

SSG Board meeting, May 19, 2015

Attendance: Thor Alvegård, Henrik Bauer, Bodil Bjerkehagen, Otte Brosjö, Jacob Engellau, Mikael Eriksson, Toto Hølmebakk, Nina Jebsen, Anders Krarup-Hansen, Paula Lindholm, Fredrik Mertens, Eva-Mari Olofsson, Mikael Skorpil, Kirsten Sundby Hall, Fredrik Vult von Steyern, Charlotta Våde, and Johnny Keller (invited for p. 2)

Excuse: Halldór Jónsson Jr, Anders Rydholm, Jan Åhlén

1. ***The Minutes*** from the last board meeting in Malmö, February 2, 2014, were approved without further comments.

2. ***Next Plenary Meeting, Aarhus, May 9-11, 2017***

The planning for the next plenary meeting has recently started. Johnny Keller presented a suggestion for a substitute for the sarcoma biology day; three parallel workshops with practical exercise: a) pelvic surgery; b) radiotherapy planning; c) pathology/imaging interactions. The suggestion was well met by the board participants, and it was decided that this should be considered further, and JK will present a proposal on the next board meeting in Malmö November 29.

3. ***Managing and economy for SSG***

Thor Alvegård reminded briefly of the present practical organization, where the SSG secretariat is situated at the office of the Regional Cancer Center for southern Sweden, whereas the economy is formally organized within the Department of Cancer Epidemiology at Lund University. Presently, we have different accounts with a total amount of about 3.5 million SEK. Some of these accounts are closely related to clinical trials with support from the pharmaceutical industry, and large amounts of the money will therefore be used for trial management. Recently SSG has been granted a new support from the Swedish Cancer Fund; 100,000 SEK for 2015 and the same amount again for 2016. SSG has also recently been a partner in a large multicenter project on Ewing's sarcoma with financing from an EU fund. The support from RCC (earlier OC) in Southern Sweden has, however, decreased markedly, and SSG now has to pay 80% of the salary for Eva-Mari Olofsson. Other potential sources for future financial support were also discussed, e.g., the Swedish Children's Cancer Fund.

4. ***SSG board re-organization and modifications of statutes***

Kirsten Sundby Hall reminded about the background for the committee to oversee the organization and work of the SSG board, today consisting of many persons, most of whom are representatives for the different working groups or countries, but where the actual work between meetings are done by too few persons. The appointed committee has contained the following members: Ole Jacob Norum (chairman), Bodil Bjerkehagen, Nina Jebsen, Elisabet Lidbrink, Akmal Safwat, Emelie Styring, Halldor Jonsen Jr. The committee has worked during the last year and has come up with a

suggestion described in a modification of the SSG statutes. The suggestion was presented by Nina Jebsen, and the main points may be concluded as follows:

- The SSG board will consist of six persons – chairman, secretary, treasurer, and vice positions for these three;
- The vice positions will be trained to take over the head positions next election period;
- Only one re-election possible;
- An election committee will consist of the chairmen in the working groups lead by the chairman of the Central Registry;
- The plenary meetings will be organized mainly by a local committee with the possibility for one member of the board to join.

The suggestion from the committee has been scrutinized, especially by the present SSG chairman Kirsten Sundby Hall and secretary Mikael Eriksson, from a viewpoint of intense experience of the board work since several years. They find the suggestions over all useful, but have come up with certain specific objections regarding the re-election principles and the plenary meeting organization. The committee suggestion and the objections have been circulated among the board members without many comments. A discussion followed, especially regarding how to proceed. It was suggested that both the committee suggestion and the objections from KSH/ME will be presented at the members meeting May 21, and it will also be sent to all members asking for their opinion by early autumn. Based on this step, hopefully a final suggestion (or two?) will be discussed and decided upon at the working group meeting in Malmö November/December this year. (Addendum: At the members meeting May 21, these suggestions were approved).

5. *Author rules modifications*

After some discussions throughout recent time, a need to change the SSG author rules has been obvious. Both in publications on clinical trials and in publications using register data all the recruiting centers have not been acknowledged. Another matter is regarding the fact that certain prospective clinical trials have their specific steering groups, sometimes also with members from outside SSG region. In these cases it is not practically possible or reasonable that the SSG board will have the final decision upon co-authorship. After a presentation of these questions and some discussion, a suggested modified proposal of author rules was approved with the following main modifications:

- All SSG centers recruiting patients in prospective clinical trials will at least, if co-authorship is not possible, be acknowledged in publications on the trial;
- In prospective clinical trials with a separate steering committee, this committee and not the SSG board will decide upon authorship;
- In retrospective studies totally or partly based on data from the SSG registry, authorship should mainly be planned and discussed already from the start of the

project. All centers that have registered patients used in the study shall be acknowledged, either as co-authors or in acknowledgements.

(Addendum: At the members meeting May 21, it was decided that these new proposals will be sent out to all members. If no comments within 3 weeks making a further discussion necessary, the new version of the authorship rules will be put on the SSG home page).

6. ***Short reports from subcommittees that had any relevant news***

The orthopedic group has re-activated their network for discussions on difficult cases. The radiology group is planning a project on intraarticular sarcomas with a specific database. The pathology group announces a course in STS pathology in Tromsø, and will have new review meetings in Gothenburg (autumn -15) and Oslo (spring -16). The nurses/physiotherapists will organize a new meeting with the rotationplasty patients in June. They also plan a nurses/physiotherapist meeting in relation to the CTOS meeting in Salt Lake City November this year. The radiotherapy committee has worked hard with suggested guidelines for radiotherapy in sarcoma, and this suggestion is now circulated to members for opinions and comments. Finally, ongoing and planned medical trials within bone and soft tissue sarcoma were briefly presented. Among them, a new potential project is a MSD-supported trial of the PD-1 antibody pembrolizumab in advanced MPNST, with the Scandinavian participation centralized to Oslo.

7. ***Up-coming meetings***

Next Working Group Meeting will be held in Malmö, November 30 - December 1, preceded by the board meeting November 29. CTOS in Salt Lake City is arranged November 4-7 2015. The 38th SSG Plenary meeting in Aarhus is planned May 9-11, 2017 (see above!).

Lund 2015-05-31

Mikael Eriksson

Secretary

Kirsten Sundby Hall

Chairman

Otte Brosjö

Chairman