

Norwegian Society of Dermatology and Venereology – An Update

PETTER GJERSVIK, PRESIDENT

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Membership information

The Norwegian Society of Dermatology and Venereology (Norsk forening for dermatologi og venerologi; NFDV) has 267 members, of whom 166 are board certified specialist in dermatology and venereology (as of February 1st, 2014).

Board

The present board, in office since September 1st, 2013, consists of:

<i>President:</i>	Petter Gjersvik, Oslo
<i>Vice president:</i>	Marit Saunes, Trondheim
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Xiaotong Li, Oslo
<i>Secretary:</i>	Ellen Pritzler, Stavanger
<i>Board member:</i>	Malte Hübner, Trondheim
<i>Deputy members:</i>	Jan C. Sitec, Oslo Ragnhild Telnes, Trondheim

Main goals

The board has made these topics its priorities: research, continuing medical education, interaction between hospital and non-hospital practitioners, and Nordic cooperation.

Research

In order to improve research in dermatology and venereology in Norway, the society organizes annual research seminars for members that are or want to be active in research. In addition to relevant lectures and discussion, the seminars are important for establishing networks and increased cooperation.

Each year NFDV gives out prizes and scholarships. Prizes for best research articles in 2013 were awarded to Per Helsing, Oslo, and Kjersti Danielsen, Tromsø, for their papers on CO₂-laser in transplant-associated solar keratosis and psoriasis prevalence, respectively. Scholarships were given to Flora Balieva, Mari Kvernebo, Silje Solberg, Eva Rehbindler, Cato Mørk, Jan Sitek and Barbara Gasior-Chrzan.

The number of new PhD dissertations in Norway is increasing, reflecting a general trend that Norwegian dermatological research is slowly improving.

Continuing medical education

Continuing medical education (CME) should be mandatory for all specialists. NFDV supported making specialist certifications time-limited, and that documented CME-activity should be compulsory for renewal of board certification. Such a proposal



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was discussed at a recent general assembly of the Norwegian Medical Association, of which NFDV is a member, but was unfortunately not approved.

Pharmaceutical companies are no longer allowed to sponsor doctors' participation at medical congresses. This has led to a dramatic reduction in the number of Norwegian participants at such meetings, including EADV and Nordic congresses. NFDV works closely with the hospital departments in order to secure necessary financial support for participation at international congresses.

Recruitment of specialists

Presently, it is difficult to recruit dermatologists for both hospital and non-hospital positions in some parts of the country, not only in Northern Norway. Many junior doctors are reluctant to move after they have finished their specialty training at a university hospital. A shortage of specialists in dermatology and venereology in a few years has been projected.

Plans for a pilot project in which 6 months training in a private clinic can be approved as a part of specialist training, is underway, but have met bureaucratic obstacles.

Meetings

The NFDV board has annual meetings with the chairpersons of all major departments of dermatology in Norway to discuss these and other topics of interest. Also, the NFDV board has regular meetings with the Norwegian specialty board in skin and venereal diseases.

NFDV holds two member meetings each year: in April, the annual meeting with a course on a specific topic and with submitted scientific presentations from members; and in November the "autumn meeting" with support and participation from pharmaceutical companies, and with members and non-members as invited speakers. Both meetings are important venues for cooperation between hospital and non-hospital members.

The next Nordic congress in dermatology and venereology will take place in Trondheim April 27–29, 2016. The planning of the congress is well underway, and much of NFDV's time and energy in the next two years will be focused on making that meeting a success.

Forthcoming Events

Nordic Congress in Dermato-Venereology in Trondheim 2016

PETER GJERSVIK¹, KRISTIN RYGGEN² AND MARIT SAUNES²
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The Norwegian Society of Dermatology and Venereology will host the 33rd Nordic congress in dermatology and venereology in Trondheim on April 27–29, 2016. Make a note in your calendar!

Nordic cooperation is important for dermatology and venereology in all the Nordic countries. Since the founding of Nordic Dermatology Association in 1910, 32 Nordic congresses in dermatology and venereology have been held regularly, the latest in Tampere, Finland, in 2013. Although European organizations in dermatology and venereology, such as European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV), have been established and become important, there is still a need for Nordic cooperation. With our common cultural, historic and political background and shared values and way of thinking, dermatologists and venereologists in the Nordic countries should cooperate more – not less.

The Nordic Dermatology Association board has decided to hold the next Nordic congress in dermatology and venereology in Trondheim, Norway. Trondheim is an attractive city with excellent facilities, an enthusiastic dermatology staff at its university hospital, and easy to reach by plane with direct flights from both Copenhagen, Stockholm and, of course, Oslo.

The planning of the congress is well underway. The congress is planned for April 27–29, 2016. Kristin Ryggen, chairperson

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Hywel Williams, Nottingham, Günther Hofbauer, Zürich, Magne Nylen, Oslo and Per Helsing, Oslo, have already accepted our invitation to give plenary lectures, and more will follow. The preliminary plans for the congress will be presented and discussed at the next Nordic Dermatology Association board meeting in Amsterdam on October 8th, 2014.

More information will follow.

See page 32 in this issue for information about the next NDA congress that will be held in Norway!



Kristin Ryggen
Congress President
33rd Nordic Congress of Dermatology and Venereology



Marit Saunes
Secretary General
33rd Nordic Congress of Dermatology and Venereology



Peter Gjersvik
President
Norwegian Society of Dermatology and Venereology