NSGO Newsletter 1/2013

FROM THE EDITOR

The NSGO Newsletter is released twice a year. I hope you enjoy reading this update.

There have been two important events for NSGO this spring. The Annual meeting in Stockholm and the change of NSGO office and Medical Director. The Annual meeting this year was situated in Stockholm. The meeting was a celebration to Gerda Andersen and Gunnar Kristensen. Their contribution to form and build this organization is invaluable. The scientific programme this year was varied and interesting. There were also parallel sessions for Study Nurses and Pathologists. You can read the reports later in this Newsletter.

The other event this spring is that Mansoor Raza Mirza has taken over as a Medical Director of the Clinical Trial Unit (CTU). At the same time the NSGO office will move from Odense to Copenhagen. The office has a new General Manager, Tinne Kirkegaard, and Marsha Williams as Office Administrator/Webmaster. We welcome them all.

At last I want to remind you all that the next Annual Meeting will be held in Iceland June 13-14th, 2014.

I wish you all a relaxing and fun vacation
Kathrine Woie, MD, PhD
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen, Norway
Kathrine.woie@helse-bergen.no

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you NSGO members, industry partners, lecturers and all participants for making The NSGO Annual Meeting in Stockholm April 2013 a great success. I believe we succeeded to make a real nice tribute to Gunnar and Gerda who both for so many years have devoted endless hours in building up our Society’s clinical trial unit. Personally it was also an emotional moment to try and say Thank You, since we have been working very closely during 15 years. We hope that both Gunnar and Gerda will continue their commitment for our Society and participate in our meetings.

It is a great pleasure that so many pathologists attended our meeting and the session dedicated specifically for pathologists was highly appreciated – boom boom! We are already now planning the program for next year annual meeting and we hope to attract even more pathologists then. In order to meet the demands of today and tomorrow we truly need, not only to have multidisciplinary and multiprofessional conferences in routine care but also, to develop Nordic guidelines and trial protocols in close collaboration. Also the session for study nurses was highly appreciated and Thank You for excellent presentations! Many members have asked for slides from the Annual meeting and you can find these on the NSGO webpage.

Once again Thank You President-Elect, treasurer Mansoor Mirza, our new medical director of NSGO-CTU for all help with the preparations for the meeting and its carrying through. Warmly welcome Tinne Kirkegaard, our new General manager of NSGO-CTU and Marsha Williams, our new Secretary of NSGO, it feels good to have you on board and I feel confident that the Society’s business will be very well managed by you.

The recruitment process for candidates to the NSGO Board and the President-Elect (replacing Mansoor Mirza), will start late autumn 2013. The Nominating Committee will request written (by e-mail) member proposals of candidates for the Board and President-Elect, and contact the potential candidates to get their consent. The list of candidates will be sent to the Board before December 1st 2013 and thereafter posted on the NSGO web site, as well as sent out to the members by e-mail at latest by January 5, 2014. Election will be made by an online internet voting procedure via a password protected voting template on the NSGO web site. The web site will be open for online voting during at least 4 weeks, with beginning in the second week in January 2014. The whole online voting procedure including any repetitive voting should be completed before March 1st. The received votes should be formally counted under supervision by a voting committee, composed of the two past Presidents. The result of the election will be announced at, and officially approved by the General Assembly 2014.
The 27th Annual NSGO Meeting will be held in Iceland, June 13-14th, 2014. Please reserve the dates in your calendar.
I wish you all a wonderful summer!

Yours sincerely,
Elisabeth Åvall Lundqvist MD, PhD, Prof.
President NSGO

FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR,
NSGO-CTU

Office of NSGO-Clinical Trial Unit is in transition. NSGO Data Centre is shifted from Odense to Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen. We have received temporary office space. The office address and other details will be forwarded shortly.
At the moment besides coordinating and conducting clinical trials the main task of NSGO office is to have smooth transition and to re-establish robust economy.

