

## Iceland did it again!

On behalf of the Nordic Dermatology Association I want to thank the Icelandic Dermatological Association, especially the organizing committee and the Congress President Baldur Baldursson, for their splendid work in arranging the 31<sup>st</sup> Nordic Congress of Dermato-Venereology, which took place in Reykjavik this spring.

The meeting was a great success. The aims of our association: "to promote collaboration in science, teaching, and clinical practice among Nordic dermato-venereologists", were excellently fulfilled by the large number of attendees, a scientific program of very high quality, a perfect venue, nice surroundings, marvellous social events, and great hospitality.

**TORBJÖRN EGELRUD**  
*Secretary General of the NDA*



## Thanks from Reykjavik!

It can be said with pride that the 31<sup>st</sup> Nordic Congress of Dermato-Venereology in Reykjavik from 31 May to 3 June 2008 was a success. In 2004, the proposal to hold such a meeting in Reykjavik was met with some resistance, as many thought the Icelandic Dermatological Society was too small to recruit the necessary resources. This did not discourage the board of the Nordic Dermato-Venereological Association from fully supporting the Icelandic organizers. My first thanks are therefore to the board members of the 30th Nordic Congress in Odense 2004 for their faith in us.

Establishing contacts with dermatological colleagues in Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland is not easy for a dermatologist located in Reykjavik, and some of the pre-planned sessions for the congress remained as drafts. The concurrent European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) spring meeting in Istanbul was obviously a factor to consider. However, the 390 participants at the Reykjavik Congress did show us that the concept of regular Nordic meetings in dermato-venereology still have active support from Nordic dermatologists and from the pharmaceutical industry involved in our speciality.

There is a long list of persons whom I wish to thank for the scientific programme:

- First, our Icelandic colleague *Ellen Mooney*. She gave the programme a distinct profile by inviting outstanding female dermatologists, such as *Fenella Wojnarowska*, who chaired the course on dermatological problems in women, and *Antoinette Hood*, who gave a plenary lecture on certification and recertification in the USA and globally. Being truly bilingual, Ellen was able to establish many contacts both in Europe and overseas. She also made all the preparations for the course and workshop in dermatopathology
- *Olle Larkö* presented four lectures in four sessions, all on the same day, and co-chaired two sessions.

- *Bernt Lindelöf* kept a good eye on the incoming posters, chaired the sessions for free papers, and presented two lectures.
- *Gregor Jemec* contributed to two sessions, including the session on hidradenitis suppurativa. For the first time in the history of the Nordic congresses, there was a full 90-minute session on this disease, and to my knowledge, EADV has never before had a full session on this important topic.
- *Harald Moi* for his enthusiasm for venereology; he has chaired venereology sessions at all the Nordic congresses since 1993, which was the last time the congress was held in Reykjavik.
- *Baldur Tumi Baldurson*, the congress president, was very actively involved at all levels and a pleasure to work with.

Unfortunately, the congress did not have any scientific contributions from Finland. The blame for this lies entirely with us, the Icelandic organizers. We can only explain this by a lack of personal contact between the scientific committee and leading Finnish dermato-venereologists. We should have done a better job in this respect, but we are confident that the 32<sup>nd</sup> Nordic Congress of Dermato-Venereology in Finland in 2012 will be different.

*Rannveig Pálsdóttir* made sure that the social programme had a relaxed atmosphere and high quality. *Agneta Andersson*, the editorial manager of Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology, was a very important collaborator. *Ragnheiður Stefánsdóttir* at The Iceland Incentives Inc. did a tremendous job in ensuring the logistics of the congress ran flawlessly.

Last, but not least, thanks to all contributors not mentioned here for their great efforts in making the congress programme a success.

**GÍSLI INGVARSSON**  
*Chairman of the Scientific Committee*

