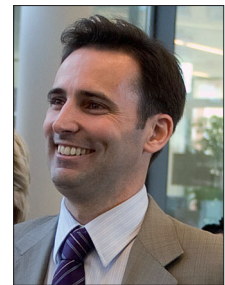


“Smooth sailing” at the 19th European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) Congress in Gothenburg

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The 19th EADV Congress was held in Gothenburg, Sweden, on 6–10 October 2010. This is the first time that the EADV's annual congress has been held in a Nordic country. This visit to Sweden may also have been an exciting first-time experience for many of the more than 7,000 participants at the meeting. Attendees included office- and hospital-based dermatovenereologists, researchers, nurses and sponsors. Participants travelled to Gothenburg from all continents of the world. An amazing total of 104 different countries were represented in our hometown.

The Swedish Exhibition and Conference Centre, situated in the heart of Gothenburg, was the setting for the events. This modern and well-planned facility proved to be a perfect match for the scientific programme, which offered presentations and discussions about the most recent developments in clinical as well as experimental dermatology and venereology. Between sessions, participants had time to network and exchange ideas with friends and colleagues, or to explore nearby shops,

cafés and seafood restaurants in order to make the most of their visit.

The 19th EADV Congress was kick-started on the morning of the first day with approximately 20 satellite meetings of various sub-specialty societies within the EADV. Thereafter, the official programme got under way with various symposia, workshops, forum sessions and even a course on dermatopathology. The inauguration day was rounded off that evening with fun and entertainment during the opening ceremony in the main congress hall. Professor Olle Larkö, Congress President, and the President of the EADV, Professor Andreas Katsambas, cordially welcomed all attendees to start the show. The soiree included a screening of the film *Gothenburg – We Love You* and live musical performances by an ABBA tribute band and the talented master of ceremonies, Fredrik Swahn. After the ceremony, attendees had the opportunity to mingle and dine with colleagues and friends in a relaxed atmosphere during a reception in the exhibition hall.



Fig. 1. Participants entering the Swedish Exhibition and Conference Centre in central Gothenburg.



Fig. 2. Standing (left to right): John Paoli, Þórunn Þórhallsdóttir, Jón Hjaltalín Ólafsson and Jan Faergemann. Sitting (left to right): Birgitta Faergemann, Andreas Katsambas, Ann-Marie Wennberg and Olle Larkö.

Over 4 days, the invited speakers delighted us with talks covering the full spectrum of dermatological and venereological diseases. Among the plethora of scientific sessions included in the programme, participants could choose between any of 18 courses, 50 symposia, 26 workshops, 10 focus sessions, 9 plenary sessions, 9 free communication sessions, 7 forum sessions, 3 “what’s new?” sessions and 3 “test yourself” sessions. In addition, our sponsors organized an additional 20 satellite symposia and 7 “meet-the-expert” sessions. Novel trends in rapidly moving fields, such as cutaneous oncology, allergy, and autoimmune, inflammatory and infectious disorders of the skin, were covered. Attendees were updated on recent developments within the fields of aesthetic and cosmetic dermatology, venereology, dermatopathology and dermoscopy. Emphasis was also given to exciting new treatment and management strategies for patients with atopic dermatitis, psoriasis and vascular malformations, to give a few examples.

The EADV Congress in Gothenburg also gave participants the opportunity to gain insight into the rapid development of global dermatology. Two exciting scientific sessions dedicated to dermatology in India and in Africa were included. Another highlight was the Junior Member session, which gave young dermatologists the chance to present their inspiring research results and introduce themselves to the Academy. It was a joy to see the constantly bustling poster exhibition area in which participants could view and discuss a selection of the more than 1,000 electronic posters accepted for presentation.

According to the feedback received so far from participants, we seem to have been successful in providing “smooth sailing” during our congress (in contrast to our motto: “Making Waves in Dermatology”). The Local Organizing Committee

(President Olle Larkö, Vice-Presidents Ann-Marie Wennberg and Jan Faergemann and General Secretary John Paoli) is still exultant and proud of the outcome of the meeting and we would herewith like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who made this event possible.

We had impeccable collaboration with the EADV’s Scientific Program Committee and MCI Berlin, our event management company. We would also like to thank the distinguished members of the Local Scientific Committee from all around Sweden for their invaluable help in selecting talented chairpersons and for efficiently reviewing hundreds of abstracts. Carita Hansson, Ing-Marie Bergbrant and Ann-Therese Karlberg deserve a special mention. Furthermore, we also wish to acknowledge our additional abstract reviewers for their excellent work with this tedious but very important process. Of course, we congratulate and thank all of the excellent chairpersons, speakers and poster authors for their outstanding lectures and presentations. We are also aware that a congress of this magnitude is not possible without the support of all our sponsors, to whom we are very grateful. And, last but not least, we would like to thank all of the participants who attended the congress and hope that their visits provided them with new friends and useful knowledge.

Our experience of hosting the 19th EADV Congress in Gothenburg was overwhelmingly positive, and we can highly recommend this to any other Nordic country or city planning to bid for a meeting in the future. It was a pleasure and an honour to have so many of our Nordic colleagues join us here in Gothenburg. We deeply appreciate your active participation as speakers, chairpersons, poster authors and interested listeners, and would like to welcome you back soon.