New names in the office:
Tinne Kirkegaard Tinne.kirkegaard@regionh.dk
General Manager NSGO-CTU from April 1, 2013
Marsha Williams Marsha.mia.williams@regionh.dk
Office Administrator/Webmaster NSGO-CTU from May 1, 2013
Mansoor Raza Mirza mansoor@rh.regionh.dk
Medical Director NSGO-CTU from April 1, 2013

Regarding participation of NSGO sites in clinical trials: NSGO has a reputation of being quite active in international trial participation. We are entering in the era of personalized medicine and in future only a smaller subgroup of patients will be eligible for a clinical trial. This is a challenge especially for smaller sites, making it difficult to participate in all trials. It is therefore desirable that sites refer patients to each other so that all patients have a possibility to participate in a clinical trial.
The strength of NSGO participation in trials is that our sites have highly experienced research staff, state-owned homogenous high-quality health care and community’s awareness about the need for clinical research.
The weakness is that it is expensive to perform trials in the Nordic countries, and the lack of state’s funding to support clinical trial activities. Relatively small Nordic population does not make it easy to perform trials.
It is therefore our duty to train our staff, our young colleagues in clinical trial conduct. I believe that a patient is managed best in a clinical trial than outside clinical trial.

On-going studies:
ENGOT-ov2 (Ovarian cancer – primary chemotherapy +/- AMG386): two Nordic sites are participating. Trial is enrolling well (536/2000) both in NSGO and globally. Amgen has accepted to offer this trial to NSGO sites in Poland & Serbia, and feasibility is being conducted by NSGO.

OVAR-17 (Ovarian cancer – primary chemotherapy + 15months/30months bevacizumab): Initiation of this trial was considerably delayed in NSGO due to contracts with the CROs. This means that NSGO’s contribution to this study is minimal.

DESKTOP3 (Ovarian cancer - role of surgery at the time of relapse): The trial is running well and globally has recruited almost 50% of the patients.

ENGOT-EN2-DGCC (Endometrial cancer – role of adjuvant chemotherapy in early stage): This trial is now open in Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Austria and Denmark. EORTC is speeding up opening of their sites in other European sites. The trial is gradually starting to enrol patients.

SYMPTOM BENEFIT This trial is running well in Sweden. Denmark is to start initiation.

New Proposals:
ENGOT-ov16/Niraparib (maintenance PARP inhibitor/placebo trial in recurrent ovarian cancer, both in gBRCA mutant and in high-grade serous gBRCA wt population). NSGO is lead group for ENGOT (51 sites). 8 Nordic sites will participate. The site qualification process is under way and study is sup-
posed to begin enrollment in fall 2013. This is the first ever phase 3 trial in ovarian cancer.

**ENGOT-gyn1/NiCCC**, (clear cell carcinoma of ovary and endometrium – standard chemotherapy vs. a tyrosine kinase inhibitor BIBF1120 in relapse population): the trial is planned to start in Q4 2013.

**PENELOPE** (Pertuzumab in platinum resistant HER3 low positive ovarian cancer): The trial is planned to initiate in Q3 2013.

Finally, kindly note November 26, 2013 for the investigator meeting to be held in Copenhagen.

Kind regards

Mansoor Raza Mirza  
Medical Director, NSGO-CTU  
President-Elect, NSGO  
Treasurer, NSGO

**ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**

- “A Tribute to Gerda and Gunnar”

Precongress meeting on Thursday was arranged by Roche and MSD in collaboration with NSGO. The topic was “Expanding the therapeutic Landscape for Ovarian cancer”. Prof. Stan Kaye gave an excellent presentation on this huge topic. Prof. Amit Oza followed up with a lecture on how to evolve strategies for personalized medicine.

