented a short crash course on the use that received positive feedback. The entire presentation can be found at [http://nordicneuro.org/documents/nns/Forum%20introduction.pdf](http://nordicneuro.org/documents/nns/Forum%20introduction.pdf)

d) *Nurses’ forum*

The Nurse forum is moderated by Eva Leljevahl (SE). She will work to propagate the use of the forum as a tool to promote nurse collaboration and exchange of experience across the region. Thank you, Eva! The forum can be found at [http://nordicneuro.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=3](http://nordicneuro.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=3)

e) *Scientific forums*

Per Almquist (SE) has kindly agreed to handle the scientific part of the forums. A warm thank you to Per! The Scientific forums are
- Case Reports
- Scientific Collaboration
- Essential Reads
- Publishing Central

3) **The purpose of the NNS**

I have been trying to figure out what you, the NNS members, want from your organization. The annual meetings remain a well-attended event but it is my personal belief that the organization holds much more potential than that.

a) I contacted the president of 3 other major chapters to ask about their experiences. They unanimously reported that they found it very difficult to keep members involved (and even to keep members from leaving the INS).

b) One chapter president, Michel Prud’Homme, kindly agreed to come to the meeting to give a very interesting talk about the experiences of the Canadian Neuromodulation Society and the challenges they face.

c) Meeting participant expressed great interest in the communication tools provided by the forums. The potential is great, provided they are used.

An updated list of forums are attached here
4) **NNS finances** (Kari Sulkko, FI)

The NNS is in a surprisingly good financial state after the inaugural meeting. Despite being attended by over twice as many participants as budgeted, the NNS was able to net a surplus of about €2,000. This was made possible thanks to the excellent collaboration with the industry sponsors, and we thank them for their help.

The running costs of the NNS is currently €50 per year. It covers the hosting of the webpage and the forum; since I made both using free tools, the only cost is the host.

5) **2016 meeting** (Anders Wåhstedt)

The 3rd annual NNS meeting will be held in early September 2016 in Uppsala, Sweden.

a) **Economy**

The concept from the 2014 meeting will be kept: Keeping costs down by using public facilities instead of expensive congress centers, and relying primarily on Nordic speakers. Furthermore we will maintain a low participation fee and ask industry sponsors to pay a flat rate per day for a booth in the meeting area.

This approach was applauded by both potential participants and industry representatives.

b) **Schedule**

Meeting welcome reception and dinner will be Thursday evening, followed by full meeting program Friday. Saturday will be a half-day program followed by lunch for those interested – in essence the same schedule as the 2014 meeting.
c) **Public Event**
It was agreed that the NNS would make a public awareness event immediately prior to the 2016 meeting, inspired by the one held before this year’s INS meeting. The event will take place Thursday afternoon.

6) **Other items**

a) **Membership fees**
Members would generally appreciate a lower membership fee from the INS in exchange for electronic journal subscription only.
This was debated at the INS board meeting Thursday evening and will depend on negotiations with the new publishing contract for the journal.
Additionally, members found it acceptable to be billed automatically with credit card, if such a solution existed.

b) **Exchange visits**
Members were much in favor of organizing exchange visits, both scientific exchanges and particularly clinical exchanges like hospital visits etc.
Mads Frederiksen (DK), who manages the Calendar Forum, agreed to manage this. Thank you, Mads!

c) **Nordic / German joint meeting**
German neuromodulation president Jan Vesper suggested a Nordic / German joint meeting in late 2016. This suggestion was favorably received by the meeting participants, and I have informed Jan of this.

d) **Information level**
The meeting participants were satisfied with the current level of information form the NNS.

e) **Membership status**
The NNS currently has 43 paying members, placing us as a medium-sized chapter.
Table provided as illustration.
f) INS Board Meeting
The meeting participants did not have any particular issues they wanted to have discussed at the INS Board Meeting.

Kaare Meier, NNS Chairman
Aarhus, Denmark
1st July 2015