

The 19th International Workshop on Vascular Anomalies, Malmö, Sweden, 16–19 June 2013

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The 19th International Workshop on Vascular Anomalies was held in Malmö, Sweden. The workshop was held in the Opera, and was arranged by the local organizing committee led by the Workshop President Agneta Troilius and Treasurer Carolin Freccero, both Board members of the Nordic Society for Vascular Anomalies (NSVA). The conference was attended by 514 participants from 44 different countries.

The workshop was preceded by a 1-day basic course on vascular anomalies. The 3-day scientific programme of the workshop was organized into 11 sessions, with almost 90 oral presentations. The invited keynote speaker, Professor Bjorn R. Olsen, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA, presented a much-appreciated overview of the mechanisms involved in growth and involution of infantile haemangiomas (Fig. 2).



Sessions I–IV were dedicated to presentations on the biological mechanism and treatment of haemangiomas. These covered a wide range of both scientific and clinical problems in the handling of infantile haemangiomas. The focus of the research data was on different mechanisms involved in angiogenesis in haemangiomas. Therapeutic strategies included pharmacological treatment with beta-blockers and steroids, as well as laser treatment and surgery in selected cases.

Sessions V–VIII focused on vascular anomalies, covering different aspects of treatment strategies and the stratification of patients according to clinical presentation. Many of the clinical cases described were unique, and valuable contributions were made regarding the general principles of the handling of difficult cases. A wide variety



Gala Dinner at Malmö Opera.



Carolin Freccero and Agneta Troilius

of treatment options was presented, along with research data on underlying biological mechanisms. It was clear that radiological diagnostics and intervention remain the most important instruments in the handling of these different patient groups. Surgical intervention and pharmacological treatment serve as additional options in selected cases.

Session IX was divided into 2 parallel sessions that dealt with laser treatment and interventional radiology of typical cases of haemangiomas and vascular malformations.

Sessions X–XI covered different aspects of the clinical handling of cases with lymphatic malformations and associated conditions. Interesting research findings regarding molecular mechanism involved in lymphangiogenesis were presented. Sclerotherapy remains the dominant treatment option, assisted by surgery in selected cases.

A poster exhibition with 162 entrants was displayed outside the main meeting hall, offering a wide range of significant and relevant presentations, covering all aspects of biological and clinical studies of vascular anomalies.

In summary, ISSVA 2012 in Malmö was an important international meeting with an impressive range of interesting presentations in the field of vascular anomalies. The scientific and clinical data presented will serve as guidelines for future research and treatment of this heterogeneous and demanding group of patients.



The board of the Nordic Society for Vascular Anomalies (NSVA). *First row: left to right: Carolin Freccero, president Agneta Troilius, Susanne Frevert, Anne Pitkäranta. Second row: left to right: Päivi Salminen, Rune Andersen, Ulf Zätterström, Pär Gerwins.*