

Minutes:

New SASP

Founding meeting, General Assembly

Copenhagen May 30, 2009

1. Ulf Kongsgaard was elected as chair person to lead the meeting.

Torsten Gordh was elected as secretary to take the notes of the meeting.
2. Harald Breivik and Eirikur Lindal were elected as vote-count officers.
3. The chair person suggested that all delegates present at the General assembly should be eligible to vote at this founding meeting. This suggestion was accepted. A name list of all the 29 delegates present at the founding General Assembly is attached to this minutes.
4. The annual report from the interim board of “new SASP” was delivered. The history since the last SASP meeting in Turku, May 2008, was recapitulated. The original SASP was dissolved at that meeting, in order to give room for the national pain societies to form chapters of IASP. The goal for the interim board was to create a new organization, “new SASP”. The task of the new organization should be to serve as a scientific network for Scandinavian pain research, to offer an arena for interaction between basic science and clinical researchers of all professions, at yearly meetings.
5. The financial report showed that about 100 000 Euro is the total sum that in all the five countries at the moment is available for SASP. Very few payments have been made during the last year, since the Turku meeting. A formal audit has not been done since 2007. The new board must soon arrange a new one. It was suggested that all financial resources should be collected into one single account, connection with the registration of new SASP as a formal, non-profit organisation.

5. Harald Breivik presented the first supplement issue of the newly created Scandinavian Journal of Pain. This is published by Elsevier as a “hybrid journal”, i.e. a paper version containing abstract of each article (500 words), accompanied with an editorial. The full article and illustrations are published as an internet journal. The journal will be owned by new SASP.

Karena Grundig, Elsevier, is the publisher’s contact person for the new journal. She informed us that the subscription price for 2010 will be 15 Euro. Four issues are planned for 2010, the first to be published in December 2009. We will need 1000 subscribers to make the journal to survive financially. For 2011 the subscription rate will be around 20 Euro. It will take 1-2 years before the journal is cited and searchable by PubMed, then with retroactive indexation. An impact factor can be created during 2013.

7. Election of the board members to the new SASP. The new board was suggested to have ten members. Two candidates from each of the five countries had been proposed by the interim board.

These were:

Denmark: Nanna Finnerup and Camilla Stahl.

Finland: Satu Jääskeläinen and Antti Petrovaara.

Iceland: Sigridur Gunnardottir and Anna Gyda Gunnlaugsdottir.

Norway: Fröjdis Haugan and Audun Stubhaug.

Sweden: Camilla Svensson and Torsten Gordh.

The candidates listed above were elected by the meeting.

Torsten Gordh, Sweden, was elected president of New SASP.

8. A suggestion for bylaws for New SASP was presented. They had been produced by a task force from the interim board, lead by Satu

Jääskeläinen. The decision was that the bylaws should be accepted, to get the new organization started. Any suggestions from the members for revisions of the bylaws may be communicated to the new board, and will be discussed at the General Assembly next year. The new bylaws are attached to these minutes.

9. The meeting decides that all participants in the Copenhagen meeting should be offered a free membership in New SASP for 2009. Those who were interested signed a list during the meeting. The same offer will be given to all members of “old SASP”.
The national pain societies, with their presidents present at this General Assembly, will discuss the same offer in their boards, if their members should be offered free membership in new SASP.
10. According to the bylaws, the meeting decided that the new board shall carry out the following tasks:
 - a/ New SASP should be officially registered legally as a non profit organization.
 - b/ All the financial resources, from “old SASP”, now existing in the five different SASP countries, should be centralized to one common bank account owned by New SASP.
 - c/ A professional administration, for the management of membership records, payment of dues etc. for new SASP should be established as soon as possible.
11. Ulf Kongsgaard, the president of the interim board of SASP, received warm thanks for his important and difficult work, during a complicated phase in the history of SASP, to maintain the Scandinavian pain research network in a new shape. Ulf also thanked the members of the interim board.
12. Lona Christrup, the president of the Copenhagen meeting, was warmly thanked for the excellent organization, high scientific level, and friendly atmosphere at the congress.

13. The next New SASP meeting is planned to take place in Norway during spring 2010. Exact date and place will soon be announced.

14. End of General Assembly.

Uppsala 090608

Torsten Gordh
Secretary at New SASP General Assembly