

Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology is a publication for the dermatovenereologists in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. It is published by Society for Publication of Acta Dermato-Venereologica.

Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology was founded in 1996 by Professor Lennart Juhlin, Uppsala, Sweden.

The former Editor-in-Chief was Professor Jørgen Serup (1996–2007).

This journal aims to cover all interests of the Nordic dermatovenereologists, to spread information and news and act as the natural way of communication among the Nordic dermatovenereologists.

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Money, Money, Money!

Nowadays, the economy is on everybody's lips. With the financial crisis spread all over the world it is difficult not to focus on this topic. Lack of money has always been a subject of discussion, and we make no exception. Many of the articles in this issue of Forum touch on some aspect of the economy.

How costly is skin cancer for society? Gustav Tinghög et al. raise this question. The authors discuss how the assessment of cost-effectiveness can be improved and how to obtain more value for money; read more on page 12.

On page 7, Petter Gjersvik follows up his recent article on mergers of dermatological clinics in Norway with a report on the sad state of Norwegian dermatology. His forecast is anything but positive. Also on the same theme is Olle Larkö's report on page 16. It is now 10 years since a merger took place in Gothenburg; Olle sums up the experiences from that merger.

One of the more positive items of news in this issue comes from Ann Kathrine Thomsen of LEO Pharma. They have recently awarded Lars Norlén, Stockholm, and William Agace, Lund, DKK 1,000,000 and 500,000 each for their research in dermatology and immunology.

According to our earlier intentions Guidelines is now introduced in Forum and will appear on a regular basis in the future. The first one is from the Danish Dermatology Society on Basal Cell Carcinoma. Comments to this guideline received by Forum for NDV Editors have been compiled into a summary edited by the CME editor Tomas Norman Dam. Further comments to the guidelines from Forum readers can be mailed to agneta@medicaljournals.se and will be presented open for discussion in the next issue of the CME section. All the guidelines published in Forum will also be posted on our website, where we invite you all to participate and share your opinion of treatments.

We are also happy to announce that the Norwegian Dermatology Society has decided to use Forum as the source of information to their members. From now on you will thus find "Blå Sider" which will have reports and information in Norwegian.

No less than five dissertations, a report from Specialistläkargruppen in Växjö, and a personal comment with invitation for debate from Anders Vahlquist on skin surgery are published in this issue, in addition to the above-mentioned articles.

When you browse through this first issue of 2009 I hope you will find it of great interest. We will see you again in May; until then, enjoy the last months of winter and the fast-approaching spring.

Uppsala January 31, 2009

AGNETA ANDERSSON
Managing Editor

The photo on the front cover shows winter in Norway. On page 9, Petter Gjersvik has written about snow, ski sports and dermatology.