

Summary of the Minutes

from the Board Meeting of Scandinavian Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine (SSAI) held September 4th, 2007 at Convention Centre, Göteborg, Sweden ,

1. Opening
2. Election of chair
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes of the last Board Meeting
5. Status report of the President
6. The present situation of the 29th SSAI Congress, [SSAI 2007](#)
7. The update of the proposal for new SSAI bylaws to the General Assembly
8. Status report of the Treasurer
9. Status report of Acta Foundation
10. Election of new members for the Board of Acta Foundation
11. Status report of the Editor in chief of Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica
12. Status report of the Committees:
 - Educational Committee
 - Clinical Practice Committee
 - Research Committee
13. The new homepage - www.ssai.info
14. Collaboration with other international anaesthesia societies
15. Any other business
16. Closing.

Present:

Eldar Søreide, President

Eija Nilsson, Secretary General

Freddy Lippert, Treasurer

Helen Seeman-Lodding, Congress President

Björn Biber, Congress Vice-President

Sven Erik Gisvold, Editor in Chief, Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica

Ivar Göthgen, Director of Acta Foundation

Hans Kirkegaard, President of the Danish Society

Susanne Wammen, delegate of the Danish Society

Pertti Pere, delegate of the Finnish Society

Sigurbergur Karason, President of the Icelandic Society

Kari Hreinsson, delegate of the Icelandic Society

Anne Berit Guttormsen, President of the Norwegian Society, SSAI web-master

Jannicke Mellin-Olsen, delegate of the Norwegian Society

Sigga Kalman, President of the Swedish Society arrived at noon

Lars Wiklund, delegate of the Swedish Society

Doris Östergaard, chair of the Educational Committee

Minna Niskanen, chair of the Clinical Practise Committee

Anders Åneman, chair of the Research Committee

Palle Toft, the next Congress President, arrived at noon

Poul Klint Andersen, member of the organising committee at the next Congress in Odense, arrived at noon

Mogens Hutte, member of the organising committee at the next Congress in Odense, arrived at noon

Item 1& 2. The Board Meeting was opened by the President, who was also elected as the chair of the Meeting.

Item 3. Approval of the Agenda: under item 15 there will be discussed a) "How to plan a congress in Scandinavia", b) proposals for new honorary members for the Society, c) a letter from the Danish and Swedish Societies of Emergency Medicine.

Item 4. Minutes of the last Board Meeting were approved.

Item 5. Eldar Søreide expressed his happiness of the active function of the Society; some positions of the Board / Committees will be changed during this Congress

(Secretary General, some members of the different committees will be discussed later); applause were given to Anne Berit Guttormsen as the most active web-editor and also for the new President and Vice-President of the Anaesthesiology Section in UEMS, Jannicke Mellin-Olsen and Seppo Ala-Huhta.

Item 6. The Congress President, Helen Seeman-Lodding gave her up-dates.

SSAI 2007 Congress will have additionally 20 satellite symposia i.e. business world, special interest groups etc will meet during the Congress; The present number of the delegates was 1174 (of which 819 paying) from 35 countries and 5 continents; there will be 87 delegates from DK, 68 from FIN, 14 from Iceland, 79 from N, and 694 from SK; there has been great support for the Congress from industry as main, supporting and other partners altogether 78 exhibitors; the faculty will be with a Scandinavian majority: 161 colleagues from 14 countries and 4 continents; 141 abstracts were accepted: 73 oral and 68 poster presentations; there seems to be a decreasing trend for sending abstracts to Scandinavian congresses; experienced researchers from Göteborg had in a blinded manner been evaluating the abstracts; 30 highest scoring abstracts were further evaluated by SFAI and members from the SSAI Research Committee; the best five ended to the Acta Ward price winner candidates; the scientific program will cover all the four pillars of Scandinavian anaesthesiology; there will also be 5 guideline-sessions and 6 parallel session; currently there seems to come some profit of the Congress; expanding costs for the SSAI guideline sessions will be discussed under item 9; the importance of these sessions has been to expose the work of the different SSAI committees and go public with these results; Hans Kirkegaard asked if this is going to continue in the next Congress; this matter will be discussed later; a questionnaire will be handle out to the participants, further discussion under item 15. All three of the SSAI 2007 organizers volunteered to continue with the Danes for the next SSAI 2009 Congress. "We are impressed about the upcoming Congress" (Eldar Söreide).

