

Information from the Nordic Societies

Finnish Dermatological Society Celebrated its 90th Anniversary

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The Finnish Dermatological Society celebrated its 90th anniversary in Helsinki on May 19th, 2006. The Society is one of the oldest specialist societies in Finland, and was actually founded before Finland achieved independency from Russia. During its first decades the Society grew slowly (Fig. 1), while the number of members has doubled during the past two decades. Today the Society has about 330 members, 60 of them being residents. The Society organises several educational meetings every year. The anniversary meetings are usually held in Helsinki, while spring and fall meetings as well as the annual dermatological research day have recently been held in other

towns with active dermatology units, including Tampere, Turku, Kuopio, Oulu and Lahti. The Society runs its web pages in Finnish (<http://www.sily.fi/index.html>) and publishes a newsletter called Skinfo four times a year (<http://www.sily.fi/skinfo.htm>). In addition, the Society has a consultation and information forum called Silyserveri for members through email.

180 members - more than half of the Society - took part in the 90th anniversary celebrations this May in restaurant Bank. A full-day seminar was held under the very pressing theme Skin cancers. Several practical lectures on precancerous lesions, keratinocyte cancers and melanoma, their diagnostics and treatments were held by Society members (Fig. 2). Invited speakers included professor Gregor Jemec from Copenhagen and Dr. Claas Ulrich from Berlin. The first session was chaired by professor Jaakko Karvonen from Helsinki (Fig. 3), and the afternoon session

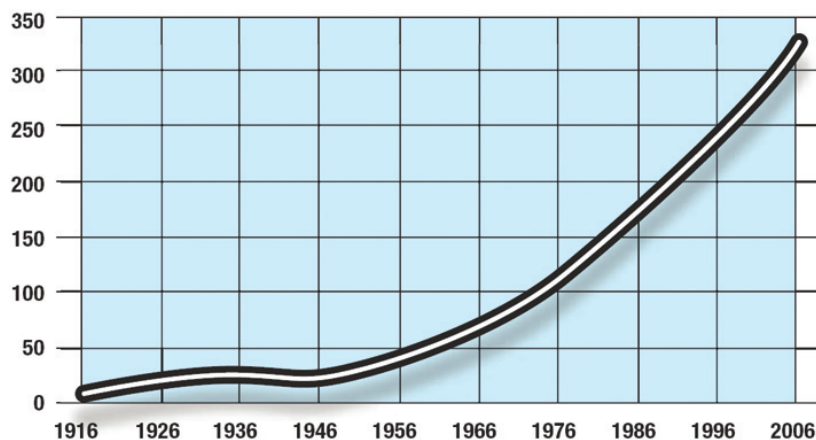


Fig. 1. The number of members of the Finnish Dermatological Society is in continuous increase.



Fig. 2. Docent Olli Saksela, Head of the Dermatological unit of the Helsinki University Hospital lecturing on treatment of spinous cell carcinoma.

Photo: Dr. Kari Saarinen



Fig. 3. Professor Jaakko Karvonen chaired the morning session of the seminar day. His grandfather, professor Juho-Jaakko Karvonen was the first President of the Finnish Dermatological Society.

Photo: Dr. Kari Saarinen



Fig. 4. The speaker of the banquet, Dr. Heikki Brandt with the festival stick of the Society. Photo: Dr. Kari Saarinen

by professor Veli-Matti Kähäri from Turku. The evening banquet was conducted by Dr. Heikki Brandt (Fig. 4) with help of the festival stick of the Society. The main talk was given by the Chancellor of the University of Helsinki, professor Kari Raivio (Fig. 5). Professor Emeritus Kimmo K. Mustakallio (Fig. 6) memorializing Finnish first-line dermatologists during decades of the early twentieth century. Over enjoyable dinner the participants promised to start looking forward to the 100th anniversary celebrations.



Fig. 5. Chancellor of the University of Helsinki, professor Kari Raivio (left) discussing with Professor Emerita Maija Horsmanheimo. Photo: Dr. Kari Saarinen



Fig. 6. Professor Emeritus Kimmo K. Mustakallio memorializing some of the most prominent dermatologists of the early decades of the Society. Photo: Dr. Kari Saarinen



Fig. 7. The present President of the Society, Päivikki Susitaival (left) gave the medal of the Society to the former President Tapio Rantanen (right) who also served the Society as a successful treasurer for several years. Photo: Dr. Kari Saarinen



Fig. 8. Mrs. Faina Kanerva (left), Professor Lasse Kanerva and Professor Annamari Ranki in the evening banquet. Photo: Dr. Kari Saarinen