



Nordic Neuromodulation Society's 3rd Annual Meeting and General Assembly (GA)

1-3 Sept. 2016, Uppsala, Sweden

As was agreed upon at the 2015 GA in Montreal, the 3rd annual NNS meeting was being held in Uppsala, Sweden.

The maximum number of participants had been set at 80, and we found it necessary to reject the last registrations due to this limitation.

Anders Wåhlstedt and his team had arranged for the meeting to be held inside the lovely historic building housing the Museum Gustavianum, and we owe great thanks to them for their efforts.

Just like the 2014 inaugural meeting, the speakers had been found among the many Nordic specialists working in the field of neuromodulation, with one speaker hailing from outside the region.

We were fortunate enough to have Professor Rod Taylor from Exeter University, UK, give a lecture on the challenges of assessing cost-effectiveness of neuromodulation therapies.

We thank all the speakers and especially Professor Taylor who had come the long way to give his highly relevant talk.

Saturday saw an extremely interesting session devoted to particularly challenging or interesting cases. A very lively discussion followed each case presentation, with valuable input from the physicians, nurses, and scientists working in the field.

We will certainly repeat this event that also gave inspiration and material for two Nordic case series that we hope to see published in the coming year.

The minutes from the 2016 GA follow here:

Treasurer's report

NNS treasurer Kari Sulkko (FI) noted that the meeting budget was not completely finished due to some missing payments.

It was estimated that the meeting income and expenses would even out.

The financial report will be posted on the web page when it's finished.



News from the INS

NNS chairman Kaare Meier (DK) informed the GA of the newest initiatives from the INS, including the new INS committees, the upcoming and completely revised INS web page, and the work on defining INS criteria for Centers of Excellence.

Members are encouraged to contact me if they want to participate in the ongoing work, and I will forward their request to the INS.

NNS web page and forums

The NNS has a simple, but well-functioning web page that can be found at www.nordicneuro.org.

The web page was demonstrated with particular emphasis on the Documents, Images, and Links sections.

<http://nordicneuro.org/resources/documents.html>

<http://pictures.nordicneuro.org>

<http://nordicneuro.org/resources/links.html>

Members were strongly encouraged to contribute their own material to these pages.

Next, the NNS forums were demonstrated.

<http://nordicneuro.org/forum/index.php>

Nordic activities in between meeting will primarily be online, and members agreed that it was important to actively use the forums.

A crash course to forums can be found at

<http://nordicneuro.org/documents/nns/Forum%20introduction.pdf>

It is important to note that due to massive spambot attempts, members should register with their *full name* (as in eg. "Kaare Meier"), and I need to approve each registration manually, which may mean a short delay.

Mads Frederiksen (DK, St. Jude Medical) promised to continue maintaining the Events Calendar.

Board election

The GA elected the following board members:

DK: Kaare Meier (chairman)

FI: Mikael Fraunberg

NO: Audun Stubhaug

SE: Ala Ouraiby

NNS treasurer Kari Sulkko (FI) and secretary Anders Wåhlstedt (SE) did not wish to continue for another term. The GA thanked them profoundly for their effort during the last 3 years.



2017 meeting

Norwegian board member Audun Stubhaug generously offered to host a full 2017 meeting in Oslo as an alternative to a short session during the INS congress.

The industry representatives present very positive towards sponsoring an annual meeting under the current conditions, and members were favorable towards participating.

The meeting will likely be held in October 2017.

2018 meeting

Aarhus offered to host the 2018 meeting, and the GA approved.

It was announced that one of the projected events at the meeting will be a public awareness event on the day immediately before the meeting.

The GA favored a meeting placed at the end of the week ending around 12 on Saturday, just as the 2016 meeting.

Industry sponsors were very positive towards the current model of financing the meeting.

It was decided to encourage young investigators/students to present, and Kari Sulkkö mentioned the possibility of acquiring EU grants aimed at young researchers.

Also, we plan on being more focused on encouraging members to bring posters to the meeting.

More information on both meetings will follow later.

NNS initiatives

A range of initiatives were discussed at the GA:

1)

The GA agreed on the importance of extending the scope of NNS beyond pain therapies. SNS, DBS, and ITDD are also within the INS framework, and we should encourage our colleagues in those fields to participate and include those topics in the meeting programs.

2)

Eva Lejevahl (SE) and Anne Lene Høst Knudsen (DK) agreed to form the driving force behind an attempt to provide Nordic nurses working in neuromodulation with a network for exchanging experience and information.

More on that later.

3)

Terje Kirketeig (SE) offered to begin an initiative to formulate common Nordic minimum follow-up criteria.

More on that later



4)

Eva Clausson (SE, Boston Scientific) offered to begin the work of looking into a possible future set of common Nordic patient information material.

More on that later.

5)

Common Nordic treatment guidelines was briefly discussed, but no decision was made.

6)

The GA was favorable towards having future joint meetings with other regional INS chapters.

7)

In the past it has been discussed whether to invite the three Baltic countries into the NNS but no decision has been made.

The GA decided that NNS should continue to consist of the five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden).

Baltic neuromodulation professionals are of course, and will continue to be, very welcome as participants at NNS meetings, but without voting rights at the GA, and without a seat in the board.

8)

The GA decided to keep the current system where the NNS ask no membership fee on top of the regular INS fee.

The participants were informed of the special reduction (USD 50 /year) for students and nurses, and of the INS decision that this offer can not be extended to other groups due to the current agreement with the journal publisher

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Kaare Meier". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kaare Meier, MD PhD
NNS Chairman
Aarhus, Denmark
6. September 2016