

To the members of the Scandinavian Society for Head and Neck Oncology  
Dear colleagues,

2007 was an interesting year for European head and neck oncology. The International Meeting on Innovative Approaches in Head and Neck Oncology was held in Barcelona Spain 22-24.02.2007. It was a truly multidisciplinary meeting, with a very strong input by ESTRO. On Thursday after two sponsored satellite symposiums the keynote lecture on Scenery of Head and Neck Cancer Treatment in Europe started the meeting. The head and neck European co-operative groups presented themselves including the Scandinavian Society for Head and Neck Oncology. Main topics of the meeting were among others molecular biology/pathology, novel imaging techniques, optimizing treatment for locally advanced pharyngo-laryngeal SCC with three symposiums: state of the art, toward more effective treatment, toward less morbidity. Additional topics were molecular targeting therapies for head and neck SCC and managements of failing patients. There were no parallel sessions, which allowed everybody independent of the specialty to follow the whole program. Based on the success of the meeting there was a general feeling by the organizing societies, that this will not be the last of its kind, but the meeting will be repeated either with three or four year intervals. I am sure we are going to hear more about this in a near future.

In 2008 we will celebrate our society's 20 year anniversary 17-19 April 2008 in Turku Finland. Here is some information of the planned events already at this stage.

The meeting will start on Thursday 17.4. with registration at 12 o'clock at the Mauno Koivisto Congress Center followed by the scientific program at 1.00 p.m. We will straight away tackle the problem of new oncologic treatments including induction chemotherapy and targeted therapies in HNSCC. Our quest speaker is Lisa Licitra, Head and Neck Medical Oncology Unit, Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milan. In addition to related free papers we will also have a presentation of BNCT. Later in the afternoon we will have a poster session with wine and cheese in the congress center. The evening program will be in Aboa Vetus et Nova, which is within walking distance both from the congress center and the hotels. There we will have a good possibility for a nice social, rather informal gathering.

On the 18th of April we will start in the morning with sentinel lymph node biopsy having Sandro Stoeckli from Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Universitätsspitals Zürich, Switzerland as invited speaker. After a free paper session and lunch the main topic of the meeting "Sinonasal cancer in the Nordic countries", will be started by Paolo Castelnovo from Department of Otorhinolaryngology, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy speaking about surgical aspects and Cai Grau from Århus Denmark, who will cover the oncological treatment. Thereafter each Scandinavian country will present their 15 years' experiences and results in this patient group. Perhaps there will also be time for related oral presentations.

In the evening we will celebrate the 20 year anniversary of SSHNO with a formal dinner at Turku Castle.

Despite the vigorous celebration the organization committee hopes that everybody will be on Saturday morning 19.4. ready to enjoy Professor Stina Syrjänen's talk on HPV in HNSCC followed by Professor Lutz Gissman's presentation concentrating on vaccination strategies. If time allows we will have a basic science session as well.

Personally I am looking very much forward to the Annual Meeting of the Society with election of new officers, since this meeting will be the last one for me in office.

The organization committee is working hard to keep the participation fees for the members as low as possible and hopefully below 300 € with a considerable reduced price for residents. We have made preliminary reservations for accommodation at hotels Hamburger Börs, City Börs and Centro Hotel, where the prices will be between 70€ and 100€ per night.

The official first announcement with registration form, abstract submission form etc. will be available in January. This includes information about hotel reservations as well.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a Peaceful and Merry Christmas with your family and relatives. I wish you also a Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2008.

Reidar Grénman  
Scandinavian Society for Head and Neck Oncology  
Chairman