

## **NORDIC ASSOCIATION FOR ANDROLOGY**

### **Past Presidents report for 2006-2007**

First of all I will apologize for not participating in the recent NAFA scientific meeting in Oslo and also not participating in the Annual General Assembly. Furthermore, I must admit I have not been sufficiently clear in my communication to the board members during the recent 6–8 months. Because of several circumstances it has unfortunately not been possible to handle things otherwise.

Prior to the annual meeting in Oslo, I realized that things would not change the coming year, and I would not be able to devote the needed time to NAFA. Therefore, I decided to leave the post as President for NAFA, and leave it to the Vice-President until a new President was elected. However, in the following I will give a report for the period 2006-2007.

According to the constitution of NAFA, the society's aim is to stimulate education, evidence based treatment and research in the field of andrology. NAFA shall also actively promote contacts between representatives of various disciplines with interest in andrology. Furthermore, it is stated that NAFA shall arrange one or two scientific meetings per year, of which one has to be between August 1 and September 30.

Usually, only one annual scientific meeting has been held, to achieve the aim. In 2006 the meeting was arranged by the group from the Andrology Center in Stockholm, and took place in Stockholm (at the Baltic Sea). Topics such as erectile dysfunction, sperm physiology, epigenetics and androgen action were covered. From a scientific and social point of view it was a success.

There is no doubt that NAFA fulfills its aim by taking care that the annual scientific meeting is held. Promoting contacts between representatives of various disciplines is mainly achieved by bringing people together at the annual scientific meetings. On the other hand, we also have to admit that the competition from other scientific meetings has increased. There are regular meetings organized by International Society of Andrology and European Academy of Andrology; meetings that can be said to fulfill the same aims as NAFA's. In addition, other scientific meetings focusing on more narrow topics are also frequently held. One can then ask whether there is still room or need for NAFA? I am not in doubt that NAFA is still needed as a society. Andrology is a relatively small speciality, and national societies seem to have a hard time surviving. NAFA naturally fills in the gap between the large, international meetings and no "local" meetings at all. Furthermore, NAFA also provides a place where young researchers can obtain experience in presenting their work.

Between the annual meetings NAFA ought to serve as a place where its members can find information of what is going on elsewhere within andrology. NAFA has not succeeded in this, at least in the recent years. Some years ago, it was agreed that the majority of communication to the members had to be electronically. This may still be the most relevant way, however, it needs to be improved a lot. The NAFA homepage has been modernized, and it has become much easier to up-date it. But we still need to assure that the information at the home-page reach the members. It has been suggested that all members

will be informed by e-mail whenever any news appear at the home-page. For this NAFA needs e-mail addresses, but unfortunately very few members have informed NAFA about their e-mail addresses.

The young scientist competition has taken place several years by now. However, the number of potential participants has gradually decreased during the most recent years. This may partly be because the number of young scientist within andrology has decreased or it may be because NAFA has not informed sufficiently about the competition. However, at least in Denmark this has not been the problem. Members of NAFA have been informed directly, encouraged to spread the information to younger members of their teams. Secondly, departments of endocrinology, gynecology, urology and fertility clinics have also been informed by ordinary mail.

The financial statement for 2006 was not ready to be presented at the AGM in Oslo. I have now taken over from the treasurer, and have started to finalize the financial statement. I will probably be able to finish this by the end of November, whereafter the external auditor of NAFA will examine the book keeping. Also, it will be most realistic that I finish the financial statement for 2007. Thereafter, NAFA has to appoint a new treasurer to take over the accounts from January 2008.

For some years NAFA has used an external and professional auditor to examine the book keeping and make the financial statement. This has so far been an advantage taking into consideration the discussions that went on the years before regarding the credibility of the financial statements. Furthermore, the auditor fee has been kept at a moderate level. The only disadvantage is that we cannot expect to receive the financial statement until beginning of the second half of the year following to the end of the previous financial year. However, I find this in general is working satisfactory, and I will suggest to continue the current practice.

Since the annual general meeting in 2006, the board has held one telephone meeting, and I assume that the board members that participated in the Oslo meeting also held a board meeting there.

I have seen the minutes from the AGM, September 1 2007. I have, however, one correction to make. Prior to the meeting, I agreed to continue as contact person for NAFA in Denmark until a substitute was appointed. Thus, I do not continue neither as an ordinary board member nor treasurer.

I wish the new board good luck for its future work.

Copenhagen, November 5, 2007

Niels Jørgensen