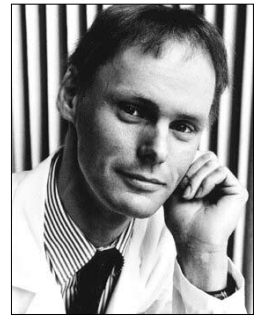


31st Nordic Congress of Dermato-Venereology, Reykjavik, Iceland, 31 May–3 June 2008

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Baldur Baldursson, President of the 31st Nordic Congress of Dermato-Venereology in Reykjavik, Iceland thanks all for a great and successful congress! Below he describes some “pearls” from the congress.



Now, as autumn is upon us, the moment has come to remember the fine spring days when our fellow Nordic dermatologists gathered in Reykjavik to celebrate their very own Congress and interact with other colleagues on their own home turf, so to speak. There is no other Nordic Congress and attendance was very high, which is certainly a sign that Nordic dermatologists value the fact that there is such a concept as Nordic dermatology and that it is not just a northern part of European dermatology.

The Congress was held over 4 days with two main conference days. Most of the time there were four parallel symposia interrupted by plenary lectures and corporate sponsored symposia.

The organizing committee made an effort to recruit known European and American colleagues to speak, as well as speakers from the Nordic countries. The Icelandic dermatologists all drew on their network of contacts to make this possible.

The prize must, however, go to *Harald Moi*, who, according to his own report, chaired the venereology symposium for the “umpteenth time”. The first lecture in his symposium on viral causes of human cancer was given by *Harald zur Hausen*, who 4 months later was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine!

No wonder that many participants complained that it was difficult to choose between symposia. On p. 141 you will find a somewhat special case report from the Free Paper session.

It is almost impossible to select particular highlights, although few will forget Dr *Robert Baran's* fine lecture on nail diseases. From my own experience, I will also risk mentioning Professor *Johannes Ring's* lecture on anaphylaxis, as well as the very fine symposium on photodermatology.



Fig. 1. A fine mornings walk to the congress venue.



Fig. 2. The audience is spellbound by the university female choir at the opening ceremony.



Fig. 3. The Iceland University female choir.



Fig. 4. Hustle and bustle at the congress exhibition.

One special opportunity was the excellent course on dermatopathology, with a self-assessment workshop appended. Dermatopathologists from the western hemisphere offered this chance for the average “derm” to catch up.

It is worth mentioning that we had two rules in the committee: that the attendees would receive as many “take home” messages as possible; and that our colleagues, some of whom have dedicated their professional careers to a particular subject, would have enough time in their lectures to provide those extra details that only they know, but which are so important for the rest of us to learn about, making it extremely worthwhile attending their lectures.

No congress is complete without a banquet. I hope and feel that the congress dinner event at the Blue Lagoon left no one disappointed, and have as my reference the photographs showing Nordic dermatologists eating, dancing and generally having a good time. The excellent photographs were taken by *Anders Grängsjö* from Uppsala, who kindly took it upon



Fig. 5. Dermatologists enjoy the Blue Lagoon.

himself at my request to be a congress photographer. Another Uppsaliensis, *Agneta Andersson*, and *Daniela Andersson* at the Editorial Office of Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology, worked through all the abstracts and made the congress paper a very neat production indeed. No stone was left unturned to coax an abstract out of the lecturers!

The icing on the cake is that the 31st Congress leaves a nice sum of money to the Nordic Association, which, it is hoped, will help to make reality of the discussions on clinical summer courses for young dermatologists.

Lastly, I would like to thank all participants for making this Congress what it was, whether you were lecturing, listening or otherwise engaged in this event.



Fig. 6. After dinner dance.



Fig. 7. After dance rest.