Dear NSGO members,

During the Christmas Holidays there was ample time to reflect the year 2016, which has been a year of many sad news and a year of major changes in the international politics. In the beginning of the year we received from Bergen the sad message that professor Helga Salvesen had suddenly passed away, then came the news from terrorist attacks in France, Brussels and finally also in Berlin, not to forget the cruel war in Syria and Iraq, which culminated in Aleppo and Mosul. Two important democratic changes hardly any one believed to come true also took place in 2016: First, the Brits voted for Brexit and secondly, the Americans voted for Donald Trump. Now everybody is anxiously waiting what is going to happen in the next year in the French presidential election and in the German Bundestag election.

Fortunately also good things happened in 2016: We had a very successful Annual Meeting in Bergen with many splendid lectures and stimulating discussions. Once more many thanks to Line and her staff, as well as to our skilled Office Staff, or Solveig, Louisa, Eva, Kicki and Joan for making this great Meeting possible! In December, Mansoor and the NSGO Office staff organized a memorable Investigator Meeting in Copenhagen. I am also very pleased that Jan has been able to revive the Surgery Group from a long hibernation.

Mansoor will describe in his Column the activities of our Clinical Trial Unit, but I like to mention CTU also here, because thanks to Mansoor, NSGO has now become a major player among the international trial organizations. After the simultaneous publication of the main results of NOVA trial at ESMO 2016 and in the New England Journal of Medicine, everybody in the gynoncologic community knows Mansoor and NSGO.

Starting from the Bergen Annual Meeting, the Board has been busy in arranging the Annual Meeting 2017 in Helsinki at Hotel Kalastajatorppa (“Fisherman’s cottage”). This meeting will be the 30th Anniversary Meeting of the NSGO, which has been taken into account in the preparations. You will see besides new faces, also some familiar respected persons at the Anniversary Dinner on 4th of May. The Annual Meeting will be preceded by a surgical training course at the Tampere Surgical Education Centre and a Satellite Symposium organized in collaboration with SOBI on 3rd of May. In the morning of 4th of May, we will start with a special Breakfast Symposium, followed by Sessions on sarcomas and other rare tumors. Before the Anniversary Dinner, there will be in the late afternoon a Satellite Symposium organized in collaboration with Lilly. Surgical training will be the topic besides Investigator Meeting on Friday 5th of May. A Poster Exhibition will again be organized, with the best poster to be awarded, as well as an Industry Exhibition.

Johanna Mäenpää, President of NSGO

Looking forward to see you all in Helsinki - And with best wishes for the year 2017!
Dear NSGO colleagues,

With this message I would like to wish all of you a happy New Year.

NSGO Clinical Trial Unit had major achievements in the second half of 2016:

**ENGOT-OV16/NOVA:**
We successfully reached the main study end point of ENGOT-OV16/NOVA study. NOVA trial was led by NSGO. The trial results are impressive and have demonstrated considerable improvement in progression-free survival, not only in gBRCAmut population but also in both HRDpositive & HRDnegative population. Quite a considerable number of patients are longterm responders and for these patients we have changed the course of disease. The trial results were presented by NSGO in the Presidential Symposium of ESMO annual meeting 2016 and The New England Journal of Medicine published these results concurrently with the ESMO presentation. This is the first NSGO publication in the New England Journal of Medicine.


**NSGO-OVUMB1/ENGOT-OV30:**
The study is now amended and will initiate accrual in first half of 2017. The first cohort will be a combination of two immunotherapeutic drugs: CD73 and durvalumab.

**ENGOT-EN2/DGCCG:**
We had to change the trial design from phase 3 to phase 2 randomized trial due to both slow accrual and due to the fact that EORTC decided to stop its collaboration. 151 patients are recruited and your efforts to recruit patients are highly appreciated.

**ENGOT-EN1/FANDANGO:**
The study has successfully started recruiting patients both in the Nordic countries as well as in Germany.

**ENGOT-EN3/Paleo:**
The study has received approvals in some Nordic countries while other are awaited. The recruitment will start in February 2017.

Furthermore we had a successful Investigator Meeting early December. The number of attendees was record high.

With this I would like to thank you all for your continuous support and thank the hard working staff of our NSGO office, without their efforts, we will not reach our goals.

Thank you!

*Mansoor Mirza, Medical Director.*
The NSGO surgery group

The NSGO department questionnaire is now published on the NSGO homepage with the results from eight departments. If your department hasn’t answered the questionnaire please let me know and you will get the questionnaire having your department represented too!

At the latest NSGO board meeting and the CTU executive board meeting in December, NSGO decided to establish a NSGO database registering the data for sentinel node in endometrial cancer. The initiative for this great idea is taken by Ane Gerda Zahl Eriksson, Norway and Henrik Falconer, Sweden and supported by, Pernille Jensen and Claus Høgdall, Denmark. The first meeting is planned to January the 19th. 2017 at Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen. You are welcome to join the meeting and the agenda will be available at the homepage in the beginning of January 2017.

As the chair of the surgery group, I have been asked to continue the process and I will keep you informed through the homepage and the NSGO newsletter.

Kind regards,

Jan Blaakær, Aarhus.

The NSGO Cervical Cancer Working Group

The working group has now elaborated a questionnaire focusing on cervical cancer diagnostics and treatment with a special focus on the imaging diagnostics.

At the moment, the working group is putting the finishing touches to the questionnaire. The questionnaire will be mailed to each individual center from your national contact person in the working group in the middle of January 2017. Please complete the questionnaire no later than March the 1st. and the data will be presented at the annual meeting in Helsinki.

The background for the questionnaire is that the Nordic countries use lots of resources on MRI, PET-CT and CT, but the cervical cancer staging is still clinical – and moreover, you do not correct the stage if you later on discover that the clinical staging was wrong. The NSGO Board therefore earlier decided to establish this working group to examine if the time has come to propose a change in our staging of cervical cancer.

Kind regards,

Jan Blaakær, Aarhus.
Announcements

Membership fee
At the last board meeting it was decided that if the fee is not paid in due time the member will get one reminder and after that the Annual meeting price (including membership fee) will be progressively increased according to the following schedule:
Regular fee: 2375 DKK
Fee if the previous year’s fee is due: 2875 DKK
Fee if two previous years’ fees are due: 3375 DKK
Non-member Fee: 4000 DKK

Hands-on: Radical and Reconstructive Vulvar Surgery
In connection with the Annual Meeting 2017 a radical and reconstructive vulvar surgery course will be held in Tampere Surgical Education Centre. There are two tracks available; one for gynae oncologists (8 attendants) and one for plastic surgeons (4 attendants).
The registration opens on December 1st 2016 and closes on April 2nd.
For more information please visit NSGO.org.

A Final Word from the Editor
Dear Colleagues,

We live in a time where fake news and incorrect facts get a wide spread over the internet and through social media in an instant. That is why I think we owe to ourselves and our patients to acknowledge the importance of pursuing evidence based medicine through scientific research and well-designed studies, once more highlighting the importance of the work done by our society. And as became obvious at the Investigator Meeting in Copenhagen we have a continuously high activity within the CTU. But we must not forget that the aim of NSGO is broader than to initiate and manage clinical studies and that one of its main purposes is collaboration between the Nordic countries exemplified by the work done within the NSGO surgery group.
However this does not come without an effort made by each and every one of us; and this is why I urge you participate in our working groups and entering our clinical trials.

But it all starts with paying the annual fee…

Gabriel Lindahl, Linköping.

ESGO 2017 congress, November 4-7, 2017
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