Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the second NSGO Newsletter for 2015. I write this letter with mixed feelings, given that there are several exciting events coming up, but that I also have tragic news.

It is with great sorrow that I report that immediately prior to the writing of this Newsletter, the NSGO Board received word that Prof. Helga Salvesen had passed away. Her funeral is planned for Feb 2nd in Bergen.

Prof. Salvesen was a talented, active, kind and beloved member of the Society, and she will be deeply missed.

An obituary will be placed on the Society’s website when it becomes available.

We extend our thoughts and sympathies to her family in this time of sorrow.

Because word of Dr. Salvesen’s death arrived immediately prior to Newsletter publication, much of this Newsletter is focused on the various coming events and activities. The Board is actively discussing how it can best remember and pay tribute to Prof. Salvesen’s legacy - more information regarding that will follow.

Sincerely,

Joseph Carlson

Editor, NSGO Newsletter

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Just before this Newsletter was to be sent out, very sad news reached us from Bergen: a very distinguished member of our society, our dear friend professor Helga Salvesen, passed suddenly away on Wednesday, January 20th. Everybody is now trying to comprehend what has happened, and we can hardly imagine how her family will cope now. Helga was a very extraordinary person, who was highly respected by her colleagues all over the world. Helga’s funeral will take place on February 2nd, and our Annual Meeting in Bergen will be remembered as the Memorial Meeting respecting Helga.

NSGO was for the first time given the opportunity to arrange at the ESGO Congress in Nice a specific NSGO Symposium, and that was the last time I had a chance to listen to Helga; she gave a fascinating talk on genomic research in endometrial cancer, her favorite topic. Other topics at the Symposium were anti-angiogenic agents and PARP inhibitors, as well as chemotherapy of endometrial cancer. To our great pleasure, the Symposium was a success, with the meeting room almost full of attendants.

In November Mansoor and I participated as the representatives of NSGO in the combined 5th Ovarian Cancer Consensus Conference and GCIG Meeting in Tokyo. Some very important decisions were made at the 5th OCCC, which will be fully reported in the form of several articles. We are not yet allowed to go into details, but something I can reveal: For first-line trials, PFS is still a valid primary endpoint but should include prospective quality of life assessments. In recurrent setting, PFS should not generally be used as unique primary endpoint; in maintenance trials and if treatment-free interval exceeds 6 months, PFS can be used
but only if supported with a composite endpoint like QoL and/or PFS2. Use of the term “treatment-free interval” instead of “platinum-free interval” was strongly encouraged during the discussions. In the case of treatment-free interval less than 6 months (“platinum resistant” recurrent disease), over-all survival is the preferable primary endpoint. If mucinous tumors can at all be included in ovarian cancer trials was quite strongly discussed, but were at the end included in the discussion of rare tumors. Mansoor will give a separate report on the GCIG Meeting, but I will report on one important aspect: Mansoor has been nominated as the Co-Chair of the Phase II Working Group of GCIG; congratulations, Mansoor!

The election process for a new Board is still going on until February 2nd. I thank the Nominating Committee with Kristina Hellman as Chair for the great job in finding the candidates. For Sweden and Denmark, there are new candidates, while for Norway and Finland both existing Members can and would like to continue, as well as Physical Ivan and Pathologist Joseph. All members, please vote actively, and also the "old" candidates! However, please note that only members who have paid their membership fees, are eligible for voting. A total of 120 members have not paid their membership fees for two years. It is very easy to pay: Just go to our web-site and click HERE button on the front page, and follow the instructions.

I’m looking forward to seeing you in Bergen in April; we have managed to put together a very exciting Program, focusing on Translational Research but not forgetting the Clinics. Translational Research was chosen as the topic in Bergen because of the great impact Helga has had in the translational research of especially endometrial cancer.

Johanna Mäenpää
President, NSGO

WORDS FROM THE CTU MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Dear colleagues

This is indeed a great shock for all of us to suddenly miss our dear colleague Helga Salvesen. Her immense contribution to gynae oncology will have a long-term impact in the management of our patients. We all miss Helga. Our thoughts go to Helga's family.

