FROM THE EDITOR

Summer is coming to an end. Hopefully, you all had a pleasant and relaxing vacation. Just before summer NSGO annual meeting was arranged in Iceland. The annual meeting is an important meeting point and again the scientific programme was interesting and updated. We look forward to the next meeting which will be held in Copenhagen in May 2015. A new board was announced at the meeting. The election was performed as an on-line voting in January. The Board is presented later in this Newsletter.

With this letter I will leave the assignment as the Editor. I want to thank all past and present contributors, which makes this job possible.

Wish you a fruitful fall!

Kathrine Woie
Haukeland University Hospital

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NSGO member,

We had a very successful meeting in Iceland in June with excellent international and Nordic speakers addressing different aspects and managements of endometrial carcinoma.

A Nordic network for PhD students was formed and interesting research projects were presented. I would especially like to thank Karina Dahl Steffensen for her leadership. Simultaneously the Subcommittee for study nurses held their session including lectures on treatment and GCP. Thank you Anne Juul Holm for chairing the session, and all contributors. Yet another pathology session was successfully held now under the leadership of Professor Soslow.

It is apparent that NSGO now has become a true multidisciplinary Society and the growing engagement and participation of pathologists is important and crucial. Within the NSGO we have also a Subcommittee for radiotherapy under the leadership of Caroline Lundgren who has recently performed a survey concerning radiotherapy in routine care within the different Nordic countries. The results will be available on the NSGO webpage. The NSGO Board would like to reconvene a Subcommittee for surgery, if you would like to join please contact NSGO Office. Following the General Assembly the Clinical Trial Unit under the leadership of Mansoor Mirza presented all activities made during the recent year. Impressing! The activity is certainly high and many new trials are in pipeline. The slides from the different presentations will be available on the membership protected area on the NSGO webpage.

Once again, thank you Anna Salvarsdottir our local organizer and the team from NSGO office Solveig, Anne, Tinne and Mansoor for a great meeting!

The NSGO Board has been very active and I would like to thank all. I would like to express my warmest gratitude to the members of the NSGO Board who now has ended their term of office. Thank you Mansoor Mirza, Svein Vossli, Kathrine Woie, Maarit Vuento, Päivi Pakarinen, Thorarinn Sveinsdon, Anna Måsbäck and Eva Stabell Bergstrand! Mansoor Mirza will as Medical Director of CTU be called in to the Board meetings. I am indeed very grateful for the enormous work Mansoor has put into NSGO as President-Elect and treasurer. Thank you! I would also like to thank Kathrine Woie and acknowledge her work as editor for this Newsletter. Thank you Kathrine!
I would like to welcome our new NSGO Board members and congratulate Johanna Mäenpää, our new President-Elect. Welcome Maarit Anttila (FIN), Annika Riska (FIN), Line Bjørge (new treasurer, NO), Anne Dørum (NO), Elisabet Arna Helgadottir (ICE), Joseph Carlson (pathologist, SWE) and Ivan Vogelius (physician, DK). I am also very pleased that the following Board members will continue Jan Blaakær (DK), Jørn Herrstedt (DK), Maria Bjurberg (secretary, SWE), Caroline Lundgren (SWE) and Anna Salvardsdotir (ICE). The new NSGO Board had their first strategic meeting 5th of September, 2014 setting up new goals and activities for the following years.

My term as President will end at next General Assembly 2015 and Johanna Mäenpää will then take over. This means that we need to elect a new President-Elect (for three years). The new Nominating Committee will start their work during the autumn and we will open the on-line voting January 2015.

The planning of the 28th Annual NSGO Meeting has started and the date of meeting is May 7-8, 2015 in Copenhagen. The scope of the meeting is cervical and vulva cancer. We will try our best to have an exciting program and please book already now the date in your calendar.

Yours sincerely,
Elisabeth Åvall Lundqvist
President NSGO

FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF NSGO-CTU

Dear NSGO colleagues and pharma-industry collaborators

A substantial progress is being made in the management of women’s cancers. We have now level-one evidence that less toxic targeted therapy benefits our patients. Anti-angiogenic therapy has improved both survival as well as progression-free survival within subgroups of ovarian cancer patients, and anti-angiogenic treatment has considerably improved survival of patients with metastatic cervical cancer. There is strong evidence that at least a subset of patients will benefit from PARP inhibitors.

All this could not be achieved without tremendous efforts of medical community, pharma-industry and most of all our patients to participate into clinical trials. And I thank you all for being actively involved in these achievements and working together to make cancer history.

Enthusiasm to make cancer history also reflects in exponentially increasing activities of NSGO Clinical Trial Unit. In this letter I have listed some of the major activities of the CTU:

1. ENGOT-OV16/NOVA trial: NSGO-CTU is lead group for this placebo controlled phase 3 pivotal trial on PARP inhibitors as maintenance therapy. The trial is recruiting fast in 126 sites World over with a substantial contribution from 9 NSGO sites.

2. ENGOT-OV24/NSGO/AVANOVA: A phase 2 randomized trial comparing bevacizumab against niraparib (PARP inhibitor) and against combination of bevacizumab & niraparib in relapsed platinum-sensitive ovarian cancer patients is being finalized. NSGO is both sponsor and lead group for this international trial.