The Annual Meeting this year was a tribute to Gerda and Gunnar who have build up the Clinical Trial Unit of NSGO. Eric Pujade-Lauraine, GINECO and Chair of GCIG, started with an overview of over 20 years of international collaboration. The last decades an important collaboration and network have been achieved between European countries (ENGOT; European Network of Gynaecological Oncological Trial Groups) as well as at worldwide Intergroup (GCIC, Gynecologic Cancer Intergroup). He stressed the importance of cooperation to gain improvements in research and treatment in gynecological cancer.

The next speaker was Jamie Prat, pathologist from Barcelona. He gave an inspiring lecture of the pathogenesis of ovarian cancer and not thinking of ovarian cancer as one disease. We all remember him – Boom-boom. This was followed up by Usha Menon who spoke about rethinking screening strategies for ovarian cancer.

Surgical perspectives of and treatment selection criteria was given by Andreas duBois. He gave a surgical perspective of how to treat ovarian cancer, who should have primary surgery and which patients should not. He pointed out that surgery has the biggest impact on outcome. Although this there will be about 15-30% who will not benefit from primary surgery. This includes those not fit for extended radical surgery (about 5%). There is a disagreement for who will favor primary surgery of 15-20% between different Departments.

In rethinking of ovarian cancer Amit Oza pointed out the need for Targeted therapies-improved clinical trials design. Gabriele Elser, from AGO Study group, pointed out how to achieve Quality in clinical trials.

In the afternoon the topic was Cancer in the young and elderly. Many young cancer patients may not have started building their families at the time of diagnosis and the majority of young adults diagnosed with cancer today will become long-term survivors. One primary concern of cancer survivors will be the ability to reproduce and have children. Kenny Rodriguez-Wallberg spoke about fertility-preservation. The elderly population will increase steadily. Jørn Herrstedt gave an excellent presentation on cancer in elderly. He pointed out that in most studies these patients are excluded from studies.

The day ended with Tumor board led by Caroline Lundgren and Maria Bjurberg. They presented dif-
ferent clinical cases with interactive use of voting.

During the day there were parallel sessions for nurses and pathologists (see text below).

The evening was rounded by a tasteful dinner and was dedicated to celebrate Gerda and Gunnar. Thank you both for your great work and effort for the Organization all these years.

Kathrine Woie, MD, PhD
Haukeland University Hospital

As a first event Joseph Carlson at the Karolinska University Hospital, Solna, invited all the members to an organized session on ovarian pathology, where Drs Martin Köbel and Blake Gilks, both from Canada, gave lectures concerning diagnosis of epithelial ovarian tumours. This meeting was held in Stockholm 10th April, the day before the Annual Meeting of NSGO, as an independent satellite session. 10 pathologists participated, representing Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway. After lunch we had a practical session when the participants tried their diagnostic skills on 60 ovarian tumours. The results will be submitted for publication in the fall.

As the meeting was much appreciated and as pathologists have a lot to win by cooperation and exchange of knowledge there are plans on a similar event June 12th, 2014, the day before the next NSGO annual meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland. Our guest next year will be Dr. Robert Soslow, Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital, New York. We are looking forward to this.

Anna Måsbäck, överläkare
Klinisk Patologi, Lund

Increased cooperation among Nordic gynaecological pathologists.

During the previous year a contact group was formed for Nordic pathologists with a special interest in gynaecological pathology. The group is called the “Nordic Network of Gynaecologic Pathology” - NNGP. The goal of this group is to increase communication between, and perhaps within, the Nordic countries, with a special focus on gynaecologic pathology.

The Study Nurse Session Stockholm 11-12 April 2013

This meeting was initially initiated by Gerda Andersen, Secretary in NSGO, on a request from the study nurses, who work with studies initiated by NSGO. It is important for us study nurses to have this chance to meet and discuss issues and difficulties related to studies across the Scandinavian border. Last meeting, in Tampere 2012, I became the leader of the study nurse session. Since then I have attended NSGO board meetings and telephone meetings to plan the nurse session and to promote the importance of study nurses attend-
ance in these meetings. My impression is that a study nurse session is welcomed within the Board.