2015 has been both extremely hectic as well successful year for NSGO. NSGO CTU has been able to achieve grants for multiple new trial proposals. We can be proud that all three ENGOT trials in endometrial cancer are being sponsored/co-sponsored by NSGO:

- ENGOT-EN1/Fandango - Nintedanib in endometrial cancer: This trial is both sponsored and led by NSGO. The contract for grant was signed in Q4 2015 and the initiation process is under way.

- ENGOT-EN2/DGCC adjuvant treatment of endometrial cancer: We have now opened over 50 sites and 107 patients are recruited.

- ENGOT-EN3/Paleo - Letrozole +/- Palbociclib in endometrial cancer: This trial is both sponsored and led by NSGO. The contract is signed and initiation process shall soon be activated.

In Ovarian cancer NSGO is sponsor and lead of the following trials:

- ENGOT-OV24/AVANOVA – Niraparib and bevaciuzumab in ovarian cancer: This trial is both sponsored and led by NSGO. Part 1 of the trial is completed and data to be presented at ASCO 2016. Part 2 initiation is under way.

- NSGO-OVUMB1 – Randomized umbrella trial of novel drugs. This trial is being developed by NSGO as sponsor in collaboration with several cooperative groups.
LETTER FROM THE STUDY NURSE NETWORK

At the NSGO Investigator Meeting the 1st of December in Copenhagen a Study Nurse session was held for the NSGO Study Nurses. The Study Nurse session had a duration of 1.5 hours and was attended by 18 Study Nurses from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. During the session we had an introduction of the Study Nurse working group, 4 different trial presentations presented by the Study Nurses and a summary at the end of the meeting.

Louisa Boufercha introduced the NSGO Study Nurse working group, the mission of the working group and the work group members that consists of: Åse Merete Thuen, Study Nurse (NO), Louise Christoffersen, Study Nurse (DK), Louisa Boufercha, Project Manager (NSGO), Kicki Jederud, Project Manager (NSGO) and Susanna Luukkonen, Study Nurse, (FI) who is a newly recruited member of the working group. Furthermore a meeting structure for the Study Nurses was introduced and there will be two face-to-face meetings and two online meetings per year.

The new Study Nurse website was also introduced at the meeting. The Website has been created as a subsite to the NSGO website and is an opportunity for the Study Nurses to share documents, relevant information and to share better practices. The website has gone live and will only include non-confidential information. We also discussed agenda items for the 3 hours Study Nurse session that is scheduled at the NSGO Annual Meeting in 2016. We received many good ideas and prepared a draft agenda for the meeting.

Following there was held 4 trial presentations. Louise Christoffersen, Study Nurse at Copenhagen University Hospital presented the ENGOT-OV24/AVANOVA trial. Janni Møldrup, Study Nurse at Aalborg University Hospital presented the ENGOT-OV11/MILO trial. Annemiek Seibtsen, Study Nurse at Odense University Hospital presented the INOVATYON trial and the last trial presentation, ENGOT-EN2-DGCG/EORTC 55102, was presented by Kicki Jederud, Project Manager at NSGO. At the end of each trial presentations, challenges and difficulties that were experienced during the trial conduct were presented and joint discussions were made among the Study Nurses. Next online meeting will be scheduled the 27th of February.

NSGO Election 2016

• ONLINE VOTING CLOSES: February 2, 2016!
• Please read the full statements of our candidates on the NSGO website.

HERE ARE THE CANDIDATES...

Board Denmark
• Henrik Roed
• Isa Niemann

Board Finland
• Annika Riska
• Maarit Anttila

Board Norway
• Anne Dørum
• Line Bjørge

Board Sweden
• Angelique Flöter Rådestad
• Gabriel Lindahl
• Päivi Lindvall Kanisto

Board Iceland
• Anna Salvarsdottir
• Asgeir Thór Oddsen

Pathologist
• Joseph Carlson

Physicist
• Ivan Vogelius

• NSGO-OVTR1 – The trial will test novel drugs upfront as window of opportunity trial.

• Apart from this, ENGOT-OV16/NOVA trial is completed and primary end point will be presented at ASCO/ESMO by NSGO

All this and the activities within IGCS & ENGOT has tremendous pressure on NSGO office staff. This also means that we had to down prioritize some of the other trials. We are recruiting more personal in the office to cope with this heavy workload and we have agreed to conduct a strategy meeting to discuss how to keep this pace of the NSGO activities.

