

includes dermatology and we have to adjust to that. I think it is important to stick to core dermatological values and realise that some diseases are of a more cosmetic nature. However, due to the rapid increase in skin cancer and the higher prevalence of inflammatory diseases like atopic dermatitis there is still a need for more dermatologists. This will improve quality of dermatologic care and reduce costs.



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Comments from the General Secretary of NDA

Highlights of the 32nd Nordic Dermatology Congress in Tampere

The 2013 year congress was the seventh Nordic Dermatology Congress organized by the Finnish Dermatological Society. It has been 5 years since the last, highly appreciated, congress in Reykjavik. The scenery of Iceland is difficult to match but the forests and lakes of Tampere were beautiful in the sun of August. Five years made no difference to the old and new Nordic friends who found each other quickly, just as it was described in the 22 stories of Nordic dermatologists who participated in the collection of memories released at the congress to celebrate 100 years of NDA.

The keynote lecture, "Clinical challenges in percutaneous absorption", was held by Professor Howard Maibach, University of California, the nestor of contact dermatitis. He called Nordic dermatology for an "epicentrum of international dermatology". Professor Maibach has certainly contributed to this development by offering education at his department in San Francisco to many Nordic dermatologists. Among the invited speakers, were the ambassadors of Finnish dermatology in USA and Europe. Jouni Uitto from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia talked on "Personalized Medicine for Heritable Skin Diseases". Leena Bruckner Tuderman from Freiburg Medical Center held a lecture on "Skin fragility: novel approaches with exome sequencing and disease proteomics". Many sessions such as Cutaneous lymphoma, Contact dermatitis, Mast cells in dermatology, Atopic dermatitis and Gendermatoses demonstrated ongoing Nordic cooperations and a broad spectrum of current Finnish research. Obviously, good basic school education (one of the best schools in Europe) and governmental money are essential for successful research.

A panel discussion, "Nordic perspective in dermatology", was the final session of the programme. Sampsa Kauppi, the Chairman of the Young Dermatologists in Finland, informed about plans for a joint meeting with the Young Dermatologists in Denmark after a session at "Young dermatologist's forum". He also suggested a common Nordic course for young Nordic dermatologists in Health economics after an inspiring lecture of Olle Larkö.

Several dermato-venereologists from Estonia and Latvia participated in the congress. Many voices were raised to broaden the cooperation with the Baltic Association of Dermatovenereologists.

General Assembly discussed several important topics like review of the present statutes, the position of venereology in NDA (Harald Moi) and use of the financial surplus for organisation of focused meetings for residents (Kristian Thestrup-Pedersen, Jörgen Rönnevig and Lasse Braathen) to be held between regular Nordic congresses. Gregor Jemec was elected as president of NDA and Joanna Wallengren as secretary general and treasurer. We are very honoured and grateful for confiding in us.

The gala dinner was held at the music theatre Palatsi with a show of Elvis Presley's repertoire from the rock and roll of the 50's to his Las Vegas years. It was especially touching to see young dermatologists from the Nordic countries rocking together – should be a good rhythm for future cooperation.

We thank cordially the Finnish Dermatological Society and the sponsors for bringing Nordic dermatologists together and organising this excellent congress setting – a start for the second century of Nordic Dermatology Congresses.

Petter Gjersvik, Chairman of the Norwegian Society for Dermatology and Venereology, concluded that the Nordic Dermatology Societies need each other. He announced that the 33rd Nordic Dermatology Congress will be held in Trondheim in 2016.

The new board (see page 151), inspired by the congress and the Finnish sisu will meet already in November to discuss the issues raised by General Assembly. An education committee, which is being organised, will also evaluate possible Nordic CME programmes and common core curriculum for the future specialists. A training course in dermatologic surgery is planned by Gregor Jemec in Roskilde in the autumn of 2014. As the number and contents of the national courses for residents are limited (for review see table), please, suggest suitable themes for focused meetings as well as other activities you would like NDA to engage in.



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