

present. At least one outcome of the mutation analyses is that very different clinical features may be caused by mutations in the same gene. On the other hand, mutations in different genes, especially those of peroxidated lipid pathway can cause similar phenotypes, based on the function of the proteins.

When the next referral for EB arrives, a useful website to look at might be: www.netzwerk-eb.de. And for more up-to date information on ichthyoses look at the NIRK (the Network for Ichthyoses and Related Keratinization Disorders) website: www.netzwerk-ichthyose.de

The lectures were excellent and enjoyable. In addition, meeting EB patients outside of the doctor's office, listening to their experience of doctors, healthcare and life in general was very enlightening (Fig. 3). Joint meetings of doctors and patient organizations might also be very useful in several other disease groups. Representatives of DEBRA and Iholiitto are thanked for organizing of the meeting in a very professional and pleasant manner.



Fig. 3. Panel discussion was held on the topic: Focus on everyday life with EB. The panel: Jesper Bønning, Liina Härkönen, Ruth Bernssen Bø and Jussi Lindevall exposed the audience to several touching experience, opinions and questions, which inspired the delegates to participate in discussion. (Photography: Mervi Viteli-Hietanen from the Finnish Central Organisation for Skin Patients).

Paediatric Dermatology Meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden, 25–26 April, 2008

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This meeting was organized by SSDV Foundation for International Dermato-Venerology. Gunnar Nyman is the treasurer in Foundation for International Dermato-Venerology and one of 20 participants at the meeting.



A symposium was held in Gothenburg on 25–26 April 2008 for 20 dermatologists with an interest in paediatric dermatology (2 participants from each of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine and 12 from Sweden). The purpose of the meeting was to learn more about paediatric dermatology, but above all to initiate and/or enhance contacts and, it is hoped, future co-operation in this field among our countries. The number of participants was intentionally small enough to allow everyone to get to know each other. The meeting was held at Ågrenska Foundation, south of Gothenburg. This former children's hospital is now a centre for teaching and supporting children with rare diseases and their families, located in a beautiful setting beside the sea.

After an introduction to the Ågrenska Foundation, one colleague from each country presented their situation in our speciality, with the focus on paediatric dermatology, its possibilities and problems. After lectures covering vascular malformations, neonatal lupus erythematosus (LE), Gianotti-Crosti syndrome, Henoch-Scönlein purpura, bullous impetigo and staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome (SSSS) there were case presentations by our guests.

There was also ample time for informal discussions, both during the breaks, at the welcome dinner the day before, and the next day during a visit to the outpatient clinic at Östra Hospital, where *Dr Ann Broberg*, who was responsible for

the scientific programme, talked about everyday paediatric dermatology in Sweden. At the end of the meeting there was time for sightseeing in Gothenburg before participants returned home.

In the same week, one of the participants, *Dr Lyudmyla Derevyanko*, Kiev, Ukraine, also gave a highly appreciated lecture, at the Department of Dermatology, Sahlgrenska Hospital, about congenital syphilis, of which most Swedish dermatologists have limited experience. Dr Derevyanko also mentioned that she was a little early for the 300-year celebration of a Swedish-Ukrainian coalition in 1709 during the reign of Karl XII (before the battle of Poltava).

One lasting impression is what a difference there is in the conditions for performing clinical work between our different countries, so close and yet so far apart, while at the same time many problems are similar. E-mail addresses were exchanged and, in a collegial and generous atmosphere, everyone committed themselves to future collaboration and contact.

We believe that this is a fruitful way of getting closer, learning more of, and from, each other and making new friends. It is hoped that we will be able to organize similar small meetings in other fields of dermato-venereology. The meeting was or-



Fig. 1. From left: Sanita Sigure, Latvia; Anne-Marie Ros, Sweden; Maria Karlsson, Sweden; Volodymyr Dzyubak, Ukraine; Lyudmyla Derevyanko, Ukraine; Ewa Voog, Sweden; Matilda Bylaite, Lithuania; Gunnar Nyman, Sweden; Ann Broberg, Sweden; Ama Lehtmetts, Estonia; Terje Kukkk, Estonia; Marcis Septe, Latvia; Sara Oldberg Wagner, Sweden; Ramune Jurciukonyte, Lithuania; Mårten Walhammar, Sweden. Not in the picture: Maria Böhme, Torbjörn Egelrud, Ylva Linde, Filippa Nyberg and Karin Rosén, Sweden.

ganized by the SSDV Foundation for International Dermato-Venereology with economic support from the Eastern Europe branch of SIDA.

Impressions from the International Investigative Dermatology 2008 Meeting in Kyoto

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Anders Vahlquist was one of many dermatologists from the Nordic countries to visit the International Investigative Dermatology Meeting in Kyoto. This is his impressions of the meeting.



Every 5 years, the dermatological research societies in America (The Society for Investigative Dermatology; SID), Europe (European Society for Dermatological Research; ESDR) and Japan (The Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology; JSID) co-organize a large scientific meeting, International Investigative Dermatology (IID), which this year was held in Kyoto. The meeting attracted almost 2000 participants from all over the world. Over four days and in numerous satellite symposia nearly 1400 scientific contributions were presented, including many invited guest lectures. Since it is impossible to

cover all aspects of the meeting here, my report will focus on itch, chronic allergic inflammation and genodermatoses.

News on itch

At the start of the symposium on itch, *Dr Martin Schmelz*, the German discoverer of the histamine-sensitive itch-selective neuron, covered the neurophysiological aspects of itch. The idea of two separate neuronal systems for pain and itch is in accordance with the antagonism that scratch-induced pain