

Minutes

Meeting No.:	92
Time:	11 th -12 th March, 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:	Runólfur Pálsson & Jóhann Jónsson
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 Board Meeting March 11th & 12th, 2021 (Virtual on ZOOM)**March 11th, 13:00-16:00 CET**

- 1. Welcome:** Bo-Göran bid everybody welcome. Jóhann Jónsson did not log on to Zoom and Kaj tried to telephone him, but he did not succeed. While waiting for this, every board member presented the situation in their country especially in relation to the Covid situation right now. Bo-Göran Ericzon then proposed that point 8: Tartu membership was discussed before point 6 so it could be discussed today. He wanted to have the Tartu membership discussed and finished before we discussed the Latvia/Lithuania situation. The board agreed to this change in sequency of the points in the agenda and thought it would be good to have a "good night sleep" between point 8 in the agenda and point 9 in the agenda.
- 2. Issues for any other business:** Vanda Friman had sent mail to Kaj and Bo-Göran, which had been distributed to the board, in which she wanted to stop as the chairman of the "Infectious group". Kaj said that he had been in contact with Vanda and she was willing to continue until the meeting of Council of Representatives in May. We would discuss this under point 13: Any other business.
- 3. Minutes of last Board Meeting:** Kaj went through the minutes. These were accepted without further comments.
- 4. Status at the Office:** Kaj told them that we had been working at home since December, but people could go to the office and work if this was necessary. He thought that the productivity had decreased comparing to when we worked full time at the office, there were also more misunderstandings. The programmers complained that the gym in the hospital, where they used to work out, was closed. Kaj also felt that the online meetings were more stressful and for some people they have become more frequent. He told them that starting Monday March 15th we will work at the office two days a week, namely Monday and Wednesday. The

personnel will be encouraged to take a PCR covid test at least once every week, and this seems to be able to be done in the department.

5. **Accounts & Budget:** The documents from the independent auditor had been sent out beforehand to the board, and they have had a chance to study them. The expenses in 2020 were about 5 million DKK while the income was about 5.8 million DKK with a surplus of about 850.000 DKK. The assets are therefore now about 7.2 million DKK. There are vacation liabilities of about 500.000 DKK due to vacation money and also due to a change in the law for vacation in 2019 in Denmark. Kaj expects this to decrease a lot and probably vanish in the future. In Kaj's opinion our total assets are around 7.8 million DKK. The budget accepted by the council in May 2020 for 2021 was a total of 6.5 million DKK. Due to the Covid situation and some lesser spending on wages, Kaj will present a revised budget for 2021 to the council of 5.75 million DKK. For 2022 Kaj expects a more normal situation with travel and board meetings, so he will ask for a budget of 6.3 million DKK. For this to balance with the income, we have to expect more transplantations in 2022 than we had in 2020. There is a problem with signing the documents now where the meetings are online. We have the signature from Arno Nordin and the plan is to get the signatures from Virge Pall and Jóhann Jónsson by print, sign, scan, and send. These will be put into the documents and the people from Denmark, Norway and Sweden will sign by a system called Penneo, which is the only digital signing system that Ernst & Young in Denmark accept.
6. **Travel and Research Grants:** There were two applications for the research grant, one from Bente Jespersen to the EVITA study asking for 27.000 EUR equal 200.785 DKK, and one from Lilia Martinez de la Meza on a project about bile composition and its regulatory pathways as predictors of liver function in liver transplantation of 150.000 DKK. Since the total amount to be granted is 450.000 DKK it was decided that in this case both applications were granted the amounts they ask for. There were also two travel grants, one from Lene Ugilt Pagter Ludvigsen for a visit in Oslo in planning the EVITA study. She asks for 2800 EUR which equals 20.822 DKK and this was granted. There was an application from Carolina Stolt, coordinator in Malmø on behalf of three coordinators who wanted to visit Scotland and see their donation process both with DBD and DCD. They had made a mistake in their accounting and ask for 300.000 SEK. Adding up their expenses gives 30.000 SEK, so they were granted this amount which corresponds to 22.029 DKK. The low number of applications may be due to the Covid situation, but it was discussed how to advertise it more. Bo-Göran suggested that a poster is sent to every transplantation department, when we open up for seeking the grants.
7. **WG on more donor variables in YASWA (iSMaRT) joining at 15:30:** At 15:30 the board was joined by Carl Jorns, Stockholm, Charlotte Löwen from Skåne, Monica Olofsson, Oslo and Ilse Duus Weinreich from Scandiatransplant. They showed a presentation of the work the working group had done in regards to implementing more donor variables in YASWA. First the board had made a working group of Carl Jorns, Ilse Weinreich and three coordinators from Sweden who had presented the result of their work at a former board meeting. They were then asked by the board to work further but have coordinators from all centers participate. They then showed some screen shots of how iSMaRT work, and then they showed an excel file on how all centers had contributed with ideas and wishes, and finally some pictures of how it might look in YASWA. All centers had been asked about their feelings about this project on a scale from 0-5, 5 being the ones most positive. Centers in Norway and Sweden gave a 5, from Denmark it was a 3, while Finland and Estonia gave a lower point, because they have their own systems. In Estonia they are bound to use another system, and in Finland it would at this time be a big extra work to take in this, but they might want to join later. Ilse Weinreich made a very crewed estimation of the workload and thought that the work might be done within 1 to 1½ year. It would probably be done a little bit by bit and the time would of course depend

on other projects and their priority, but this would probably not hold other daily projects in changing things in YASWA according to the wishes from the different groups. The decision on the board was to go on with this work. Bo-Göran Ericzon thanked the group for the very fine work they had done.