We shall continue to work toward success. I am looking forward to see you in Bergen.

Kind regards
Mansoor
2016 and next Face-to-Face meeting will be scheduled the 7th of April 2016.

In the NSGO we strongly encourage the Study Nurses to prioritize and to actively participate in the upcoming face-to-face meetings and online meetings for the NSGO Study Nurses. These meetings are the forum where the Study Nurses will be able to strengthening their network, to share better practices and to get an opportunity to influence the meeting content and agendas of the future meetings. Please also note that the Study Nurse Working Group is open for new members who wish to join the group.

Sincerely

Louisa Boufercha, Project Manager, NSGO

Important News!
NSGO Twitter Account

https://twitter.com/wwwNSGOorg

Annual Meeting:
April 7-8, 2016

Translational Research in Gynecologic Cancer

Scandic Ørnen
Bergen, Norway

International Invited speakers:
- Hani Gabra, England
- Christian Kurzeder, Germany
- Eric Pujade Lauraine, France
- Glenn McCluggage, Ireland
- Nina Tunariu, England
- Anil Sood, USA
- Jonathan Ledermann, England
- Michael Birrer, USA

Interesting sessions for everyone:
- Endometrial cancer
- Ovarian cancer
- Cervical cancer
- Investigator Meeting
- Network Meetings

The NSGO would like to thank our
2015 GOLD SPONSORS
for supporting the Society:

Have an idea for the Newsletter?
Don’t be shy, let me know!
joseph.carlson@ki.se
Dear NSGO colleague,

My name is Jan Blaakaer from Aarhus University Hospital and I am the new chairperson of the NSGO surgery group. I am looking forward to meet you in Bergen at the annual NSGO meeting April 2016. I have the mentioned below proposals for the topics I think could be interesting to discuss.

Topic 1:
Exchange of surgeons between the Nordic Gynecological Oncology Centers
a) Three month stay
b) Bi-directional stay
c) Economy
I think we all can learn from each other! You are very often caught in the way you always have done e.g. a surgical procedure, a follow-up visit and many other procedures you perform from habit. By visiting another Nordic gynecological oncologic center you might get good ideas for changing your working life and you may bring good ideas to the center you visit! By visiting each other in the NSGO member countries we also might facilitate the research environment between our centers and might open doors for our young colleagues and their expert education as claimed by the ESGO organization.
If we exchange a surgeon between a center from e.g. Norway with a surgeon from a Swedish center then we can do it with no expenses for the individual center as each center continue to pay the salary for their own surgeon. Of course, you will have some travel expenses but because most surgeons are also members of each national Gynecological Society, and thus, members of NFOG they are entitled to get funding from NFOG to facilitate clinic visits between Nordic countries. Hopefully, we can arrange a free accommodation at each single center!
I hope you will receive this proposal open and speak your mind at the meeting!

Topic 2
HIPEC in the Nordic Gynecological Oncology Centers
a) Status at the moment
b) Nordic protocol?
An international paradigm shift has been seen in the treatment of ovarian cancer, since numerous studies have demonstrated that macroscopically complete resection of all tumour nodules is associated with improved overall survival - even at advanced stages.
HIPEC consists of intra-operative perfusion of the peritoneal cavity with a solution of cytotoxic agents heated to 41-43º Celsius in 30-90 minutes depending on the drugs used. The rationale behind HIPEC treatment is to achieve a synergistic effect by combining heat and chemotherapy, and when used immediately after CRS to preserve the effect of the surgical procedure by eliminating microscopic cancer foci.
In Aarhus, we initiate the HIPEC procedure January the 1st 2016. Let us make a status over this procedure in the NSGO countries and if any Nordic center wants to collaborate we might make a NSGO protocol for future HIPEC treatment. A protocol you might join if the procedure demonstrates a prolonged survival for our patients, which is recently published!

Topic 3:
Any other business
Hopefully, you will bring any topic you find interesting or important to discuss to Bergen keeping the NSGO banner flying!

Kind regards

Jan Blaakaer