

A Visit from Abroad

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Kristian Thestrup-Pedersen has had the opportunity to travel a lot as a medical doctor. He has seen different places and met many interesting persons. He encourages every dermatologist to travel, visit new departments and achieve new experiences.



One advantage of being a medical doctor is the opportunity it provides to travel. In 1968–1969 I spent 7 months at the Sacred Heart Leprosy Hospital in Kumbakonam, approximately 300 km south of Madras in South India. I saw many patients and learned a great deal, not only about “leprosy”, but about India. In 1985 I spent 6 weeks in Sadaa (not Sanaa) in Northern Yemen. I travelled from Aarhus and within 24 h I was in surroundings and a culture that was centuries apart from my daily life. I vividly remember a father coming with his 9-year-old daughter to seek my advice as I was the only dermatologist in North Yemen at that time. She had freckles all over her body and I remembered that I had seen pictures of this previously. Rook’s book helped me out: she had xeroderma pigmentosum. Thus, you can step out of the aeroplane and with the help of an Ethiopian translator you can communicate and tell a father about his daughter’s condition and what to be aware of. Sadly, I

am sure that by now she has died of skin cancer, as I saw a 16-year-old young man with xeroderma pigmentosum do in Saudi Arabia.

Being in Denmark you also have opportunities to meet colleagues from other countries, as, for example, in a recent pleasant visit from South Korea. Professor Kyu Han Kim’s letter to you in this issue of the Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology relates his impressions of his visit. We had time to discuss dermatology and to enjoy the social aspects of his visit. I am particularly proud of the picture of Kyu Han with the “Falster Golf Klub” hat – I am sure he is the only one in Seoul with such a hat. If you come to visit me I promise to give you a similar treat.

So, to all the youngsters: I urge you to visit different departments and places – you will always learn!



Fig. 1. Professor Kyu Han Kim playing a round of golf at Virket Golf Club, Falster.



Fig. 2. Professor Kyu Han Kim and his wife during their visit to Norway.