

outcome of grant applications should be based on the scientific quality of the research and, in this setting, the top dermatologists have managed to maintain their funding. To date, there are several well-funded research groups run by dermatologists in different parts of the country. The Finnish Dermatological Society has been able to fund mainly thesis work, for example this year 30,000 € was distributed as grants. The main problem for dermatologists is how to combine scientific and clinical careers during residency and after graduation.

Salaries

There appears to be a flow of dermatologists from hospitals to private practice, whereas movement in the other direction is negligible. This may be due to the higher salaries, but the more flexible working hours in the private clinics compared

with the strict working hours in hospital may also be a factor. In addition, working part-time (e.g. 50%) has become more popular in hospitals during recent years. The salaries of hospital dermatologists are lower than for most specialties, probably because dermatologists are not on call.

Conclusion

The future of dermatology looks largely positive. The field is attractive to young doctors despite the lower incomes than for many other specialties. The relationship between retiring dermatologists and graduating specialists appears to be slightly decreasing the total number of dermatologists. To maintain the scientific outcome, more research grants or opportunities for research sabbaticals should be made available to specialists.

Research Awards for Norwegian Dermatologists

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Two dermatologists were awarded prizes for their research at the annual meeting of the Norwegian Dermatological Society.

Although Norwegian academic dermatology is struggling, it is important to point out that many dermatologists in Norway are contributing to dermatological science by performing and publishing scientific studies.

For many years, the Norwegian Dermatological Society has presented the **Schering-Plough award** for excellent dermatological research by a Norwegian dermatologist or (in some cases) a non-dermatologist. The prize, sponsored by Schering-Plough, is presently 60,000 NOK. This year, the recipient was *Marit Saunes*, of the Department of Dermatology, St Olav's Hospital, Trondheim, for her epidemiological studies on skin disease.

A recently established prize for **best original research article** in the previous year was presented for the first time. Articles published in both 2007 and 2008 were considered. The prize winner was *Anne-Lene Krogstad*, of the Department of Derma-

tology, Rikshospitalet in Oslo, being the last author and tutor for an article by Osmancevic and co-workers at Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Göteborg (1).

Jon Anders Halvorsen (Oslo), Sheila Fevang (Stavanger) and Benedikte Geisner (Bergen) were nominated for another newly established prize for an original research article by a young dermatologist. The prize, which is sponsored by ACO, Galderma, and Photocure, will be presented at a meeting for young dermatologists later this year.

Reference

1. Osmancevic A, Landin-Wilhelmsen K, Larkö O, Mellström D, Wennerberg AM, Hultén L, Krogstad AL. Risk factors for osteoporosis and bone status in postmenopausal women with psoriasis treated with UVB therapy. Acta Derm Venereol 2008; 88: 240–246.