

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.

Gregor B.E. Jemec

Div. of Dermatology, Department of Medicine, Roskilde Hospital, DK-4000 Roskilde, Denmark. Fax +45 4630 2727.

E-mail ccc2845@vip.cybercity.dk



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.

Publisher's address: Gyldendal Akademisk, Postboks 6730, Olavs Plass, NO-0131 Oslo, Norway.

Jørgen Serup

Editor-in-Chief

Forum for Nord Derm Ven Vol. 5 November 2000