

NorPEN TC January 15 at 13.00 CET, 2019

Present: Kasper Kristensen (student, DK), Heidi Taipale (FI), Lárus Steinþór Guðmundsson (IS), Leena Saastamoinen (registry, FI), Miia Artama (associations, FI), Øystein Karlstad (NO), Mette Norgaard (meeting organizer, DK), Vera Ehrenstein (meeting organizer, DK)

1. Welcome

Kasper welcomed all.

2. Note keeper

Heidi was appointed as note keeper.

3. Approval of notes from last meeting (all)

The notes were approved.

4. Evaluation of Norpen 2018, Oslo.

Feedback received for the Oslo meeting and pre-conference course were discussed. One theme was to have more breaks and time for networking during the meeting. One possibility could be to have networking time right after the pharmacoepi-slam but then the slam should be scheduled early in the meeting. Organizers of the next meeting will consider this.

5. Planning of the NorPEN 2019 meeting in Aarhus.

Mette and Vera presented ideas for the meeting and pre-conference course (they were also circulated by email before the TC). The plan was discussed and liked. As commented by email, November 13-15 would be more suitable timing for the meeting and the next NorPEN meeting will be organized on November 13-15 in Aarhus. Theme of the meeting will be "Phase 4 studies and beyond". Several points related to organization of the meeting were discussed, such as budgets from previous meetings (Helsinki, Oslo; Leena will check from previous emails) and the number of participants who attended Oslo and Helsinki meetings. (Mette and Vera left the meeting after this)

6. Discussion of brainstorming ideas from our last meeting (see attached) to promote Nordic pharmacoepi studies (all)

The ideas were discussed by themes. Statement on the behalf of NorPEN on enhancing Nordic collaboration and possibilities for data sharing was suggested. For education and training, mailing list to inform courses etc. within NorPEN was also discussed. Aarhus meeting organizers will be informed about these brainstorming ideas if they will find ways to enhance those in practice in the next NorPEN meeting.

7. Evaluation of the Nordic Postgraduate course Part 1 26-30 November 2018, Karolinska (SE?)

This topic was skipped as there were no representatives from Sweden/ Karolinska. This will be in the agenda of the next meeting.

8. Webpage updates (all),

Ex Com members have been updated in the web pages. Ex Com members should check their own description and email to Leena if any errors.

9. Keeping in touch with NorPEN research group. Establishing a mailing list (Leena).

Leaders of the member research groups will be invited to join a mailing list (voluntary; Leena will contact them). Their contact information could also be added to the membership pages.

10. Webinars produced by the Danish Society for Pharmacoepidemiology: Could these be of interest to NorPEN members? (DK - Kasper)

- a. 8 yearly webinars (45 minutes) on various pharmacoepi issues. Please see <http://www.dsfe.dk/Hot-Topic-Webinars/>

Mailing list for NorPEN members (member groups) was proposed for advertising these webinars and also for University of Oslo courses for which Hedvig sent a flyer to the Ex Com members this week. Advertisement of webinars and courses could also be placed into NorPEN web pages.

11. Other (All)

None.

12. Next Skype meeting

- a. Chair: NO, notekeeper: DK

The next Ex Com meeting was planned to **March 4 at 13.00 CET by Skype.**

The chair and the note-keeper for the TCs take turns by country: DK, NO, IS, SE and FI. The chair of one meeting will take notes at the next meeting.

Please remember to inform your substitute.

APPENDIX

Summary of brainstorming regarding the future of NorPEN – how can we do Nordic studies

ExCom members brainstormed by use of post-it notes. Three or more ideas per member was the guideline. Subsequently, ideas were organized collectively into different domains, as follows:

FUNDING

- Common applications
- Infrastructural grants
- Opportunities beyond NordForsk

DATA

- Common data model, data cleaning code repository
- Improve possibilities for data sharing

PRACTICALITIES

- “Knowledge bank”; research teams should share their experiences with Nordic collaboration so that each new initiative doesn’t have to start from zero and be overwhelmed by practicalities

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Promote education and training in pharmacoepi -> more people -> more studies
- Opportunities for MSc projects (not only PhD)
- One PhD student could have Nordic supervisors (from at least 2 NorPEN groups)

PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE/ACQUAINTANCE/COLLABORATION

- Getting to know each other better
- Knowing others research interests better
- Knowing which projects are going on in other countries; webpage descriptions? Yearly meeting?
- Projects could have a description on NorPEN page
- Promoting collaboration by example (advertise for good studies on eg webpage)
- ExCom could suggest topics
- Presenting collaboration proposals to each other
- Reach out early
- Projects can start with 2 or 3 countries; then expand
- Accommodate workshops at NorPEN meetings (assign time where researchers can meet)
- Pharmacoepi slam in the beginning of the conference and some networking time afterwards (people are told to go and talk to the presenter of the most interesting study)
- Supporting “Nordic topic” presentations at NorPEN meetings: a common topic for each country and one presentation per country

