

## Nordic Meeting of Dermatologists in Private Practice in Stockholm, 7–8 March 2008

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**Dr Birgitta Wilson Claréus attended the First Nordic Meeting of Dermatologists in private practice in Stockholm together with about 80 Nordic dermatologists and their staff. This article is written in co-operation with Abbott and PDF.**

The first Nordic meeting of dermatologists in private practice, arranged by the Swedish Association of Dermatologists in Private Practice (PDF) was held at Berns Salonger in Stockholm. The meeting began with a presentation of three private dermatology clinics, by *Dr Steinar Sjöborg* (Växjö, Sweden), *Dr Jukka Juhela* (Oulu, Finland) and *Dr Jon Langeland* (Oslo, Norway).

Thereafter *Reino Pajarre* discussed the role of microscopy in dermatology, emphasizing its simplicity in diagnostics regarding bacterial as well as fungal infections.

The lectures were of consistently high quality, but the highlight of the meeting was when *Dr Kassahun Desalegn* from Addis Ababa talked on the topic "Dermatology in Ethiopian skin". In his highly interesting lecture he presented slides of severely ill patients with the skin diseases that the 22 dermatologists in Ethiopia handle. Among Ethiopia's 80 million inhabitants approximately 3 million are HIV-infected. The majority of patients are cared for by "health workers", so the patients who reach Dr Desalegn are often at a late stage of disease development, may have been misdiagnosed or received incorrect treatment, and frequently have a complex clinical picture due to HIV infection. Along with this detailed picture of the clinical situation he also presented slides of the Ethiopian landscape.

*Dr Filippa Nyberg* then reported on her work on improving quality at the Department of Dermatology at Danderyd Hospital in Sweden. She focused on four projects (basal cell carcinoma, leg ulcers, phototherapy, and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)). Her colleagues were divided into groups, each focusing on one of these projects. Each group identified quality indicators, which are monitored on a regular basis. Once the groups had begun their work, follow-up of results was not too time-consuming.

Basal cell carcinomas close to the eye could be a therapeutic problem and *Dr Ingvar Lengstam* from Vällingby Läkarhus informed the audience how he treats basal cell carcinoma of the eyelid with cryotherapy and a cryoprobe. He also discussed excision surgery close to the eye and the possibility

of achieving secondary healing if a primary suture cannot be performed.

*Dr Håkan Mobacken* gave an eminent lecture entitled "What's new", with interesting abstracts from the recent literature. *Dr Karin Terstappen* from Skövde is performing research into SIAscopy. She informed the audience how little has been done regarding the clinical aspects of SIAscopy, but that it improves diagnostic possibilities for a skilled dermatologist. She concluded that further studies are needed in order to evaluate whether this technique is better than dermatoscopy.

Few Nordic dermatologists in private practice treat patients with venereal diseases, but the meeting was concluded with an overview of recent developments regarding sexually transmitted diseases.

A dinner was held on Friday night in the marvellous Jugend style rooms of the Swedish Society of Medicine, and the following morning two buses (one to the north and one to the south) each took approximately 20 dermatologists and nurses to visit dermatology clinics in the Stockholm area.

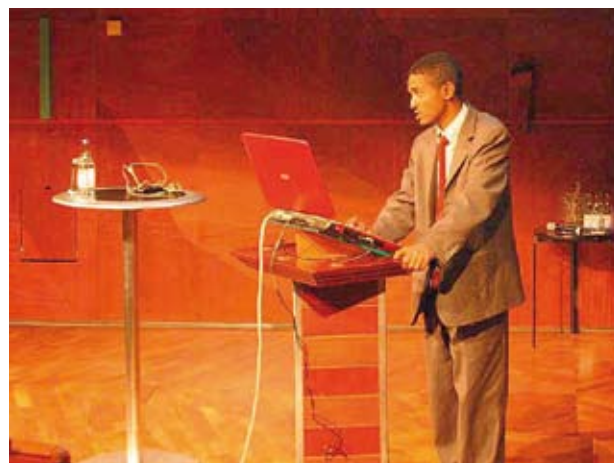


Fig. 1. Dr Kassahun Desalegn who is holding a lecture.