

## Report from the European Dermatology Forum (EDF) Meeting in Zurich on 21–23 January 2016

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EDF is a society to which European Professors of Dermatology and Venereology are invited to become members. At the annual meetings, members from all over Europe and invited high-ranking officers from various national bodies and pharmaceutical companies gather to discuss common interests and recent developments within the field of dermato-venereology. This report from the latest EDF meeting in Zurich highlights some of the lectures and describes the importance of the society for strengthening our speciality.

EDF was founded in 1997 and is currently a major player in the academics' networking with various other organizations (EU, EADV, ESDR, etc) and with many companies involved in dermato-venereology (presently 12 companies are supporters of EDF). In addition, EDF produces guidelines and white books and, via Euroderm Excellence, organizes education programs for younger dermato-venereologists in Europe.

The idea to create a meeting place for European professionals from both within and outside our specialty was launched by Prof. Lasse Braathen (Berne) in the early 1990ies and he became the first President of EDF. The annual meeting were initially held in Interlaken, Switzerland, but later moved to inter alia Berne and now in Zurich, organized by the current President, Lars French, also Professor at the University of Zurich.

The latest 3-day meeting in Zurich, organised by Professor Lars French, attracted some 150 delegates from all around Europe. The program and a full report from the meeting is available on <http://euroderm.org/edf>.

### *A few highlights*

In a Guest Lecture, Prof. Jens Schröder, Kiel, described how skin-derived proteins involved in innate immunity can serve as templates for designing new peptide antibiotics useful in combatting bacterial infections resistant to conventional antibiotics.

In an Interactive Forum, Prof. Roderick Hay, London, talked about Grand Challenges in Global Skin Health. Among many other things, he mentioned that scabies in many African countries is a major health problem especially among children. The



Professor Lasse Braathen, Berne, the first President of EDF. Photo: Anders Vahlquist.



Some of the participants at this EDF meeting. In the front row, Professor Irene Leigh (London), Olle Larkö (Gothenburg), and Rodrik Hay (London). Photo: Anders Vahlquist.

reason is that chronic scratching under poor hygiene conditions is often associated with chronic streptococcal infections which untreated may lead to glomerulonephritis and an early death due to chronic renal failure.

In various Working-group discussions, the participants ventilated 2 preselected challenges:

- New proposals and models for maximizing outcomes of clinical trials,
- How to attract students and foster academics in dermatology

Additionally, the Geneskin group discussed European Reference Networks (see recent article in Forum for Nordic DV), the Undergraduate training commission discussed the Erasmus Project, and representatives of EADV, ESDR, UEMS, ILDS, etc. gave their reports.

### Concluding remarks (inspired by Lasse Braathen)

The members of EDF are the major opinion leaders of dermato-venereology in Europe. While ESDR is the major European dermato-venereological research organisation, EADV is the major organisation for continuous medical education, CME, and the “money machine” for European Dermatology, and



Professor Kaisa Tasanen-Määttä and Sirkku Peltonen from Finland. Photo: Anders Vahlquist.

EDF the major organisation for professional politics. The typical EDF member is responsible and leader for Dermatology at his/her university and geographical area. Together the EDF members share the same responsibility for all of Europe. We are stronger together than alone, and the future challenge for Dermatology has not become less than at the start of EDF.



Zurich is a beautiful city, with the Limmat River that runs through the city. Photo: Anders Vahlquist.