

## Report from the 8<sup>th</sup> Baltic Association of Dermatovenereologists Congress, 17–19 September 2009, Vilnius, Lithuania

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Gunnar Nyman visited the 8<sup>th</sup> BADV congress in Vilnius and was very impressed by the organization and the interesting program.

This year the Baltic Association of Dermatovenereologists (BADV) Congress was held in Vilnius, Lithuania (Fig. 1), where we were made welcome in sunny, late summer weather, which was just one ingredient of the friendly atmosphere that characterized the whole event.

The congress was led efficiently and competently by the president, Associate Professor Matilda Bylaite (Fig. 2), and was very well organized. Indeed I am not sure I have ever previously attended a congress where there was no technical failure at all during the whole event! The number of participants was 320 and were coming from different parts of Europe, even though the major part came from the Baltic countries.

The Congress programme was up-to-date and covered most fields of the speciality. Through several plenary symposia

with well-known international speakers the participants were provided with an excellent update of both the latest research and clinical experiences in inflammatory, genetic and venereological diseases, and skin tumours (Fig. 3). There was a session for free communications/case reports, a poster exhibition, some company sponsored symposia, and a dermoscopy workshop. The commercial and technical exhibition was based on products of interest in the Baltic countries.

Among speakers from outside the Baltic countries were: *Bernhard Homey* (Germany) talking about pathogenesis-driven management of atopic eczema; *Thomas Ruzicka* (Germany) discussing hand eczema; *Anders Vahlquist* (Sweden) giving a presentation about advances in the understanding and care of congenital ichthyosis; and *Filippa Nyberg* (Sweden) giving an update on lupus erythematosus. In the psoriasis session *Wolf-Henning*



Fig. 1. The beautiful cathedral in Vilnius with its clocktower (to the right) The 8<sup>th</sup> BADV congress was held in a nearby hotel.



Fig. 2. The President of the congress: Associate Professor Matilda Bylaite, Department of Dermato-Venereology, Vilnius, Lithuania.



Fig. 3. The audience listening carefully to the interesting lectures.

*Boencke* (Germany) discussed the endothelium checkpoint for the development of psoriatic and atherosclerotic plaques, while the hot topics of co-morbidity and vitamin D were covered by *Kulli Kingo* (Estonia) and *Amra Osmancevic* (Sweden). *Hubert Pehamberger* (Austria) provided some insights into novel therapies in melanoma, and *Veli-Matti Kähäri* (Finland) into the field of non-melanoma skin cancer, while *Olle Larkö* (Sweden) talked about photodynamic therapy (PDT), and *John Paoli* (Sweden) about managing pain during PDT. *Harald Gollnick* (Germany) gave a lecture about news in acne, and *Ralph Trueb* (Switzerland) about hair loss in women. *Andreas Katsambas* (Greece) (Fig. 4) discussed how to improve Botulinum toxin. Finally, there was an interesting symposium on sexually transmitted infections that was worthy of a larger audience, which was chaired by *Marius Domeika* (Sweden), who has a long and broad experience of venereology in the Baltic countries.

One aspect that makes this congress unique is the reports on epidemiology, diagnostics and treatment of dermato-venereological diseases in the Baltic countries and neighbouring countries to the east.

I have attended the three latest BADV Congresses and have noticed a remarkable improvement each time, with an increasing number of international speakers and participants. It is now a regional congress of high international standard. This

is promising for the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) Congress of 2012, which will be held in Riga, Latvia.

Next year's BADV Congress will be held on 12–16 June in Tartu, Estonia (where the university, founded by Gustav II Adolf in 1632, is the second oldest in Sweden). It will certainly be worthwhile attending!



Fig. 4. From the left: Professor Skaidra Valiukeviciene, head of the Dermatology clinic in Kaunas, Professor Andreas Katsambas, Athens, Greece, Matilda Bylaite and the congress general secretary Ruta Ganceviciene.