



## Presidential Report 2019

The 31<sup>st</sup> year for our Nordic society has again been an active period and we are looking forward to the forthcoming functions in 2020.

There was a Board meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> at the ICHNO Meeting in Barcelona and on October 17<sup>th</sup> in Stockholm. At these meetings the role of the national multidisciplinary head and neck oncology societies was discussed as they form the functional background of SSHNO. It remains their activity to recruit new members into the Nordic H&N community. We currently have 171 members: 74 in Finland, 6 in Iceland, 21 in Norway, 36 in Denmark and 34 in Sweden. We represent a prominent professional Head and Neck oncology group in the European H&N Society (EHNS) and new members are needed to strengthen our role.

The SSHNO ([www.sshno.org](http://www.sshno.org)) website has been renewed and will again include the latest information and updates to the current activities. You will also find links to the published collaborative studies that we have performed. The latest publication was on cricotracheal resections and reconstructions in the Nordic countries (Klug TE, Hentze M, Schytte S, Farnebo L, Rikardsen O, Sihvo E, Räsänen J, Mäkitie A. Laryngo-tracheal resections in the Nordic countries: an option for further centralization? *Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol.* 2019 May;276(5):1545-1548). The ongoing projects involve Laryngeal Cancer in the Nordic Countries, and Palliative Treatment of Head and Neck Cancer Patients, which are both at the phase of manuscript preparation. The Nordic Dysphagia Study is ongoing, and a couple of other collaborative proposals are in their planning phase.

The Board members are: 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).

We are looking forward to participating in the Annual Meeting 2020 in Oslo on April 22-24, 2020. The local organizing faculty has prepared an interesting program with for example keynotes from Canada, USA, and UK. We are expecting a high attendance of participants. Please register at [www.sshno2020.com](http://www.sshno2020.com). Also, I would like to remind you of the incoming 9th ECHNO Meeting (Brussels, Belgium) May 6-9, 2020.

The Board thanks the Society members for active participation during this year. We look forward to continuing the tradition of strong Northern European collaboration and development in Head and Neck Oncology.

Helsinki, Dec 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Antti Mäkitie, President, SSHNO