

Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology is a publication for the dermatovenereologists in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. It is published by Society for Publication of Acta Dermato-Venereologica.

Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology was founded in 1996 by Professor Lennart Juhlin, Uppsala, Sweden.

The former Editor-in-Chief was Professor Jørgen Serup (1996–2007).

This journal aims to cover all interests of the Nordic dermatovenereologists, to spread information and news and act as the natural way of communication among the Nordic dermatovenereologists.

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Merry Christmas!

Christmas is approaching, and hopefully you will have some free time during the festive season to read this issue of Forum in candlelit surroundings and a calm atmosphere.

Unfortunately there is some sad news in this issue; Urpo Kiistala of Helsinki, Finland has passed away. An obituary, written by Leena Rechartd and Aarne Oikarinen, is published on page 99.

A new aspect in this issue of Forum is the highlighting comments made by our country editors about newly published articles. We hope you will find this new approach of value in learning more about some of the papers they have chosen (see pages 103–105).

Two major events, the EADV and ESDR meetings, both held in Scandinavian cities, have now taken place successfully. You can read about each of these congresses (page 106–111), and also about the first Nordic Psoriasis Debate meeting (page 112).

As always in Forum you will find interesting dissertations, this time on the subjects of wound healing, vitamin D balance, and epidermolytic genodermatoses, as well as information about the next annual meeting of SSDV, and more in this issue.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue, and I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Uppsala November 30, 2010

AGNETA ANDERSSON

Managing Editor

The photo on the front cover shows the Northern Lights over Pite Älv in the North of Sweden. This photo was projected at the Acta Dermato-Venereologica symposium at the ESDR congress in Helsinki (p. 110-111).

Northern Lights is a common name for the Aurora Borealis (Polar Aurorae) in the Northern Hemisphere. The Northern Lights are formed when electrically charged particles are thrust into the earth's magnetic field at great speed, propelled by solar winds. Thus, the Northern Lights are best seen near the magnetic poles. The phenomenon appears year round but can only be seen in the black winter skies. In ancient times the visual drama of the Northern Lights generated many myths and legends. In Finnish they call it "revontulet", which translates as "fox fires", an expression which refers to a legend that the Northern Lights were sparks in the furs of giant foxes. Modern-day observers have described the breathtaking scenery as "a wounded dragon fighting for its life". In Lapland during mid-winter, the lights frequently appear in favourable weather conditions. At the Abisko mountain station, for example, one of the most popular sites for Northern Lights viewers, the staff can "almost guarantee" that a guest staying for a minimum of three nights will see the mighty phenomenon at least once. From <http://www.visitsweden.com/Regions--Cities/Northern-Sweden/Nature-experiences/Midnight-Sun--Northern-Lights/>

This phenomenon was scientifically explained by the Norwegian researcher Kristian Birkeland in the early 20th century.