Dear NSGO members,

In its strategic meeting in September 2009, the NSGO Board decided to start publishing a Newsletter. Although NSGO has a great website (www.nsgo.org), a more personal contact to members can possibly be accomplished by an emailed newsletter. It has been decided, that the Newsletter will be posted two times yearly: the first week in November and the first week in May. With this time frame, the November issue can include a short report from ESGO/IGCS meetings, and the May Newsletter can include a short report from NSGO’s own Annual meeting.

Besides material submitted by the NSGO board members, the aim of the Newsletter is to function as an information forum on matters related to Gynecologic Oncology in Nordic Countries. If you, for example, would like to make an announcement about an Educational Meeting in your area, please feel free to contact the Editor.

In this first Newsletter, you will be able to read a letter from the President-Elect/Vice president Elisabet Åvall Lundqvist, outlining the current organisation, goals and function of the NSGO. We also present a picture of the NSGO Board, taken at our meeting in Sigtuna September 2009, with the hope that this would make the faces of the Board members more familiar to all members. A short report from the ESGO Meeting in Belgrade 11.-14.10.2009 is also included.

I would also like to encourage everybody to check the program for 2010 Annual Meeting, now available at the NSGO website. Please notice also, that Spring 2010 is an Election time for NSGO Board members, and this is the last time the elections are going to be done at the Meeting. After that, a web based election system will be introduced.

It is a pleasure to me to be the editor of NSGO Newsletter. This first newsletter has been done in a fairly rapid pace, so improvements in the lay-out and contents are very likely to happen in the future. The most important thing now was just to get the ball rolling. I wish you all a tolerable end of the year 2009 amidst rain, darkness and H1N1 flu. It is good to remember, that after only two short months, the days are already getting longer and the Spring approaching.

Newsletter Editor
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NSGO Board 2009

Top row from the left: Anders Madsen (webmaster), Ralf Bützow (F), Susanne Malander (S)
Front row from the left: Gunnar Kristensen (CTU Director), Helga Salvesen (N), Gerda Andersen (Data Manager), Mansoor Raza Mirza (D), Elisabet Åvall Lundqvist (S), Annika Auranen (F), Kristina Hellman (S), Claus Høgdall (D).

Not present: Mark Baekelandt (N), Marja Simojoki (F), Anna Salvarsdottir (I), Thorarinn Sveinsson (N), Marit Sunset (N), Taran Helleburst (N)

From the President-Elect/Vice president

It is a great honour for me to serve as the President Elect/Vice President of the Nordic Society of Gynecological Oncology for the coming three years and I look forward to work with all of you. Our President Mark Baekelandt has not yet returned to office but we hope and wish for a quick recovery. Our Society is constantly growing and now consists of 285 members! It is apparent that a Nordic platform for individual professionals dedicated to the care of women with gynecological cancer is needed. Our recent Annual Meeting in Stockholm was a great success and the

During the recent years the NSGO has been restructured in order to fulfill its mission to improve the practice of prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and follow up of gynaecological cancer, to promote and support basic and clinical research, to promote education and training in gynaecological oncology and promote and support Nordic and international exchange, and friendship among professionals and societies active in gynecologic oncology. Thus a new structure was adopted by the General Assembly in 2005. The NSGO Trial Unit Foundation was established in 2006-10-01 to secure the status of NSGO as a well recognized and reliable international trial partner. The Foundation is an independent and non-commercial institution consisting of a committee of 5 members appointed by the NSGO Board and has a state-authorised accountant. In addition, a new permanent Trial Unit “The NSGO Clinical Trial Unit” was formed. The NSGO-CTU is led by a Director (Gunnar Kristensen) contracted by and responding to the Foundation committee. The NSGO CTU also consists of the staff of the Data Center and an Advisory Board (corresponding to a “Protocol Committee”). I would like to extend special recognition and acknowledgment to Dr. Bengt Tholander, who served as our President for three years, and who with great skill led and carried out this restructure.