- 8. Tartu membership:** Bo-Göran asked Virge Pall to give a short overall description of what it had meant to join Scandiatransplant, both positive and negative aspects. Virge Pall told us that overall it has been an excellent experience for Tartu to become a member of Scandiatransplant, the greatest advantage has been personal contacts. They have got 15 priority kidneys transplanted including 10 STAMP patients. They have got 6 priority livers, and 1 pair of lungs, and 3 hearts (transplanted in Helsinki). The most important thing had been personal contacts and the possibility to have pediatric transplantations done in other Scandiatransplant countries. The main problem has been that they only can have one lung patient on the emergency list per year. Another problem was that when they have a splittable liver, they have to send it out because they don't have a split liver program in Estonia. The payback liver would then mostly be from an older donor or of a little less quality than what they sent out. These problems were discussed a little in the board, but the board encouraged Tartu to bring this up in the respective organ groups. Johan Nilsson told about a patient who had been in ECMO for a very long time due to Covid disease, who had received a lung transplant. The process had been very difficult and they were still evaluating if they would do this again, but the patient was after a long time becoming better. In Tartu they have a Covid patient who has been in ECMO for two months waiting for a lung transplant. Tartu has a big wish to become a full member of Scandiatransplant. There was then a discussion on the impact full membership for Tartu would have on the applications and willingness to accept the two other Baltic as associate members. It was concluded that these are two different matters and they should be treated independently although one might have an impact on the other. It was the general feeling in the board that in the long run cooperation would be best if all members are equal. The board therefore decided to recommend to the council that Tartu becomes a full member of Scandiatransplant. Kaj volunteered to make a draft for this recommendation, which will be circulated in the board. Before Tartu can become a full member of Scandiatransplant, the articles have to be changed. Kaj presented a suggestion for a change in article 4, 8 and 12 to make it possible for Tartu to become a member. The board supported this suggestion. It was discussed a little how to vote for this, but this will be discussed further in point 11. However, a change in the articles of the association requires a 3/4 majority according to article 16 while decisions on membership or associate memberships can be accepted provided that 2/3 of the council of representatives accept the application.

March 12th, 13:00-16:00 CET

Both Jóhann Jónsson and Runolfur Pálsson participate.

- 9. Latvia & Lithuania:** Kaj presented for the board all the people we had decided at the last board meeting to ask to go into a working group to look at the situation in Latvia and Lithuania. All people had accepted to participate in this group. Kaj has also asked Latvia and Lithuania to appoint one person from the competent authority in each country and one person from transplantation and one person from donation from each hospital. Kaj had received the names, e-mail addresses and telephone number of such people. The mandate for this working group was again discussed and they confirmed the mandate that was suggested at the last board meeting namely to 1) Describe how organ donation and transplantation is organized. 2) Identify any problems with medical and technical standards. 3) Identify how transplantation/donation is financed. 4) Identify any legal and/or ethical

problems. 5) Write a report to the council evaluating criteria and possibilities for membership. The suggestion to form this working group will be forwarded to the council at the next council meeting, if the council decides to go on with this work.

- 10. SAE/SAR reporting:** In 2018 there were 15 reports, in 2019 there were 12 reports, and in 2020 there were only 5 reports. It was discussed how we could increase the awareness of this problem. There was a suggestion to put the pdf-file with the examples easily accessible on the home page. Each board member should go to the heads of the departments in his country and tell them about the situation and the possibility to use YASWA for reporting. Bo-Göran would contact the chair of the coordinators' group and ask them to create more attention about this.
- 11. Preparation of Council Meeting May 19th, Helsinki (incl. Board election):** We will stick to the date May 19th 2021. It will be held as a virtual meeting hosted by Helsinki. Kaj and Arno Nordin will be in touch in the practical organizing of this. The board will suggest Helena Isoniemi as chair of the council meeting and we will again ask Ilse Weinreich if she will be the writer of the minutes. The meeting will be in two parts, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Kaj had sent out a suggestion for the agenda, and the board went through this suggestion and made necessary corrections. The morning meeting will end with the question of full membership for Tartu, and the changes in articles related to this, then there will be a break and the afternoon will start with presentations from Latvia and Lithuania, and after that the board will come with suggestion to form the working group. It was decided that the office should contact the hospital in Tartu and ask who they would send as representatives to the meeting, if Tartu is accepted as full member. A board member from Estonia could then be elected in the afternoon part of the meeting. It was decided to give the presenters from Latvia and Lithuania some kind of template. The presentation should contain 1) Expectations and fears about the collaboration with Scandiatransplant. 2) The organization of donation and transplantation in the country. 3) The laboratory situation. 4) How the health care system works and how it is funded. 5) Donation results. 6) Present organ exchange with other countries. They should be given 20 minutes and we calculate 10 minutes for questions. These presenters should only participate in the council meeting during their presentation. All Scandiatransplant groups will be asked to give a five minutes presentation at the meeting. We will have to have clear open voting systems at this Council Meeting.
- 12. STS 2022:** The STS conference will be on the first and second of September (Thursday and Friday). It was decided to have two Council Meetings in 2022. First a short virtual council meeting in May with primarily budgets and accounts, and then have a face to face meeting in Iceland with issues that need more time to discuss on 31st of August 2022.
- 13. Any other business:** Vanda Friman had sent a mail, that she wanted to stop as chair of the infectious group after having worked for 14 years. She pointed at Morten Hagness as new chair for this group. It was decided that Morten Hagness should take over the group and find people who were interested in both infectious and transplantation to have the group. Until now there has been one member from each country, but Morten Hagness is free to find the best people for the group and maybe give it more structure than it has had until now.
- 14. Next Board meeting (May 18th and/or 19th in Helsinki?):** It was decided to have a board meeting on May 18th 2021 at 14:00 CET.