

its present interior dating from the 17th century. The attendants had a chance to get a glimpse of the Riga environs. Unfortunately, the participants of the congress had very little time to learn more about Latvia, due to the busy schedule of the meeting.

The congress decided that the next meeting, the 4th Congress of the Baltic Association of Dermato-venereology, will be organised in the charming city of Tallinn, Estonia, in May 2003, under the leadership of Professor Helgi Silm

from Tartu (Estonia). I can highly recommend Tallinn in 2003 to all Nordic dermato-venereologists.

Lasse Kanerva

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The 3rd BADV Congress in Riga, Latvia, September 7-9, 2000

The 3rd Congress of the Baltic Association of Dermato-Venereology was held in Riga on September 7-9, 2000. The scientific and organising committees, under the energetic and effective leadership of Professor Andris Rubins, put together a varied programme, covering a wide range of dermatological and venereological topics, for a very successful event. Physicians from several specialities participated; the congress attracted a total of 874 participants (approx. 250 dermatologists) from 21 countries to the beautiful and charming capital of Latvia.

The three-day congress was centred on plenary sessions, giving the entire audience the opportunity to hear all the presentations and participate in the discussion. The guest speakers addressed a wide range of dermatological topics. Professors E.B. Smith and J. Rasmussen (USA) spoke on the treatment of mycoses and pediatric dermatology. Professor M. Greaves (UK) discussed the St.



Speakers at the 3rd BADV congress

Thomas's Hospital's experiences in the diagnosis and treatment of autoimmune urticaria, emphasising the usefulness of the autologous serum prick test in the diagnosis. Professor S.K. Tyring (USA) gave a comprehensive overview of viral infection in the skin from a dermato-venereological perspective. Speaking on the treatment of giant congenital naevi, Dr R.L. de Raeve (Belgium) presented the impressive results obtained using curettage in the first two weeks post-partum. The other

speaker on pigmented lesions, Professor C.E. Orfanos (Germany), covered the present status and likely future developments in the diagnosis and treatment of malignant melanoma. Professor E. Aydemir (Turkey) gave an excellent review of psychodermatology, while Professor A. Kansky (Slovenia) presented data on the genetic background of palmoplantar keratoderma.

The last day of the congress was devoted to venereological topics. The

collapse of the USSR unleashed an epidemic of STDs, which, however, appears to be abating slowly, especially due to the efforts of venereologists in the region. Professor A. Rubins (Latvia) presented an overview of the problem in the Baltic countries and Dr A. Pöder (Estonia) described the efforts made to control STD complications. Professor M. Gomberg described the success of the STD programmes in Russia, where the syphilis epidemic appears to have lost momentum, although infection rates are still very high.

Nordic dermato-venereology was well represented among the speakers. From Sweden, Drs. A. Hallén and M.

Domeika spoke on vulvovaginal infections and chlamydia screening; from Finland Professor L. Kanerva spoke on occupation contact urticaria; from Norway Professor O. Christensen spoke on the treatment of pemphigus and from Denmark Dr. G Jemec spoke on hidradenitis suppurativa.

In addition to the official programme, the congress contained four sponsored symposia covering the treatment of mycoses, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis and hepatitis at the cutting edge of development.

The breadth of the programme, the

smoothness of the organisation and the hospitality shown us all in Riga contributed to the success of the Third BADV Congress. It has fully confirmed the impression that Baltic dermatology is now as a dynamic part of European dermatology. Much mutually beneficial co-operation and development may be expected from this region in the future, where the next congress will be held in Tallinn, Estonia, in 2003.

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Book review

Medicinsk kunnskabshåndtering (Arild Bjørndal, Signe Flottorp, Atle Klovning). ISBN 82-417-1062-3. Gyldendal Akademisk, Oslo, Norway, 2000

This new 178-page book, written in Norwegian, has been published by a team of specialists in social medicine who saw medical students, practising doctors and doctors in specialist education as their target group.

Their theme and challenge are well known in today's medicine, namely how to extract simple, reliable and useful knowledge from the enormous amount of medical literature, so great that we usually find it impossible to tackle. This hot topic is, in fact, already covered by a huge volume of literature, and it has become a study in itself to learn how to learn, a learning process we poor sufferers have to go through before we can partake of the medical topic we originally wanted to find out about.

One advantage of this book is its coverage of the range of tools for searching and synthesising medical knowledge. The text is direct, brief and readable, clinically oriented with many examples and anecdotes.

Another good side of the book is that it bridges the gap to practical medicine, especially in the last chapters, which cover the challenge of implementing evidence-based knowledge in daily practice and one's local environment. Maybe the authors, who cite Mao Zedong among others, were aiming at a kind of 'little red book', bringing evidence-based medicine into contact with us, the people.

The book is to be recommended.

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Jørgen Serup

Editor-in-Chief

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