

## Swedish Society of Dermatology and Venereology – An Update

JOHN PAOLI, P RESIDENT

Department of Dermatology, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, SE-413 45 Göteborg, Sweden. E-mail: john.paoli@vgregation.se

The Swedish Society for Dermatology and Venereology (SSDV, Svenska Sällskapet för Dermatologi och Venereologi) currently has 594 members, including 341 board-certified specialists, 105 residents in Dermatology and Venereology and 148 retired colleagues. Our seat is located in Uppsala where our Membership secretary Agneta Andersson (info@ssdv.se) works. The present board was elected at our annual general assembly:

*President:* John Paoli, Gothenburg

*Vice president:* Katarina Lundqvist, Lund

*Treasurer:* Kari Nielsen, Helsingborg

*General Secretary:* Virginia Zazo, Umeå

*Congress Secretary/Website Coordinator:* Christian Steczko Nilsson, Örebro

*Residency Program Coordinator:* Oliver Seifert, Jönköping

*Resident's Representative:* Oscar Zaar, Gothenburg

*Private Practice Representative:* Hélène Wolff, Gothenburg

*Venereology Representative:* Per-Anders Mjörnberg, Jönköping

The SSDV's main goal is to help guide the development of our medical specialty to ensure high standards of medical education for all our members, to help implement new

evidence-based research at a national level as well as to defend our specialty from the ever-changing laws and bureaucratic decisions established by our National Board of Health and Welfare and other organizations. We also serve as a connection between our members and the Swedish Society of Medicine to both keep our members up-to-date with news and upcoming changes in our profession but also to make sure our members' voices are heard.

One of our top priorities is education. Our Annual General Assembly usually takes place once a year in May and we take this opportunity to in connection with this organize a 3–4-day national congress with lectures, workshops and courses for all our members inviting both national and international speakers. This year's meeting was held in Gothenburg and in May 2015 we will meet in Skövde. Every autumn, the SSDV also organizes a 2-day course for our residents selecting a different topic every year. The topic this year is Lasers in Dermatology. Our Residency program coordinator and Resident's representative also work tightly with our University Hospitals to guarantee that all our residents are able to take part in the mandatory courses needed to finish their residency within a 5-year period.



**President**  
John Paoli  
john.paoli@vgregation.se



**Vice President**  
Katarina Lundqvist  
katharina.lundqvist@med.lu.se



**Treasurer**  
Kari Nielsen  
Kari.Nielsen@med.lu.se



**Secretary**  
Virginia Zazo  
virginia.zazo@vll.se



**Congress Secretary/Website Coordinator**  
Christian Steczko-Nilsson  
christian.steczko-nilsson@orebroll.se



**Residency Program Coordinator**  
Oliver Seifert  
Oliver.Seifert@lj.se



**Resident's Representative**  
Oscar Zaar  
ozaar@hotmail.com



**Private Practice Representative**  
Hélène Wolff  
wolff@skinhudkliniken.se



**Venereology Representative**  
Per Anders Mjörnberg  
peranders.mjornberg@lj.se

Within the SSDV we also have several subspecialty societies and so-called special-interest groups that organize educational activities, create scholarships and promote the development of important areas within our specialty such as: Cutaneous Oncology & Dermatological surgery, Venereology, Occupational and Environmental Dermatology, Epidemiology, Paediatric Dermatology and Aesthetic Dermatology.

Our private practitioners also have a subsociety within the SSDV called PDF (Privatpraktiserande Dermatologers Förening). The collaboration between SSDV and PDF is becoming more important than ever now when more and more regions of Sweden are outsourcing the national health system's patients to private practice, a process known as "Vårdval". The aim of this project is to give patients the opportunity to choose where they want to receive care and has resulted in many Swedish dermatologists leaving the hospitals to open their own private practices. One of SSDV's greatest challenges during the coming years will therefore be to ensure the continued quality of the residency programs at our hospitals despite the reduced number of specialists as well as fewer patients with common skin conditions.

During the past year, we have worked hard to create a new website for our society. The board members led by our Website

coordinator and Membership secretary were able to present the new site ([www.ssdv.se](http://www.ssdv.se)) at this year's Annual General Assembly.

We have also been able to offer our members several scholarships for research and travel grants during the year. We are continuously working to find new ways of funding research projects, congress visits and courses in collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry and international dermatological societies. We are also very proud of our new collaboration with the Nordic Dermatology Association with whom we have now organized our first ever Nordic Courses on Skin Surgery, which will take place in Copenhagen on August 28–29, 2014 and February 5–6, 2015 with speakers and participants from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

Another future challenge we will be faced with during the coming year is the possible incorporation of mandatory Continuing Professional Development in Sweden for all our specialists. We have plans on organizing a new section within our society to monitor this activity in order to help our members fulfill the new criteria set out by the National Board of Health and Welfare and ensure that they can maintain their licenses.

