

Minutes

Meeting No.: 91
Time: 21st Jan., 2021
Virtual meeting Virtual Zoom meeting

Participants: The board of Scandiatransplant:
CHAIRMAN: Bo-Göran Ericzon, Stockholm
SWEDEN: Johan Nilsson, Lund
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

Virtual Scandiatransplant Board Meeting January 21st, 2021; 12.00-14.00 CET**1) Welcome:**

BGE bid everybody welcome to this virtual meeting. The main topic of the meeting should be the Latvia/Lithuania issue as planned, but we would have to take up a few other things that had come up also.

2) Minutes of last Board Meeting (Virtual: 05.10.2020): (http://www.scandiatransplant.org/about-scandiatransplant/scandiatransplant-board/Minutes_Board_No_90_5.Oct.2020_virtualZoommeeting.pdf):

The minutes were accepted with no further comments.

3) Issues for “Any Other Business”:

VP wanted to discuss full membership for Estonia.

4) Status at the Office (including Firewall breakdown for all Central Region Denmark IT):

KAJ said that the Office was working at home since before Christmas as recommended by authorities in the second wave of COVID-19. If it was necessary to meet, people can go and work together at Skejby, but this should be mailed to Ilse Weinreich or KAJ. There had been an incident on December 30th, 2020, where a firewall problem had blocked for all access to Central Region Denmark IT systems including YASWA. The whole Office had all gathered at Skejby to discuss what to do in future, when such things happen. BGE commented, that we all see such breakdowns in IT-systems from time to time and we should keep the main Scandiatransplant IT-system within the Hospital.

5) Latvia & Lithuania:

- a) What has happened since last Board meeting; KAJ told the Board about the communication that had been regarding this issue. He had also sent out the e-mails before the Board meeting. He thought that there were the following 3 issues to discuss.

- b) Membership application from both countries: BGE asked everybody to present their feelings about a future membership for Latvia and Lithuania. There were differences in the views presented, but mostly people felt that we could go forward, slowly and cautiously. BGE then asked and got approval from everybody, that membership in the future still was an option. Presently the only potential expansion of Scandiatransplant is to the Baltic states. Membership will always be decided by the Council.

It was decided to form a working group to clarify the situation in each country, what they have and what they need. The group should have people from the major Scandiatransplant groups and all the countries plus the Chairman and finally the Medical Director as secretary for the group. It was decided that KAJ contacts the following people and ask if they would be willing to join this working group:

Søren S. Sørensen: NKG/Denmark

Are Martin Holm: SHLG/Norway

Heikki Mäkisalo: NTLG/Finland

Mats Bengtsson: STTG/Sweden

Carola Schauman: NTCG/Finland

Virge Pall: Estonia

Runolfur Pálsson: Iceland

KAJ will take contact to both countries and ask for contact information for people in Latvia/Lithuania, who can give the working group the information they need. From each country there should be a person from the competent authorities and from each hospital (Riga, Vilnius, and Kaunas), and there should be a doctor from both donor and the transplantation side.

The mandate for the working group would be to:

Describe how organ donation and transplantation is organized.

Identify any problems with medical/technical standards.

Identify how transplantation/donation is financed.

Identify any legal and/or ethical problems.

Write a report to the Council evaluating criteria and possibilities for membership.

c) Organ exchange agreement with Latvia:

In 2013 Scandiatransplant made an Organ Exchange Agreement with Estonia, before they became members. BGE and KAJ have sent a suggestion for an Organ Exchange Agreement with Latvia to them, and we are waiting for their response. We also ask for some official statement in writing, that we will be dealing with the official organ procurement organization of Latvia. The wording in point 1 of the suggested agreement was discussed. The wording gave a window about EFI accreditation of HLA labs, so that these tests might be performed in another country. It was decided that in an agreement this should not be possible. This would be an agreement between Latvia and all Scandiatransplant, and such organs from Latvia should be distributed in Scandiatransplant according to the Scandiatransplant rules, so there should be EFI accredited HLA Labs in Latvia in order to make an Organ Exchange Agreement between Scandiatransplant and Latvia.

Point 3 in the suggested agreement was also discussed, because it gave Latvia an option to communicate to Scandiatransplant on patients with special needs. The wording was accepted, but the organ groups would have to discuss how they would treat such a request.

d) Cooperation Riga <-> Lund:

JN told the Board about the situation in Lund. There are some plans for Lund to help educate Riga. The department has not and is not planning to start transplantation cooperation other than through Scandiatransplant. There is a company owned by the region Skåne called “SkåneCare”, which has contacted the Scandiatransplant Office and chairman expressing disappointment over the speed with which Scandiatransplant is pursuing this matter. It was agreed that Scandiatransplant will not communicate with “Skåne Care”, but only with the Hospital. Riga and Lund could start a cooperation following the Scandiatransplant “*Guidelines for Deceased organ transplantation of individuals from Non-Scandiatransplant member country within Scandiatransplant and the use of organs from such countries for Scandiatransplant recipients*”. In these guidelines it is not required that the non-Scandiatransplant country has EFI accredited HLA laboratories. (http://www.scandiatransplant.org/organ-allocation/GuidelinesforDeceasedorgantransplantationNonScandiatransplant_March2017.pdf). It was discussed that this may not be logic following the discussion of the organ exchange agreement. However, the present guidelines do not require this, and in such cases it is up to the collaborating Scandiatransplant center to take responsibility for the quality of the organs they transplant.

There has been put forward a similar agreement for “twinning” between Latvia and Estonia in lung transplantation at a Board meeting in March 2018. Although the Board generally agreed that this twinning agreement fulfilled the guidelines, the cooperation was not accepted, and the reasons for this can be seen in the minutes from that meeting point 10 (<http://www.scandiatransplant.org/about-scandiatransplant/scandiatransplant-board/MinutesBoardNo82Aarhus56March2018.pdf>), but one reason was insecurity about how transplantation/donation was financed in Latvia.

6) Date for STS 2022 (NSN Odense May 4-7, ATC Boston June 4-8):

It was decided to have STS 2022 in Iceland in week 22 just before the ATC in Boston. The organizers will determine the exact dates.

7) SAE/SAR reporting:

There have only been 5 SAE/SAR reports in 2020. We should at the next Board meeting discuss what can be done to encourage reporting.

8) EDITH->ESOT:

BGE informed the Board, that the EDITH project had been moved to ESOT. The position of the Board is still that we do not join this project but use our resources on better use of the Scandiatransplant living donor registry.

9) Endorsement of EKHA document:

This document had been sent to the Board members earlier and it was decided that we could not endorse the document before we had the Board meeting. The deadline we were given was very short, so KAJ had answered that we could not endorse the document with such short notice. The EKHA replied that they were sorry but hoped we would participate in future projects.

10) Any Other Business:

BGE said that the discussion of full membership for Estonia would be taken up at the next Board meeting in March.

11) Next Board meeting (2 day meeting planned March 11th & 12th, 2021):

This will most likely be virtual again. We have many subjects to discuss, so we will keep the 2 days. There should be pauses during the long virtual meeting and it was suggested to maybe have 4 sessions of 2 hours.