In September 11-12th 2009 the new NSGO Board had a Strategic Meeting in Sigtuna to plan and set up goals for the coming three years in order to fulfill the mission of NSGO. Through increased transparency, communication and participation we hope that the Society will become even more successful. Through the excellent work by our webmaster Anders Madsen NSGO will launch a new website also enabling on-line voting of NSGO Board members. Links to national guidelines will be posted on the website as well as links to international and national cancer societies. I encourage you to follow all changes that will come on the web (www.nsgo.org). To enter the member section on the new version of NSGO webpage you need a personal username and password provided by NSGO Data Center.

The General Assembly decided to have a membership fee starting 2010. This is extremely important since we can not any longer, according to regulation, rely solely on support of industry. One may expect that the number of members will initially decrease since some members no longer are active however there will be a differentiated membership fee taking this into account. We would also like to increase the number of members from different professions. Please spread the word and inform your pathologists, radiologists, physicists, nurses and others of our Society.

Improved transparencies and communication with the investigators is essential for the NSGO CTU. In order to strengthen this goal the NSGO Board has decided to replace the current NSGO CTU Advisory Board with a NSGO CTU Executive Board (EB) consisting of 3 persons from each Nordic country participating in clinical trials. Appointment criteria for these representatives are based on recruitment statistics and dedication in form of working activity within the trial organization. The new NSGO CTU EB will take decisions on protocol proposals and other business matters. This structure is in line with the structure of other successful international trial organizations.

A newsletter will be sent out twice yearly. We are most grateful that Dr. Annika Auranen has accepted to be our editor. We hope that you will contact her, the NSGO Data Center or any one of us serving in the NSGO Board with your inputs, proposals for development or other contributions.
It is with great pleasure to announce that the next Annual Meeting will take place in Copenhagen April 15-16th 2010. Mansoor Mirza is the lead organizer of the meeting and the symposium will focus on Cervical cancer: State of the Art and New Insights. Very distinguished Nordic and International lecturers are invited and I hope you will find the programme interesting and exciting. The Tumor Board section has been highly appreciated among our members and this year this clinical workshop will be chaired by Jan Persson, Anne Kiil Bertelsen and Jacob Lindegård. Finally, the Clinical Trial Session will present an update on closed, active and planned clinical trials. This is a great opportunity to be inform about preliminary results of trials and to discuss proposals.

Join the NSGO community!

Looking forward to see you in Copenhagen

Elisabeth Åvall Lundqvist, MD, PhD

Structure of NSGO CTU
ESGO biannual meeting Belgrade, Serbia 11.-14.10.2009

The biannual meeting of the European Society of Gynecologic Oncology was held in Belgrade in October. The conference had nearly 1900 participants from 78 countries. As usual, the meeting had state-of-the-art lectures on all gynaecologic cancer types. Nothing very new came up, maybe the most discussed topic was

- the use of Ca 12-5 in the follow-up of ovarian cancer patients, presented by Gordon Rustin on the basis of the Ca 12-5 trial, of which preliminary data was published in ASCO 2009. Rustins slides and a summary in plain English can be found at mrc/ctu website


The Best Oral Presentation in the 16th ESGO Meeting was awarded to Elisabeth Wik, from the University of Bergen, Norway for the presentation entitled: ESTROGEN- AND PROGESTERONE RECEPTOR STATUS IS REFLECTED IN TRANSCRIPTIONAL SIGNATURES INDICATING TARGETS FOR THERAPY IN ENDOMETRIAL CANCER. Congratulations!

How to become a NSGO member? How to update email/address information?

For all practical matters (contact information, questions) related to NSGO, please visit the website www.nsgo.org

Future events

Next NSGO Annual Meeting April 15-16, 2010  Copenhagen

- main topic: cervical cancer – state of the art and new insights
- for program, visit www.nsgo.org