

Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology is a publication for the dermato-venereologists 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 dermato-venereologists, to spread information and news and act as the natural way of communication among the Nordic dermato-venereologists.

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Surgery in Dermatology - How Much?

Certain topics engage you more than others. One such topic is the question of surgery in dermatology. In the previous issue, Anders Vahlquist from Uppsala wrote an article expressing concern about the direction in which this aspect of dermatology is developing. In this issue the debate continues in a reply from Olle Larkö et al., who are of the opposite opinion. They have stated their views in this matter and so can you. If you would like to join in the debate, please send your contribution to the editorial office.

A much appreciated element of *Forum* is the *Educational Review*. In this issue Marcus Schmitt-Egenolf from Umeå University has summarized his lecture on the PsoReg, which he presented at the Nordic Congress in Reykjavik in May last year. You can read his summary on page 38.

In the section *Dermato-Venereology in the Nordic Countries* Sirku Peltonen and Jussi Liippo from Turku University report on the status of dermatologists in Finland (page 42). Petter Gjersvik, Oslo, reports good news for Norwegian dermatology; two dermatologists have been awarded for their research (page 43).

If you want to learn more about calcium signalling in epithelium, retinoic acid metabolism blocking agents and the skin, keloids or cutaneous porphyrias, turn to page 46 and read the four *dissertations* on these topics.

Don't miss the article in our *Private Practitioner* section. Agneta Augustsson runs the Grimmereds Läkargrupp in Gothenburg. Founded in 2002 and with a specialty in malignant melanoma and pigment naevi, they diagnose many skin tumours every year. Read her report, starting on page 58.

Guttorm Guleng from Rikshospitalet in Oslo gives every young dermatologist with research ambitions some advice on how to get started, on page 61.

Of course you will find many other interesting contributions in this issue. Don't miss the *Case Report* on pompholyx on page 44, the *Information from the Nordic Societies* starting on page 52 or the *Meeting Report* from the Finnish Dermatological Society on page 51.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Forum* and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very pleasant summer. See you all again in September.

Uppsala April 30, 2009

AGNETA ANDERSSON

Managing Editor

The photo on the front cover shows a magnificent cherry blossom tree just outside my office window.

Cherries contain anthocyanins, the red pigment in berries. Cherry anthocyanins have been shown to reduce pain and inflammation in rats [Tall JM, et al. Tart cherry anthocyanins suppress inflammation-induced pain behavior in rat. *Behav Brain Res* 2004; 153: 181]. Anthocyanins are also potent antioxidants under active research for a variety of potential health benefits. According to a study funded by the Cherry Marketing Institute presented at the Experimental Biology 2008 meeting in San Diego [Tart Cherries May Reduce Heart/Diabetes Risk Factors. *Newsweek*, Retrieved on July 7, 2008], rats that received whole tart cherry powder mixed into a high-fat diet did not gain as much weight or build up as much body fat, and their blood showed much lower levels of inflammation indicators that have been linked to heart disease and diabetes. In addition, they had significantly lower blood levels of cholesterol and triglycerides than the other rats. *Information taken from Wikipedia.*