

## Young Dermatologists in Finland Get Organized

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Proposals to set up an organization for young dermatologists have been made in the past, but it wasn't until last year that these ideas were realized. After participating in a high-quality course about contact dermatitis aimed at young dermatologists, we discussed how advantageous it would be if we could set up such an organization. Young dermatologists in Finland have the opportunity to attend many educational symposiums and courses, but most of them concern only psoriasis or atopic dermatitis. We were interested in organizing courses about subjects for which we have had less training. With our own organization we would be able to arrange the kind of courses we wanted and to get to know each other better.

Our first official meeting was held in Helsinki on 15 March 2007. Our organization, as a section of the Finnish Dermatological Society, was named as NuDe (Nuoret Dermatologit,



*Fig. Young dermatologists from Finland at their first educational meeting in Jyväskylä in August 2007.*

in Finnish, meaning Young Dermatologists). I was elected president and Meri Ala-Houhala was elected secretary. Anu Mustakari and Suvi-Päivikki Sinikumpu were elected as the treasurer and the representative for Skinfo, the magazine of the Finnish Dermatological Society. Our organization was also introduced at the annual meeting of Finnish Dermatological Society and we were listed as a separate section under our main society. Our aims were to organize courses and meetings for our members and to arrange cultural, sports or other programmes. In our meetings we also plan to discuss problems in education and develop ideas related to our daily work.

Our first educational meeting was held in Jyväskylä on 17–18 August 2007. We had a course in using microscopy and computer systems in our daily work. The course was highly educational and interesting. After the course we had dinner and a game of golf at a nearby golf course.

Our next meeting will be held in Jämsä, Himos, on 18–19 April 2008. The programme for that meeting is still open, but it is likely that the main educational programme will be about photographing the skin, or dermatosurgery. Activities will involve skiing and other sports. Later this summer we are planning a trip to Turku, where we hope to visit the beautiful archipelago off the coast and to run a cultural programme in the evenings.

We hope to make further contacts with young dermatologists from other Nordic countries. This spring we intend to set up our own web-page; meanwhile, I can be reached by e-mail if you have any enquiries about our organization.

With best regards from Finland.