

Putting a Face on the Young Dermatologists in Denmark

KASPER FJELLHAUGEN HJULER, MD, CHAIRMAN¹, AND GABRIELLE RANDSKOV VINDING, MD, CO-CHAIR, SECRETARY²
¹Department of Dermatology, Aarhus University Hospital, DK-8000 Aarhus, and ²Department of Dermatology, Roskilde Hospital, Denmark. E-mail: KHP@KLAU.DK and grv@dadlnet.dk

General information

The Danish Association of Dermatological Residents (Foreningen af Yngre Dermatologer) was founded on March 13, 1969 with the aim to work for the benefit of the dermatological residents in Denmark.

Several factors led to the founding of the association; most importantly the 60s general focus on better terms for students and junior physicians and their need of a forum to discuss professional and union policy issues. In 1966, a statutory requirement was introduced, leading to a significant extension of the time required in specialist training positions. This legislation encompassed a requirement that physicians should obtain an additional year as senior registrar before completion of the specialist training. As a countermove to this legislation the dermatological residents organized several meetings to debate the new legal requirements. These meetings were also known as the "lunch club". The outcome of the discussions was a written request to the Interior Ministry with a proposal to amend the draft law. The request was taken into concern and the legislation changed. Afterwards the Danish Association of Dermatological Residents was founded by residents from the "lunch club".

Goals

The primary aims of the organisation were then and now, to promote the education of the junior dermatologists. This is done by organising and facilitating educational meetings and discussions as well as handling the interests of the residents to relevant authorities and institutions. Union work, however, falls under the Danish Association of Junior Hospital Doctors, and is not dealt with as such in the Danish Association of Dermatological Residents.

Further the association regularly seeks to assess the resident training program in dermatology and venereology, and wish to be an active player in the continued development of the education.

In Denmark the Danish Association of Dermatological Residents is an independent organisation and unlike several other



Kasper Fjellhaugen
Hjuler, Chairman



Henrik Kralund



Anne Birgitte
Simonsen



Frej Studstrup



Gabrielle Randskov
Vinding



Annesofie Faurshou



Maria Blomberg

countries not an integrated part of the Danish Dermatological Society (Dansk Dermatologisk Selskab). However, the association is at the disposal of the Danish Dermatological Society in various committees and workgroups.

Over the years the association has evolved its own educational initiatives from initially organising exchange visits at dermatologic departments in Eastern Europe into arranging national biennial scientific meetings. Since approximately 2002 these meetings have been recurring annually. The association has over the years been involved in several important issues. Amongst other the involvement in the education reform in 2003. Here a training position in dermatological private practice was implemented in the education. Furthermore a reduction of time required in the field of internal medicine was implemented.

Today the association's main focus is the organisation of the annual two-day scientific meeting for all junior dermatologists. The meeting is known as the "Klarskovgaard-meeting" named after the location of the meeting. It is held every year in September. The recent focus on budget reductions in the official medical educational system makes the sessions offered here as relevant as ever. As well as providing excellent scientific lectures this event also serves as a social gathering for participants from all over the country.

Concurrently the association is involved in the evolving of the dermatological education being a part of the ongoing educational committees, appointment committees and various *ad hoc* committees. Lately a discussion about the dimensioning of

the various medical specialities has drawn attention, an issue that the association is also very keen to follow.

Board

The association counts approximately 120 members with a board of 7 junior dermatologists from different parts of the country. The members of the board are elected for up to 4 years with continually replacement. Each generation of dermatological residents in this way contribute to the work of former generations, doing their best to maintain and evolve the organisation.

Besides the continued educational and organisational work, the board has recently had its focus on drastically improving the former outdated website of the association. Moreover, focus has been on improving the structure of the association making it more modern and professional. This has especially been the case in matters regarding the organising and arranging of scientific meetings, keeping the association up to date with demands and legislation in this field.

The board of the Danish Association of Dermatological Residents currently consists of the following persons::

Kasper Fjellhaugen Hjuler, Chairman
 Gabrielle Randskov Vinding, Co-chair, Secretary
 Henrik Kralund, Treasurer/cashier
 Annesofie Faurschou, IT/web
 Anne Birgitte Simonsen
 Maria Blomberg
 Frej Studstrup