# General assembly (GA) for the Scandinavian Association for the Study of PaiN, SASP, 16 September 2020, 3PM CET

**1.Welcome**

Christopher welcomed us to this digital GA held by Zoom. Zoom host was Camilla Svensson.

**2.Election of chairperson and secretary**

Camilla was chosen as the chairperson of the meeting, and Emmanuel as secretary.

**3.President’s report**

Due to the covid-related cancellation of the Stockholm meeting in April, Christopher’s president’s report covers the period 6 April 2019 -16 September 2020.

Christopher outlined 3 major achievements, 3 major challenges and a number of future challenges and ambitions. See Appendix 1. Some particular comments on the points in Appendix 1 were:

* The 2019 conference in Oslo generated a high revenue, making 2019 a profitable year. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 meeting, a loss can be anticipated for this year.
* SASP has a major increase in membership after an agreement was reached whereby Norwegian pain society members have dual membership in SASP. Christopher suggested that we attempt to reach similar agreements with the other National pain societies.
* The importance of SJP for SASP was underlined, and SJP needs our support.

**4.Election of new board members**

Nanna Finnerup presented the following:

* Norway: Kristian Bernhard Nielsen has served three years and is stepping down. **Dagfinn Matre nominated.**
* Denmark**:** Christian Vægter has served three years and is stepping down. **Mads Werner nominated**
* Finland: Nora Hagelberg has served three years and is stepping down. **Reetta Sipilä nominated**
* Sweden: Camilla Svensson has served three years as treasurer and one year as past treasurer. **Camilla Svensson is seeking reelection**
* Iceland: Sigridur Zoega has served three years as president and one year as past president. **Sigridur Zoega is seeking reelection**

**Voting:** The new board members as per above were unanimously elected by hand raising.

**5.Editor in Chiefs report on the Scandinavian Journal of Pain**

EIC Mads Werner gave his report, and for specific statistics see Appendix 2.

The editorial board has been reorganized:

* The number of scientific sections has been increased.
* Additional section editors have been recruited. There are now 45 section editors, 11 of which are handling editors.

The estimated Impact Factor is 1.8-2.2, but SJP need to come up to around 2.6 to get an acknowledged (official) Impact Factor.

**6.Treasurer’s report**

Karl Örn Karlsson: 2019 was a very good year financially for SASP, with a surplus of 144,000 SEK. The cancellation of the 2020 meeting will be a financial challenge for the present year. We have had accounting cost of about 100,000 SEK this year. See Appendix 3.

Camilla Svensson: The board suggests keeping the membership fee unchanged at 40 EUROS.

**Voting:** The membership fee of 40 EUROS was unanimously adopted by the GA.

**7.Auditors report**

The auditors’ report was read by Dagfinn Matre, and the outgoing board was given freedom from liability for 2019.

**8.Election of new auditors**

Kristian Bernhard Nielsen (Norway) and Christian Vægter (Denmark) were proposed as new auditors.

**Vote**: Kristian Bernhard Nielsen (Norway) and Christian Vægter (Denmark) were elected as new auditors.

**9.Election of new members to the election committee**

Christopher: For the future, it was suggested that the new election committee discuss if they should propose some clarifications and changes in the bylaws concerning the election committee; should there always be one member per country?

The following persons were proposed:

* **Olof Steingrimsdottir** to continue to serve for Norway.
* **Gísli Vigfússon** is willing to serve for Iceland
* **Torsten Gordh** is willing to serve for Sweden
* **Eija Kalso** is willing to serve for Finland
* **Thomas Graven-Nielsen** is willing to serve for Denmark

**Vote:** The 5 persons above were elected.

**10.Plans for the 2021 meeting in Stockholm**

Camilla Svenson: When the 2021 meeting was cancelled, we had 62 registered participants. We presently have a deficit of 123,000 SEK due to costs. KI urges great caution for physical meetings in the first half of 2021. How to organize a meeting 2021 is a difficult and open question.

In the following discussion, the future importance of digital platforms for SASP was underlined. Digital meeting 2021? Communication, ie how to stay in touch with members, is a key issue for SASP.

Camilla and Emmanuel will work with plans for how to organize a meeting.

**11.Any other business**

No other questions.

**12.End of the GA**

Christopher closed the GA and particularly thanked outgoing members of the board for their work for SASP.