



Presidential Report 2020

The global COVID-19 pandemic changed the 32nd year of our Nordic society. The Board had to face this new reality and was forced to cancel the Annual Meeting that was planned to take place in April at Holmenkollen. We organized tele-meetings to prepare the essential functions and to discuss the available alternative options with the Norwegian organizing committee. The Board meeting on May 27th decided to postpone the Annual Meeting to be held in April 2021. Later in October the Board of the Norwegian Society for Head and Neck Oncology and the local organizing committee in Oslo concluded that the SSHNO meeting 2021 also had to be cancelled due to the pandemic situation. The next Annual Meeting is therefore planned to take place in Denmark in 2022.

An electronic and virtual General Assembly – the first in the history of SSHNO – was held via ZOOM on September 21st 2020.

SSHNO currently has 155 members: 60 in Finland, 33 in Denmark, 28 in Norway, 28 in Sweden and 6 in Iceland.

We have continued to perform collaborative Nordic studies in the field of Head and Neck Oncology. The latest completed studies are:

A Nordic survey of the management of palliative care in patients with head and neck cancer. Boëthius H, Saarto T, Laurell G, Farnebo L, Mäkitie AA. Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol 2020 Sep 1

Enteral tube feeding of head and neck cancer patients undergoing definitive chemoradiotherapy in the Nordic Countries: Survey of the Scandinavian Society for Head and Neck Oncology. Ilmarinen T, Hammarstedt-Nordenvall L, Bäck L, Mäkitie AA. Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol (in press)

The SSHNO Board members for 2020 are and they will continue in the positions until the General Assembly 2021: Antti Mäkitie (President, FI), 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 Board continues to follow closely the pandemic situation and inform the members regarding various current activities during 2021 via the SSHNO website www.sshno.org. We will organize an electronic General Assembly on April 23rd at 4:00 PM Stockholm time. You can join the meeting by using the ZOOM link: <https://helsinki.zoom.us/j/3675294671> (Meeting ID: 367 529 4671). There are several items on the agenda and among them for example election of new Board Members and President for our society.

We would also like to remind you of the following forthcoming events:


13th Annual EUROHNC on-line course, January 14-16, 2021 (www.eurohnc.com)

The combined European Congress on Head and Neck Oncology (ECHNO) and International Congress on Head and Neck Oncology (ICHNO), Brussels, June 30 – July 3, 2021.

7th IFHNOS World Congress, Rome, September 1-4, 2022.

The Board wishes to express its gratitude to the members for active participation during this year. Despite the ongoing pandemic, we look forward to continuing the tradition of strong Northern European collaboration and development in Head and Neck Oncology. Please stay healthy and safe.

Helsinki, December 29th, 2020



Antti Mäkitie, President, SSHNO