FROM THE EDITOR

Dear NSGO members,

This year’s Annual Meeting was held in Tampere, Finland in the end of April. Reflections from the conference are presented in this Newsletter; my personal feeling is that the meeting was a great success and honoured well the past 25 years of our Society.

As NSGO enters in its second quartile (of a century), one completely new feature of the Society, on-line elections, was introduced. Results from the on-line voting for the new President-Elect and Board were announced and accepted in the General Assembly. Elisabeth Åvall-Lundqvist continues as the president of the Society, the new President-Elect is Mansoor Raza Mirza from Denmark. The new Board is presented elsewhere in this Newsletter.

As for me, my four-year period in the NSGO Board is over, and so is my job as the Editor of the Newsletter. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to function in the Society, and I have really enjoyed it. I wish the new Board enthusiastic meetings, and to us all I wish a very enjoyable and relaxing summer 😊

Newsletter Editor (retired)
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is 25 years ago since NSGO was founded. During these years NSGO has developed to become a modern organization and a respected international partner conducting clinical trials. Our Society is attracting more and more members and it is extremely joyful to see that colleagues from different generations are sharing experience and expertise. The NSGO Annual Meeting in Tampere in April 2012 was a great success both scientifically and socially, celebrating our 25th Anniversary. My deepest thank you to Professor Johanna Mäenpää and her local organizers for pulling this through with excellence. I would also like to thank Professor emeritus Tuula Salmi, former Board member, for her excellent summary of the history of NSGO. I am also very grateful to the former NSGO President’s Professor Claes Tropé and Professor Kamma Bertelsen who gave their view on the exciting story of NSGO.

I would like to express my warmest gratitude to the members of the NSGO Board who now has ended their term of office. It has been a real pleasure working with you and I hope your commitment to NSGO will continue! Thank you Susanne Malander, Kristina Hellman, Mansoor Mirza, Claus Høgdall, Annika Auranen and Taran Hellebust! Claus, please remember the follow-up of the NSGO survey.

I would also like to welcome our new NSGO Board members and congratulate Mansoor Mirza, our new President Elect. Mansoor has agreed to continue as treasurer for at least one year. Welcome Caroline Lundgren and Maria
The New Board 2012-2014

New board members were elected in Tampere in April 2012. The members of the new board are:

- Elisabeth Åvall-Lundqvist  President
- Mansoor Raza Mirza  President-Elect
- Jan Blaakaer  Denmark
- Jørn Herrstedt  Denmark
- Päivi Pakarinen  Finland
- Maarit Vuento  Finland
- Anna Salvarsdottir  Iceland
- Thorarinn Sveinsson  Iceland
- Svein Vossli  Norway
- Kathrine Woie  Norway
- Caroline Lundgren  Sweden
- Maria Bjurberg  Sweden
- Anna Måsbäck  Pathologist
- Eva Stabell Bergstrand  Physicist

About the Membership fee and how to pay

A membership fee was introduced for NSGO members in 2010 and the amount is decided by the General Assembly (25 € for 2012). Fees shall be paid to NSGO immediately after the membership application has been approved, and thereafter before 1st of February every year. The membership fee has however, and will continued to be, included in the registration fee for the NSGO Annual meetings, so for those who attend the meeting you can wait with your payment. The NSGO Board will re-evaluate membership status in case fees have not been payed the recent two years.

Those who did not participate in the Annual meeting, please pay the membership fee through the internet banking system on the NSGO web page.

Has Your Email Address Changed?

Please be sure the NSGO Data center has your correct e-mailaddress. Just send a message to gandersen@health.sdu.dk with your correct email address and any changes in contact details.

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Elisabeth Åvall Lundqvist, MD, PhD
President

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

NSGO Annual Meeting 2013 will be held in Sweden April 11-12, 2013

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Bjurberg (new secretary) from Sweden, Jørn Herrstedt and Jan Blaakaer from Denmark, Maarit Vuento and Päivi Pakarinen from Finland, Svein Vossli and Kathrine Woie from Norway, Anna Salvarsdottir and Thorarinn Sveinsson from Iceland, pathologist Anna Måsbäck and physicist Eva Stabell Bergstrand. The new Board will have a Strategic meeting in September setting up goals and activities for the coming three years.

In 1st of September we will start the recruitment process for a new medical director for NSGO CTU. The qualifications needed as medical director is posted on our website. You will be reminded by email and we look forward to receive your applications. We have been informed that Gerda wishes to end her term of office. Gunnar and Gerda has been working so long and have made such an excellent job for NSGO CTU that it is difficult to grasp that a shift will take place. However, Gerda has generously accepted to stay until summer 2013 so that her replacer can be well introduced. In addition, Gunnar has generously offered to be senior adviser. I am sure that with this help we can make the transition smoothly.