Item 8. The report by the treasurer, Freddy Lippert:

Year 2005 and 2006 gave surplus for the Society; SSAI will be able to run the Society independently with its current financial base when at the same time the SSAI committees are substituted by Acta Foundation; SSAI money is invested in bonds / stocks. Some of the income for the Society from Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica will decrease in the future because the next Editor-in-chief will possibly be full time paid; this will be discussed under item 9; the present Acta subscription fee is 350 DKK, postage: 100 DKK and SSAI membership fee 50 DKK; during the discussion it was noted that SSAI is losing money because it is sponsoring Acta to its members; members pay only 40% of the Acta's price; Acta is cheap (400 DKK yearly) as a paper version and could be even cheaper as an electronic version; however the "paper generation" is still living;

Item 9. The report by the Director of Acta Foundation (AF), Ivar Göthgen: AF was started 12 years ago in Iceland and is totally separated from SSAI. AF is the financial bases for Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica; "AF is promoting anaesthesiology in Scandinavia". The Board of AF manages the funds of the Foundation i.e. the grants (Acta Foundation Charter, §16). According to the Danish Law and taxation rules the grants should be connected to a named person (juridisk person) and they are a gift (i.e. without VAT) and further they are tax free (for the Foundation) if used within a 5 years limit. The AF grants come from the income (i.e. the profit from the Journal and the interest from the bonds) minus the expenses (i.e. Acta editorial activity minus tax until year 2006); last year AF paid taxes first time in its history. In order to avoid further taxation of AF and to understand where the

current activities / money of the different committees stand, these committees need to demonstrate their budget / money at the January 2008 Board Meeting. From the up-coming Congress the profit will be divided by 50/50 bases;

Membership fee (including Acta) is currently 500 DKK from which the real membership fee is only 10%; "to get more members the SSAI courses, training etc" ought to be lifted up to the first place in SSAI strategies and to be marketed more aggressively; because in the future the Editor in Chief may be fulltime paid and the income from publishing Acta may decrease (changing from paper to www version) it is recommended to increase the membership fee now; more discussion will follow later.

Item 10. AF supervisory Board consists of 7 members (Eldar Söreide, Eija Nilsson, Freddy Lippert, Sven Erik Gisvold, Pertti Pere, Lars Wiklund and Sigurbergur Karason) and additionally there is executive Board with one member, Ivar Göthgen. Lars Wiklund proposed that AF Board meeting will be held at least once a year and the next AF Board meeting was decided to be held before the next SSAI Board Meeting on Friday, January 25, 2008; more strategy points and transparency of the AF Board decisions will be underlined in the future; the yearly figures and the elections of AF Board members will come to the Board members some months prior January 2008.

Item 11. *The report of Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica was given by Sven Erik Gisvold:* the electronic version works, numbers are going up; the paper version is printed in Singapore and put together in India; downloads are about 200 000 /year; there will be an Acta Stand at the Congress, where free Acta will be given out; "the current impact factor is 1,86, but the total number of citations is more important and based on this, we remain in a solid fifth place worldwide after the two US and the two UK anaesthesiology journals";

Item 7 "The update of the proposals for new SSAI bylaws to the General Assembly (GA)" was presented by Sigga Kalman. Once more the preliminary changes were gone through under the Meeting step by step, but according to the present by-laws (§10) these proposals had to stay as they had been presented in the SSAI homepage one month prior to GA; Chapter 11 about the proxy voting was discussed more. The Danish Board members could not agree with the present proposals from the Board "to leave the proxy voting out" and their disagreement shall be announced at the GA.

Item 12. *The report from Educational Committee by Doris Östergaard.* Changes in EC were announced: Einar Oern Einarson (I ce), Torsten Gordh (S) and Leila Niemi-Murola (Fin); Advanced Emergency group will meet still once more before the 1. course is announced; ICU group meets at the Congress; the Advanced Pain group gave their money for the Paediatric group. and a new Obstetric Anaesthesia group wanted to start. The Board accepted this; the obstetric steering committee with the leadership of Seppo Ala-Huhta and Ulla Bang will start working already at this Congress; for the post graduated generalists a new " Master Class"- program was proposed, which would be module based and where the course members could collect their own portfolio of different advanced courses for example in paediatric, obstetric anaesthesia, pain therapy etc.; teaching methods would be courses /peers and also there would be use of the knowledge gained by the running course; the start could be with the modules within the running areas and will be gradual; the time scale for these course would be individualized; the Board greeted this proposals as "something that has been waited ever since SSAI courses started ". "How the knowledge and action will meet" ought to be looked upon by the Research Committee and also this would be important for marketing purposes. EC/CPC are planning a join meeting next January 2008.