This year was the first session and the topic was “Targeted therapy: “Which challenges does this have on study nurses role in clinical trials?” by Clementine Molin from Boehringer Ingelheim. It was a good and informative lesson and she engaged us in discussions. The discussion also included how to keep the patient ongoing on the study medication despite side effects, and sometimes prolonged treatment time compared to standard treatment, and to help the patient to cope with the Adverse Events that has occurred.

The rest of the meeting was used to plan next year’s meeting and to assign the responsibilities for study nurse session and to ensure that the group is in progress. We, the study nurses, really want to have this session on the Annually NSGO meeting and hope more study nurses will attend. Despite this, there is low response in active participating in the planning of the meeting and another big problem for the study nurses is to have the travel expenses covered. Therefore I think that the study doctors have to be more engaged and to see the importance of the study nurses participation.

Next year we will focus on endometrial cancer, which follows the topic of the Annual meeting. We have already received a confirmation from our questioned guest lecturer that she is looking forward to lecture us.

In all we agree that this is a good conference and that we all wishes to attend next year if possible.

*Christel Dahle, Study Nurse*
Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen
Christel.dahle@helse-bergen.no

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The NSGO Board 2012-2014
(from the left) Kathrine Voie (NOR), Maarit Vuento (FIN), Christel Dahle (Study nurse, NOR), Päivi Pakarinen (FIN), Maria Bjurberg (S), Caroline Lundgren (S), Gerda Andersen (NSGO Data Center), Elisabeth Åvall Lundqvist, President (S), Mansoor Raza Mirza, President-Elect (DK), Anna Salvardsdóttir (ISL), Jan Blaakær (DK), Gunnar Kristensen, Medical Director NSGO (NOR), Anna Måsbäck (S), Svein Vossli (NOR), Eva Stabell Bergstrand (NOR) Missing: Thorarinn Sveinsson (ISL), Jørn Herrstedt (DK)

Nominating Committee 2012-2014
Finland: Päivi Vuolo Merilä, päivi.vuolo-merila@ppshp.fi
Norway: Yun Wang, yun.wang@labmed.uio.no
Sweden: Kristina Hellman, kristina.hellman@ki.se
Denmark: Bente Lund, lund.volkmann@gmail.com
Iceland: Jacob Johannsson, jacob.johannsson@landspitali.is

Has Your Email Address Changed?
Please be sure the NSGO Data Center has your correct e-mail adress. Just send a message to marsha.mia.williams@regionh.dk with your correct adress or any changes in contact details.

About the Membership fee and how to pay
From 2010 there has been a membership fee for NSGO members. All members shall pay annual membership fees set by the General Assembly. The membership fee is 25 Euros. The membership fee will be paid in connection with the conference fee.

For those who do not attend the Annual meeting, will be able to pay the membership fee through the internet banking system on the NSGO web page.
Globeathon: The walk to end women’s cancers

The Globeathon to End Women’s Cancer is initiated by our colleagues in US and will be held on September 29 over the globe. Globeathon will be an unprecedented effort to expand public outreach and advocacy associated with gynecologic cancer on an international scale. Numerous scientific and medical leaders from around the globe have voiced their sweeping enthusiasm for an event that will demonstrate international solidarity and commitment to raising public awareness about gynecologic cancers. In areas of the world where the incidence and mortality rates are the highest, there are few organized public awareness events aimed at education around screening and prevention of gynecologic cancers. In other developed countries, this event would provide multiple advocacy groups with an opportunity for greater collaboration and partnership.

NSGO endorse this event and strongly suggest its members to participate.

Katrín Kristjánsdóttir and Heiddis Valdimarsdottir
Annika Auranen
Helga Salvesen and Gunnar Kristensen
Elisabeth Avall Lundqvist
Mansoor Raza Mirza