The next NSGO Annual Meeting will take place in Stockholm in April 11-12, 2013. Please reserve the dates in your calendar. I wish you all a wonderful summer!
This year´s annual conference attracted a total of 128 participants. The major theme of the conference was personalized cancer treatment – either from the perspective of medical therapy or from the perspective of radiotherapy. **Professor Lynda Chin** from the Department of Genomic Medicine in MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, gave an exciting review of the progress in the field of cancer genetics. Since the beginning of the Human Genome Project, both the costs and the time needed for genomic analysis are greatly reduced. On the other hand, the complexities of genetic processes have been revealed; for example pathway activation often is not just an on-off event but has a gradient. Also, not only cancer genomics but germline genomics (how cancer works in different humans) is probably also very important.

**Professor Raju Kucherlapati** from Harvard Medical School, Boston presented the work done by the Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network. The purpose of this network is to study different forms of cancer (20 types, 500 tumor samples for each type) with multiple types of examination techniques in order to characterize the changes in these tumors. A paper on serous ovarian cancer was published in Nature 2011, study on endometrial cancer is in progress (for more information on the project, see http://cancergenome.nih.gov).

**Professor Kari Alitalo** from Haatman Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland talked about the Angiopoietin Axis in tumor angiogenesis. VEGF promotes vascular leakage, blocking Ang2 improves the effect of anti-VEGF therapy. Combining Ang2 and VEGF targeted therapies may improve inhibition of tumor metastasis. **MD, FRCPC Alina Sturdza** from the Department of Radiation Oncology and Radiobiology, Medical University of Vienna, Austria gave a comprehensive presentation of modern brachytherapy in cervical cancer. The symposium with invited speakers ended with **professor Søren M Bentzen’s** (University of Wisconsin Medical School) inspiring lecture on the use and interpretation of molecular predictors in gynaecological cancer and cervical cancer in particular.
Thursday afternoon ended with two parallel sessions, a tumor board session with two patient cases and a session for study nurses, chaired by Gerda Andersen (see Gerda’s report below). The program on Friday consisted of the General Assembly and Clinical Trial Session and investigators meeting.

The evening Dinner on Thursday celebrated NSGO’s past 25 years. The participants had the pleasure of hearing stories from the previous years of NSGO, told by professors Kamma Bertelsen, Tuula Salmi and Claes Tropé. We were given instructions of not to become boring, but to keep up the good spirit of previous years, and I suppose that everybody agreed that we have no problem with that.

From left: Bengt Sorbe, Tuula Salmi, Elisabeth Åvall-Lundqvist, Bengt Tholander, Gunnar Kristensen, Kamma Bertelsen, Claes Tropé

The local organizers Professor Johanna Mäenpää, Maarit Vuento and others are thanked for a succesfull meeting. NSGO would also like to thank our Gold Level Sponsor 2012: AMGEN, Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen-Cilag, Roche and Sobi.

Report by Annika Auranen, Newsletter Editor
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING FOR STUDY NURSES
THURSDAY 26 APRIL, NSGO ANNUAL MEETING, TAMPERE

Participants:
Denmark: Helene Bjerregaard, Pia Miller, Janni Møldrup, Annemieke Sibtsen, Christina Andersen

Sweden: Margareta Löf

Finland: Kristina Kujanpää

Norway: Christel Dahle, Karen Gissum

Boehringer-Ingelheim:
Mona Friberg, Clementine Molin

NSGO Data Center:
Gerda Andersen

During the last years it has been discussed in NSGO Board how to build up a network for the study nurses in NSGO sites, and it was agreed to start up a section at annual meetings for study nurses to find out:

- How is the willingness and interest?
- Is it possible for study nurses to get travel costs and registration fee paid?
- Is it possible for study nurses to get accept from the hospitals to go to NSGO Annual Meetings?
- How to build up a network for study nurses in NSGO clinical trials?

The first meeting for study nurses was held in Oslo April 7, 2011.

On April 19, 2012 the second meeting for study nurses was in Tampere and 12 participated the meeting. It was discussed how to move on and also the possibilities for study nurses for economy and allowance was discussed. It is still a problem and we must find a way.

Mona Friberg and Clementine Molin from Boehringer-Ingelheim, Norway and Sweden participated the meeting too. They promised they would help in planning and set up the next meeting, which will take place in Stockholm 2013. Maybe also some economic support can be given to study nurses from BI.

It was agreed that Christel Dahle, Norway will take over and chair the meetings. The goal is to raise a working group and information are sent to all study nurses in NSGO sites for interest and proposals.

Minutes: Gerda Andersen

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