

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nordic Dermatology Association

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**Torbjörn Egelrud has served as the general secretary of the Nordic Dermatology Association for many years. The association celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and below he gives some information about this.**

With 59 registered members, the Nordic Dermatology Association (NDA) was founded at the first Nordic Dermatology Congress, held on 17–19 May 1910 in Copenhagen. The initiative had been taken by the dermatologists *Kristian Grøn* from Norway, *Carl Rasch* from Denmark, and *Edvard Welander* from Sweden when they met at the International Dermatology Congress in Berlin in 1904. The aim of the association, as expressed in its statutes, was to promote Nordic cooperation in scientific, educational and clinical aspects of dermatology and venereology, mainly by arranging congresses in the Nordic countries. Since then, 31 Nordic Dermatology Congresses (which from 2001 onwards have been called “Nordic Congresses of Dermatology and Venereology”) have been held in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden; 8, 6, 2, 7 and 8 times, respectively. Members of the Nordic national associations of dermatology and venereology (at present 1,424 individuals) become elected members of the NDA.

The Board of the NDA is appointed by the general assembly at each congress. Members are elected following nominations from national societies. The board elected in Reykjavik in 2008 is listed below.

### Board of the Nordic Dermatology Association 2008–2012

**Denmark:** Knud Kragballe and Gregor Jemec.

**Finland:** Annamari Ranki and Veli-Matti Kähäri.

Deputies: Aarne Oikarinen and Outi Kortekangas-Savolainen.

**Iceland:** Bolli Bjarnason.

Deputy: Rannveig Palsdottir.

**Norway:** Nils Jørgen Mørk and Thomas Ternowitz.

Deputies: Kristin Ryggen and Svein Helland.

**Sweden:** Mona Ståhle and Olle Larkö.

Deputies: Birgitta Stymne and Mats Berg.

A further effort to promote Nordic cooperation in dermatology and venereology was taken by Lennart Juhlin in 1996, when he

started the *Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology*. At the Nordic Congress of Dermatology and Venereology in Gothenburg Forum was appointed official journal of the NDA. It was also decided to recommend that congress organizers print congress books with meeting programmes and abstracts as supplements of Forum, thereby making them widely available, not only to congress participants. The printing of congress supplements is supported financially by the NDA.

Throughout the years the “Nordic meetings”, held in spring or early summer every third or fourth year have been great events. In addition to high-quality scientific and educational programmes, delegates have been offered fantastic social programmes and opportunities to learn more about neighbouring countries. And, perhaps most importantly, the congresses have facilitated interaction between individuals, which is the basis of all successful collaborations.

In addition to scientific and professional issues related to dermatology and venereology, an item that was discussed for some time was the official language of the congresses. At the meeting in Bergen in 1998 it was decided by the general assembly that at the next congress (Gothenburg, 2001) English should be used for all congress information, abstracts, slides shown in presentations, and posters. Also, that at least one concurrent session throughout the meeting should be held in English. Furthermore, it was recommended that English should be used in as many other meeting activities as possible. Since the Gothenburg meeting the official language of the NDA has, in fact, been English. Among other benefits of this timely change, we have seen an increasing number of participants at our congresses from countries outside the Nordic area.

Another question that has been raised from time to time in recent years is whether or not there is still a place for (or even a need for) NDA and Nordic congresses in dermatology and venereology. Arguments have been put forward that an organization specifically addressing Nordic issues

is becoming less important in these days of increasing collaboration within the European setting. Furthermore, it has been said, there is an ever-increasing number of international meetings competing for attendees, organizers and calendar space. And, of course, there is also the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV). Those who argue in favour of the continuation of regular Nordic meetings point to similarities among the Nordic countries in terms of healthcare systems, medical education, and therapeutic traditions. And, not least, they love to attend Nordic Congresses.

At every general assembly of the NDA at which the future of the organization and forthcoming meetings have been discussed, the majority of delegates have pronounced their support for continuation. One explanation for this outcome may be that the general assembly meets during an ongoing congress, which has so far always been a success, and that the attending delegates are already looking forward to the next Nordic Congress of Dermatology and Venereology. Only the future will tell; the next Congress is scheduled for 2012 in Finland. Exact dates and place will be announced in forthcoming issues of *Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology*.

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## UEMS European Board Examination – Diploma in Dermato-Venereology

**Harald Gollnick is the past president of the UEMS and responsible for the UEMS European Board Examination in Dermato-Venereology. For those of you who want to learn more about this examination *Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology* asked some questions. See the answers below.**

### **What is the content in such an exam?**

The content is the European Curriculum Teaching Program according to the UEMS charter.

### **What are the proportions of Dermatology and Venereology in the exam?**

The proportions are 65% Dermatology and 35 % Venereology.

### **What knowledge do you need in histology and phlebology?**

You need basic knowledge in dermatopathology and the usual CV knowledge in phlebology.

### **Can you do the exam online?**

No, the exam is performed in place every year during 2 days.

### **Is the exam performed orally or written?**

The exam is performed in writing. With MCI's. It consists of 400 questions including cases. All questions are demonstrated on a screen in the lecture hall.

### **How do you prepare for the exam?**

By a good to very good residents training over 4–5 years and constant learning from books, CME articles and european guidelines.

### **Are there any online training courses?**

No

### **How long have these exams existed?**

The exam has existed in the UEMS since year 2000, in Dermato-Venereology since year 2007.

### **When is the next examination date?**

August 6–7, 2010.

### **Where does the exam take place?**

J.W. Goethe University Hospital and Faculty of Medicine (Klinikum der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität), Theodor-Stern-Kai 7, 60590 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

### **Application**

Application form can be downloaded from our website at: <http://forum.medicaljournals.se/>

### **Address for further information**

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