3. ENGOT-EN1/NSGO: A phase 2 randomized trial of chemotherapy + BIBF1120/placebo in stage 3-4 and relapsed endometrial cancer. NSGO is both sponsor and lead group for this Pan-European trial. The trial is expected to start recruitment in Q1, 2015.

The new NSGO ideas under negotiation with the industry:

1. ENGOT-OVxx/NSGO/BEVOLA: A phase 2 randomized trial comparing weekly paclitaxel-bevacizumab combination against
olaparib-bevacizumab combination in platinum-resistant ovarian cancer.

2. ENGOT-ENxx/NSGO/Palbociclib: A phase two trial comparing Palbociclib-endocrine therapy against endocrine therapy in relapsed oestrogen-receptor positive endometrial cancer.

We had successful NSGO-CTU investigator meeting in Iceland, and I welcome you all to attend our investigator meeting in Copenhagen on November 25. In this meeting we will have external speakers (Jonathan Ledermann and Antonio Gonzales-Martin) to discuss the role of PARP inhibitors and anti-angiogenic therapy. The program of this meeting is posted on the NSGO website.

In this letter I want to thank my office staff, Solveig, Anne & Tinne. Their incredible efforts and engagement in the Clinical Trial Unit and Society’s activities have made NSGO effective and worthy-full.

Best regards
Mansoor Raza Mirza
Medical Director, NSGO-CTU

NORDIC NETWORK OF GYNECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGISTS

On Thursday, June 12 the Nordic Network of Gynecological Pathologists (NNGP) had their second annual meeting at the Landspítali University Hospital in Reykjavik. The group was hosted by Dr. Kristrún R Benediktsdóttir. The NNGP consists of a total of 28 pathologists in the Nordic countries, and 10 pathologists were in attendance, representing Iceland, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. The NNGP is proud to be affiliated with the NSGO, and in parallel with the NSGO the theme for our meeting was endometrial carcinoma. The morning session was spent discussing some of the issues facing pathology in our various countries, and ideas for possible collaboration and development. Given the expertise and interests of the NNGP there was discussion of collaborative work within rare tumor types, especially gynecologic sarcomas, sex-cord stromal tumors, and germ cell tumors. Collaboration could range from building up diagnostic and clinical networks to developing and performing clinical and translational research studies. Another topic of discussion was using our pathology expertise to refine diagnostic criteria and develop guidelines for areas of practice, such as the role of immunohistochemistry.

Caroline Lundgren from Karolinska did a presentation of Endometrial cancer treatment modalities. Tinne Kirkegaard did a presentation regarding the new changes to the new EU clinical trial regulations that will be implemented in 2016. Anne Juul Holm led the workshop where the study nurses discussed how we could build stronger ties between the sites and Nordic countries.

Best regards
Anne Juul Holm
NSGO Office

STUDY NURSES

At the NSGO Annual Meeting in Iceland the Subcommittee for Study Nurses met at a session Friday afternoon and was attended by 6 nurses from Norway and Denmark.
Collaborations with both the gynecologic pathology working group of the European Society of Pathology and the International Society of Gynaecological Pathology were discussed. The NNGP’s first research paper, entitled “Ovarian carcinoma histotype determination is highly reproducible, and is improved through the use of immunohistochemistry”, was recently published in Histopathology. The afternoon portion of the meeting was devoted to discussion of our recently completed second NNGP research study, focused on the role of immunohistochemistry on biopsy diagnosis of endometrial carcinoma.

Finally, we were pleased to have a chance to look at cases at the multiheaded microscope. Dr. Robert Soslow, one of the speakers at the NSGO meeting, showed several cases and discussed the interplay of the Human Cancer Genome Atlas results with histomorphologic diagnosis. These were topics he elaborated on the next day at the NSGO meeting and break out session on Friday, June 13. Last but not least, the NNGP would like to thank the NSGO for their support and encouragement. We hope that in future years the pathology network can grow and expand.

Best regards
Joseph Carlson
Pathologists, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm

Globeathon 2014: The walk to end women’s cancers

The Globeathon to End Women’s Cancer is expanding and will be held in September 2014 all over the globe. Globeathon is an 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.

For further information go to https://www.facebook.com/Globeathon or www.globeathon.com.

Click HERE to see program for Copenhagen 14 September
Click HERE to see program for Reykjavik 14 September
Click HERE to see program for Stockholm 21 September. For further information click HERE
Click HERE to see program for Turku 21 September.
NEW BOARD 2014-1016

President
Elisabeth Åvall Lundqvist, Sweden - 2012-2015

President-Elect
Johanna Mäenpää, Finland

Board Members
Jan Blaakær, Denmark
Jørn Herrstedt, Denmark
Maarit Anttila, Finland
Annika Riska, Finland
Line Bjørge, Norway
Anne Dørum, Norway
Maria Bjurberg, Sweden
Caroline Lundgren, Sweden
Anna Salvardsdottir, Iceland
Elisabet Arna Helgadottir, Iceland
Joseph Carlson, Sweden - Pathologist
Ivan Vogelius, Denmark - Physicist

Has Your Email Address Changed?
Please be sure the NSGO Office has your correct e-mail address. Just send a message to solveig.elisabeth.ulstrup.ristinge@regionh.dk with your correct address 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.

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