

Minutes SSG board meeting (TC) 2019/09/19 (15:00-16:30)

Present: Akmal Safwat, Lotta Våde, Panos Tsagkozis, Jukka Kanerva, Eva-Mari Olofsson, Hans Kristian Haugland.

Invited and present: Kaisa Sunela (Tampere, representative for the SSG Congress in Tampere, April 2021).

Excused: Thomas Baad-Hansen

1. Approval of minutes from the last meeting and

2. Follow-up on agreements and tasks discussed in previous meetings.

Previous minutes were briefly reviewed and approved. Follow-up on agreements and tasks discussed in previous meetings was done in parallel. For selected specific points mentioned in the 07/05/2019 minutes please see below:

«The board need to open a near dialogue with the chairmen the working groups may be through meetings or reporting of activities. There is a desire to open a dialogue channel with the members. We could not reach a consensus on how and how frequent. We agreed to start by sending the members a letter describing the new board vision. Akmal is writing this letter now. We also plan to use the website more for communication! Eva-Mari will investigate if we can use the website to communicate and report to the chairman and the board. » and «Use e-mail to communicate with the members and receive response. The possibility of using social media in communication within the SSG was discussed. Closed group on Facebook, the possibility of crowd funding. » - **Approved**: Communication between the board and the members through an open dialogue and the use of social media has improved, through both the initiation of an SSG Facebook account and the letter of the President to the members. The possibility of crowd funding not discussed.

«The establishment of archives were discussed. The orthopedic surgeons have had informal case-based meetings. Thomas will get in contact with Haldor Haldorson, the head of the orthopedic surgeons committee, looking into the possibility of establishing an orthopedic archive». **Not Discussed**

«The next plenary meeting will be held in Finland, most likely in Tampere. The exact date is still to be decided. The board decided that this meeting in the future officially will be named congress (next meeting the 40th SSG congress). » **Approved**. Place and date also decided.

3. Economy

- The negotiations held by Mikael Eriksson with Novartis resulted in a change in the payment plan and earlier influx of money, which has brought the SSG XXII project in balance. This was very positive.
- There were no major alterations regarding the other SSG projects.

- The final budget of the plenary meeting in Bergen has been prepared and will be finally reviewed, and appears to be in balance.
- The need to seek funding in order to cover the needs in the medium and long-term is still imperative.

4. Funding activities

- No efforts have been done to seek new grants yet.
- Funding possibilities were discussed: In view of practical difficulties in applying for EU-grants, since this requires time and effort for the establishment of collaborations with countries which have not thus far collaborated with the SSG, the members felt that at the time being priority should be given in Nordic funding.
- In this direction, the following tasks were delegated: National representatives to regularly follow local funding agencies and report possibilities for fund raising. In this aspect, Panos is to follow Swedish agencies (for example Cancerfonden, Barncancerfonden), Jukka Finnish ones and Akmal Danish ones.
- Possible funding activities proposed: Nordic Cancer Union (ncu.nu), The Joint Committee of the Nordic Medical Research Councils (<https://nos-m.org/>), cancerfonden (<https://www.cancerfonden.se/>).
- The proposal of a comprehensive cancer center opens the opportunity for funding. Akmal is also to send information (a link) for EU grant consideration.

5. Meeting events

- The Working Group meeting in Malmö was discussed. Eva-Mari has sent a reminder in order to finalize the subcommittee agendas. Practical details regarding the conference venue were discussed.
- The 40th SSG congress is to be held in Tampere, April 21-23 2021. This was discussed in detail, with the invited local representative Kaisa Sunela.
 - Regarding the accommodation, the Scandic and Tornio hotels were found to be the best options, with final decision to be taken after the local inspection which is planned to take place in coming spring.
 - Regarding the social program, there is need to find a locale which can accommodate at least 100 persons (comparatively, in the Bergen meeting there were 175 persons taking part in the free venue)
 - The local committee has to be established: besides the local representatives, 2 members of the board (Akmal and Jukka) together with Eva-Mari will participate.
 - The Committee formed needs to decide on the scientific format and contact potential speakers, within the Nordic countries and Internationally.
 - An effort to have a first meeting during the forthcoming WGM will be made. Ideas regarding the scientific topics and workshops to be discussed.
 - Eva-Mari has sent a the list of the sponsors for the Bergen meeting, together with a sponsor letter and preliminary budget.

6. Trials (status of the old) Any new?

- SSGXXII has randomized 134 patients.

- The invitation to join the EORTC-trial concerned with quality of life aspects for sarcoma patients was mentioned, and this will be further discussed at the coming WGM (to be presented by Akmal the 02/12/2019)
- A study on preoperative chemotherapy for high-grade soft-tissue sarcomas will be presented by Kjetil Boye at the forthcoming WGM in Malmö.

7. Education

- To continue seeking candidats for the SSG initiated travel fund.
- In Support of Emelie's efforts Akmal Has sent Emelie information on work in process regarding guidelines of Li Fraumeni in Denmark (Iacn't rememeber if this was mentioned)
- Akmal will present his initiative regarding the Scandinavian Center for bone and soft tissue tumors to the members during the next WGM.

8. Other tasks

- No further tasks were discussed.

Panos