The report from Clinical Practise Committee by Minna Niskanen. CPC has been working hard (see the Congress program) and most actively Jon Laake (N); there was

discussion about the acceptance of SSAI guidelines and it was agreed that the SSAI Board will approve SSAI guidelines by e-mailing and minimal level of evidence (grading) or a statement of the level, why not used (expert opinion only) must be included before approval and publication.

At the moment following guidelines are ready / nearly ready:

1) **Fasting** (published in Acta), 2) **Anaphylaxis** (published in Acta),3) **Prehospital airway management** (nearly ready), 4) **Anticoagulation and anaesthesia** (nearly ready). There was a proposal for a new taskforce " Sedation outside the operating theatres" and as a facilitator was proposed a Swedish member; the name will be announced later; also work is in progress for "Acute postoperative pain treatment", "Emergency Anaesthesia in the hospital" and "Difficult airway in the hospital"; for future strategies was proposed: 1) benchmarking of medical and economical outcome (under process by Jon Laake) and 2) follow-up of the implementation of guidelines into clinical practise together with Research committee.

The Election Committee agreed to nominate for the General Assembly Sigga Kalman as their candidate for the next Secretary General.

The report of the Research Committee by Anders Åneman. The aim of RC is to provide logistic and financial support and facilitate networking initiatives for new Scandinavian multicentre research projects; ongoing studies: 1) Fluid study (78 units included, 68 went to website) 2) Safe trips, originally Australian study 3) hypothermia project by M. Castren in planning during this Congress 4) SCCTG: glutamine-study and hypothermia (Nordic) and the European Resuscitation Council project are finalized. "Failed" initiatives: RC need to attract new grant applications and projects from key opinion leaders ("marketing"); the increased competition from other networks is a problem; the future: the mainframe is unchanged.

Item 14 by Jannicke Mellin-Olsen. The World Congress is in South Africa in March, 2008; the candidate for the chair of Education Committee in WFSA is Jannicke; the Executive Committee of WFSA will need a Scandinavian influence; strategy for voting will be made up by Jannicke; the Baltic collaboration will need more attention, this will be taken up next time at the January 2008 SSAI Board Meeting.

Item 15 *Any other business*

1) *Learning points from SSAI 2007 for Odense Congress (by Helen):*

- work with the industry early enough
- CME points are important
- do not have a congress in September, you destroy your summer
- use the Board as a good network
- you need a professional congress bureau
- SSAI Committees ought to have good room in the program, they are a financial and profile matter for the Society;
- think big, plan mean
- new collaboration: intermeeting alliance between the new and the old congress organizers; Göteborg Congress organizers are willing to help in Odense.
- communication was excellent by www.ssai.info and e-mails;

2) the 30th SSAI Congress is in Odense, June 10-13. 2009; Danes from all the universities have been invited to help; the first announcement was divided;

3) SSAI membership fee- discussion continued and finally the Board approved to increase the fee with 50 DKK and this will be proposed to GA by the Board.

4) The AF Board was elected by SSAI Board as follows: Eldar Søreide, Sigga Kalman, Freddy Lippert, Lars Wiklund, Pertti Pere, Sven Erik Gisvold and Sigurbergur Karason.

5) The letter from the Danish and Swedish Societies of Emergency Medicine was discussed and Eldar Söreide will give them a polite answer. It was also agreed to establish a new Position Paper task force for "The future plans ("How to organize our work") inside Our Speciality" (proposed members: Eldar Söreide, Sven Erik Gisvold and the Organizing Committee of the next SSAI Congress) for the next January SSAI Board meeting.

6) A proposal for new SSAI honorary members (i.e. Thorsteinn Stefansson, Sten Lindahl and Mårten Brinklöv) was put forwards for the next GA in Odense. This will be discussed again at the next SSAI Board Meeting.

7) Sven Erik Gisvold announced that he will step down in the near future and suggested for the next Editor-in-Chief: Lars Rasmussen (DK); this will be decided at the next January SSAI Board meeting; the next Editor-in-Chief could possible start January 2009;

8) The next SSAI Board Meeting was decided to be held January, 26-27, 2008, in Schaeffergaarden, Gentofte, Copenhagen.

Eldar Söreide
President

Eija Nilsson
Secretary General