

General Assembly of the International League of Dermatological Societies

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Kristian Thestrup-Pedersen points out the importance that the Nordic countries stand united in voting for new members and also for suggesting city for the next World Congress in Dermatology.



The ILDS (www.ilds.org) arranges world congresses of dermatology and venereology every 4th year. The last one was in Buenos Aires in 2007, and the next will be held in Seoul next year (see article in this issue).

At the congress in Seoul there will be two General Assembly (GA) meetings. Delegates for the GA are selected by the society members of the ILDS. As an example, Denmark has two delegates and there are, I believe, around 9 or 10 delegates in total from the Nordic societies. The US has 8 delegates because of the size of the American Academy of Dermatology's membership. Thus, the Nordic region will have a strong input into the decisions taken at the GA meetings.

I have learned that the Danish Dermatological Society is suggesting Professor Gregor Jemec from the University of Copenhagen/Roskilde Hospital as a candidate for election to the ILDS board. There are a few seats available. I, for example, am leaving the board because my term is up. Before me, Niels Thyresson and Hans Rorsman were ILDS board members.

Being an ILDS board member brings with it yearly board meetings, communication with new congress organizers, and in particular responsibility for increasing global support for dermatology, in which the Regional Dermatology Training Centre (RDTC) in Moshe, Tanzania, is of major importance. Communication within the board is quite intense and travel and hotel expenses often have to be paid by board members

themselves. Cooperation between colleagues from all over the world and making new friends are very rewarding.

I believe the reason I was elected in Sydney was that Anders Vahlquist and I proposed that one third of the surplus from every World Congress in Dermatology should go back to the ILDS to support global dermatology. So did the French and, since they won, they were able to return approximately 1 million US dollars to the ILDS. Buenos Aires should achieve almost the same return, while, from now on, one half of any surplus must go back to ILDS. So, the Nordic bid in 1997 certainly left its mark.

Should we have another Nordic colleague on the board? I, of course, would say yes! Therefore, it is my sincere recommendation that the boards of the Nordic societies nominate one person only. Otherwise, the Nordic vote will be split and the election of a Nordic candidate will not be possible. I urge the boards to contact each other regarding this matter. Gregor Jemec is certainly a valid candidate as he will also receive many European votes due to his long contribution to EADV. So, let's just have one candidate from among the Nordic countries.

The delegates also have to select the city for the coming world congress in 2015. There are 5 bidders, listed here in alphabetical order: Bangalore, Istanbul, Rome, Vancouver and Vienna. Again, I would strongly recommend that the Nordic countries collectively decide upon a preferred choice. Thus, a lot of decisions have to be made before we meet in Seoul in May 2011.