



Presidential Report 2018

This year marks the 30th anniversary of SSHNO. Our society was founded in January 1988 in order to facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration and multicenter studies in the treatment of head and neck malignancies in the five Nordic countries. The first steps were taken when Magnus G. Lind (photo below) at Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm invited Nordic colleagues to Högberga kursgård, at Lidingö outside Stockholm, on January 28th-29th, 1988, in order to discuss the possibility of founding such a society; 61 head and neck surgeons and oncologists participated. It is noteworthy, that the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncology Societies had been founded in May 1987, so there was a clear call to establish an official organisational structure for the Nordic Head and Neck community.

The past year 2018 has been active in terms of recruiting new members and the current number is 178 (Denmark 37, Finland 79, Norway 21, Sweden 35, Iceland 6). It continues to be one of our priorities to encourage more colleagues to become members of the society. As a result we form a prominent professional group also in European circumstances.

The Board has had two meetings in 2018. The new Board (photo below) was elected at the General Assembly at the Annual Meeting in Kuopio and consists of Antti Mäkitie (President), Maria Gebre-Medhin (Secretary, SE), Lalle Hammarstedt Nordenvall (Treasurer, SE), Hanna Mäenpää (FI), Taru Ilmarinen (FI), Irene Wessel (DK), Jesper Grau Eriksen (DK), Åse Bratland (NO), Jon Sigurd Lybakk (NO), Arnar Gudjonsson (IS), and Subash Shannon John (IS).

The main meeting was the Annual Meeting of SSHNO in Kuopio during May 23rd-25th, 2018, which also highlighted the 30th Anniversary of our society. There were 188 participants. Docent Matti Pukkila and his local organizing committee had prepared an interesting programme in collaboration with the board of the society. Professor Vincent Gregoire from Belgium and professor Paul Pracy from UK were the invited foreign guests. Immunotherapy, International guidelines on primary tumour target volumes, Reconstructive surgery, Gene therapy, Boron Neutron Capture Therapy, Palliative aspects, Nutritional aspects, and the Nordic laryngeal cancer study were the main topics of the sessions. It is noteworthy that management of laryngeal cancer was also the main cancer management theme discussed at the first annual meeting in Turku 1989. In Kuopio we experienced also an exceptionally warm spring season weather and a enjoyable social programme.

We continue to emphasize the role of SSHNO as a multi-disciplinary society open for all professionals with a special interest in Head and Neck oncology in the Nordic countries. The current collaborative projects focus on harmonizing the management of Head and Neck cancer in Northern Europe: the Nordic Laryngeal Cancer Study, Nordic Transoral Robotic Surgery Study,

Nordic Nasopharyngeal Cancer Study, Nordic Laryngotracheal Reconstruction Study, Nordic Dysphagia Study and Nordic Palliative Care Study. These will hopefully lead to unified guidelines in this area and thus enable even prospective randomized studies in the future.

Examples of our collaborative publications during 2018 are:

Delineation of the primary tumour Clinical Target Volumes (CTV-P) in laryngeal, hypopharyngeal, oropharyngeal and oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma: AIRO, CACA, DAHANCA, EORTC, GEORGCC, GORTEC, HKNPCSG, HNCIG, IAG-KHT, LPRHHT, NCIC CTG, NCRI, NRG Oncology, PHNS, SBRT, SOMERA, SRO, SSHNO, TROG consensus guidelines. **Radiother Oncol. 2018 Jan;126(1):3-24.**

The Management and Survival Outcomes of Nasopharyngeal Cancer in the Nordic Countries. **Acta Oncol 2018 Apr;57(4):557-60.**

Transoral Robotic Surgery in the Nordic Countries: Current Status and Perspectives. **Front Oncol 2018 Jul 27;8:289.**

Please, visit our website (www.sshno.org) for further information and updates regarding various current activities. In 2019 we will participate the ICHNO in Barcelona (March 14-16, 2019).

The Board discussed at its meeting on September 26th the main phases of the 30-year history of SSHNO. The initiative to start this society seemed so crucial and innovative that it was our unanimous decision to nominate Magnus G. Lind the first Honorary Member of SSHNO. The certificate will be delivered at the next Annual Meeting (Oslo 2020).

The Board wants to thank all our members for your efforts and active participation during this year. Let's continue the tradition of strong Northern European communication and developmental work in Head and Neck Oncology.

Helsinki, December 29th, 2018



Antti Mäkitie
President
SSHNO

