

## NorPEN EC meeting February 23

Chair: Lotte Rasmussen

Note taker: Arto Puranen

Attendees: Lotte Rasmussen, Maurizio Sessa, Hedi Taipale, Larus Steinþór Guðmundsson, Jacqueline Cohen, Carolyn Cesta, Lina Steinrud Mørch, Miia Artama, Heini Kari, Arto Puranen

- 1) Welcome, introduction (round the table), and some housekeeping
- 2) Approval of meeting notes from last meeting (Tampere Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 2022 and January 24<sup>th</sup> 2023)
  - Both minutes were approved
- 3) Orientation from chair and co-chair
  - Update of NorPEN webpage
    - i. The webpage will be updated with info on EC members and new NorPEN members (x2)
    - ii. Regular members are asked to check the links for the research group members on the NorPEN website for their respective countries/representatives (Danish and Swedish OK)
    - iii. The NorPEN webpages have not been updated lately. Carolyn is reviewing them and will suggest updates and additions, including a tab for activities by the NorPEN Edu Group, including research groups available to host a student. Additionally, Leena is writing up a history of NorPEN which will be added to the website.
      - If anyone has ideas of improvements to the webpages please share them
      - Some inconsistencies in website, like copyright notes, dates from different subpages should be checked
  - Agenda template
    - i. Lotte has prepared an agenda template to help especially new members to form agenda since NorPEN EC meetings have rotating chairmanship. This will be shared before next meeting.
  - PhD student substitute
    - i. No applications received yet. EC members were reminded to circulate information about the position. An email will be distributed by Lotte when the date for next meeting is in place.
  - Newsletter
    - i. A Newsletter will be put together by the chair and co-chair following the NorPEN meeting and distributed in December 2023 to provide information about NorPEN activities
  - Shared folder: A shared folder will be created to store minutes, agendas etc. Lotte will return with updates on this.
  - NorPEN 2024
    - i. NorPEN 2024 will be held in Copenhagen.
- 4) Initial discussions on affiliations with industry/private companies for speakers and whether NorPEN members can be private companies
  - There has been interest from a research contract company to be a member of NorPEN however our bylaws do not currently allow this. We should discuss possibility at coming NorPEN meetings. If industry-related members are allowed, we need to discuss what this means to regulatory members of NorPEN.
  - Pros? Cons?
    - i. Should we differentiate between pharmaceutical companies and companies who are working with pharmacoepi studies and developing methodology?
    - ii. NorPEN is a research group network

- iii. Idea: this could improve interaction with industry, since there is some collaboration anyway, at least in Denmark
  - iv. Problems: Industry hosting NorPEN meetings? There could be a restriction included in the bylaws.
  - v. The next NorPEN EduGroup seminar will be given by an individual who is part time employment in both industry and academia.
  - vi. A statement considering changes to the bylaws regarding this should be prepared and distributed for comments by the EC.
- 5) Update on NorPEN meeting 2023 in Oslo
  - Oslo congress center booked for the meeting
    - i. This is more costly than hosting the meeting at university
  - Norwegian institute of public health and Uni of Oslo are on organizing committee
  - Tentative theme of the meeting: *Strengthening our Nordic network for preparedness and impact*
  - Attending fee approx. 250€ per person. Trying to keep the fees similar to last year but probably they will be slightly higher
  - Hope to receive grant from BCPT
  - Space planned for approximately 100-120 attendees
  - It would be nice to have a talk about history and evolution of NorPEN in beginning of the meeting (will connect Leena and Kari Furu)
- 6) Update from NorPEN Edugroup
  - Meeting 2 weeks ago
  - Continuing webinar/seminar series,
  - Nordforsk application for university collaboration, we are waiting to hear if we made it to Phase 2 (early March)
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- 7) Discussion of incoming applications (1 – see attachment)
  - NorPEN has received an application to be a member of NorPEN from Fimea
    - i. Application was approved
- 8) Update from members of EC
  - Larus noted the issue with Iceland, it is hard to find EC members, but Larus is going to continue searching for possible candidates
- 9) AOB
  - It was noted that it is beneficial for PhD students to attend European / international pharmacoepi conferences, in addition to NorPEN
  - NorPEN webpage:
    - i. There was a suggestion of an outreach tab which could include activities where NorPEN members are active e.g. in ISPE or other conferences such as EuroDURG.
    - ii. A list of activities could be put at the webpage
- 10) Next meeting; chair: SE
  - Date to be decided in Doodle (to be sent by Carolyn)