

Minutes

Meeting No.: 88
Time: 5-6 March, 2020
Venue: Restaurant and Hotel Fru Larsen, Laurbjerg/
Scandiatransplant office, Aarhus

Participants: The board of Scandiatransplant:
CHAIRMAN: Bo-Göran Ericzon, Stockholm
SWEDEN: Vivan Hellström, Uppsala
FINLAND: Arno Nordin, Helsinki
NORWAY: Morten Hagness, Oslo
ICELAND: Jóhann Jónsson, Reykjavik
DENMARK: Allan Rasmussen, Copenhagen

Invited associate member representative:
ESTONIA: Virge Pall, Tartu

Director of Scandiatransplant:
DENMARK: Kaj Anker Jørgensen, Aarhus

Leader of meeting: Bo-Göran Ericzon

Writer of minutes: Kaj Anker Jørgensen

Agenda:**1. Welcome:**

Bo-Göran Ericzon bid everybody welcome and said that we were especially happy to see Vivan Hellström participate as a suppleant for Johan Nilsson. It was also decided that in the future the minutes of the board meetings should be sent directly to the suppleants as well as the board members. He asked if there was any issues for the point 12: Any other business. Bo-Göran had some information on the export from NLTR to ELTR. Jóhann Jónsson wanted a short discussion on working up living donors outside the transplant country. Kaj had a point about Scandiatransplant group meetings and COVID-19. Morten Hagness would like to discuss that we do not have a group for donation and issues that are common for all the other groups. Vivan Hellström asked for a discussion of DCD costs.

2. Minutes of last Board meeting ([link](#)):

Kaj quickly went through the minutes of the last board meeting in Oslo on the 2nd and 3rd of October 2019. The minutes were accepted.

3. Status at the Office:

Frank Pedersen died the 26th of Dec. 2019. He had left the office by May 1st, but was still employed until Jan. 1st, 2020. Ilse still has a big work load and we are working on trying to assist her. There is a new vacation law in Denmark and the consequences will be that we will have to have people to take holidays, which they should have taken, but haven't had yet. Due to this, service from the office will be

restricted in the summer vacation period. Tito Phiri, who has a bachelor in computer software science, is studying for a master degree mostly in his spare time but we are supporting this. Our student programmer Poul Kruse-Hansen has decided to take a brake from his studies and we have increased his working hours from 10 to 30 hours a week.

Kaj then told the board about some incidents that had taken place last week where the mail system in YASWA had failed to work as intended due to some problems with the gateways in the Region Midt-IT system, so the mails did not get out. In the clinical setting this disturbance did not harm any patients and things were solved, but Kaj has asked for a meeting with the Region Midt-IT to completely understand what happened and to ensure that it cannot happen again.

4. Guidelines for Travel Grant:

Kaj had sent out a suggestion for changing the guidelines for granting travel grants. The suggestions were that the granting should not be bound to the board meeting held just before the council meeting. This has actually not been the case in the time Kaj has been medical director. There has been some confusion about when you have to report after you have used your travel grant, and the suggestion that this should be during the year following the granting was accepted. There has also been some confusion about the reference person in the guidelines and in the form of the travel grant, so this should be omitted. These suggestions from Kaj was accepted. The board also decided that the deadline for applying for a travel grant should be the 1st of February, and this should be written into the guidelines.

5. Accounts and Budget:

The board had received the documents from independent auditor Ernst & Young. The income for 2019 had been about 5.6 million DKK, and the expenses had been about 6.4 million DKK. The difference being about 780,000 DKK of which about 500,000 DKK had been used for the Scandiatransplant jubilee. The assets were about 6.4 million DKK by January 1st, 2020. The net expenses for the 50 year jubilee were 529,000 DKK. At the council meeting in Oslo on May 2nd, 2018 the council granted 500,000 DKK for the jubilee. The budget accepted by the council for 2019 was in total 6,400,000 DKK and the total expenses had been 6,364,070 DKK. The expenses had therefore been kept within the budget including the Scandiatransplant 50 year jubilee. Kaj will ask the council for a budget for 2020 of 6.1 million DKK, which is the same as they accepted at the last council meeting. For 2021 he will ask for a budget of 6.5 million DKK adding 200,000 to the wages and 200,000 to group meetings, board meetings, user education etc. Kaj argued to suggest to the council an increase in the price per transplantation from 2,600 DKK to 3,000 DKK per year. The arguments were the following: The price per transplantation has in principle been unchanged since 2010 where it actually was decreased from 3,100 DKK per transplantation from deceased donor to 3,000 DKK per transplantation from deceased donor, which had been the price for the preceding four years. In this time prices have gone up especially wages have increased and we have also increased the staff at Scandiatransplant to meet the demand for service from the Scandiatransplant Office. The price has not been increased the last years because we have had sufficient assets. The assets we have now are close to one year's budget.

