

Danish Society for Young Dermatologists

ELISABETH AMMITZBØLL HOLM

Department of Dermatology, Gentofte Hospital, Hellerup, Denmark.

E-mail: Formand@fyd.dk



The Danish Society for Young Dermatologists offers young dermatologists a platform to make their voice heard on issues such as the Danish medical education system, clinical training and working conditions for their respective specialities.

Foundation of the society

The movement to form a Danish Society of Young Dermatologists began in 1966. A new bill regarding the education of residents was proposed, but residents were unhappy as they were excluded from the debate. If the law had been passed a logical consequence would have been to prolong the postgraduate education of physicians. A group of residents therefore met to discuss and address issues affecting their profession and their environment. These meetings resulted in a letter being sent to the Danish Ministry of the Interior, and copied to The Danish National Health Service, The Danish Dermatological Society and The Danish Society of Medical Doctors.

The residents who had composed the letter were invited to present their point of view to all four institutions. Their argument was taken into consideration and changes were made to the bill. This group of residents subsequently continued to correspond with, for example, The Danish Society of Dermatologists, about matters related to the education of specialists, job requirements and the number of permanent positions available in dermatology departments.

The Danish Society of Young Dermatologists (FYD) was founded on the 13th March 1969, three years after the successful first steps initiated by the group of young residents.

Scope and purpose

The main purpose of the FYD is to improve the educational standards of young dermatologists through academic meetings, discussions and live case studies. FYD board members have been the driving force behind the compilation of new guidelines and the evaluation of the education of dermatology specialists. FYD also has representatives in various professional and political committees, who are in charge of young dermatologists' specialization. An FYD committee member is, for example, a member of The Danish Dermatological Society's board of supplementary education. There is close co-operation between the Society of Danish Dermatologists and FYD

FYD members

Every "young" medical doctor working in Denmark with an interest in dermatology is entitled to join the FYD. Private practitioners and consultants are excluded. In 2006 the society had 77 members. In comparison, the Danish Dermatology Society had 156 members. The majority of members of FYD are residents, PhD students and young researchers. The society's highest authority is the annual general meeting, which selects a board of seven people to take care of the society's activity throughout the year. The president and other committee members can only be elected twice for periods of two years.

Activities

Thanks to generous financial support from private companies, FYD have been able to offer members a wide range of activities, benefits and initiatives, including:

- Two-day courses (which are also relevant to dermatologists in private practice), allowing young dermatologists to meet colleagues from all over Denmark and thus intensify inter-collegial relationships.
- Visits to others dermatological hospital departments throughout Europe (Warsaw, Paris, Prague, Krakow and St Petersburg) to strengthen international relations.
- Co-operation with other European young dermatologists and their respective associations to share experiences with others who might want to form similar societies.

Contact details

Elisabeth Ammitzbøll Holm
Head of the Danish Society for Young Dermatologists (FYD),
Department of Dermatology
Gentofte Hospital, Niels Andersensvej 65,
DK – 2900 Hellerup, Denmark.
E-mail: Formand@fyd.dk