

32nd Nordic Congress of Dermato-Venereology, Tampere, Finland

The Co-operative Spirit is High among the Nordic Dermato-Venereologists

There had been a pause of 5 years since the last Nordic Congress of Dermato-Venereology, due to some overlapping European meetings, and meanwhile the NDA Board had discussed whether Nordic dermatologists would have the interest and time to continue the “centennarian” tradition of joint congresses. It was the turn of us Finns to organise the meeting, and since we do have the “sisu”, the Finnish Dermatological Society decided to go on.

Thus, on a sunny summer Sunday afternoon, on August 18th this year, I had the great honour and pleasure, as the President for this meeting, to welcome all Nordic dermato-venereologists to a 3-day congress in Tampere; an active university city between Näsijärvi and Pyhäjärvi lakes. The meeting venue was Tampere Hall, a luminous white marble hall in the very city centre, used for concerts and congresses (Fig. 1).

There were 231 delegates, of whom 57 were residents or trainees, enjoying first the keynote lecture of Dr Howard Maibach, USA, followed by the all female string quartet music by the Finestre musicians, Sibelius’ Andante Festivo. An opening reception with InTime quintet rhythms then followed (Fig. 2). The following two days were very busy, with 3 sessions running in parallel, altogether 21. There were also 4 plenary lectures, followed by a session on the same topic. The invited speakers were Jonathan Barker (Psoriasis from genetic discovery to clinical utility), Jouni Uitto (Personalized medicine for heritable skin diseases), Leena Bruckner-Tuderman (Skin fragility), Gunnar Nilsson (Mast cells and skin) and Frank Powell (Rosacea). Lunch and coffee was served in the middle of the exhibition hall that exposed the latest dermatological products and the interaction with pharmaceutical sponsors were thus well provided for.



Fig. 1. Members of the congress secretariat with Annamari Ranki. (Photo: Antti Lauerma).



Fig. 2. Welcome reception in the Tampere Hall.

All major fields of dermato-venereology, including dermatologic allergology, were covered and all sessions were well attended. The most popular topics seemed to be psoriasis, cutaneous lymphomas, vasculitis, dermatoses of dark skin and skin cancer. Vivid discussions featured all sessions. For the first time, we launched a specific session for young dermatologists and another one for dermatology teaching. As a result of these, young dermatologists found each other, as deduced from their group dancing to Elvis tones at the Congress Dinner show. NDA Board also decided to support the future gathering of young dermatologists focused on a specific topic, the first such gathering to be in Copenhagen. Likewise, dermatology teachers decided to meet regularly and the General Assembly supported the new NDA Board’s plans for joint Nordic training courses for residents.

The plenary speakers and all session chairpersons made excellent work and created most interesting sessions and discussions. After the first day we had the opportunity to admire the historical Tampere City Hall and its artwork at a cocktail reception, which was then followed by an Elvis Presley dinner show at the music theatre Palatsi.

Based on the all very positive feedback we have received, we can without hesitation say that the spirits are high for the next Nordic Congress of Dermatology – to be held in Trondheim, Norway! So, be prepared – the Nordic dermatologists will unite again and spend good time together!



ANNAMARI RANKI, ANTTI LAUERMA,
VELI-MATTI KÄHÄRI,
SIRKKU PELTONEN, KAISA TASANEN-
MÄÄTTÄ AND RAFAEL PASTERNAK
E-mail: annamari.ranki@hus.fi