The reports from the independent auditor follow Danish laws for accounting. In

these you have assets when you earn them and not when you actually get paid. We actually do not have the assets of 6.5 million on January 1st, 2020 in cash, because it has been decided that the bills for the transplantations performed the preceding year are sent out after the council meeting and in practice this is in the summer time.

This means that the actual cash we have by January 1st 2020 is about 1.5 million DKK, while the wages until summer time will be about 2 million DKK. Our expenses and wages are paid by Region Midtjylland (Central Region Denmark) by a cash in cash out system. This means that for a short time in 2020 Region Midtjylland will be lending Scandiatransplant a small amount of money. This is not a practical problem yet, but it is actually not legal. Our agreement with Region Midtjylland is to service us, not to lend us money.

The board therefore accepted the suggestion from Kaj to increase the price per transplantation to 3000 DKK per transplantation and put this suggestion forward for the Council. Another way to decrease this cash flow problem would be to send out the bills out earlier. It was therefore decided that Kaj at the Council meeting will suggest that bills can be sent out by the 1st of March each year. People get the numbers for the costs for transplantation in January and they will have January and February to clarify any differences between their own numbers and the numbers that Scandiatransplant has regarding transplantations.

The increase in price per transplantation of 15% over ten years seems reasonable. If we have the same number of transplantations in 2020 as we had in 2019 (which was the highest ever) a price of 3000 DKK per transplantation would give an income of 6.3 million DKK.

All the documents from the independent auditor were signed by all board members.

6. Travel and Research Grants:

Travel Grants:

There were applications for 461,361 DKK for the travel grant, where the available amount is 150,000 DKK.

Research grants:

There were applications for 1,810,116 DKK for the research grant, where the amount available is 450,000 DKK.

Travel grants:

The board decided to award:

Jenny Kippola from Helsinki with a grant of 14,000 DKK

Urs Christen from Oslo with a grant of 19,000 DKK

Lena Wehlin from Uppsala with a grant of 5,500 DKK

Benny Hellqvist from Helsinki with a grant of 19,000 DKK

The rest of the available amount was transferred to the research grants.

Research grants:

For the research grants the board decided to award

Per Brandström, Gothenburg with a grant of 90,000 DKK

Pernille Koefoed-Nielsen, Aarhus with a grant of 89,000 DKK

Helena Genberg, Stockholm with a grant of 285,000 DKK

Kristjan Karason, Gothenburg with a grant of 75,000 DKK

7. Latvia and Lithuania:

Bo-Göran had sent the letter approved by the board to Latvia as a response to their

request on how to become a member of Scandiatransplant, and Bo-Göran had also been approached by people from both Latvia and Lithuania at the CD P TO CoE meeting, where they had presented their transplantation/donor activities. Kaj had been invited and gave a speech in Vilnius at the 50 year anniversary of kidney transplantations in Lithuania. Kaj told the board that both countries were seriously wanting to become members of Scandiatransplant. Arguments were presented both for working towards accepting these two countries as members and against such membership of Scandiatransplant. The board thinks that the general feeling in the Scandiatransplant community is that it is too early to accept these two countries as members. Scandiatransplant should help these countries come up to medical and ethical standards, that are similar with the standards in the Scandiatransplant countries, and the Scandiatransplant community should increase its knowledge and trust in the transplant communities of these countries, before membership is considered. Both countries should be invited to give a 10-15 minutes presentation of the status of transplantation and donation in their countries at the council meeting in Helsinki in May 2020. There should be about 5 minutes for questions about the situations in the countries.

