

Presidential report – General assembly of SSHNO 2014

It has now been two year since our last general assembly at the annual meeting of the Scandinavian Society for Head and Neck Oncology in Copenhagen, and it is time for a short report on the activities of the board during these two years.

The 2012 meeting in Copenhagen was successful, not only because of the scientific and social programme, but perhaps even most importantly, we recruited 61 new members in conjunction with the registration for the meeting; many of these are young people, which is important for the future of this society. The concept of pre-meeting workshops, with hands-on activities, was also introduced, and attracted a good number of especially younger colleagues. All in all it means that we have a broader membership base than a few years ago.

The Copenhagen meeting also saw the election of six new board members, bringing new blood and energy into the society. Our two new Swedish board members, Hedda Haugen-Cange and Lalle Hammarstedt-Nordenvall were immediately put to work, by taking over the important roles as general secretary and general treasurer, the two most important roles in the board. And moreover, they also inherited the job to organize this 2014 Annual Meeting here in Stockholm. A task that they have undertaken with perfection, thank you.

The board has met four times since 2012, in September 2012, February 2013, September 2013 and again yesterday. Most of the energy has been put into organizing meetings. We had an unsuccessful plan for a Scandinavian Society pre-meeting in conjunction with the Barcelona ICHNO meeting in February last year. Unfortunately only a couple of abstracts were submitted, and the board therefore concluded that the potential interest in the pre-meeting was too low to warrant the effort and costs of a Scandinavian pre-meeting, and we will not embark on this again. But the board continues to support and endorse future ICHNO meetings, the next being in 2015, February 12-14, in Nice.

The board will now concentrate on organizing our own bi-annual meeting, the next one being Iceland 2016. We will hear about these plans later. I hope many of you will take this opportunity of combining science, profession and social activities with colleagues at this very interesting venue. Many of us remember with great pleasure the previous SSHNO meeting in Iceland in 2002.

You may have seen that we now have a new website, SSHNO.org. So far the content is not much different from the old one, but the new content management system enables a much more efficient and fast update in the future, also easier use of pictures.

The society currently has xxx members. Unfortunately we still have a fairly low coverage in especially Denmark and Norway. Keeping track of the membership remains a big challenge for the national treasurers, much time is used to collect the membership fees. The board have considered different models, but have agreed to stay with the national system for the next years.

At this stage I would like to acknowledge the contribution of four board members who are today leaving the board, as their terms have now ended:

Christian Godballe (Odense)

Antti Mäkitie (Helsinki)

Ása Karlsdottir (Bergen)

The Society is thankful for your long-standing devotion to the multidisciplinary work, and we wish you all the best in your future career. We hope to see you at future events.

Regarding future events, I have already mentioned the next SSHNO meeting in Iceland May 2016. Before that there will be two main European multidisciplinary events: I hope to see many of you in Liverpool for the EHNS meeting in April, organized in collaboration with BAHNO, the British Association of HNO. SSHNO is a founding member of EHNS, and all paying members of SSHNO are also members of EHNS – meaning that you are entitled to reduced fees for EHNS meetings. This goes for Liverpool, but also the second major event before Iceland, the ICHNO2015 meeting in Nice (not Barcelona). I hope Scandinavians continues to be a visible part of this important multidisciplinary meeting, and strongly encourage you to participate and perhaps also submit an abstract.

With this I will end my presidential report.

Cai Grau
Stockholm
March 20, 2014