8. iSMaRT:

This is a computer program developed by Ragnar Källén, which all the centers in Sweden use to keep everybody involved updated on all information during the donation process. After Ragnar Källén has retired Sweden will need to decide what to do within the next two years since the permissions for using this program will have run out. Skåne has asked Scandiatransplant if Scandiatransplant would be interested in incorporating such facilities in YASWA. For this reason the Scandiatransplant office invited two coordinators from Sweden, who use the program all the time to demonstrate it for the office. Many of the values entered into this program are also entered into YASWA. Scandiatransplant cannot and will not just copy the iSMaRT or use the iSMaRT code, but we may be able to develop functionalities in YASWA for the purpose of following the donation process from the start and making it available for all Scandiatransplant centers where it is applicable. The general feeling of the board was that it would be a very good idea to introduce such functionalities in YASWA, but it is of course difficult to make a definite decision when it is not known what this will be, especially for the countries who have not used iSMaRT. It was therefore decided to make a small group to come with a proposal, which could be presented to the board and transplant coordinators and people involved in the donation process in all the countries. Vivan Hellström from Uppsala will ask three coordinators from Sweden, one from Uppsala/Stockholm, one from Malmö and one from Gothenburg to participate in this group. Carl Jorns from Stockholm will be asked to participate and Ilse Weinreich from Scandiatransplant office will participate. The Scandiatransplant office will take initiative to get this group together.

9. Fusion alternative Immucor (software for Luminex):

When developing the programming for STEP, direct transfer of data from the Luminex using Fusion software was developed according to the wishes from the users. The company behind a rival company selling beads and software for the Luminex machine has asked for possibility to transfer data in the same way from their Immucor software to the Luminex. They say Scandiatransplant is favouring one company. The office has asked all the tissue typing laboratories what they use, and all except one use Fusion for routine, but at least one uses Immucor as a

supplement. This was discussed and the board does not think we are favouring one company, because we need to use the program that all centers are using, and the programming for STEP is related to this. Anybody can use Immucor and transfer data manually, but for the STEP people have to use Fusion for direct transfer.

10. STS in Helsinki:

Arno Nordin told us about the program. A very big issue is if STS, Council and Board meetings in Helsinki may have to be cancelled or delayed due to COVID-19. There will have to be a deadline for making a decision about this. The deadline was not decided, but around April 1st was suggested. A plan B was also requested but there was no agreement on such a plan B.

11. YASWA mini course for the Board:

Ilse Weinreich from the office gave the board members an overview and an introduction to how YASWA works.

12. Any other business:

1. Bo-Göran Ericzon told the board that during merging of the NLTR with the ELTR all fields that were blank in NLTR were erased in ELTR. Bo-Göran Ericzon thinks that the ELTR has found a backup so that at least Stockholm can get the data that they have put into ELTR previously, but there is some uncertainty about this. This is a matter to be discussed in NLTG.
2. Jóhann Jónsson wanted to discuss work up of living donors from outside your country. This is in principle not a Scandiatransplant matter, but a matter between the hospitals. It should not give any problems, and Allan Rasmussen advised Jóhann Jónsson to contact Søren Schwartz Sørensen on regulations and practices in this matter.
3. Kaj wanted to discuss about Scandiatransplant group meetings and the COVID-19. A liver group meeting in Stockholm has been postponed, and this may also be necessary for coming group meetings. The decision for this must be made by the group chairman or the leader of the meetings, and decision should be made in time, so people do not order their flights. The big question is the STS in Helsinki.
4. Morten Hagness wanted to discuss the problem that we do not have a group for issues that are common for all the groups or outside the issues of the groups for example organ donation. He also felt that there could be a need for a broader risk assessment group than just the guidelines from the Infections Group we have. It was decided to put this issue on the agenda for the council meeting.
5. Vivan Hellström brought up the question about the cost for DCD donations because it is much higher than for DBD donations. This question of cost is outside the scope of what the Scandiatransplant organization currently is taking care of, but it may be an issue to be discussed in the transplant community in general and between the hospitals.
6. Bo-Göran felt that the speed with which the last Council meeting had been conducted was almost embarrassing. He wants the groups to have the opportunity to speak reintroduced. The conclusion was that the SHLG, NKG, NTLG, and the Infectious group to give a 5 minutes talk at the Council meeting, while the rest of groups should have option of sending out a written report before the meeting and be present at the meeting to answer questions.

13. Next meeting (Helsinki May 5th /6th , 2020):

The next board meeting is to be in connection with the STS in Helsinki. The board meeting will be late in the afternoon or in the beginning of the evening on Tuesday

May 5th and in the morning of May 6th as a preparation for the council meeting in the afternoon of May 6th, 2020.

P.S. The Board meeting was held before the COVID-19 situation exploded. Implementation of some decisions will be influenced by the further developments of this disease.