Presidential Report 2023

After 2 years with the COVID19 pandemic and isolation, members of the SSHNO finally managed to meet again at the successful Annual meeting in Aarhus. We realized how important it is to get to know our Nordic colleagues and to continue the collaboration between the countries!

In 2023 the SSHNO has been involved in different scientific activities.

At the IFNHO meeting in Rome, June 2023, The Danish head and neck society together with the SSHNO arranged a symposium with the title “Multidisciplinary quality of care for head and neck cancer in the Nordic countries”. Christian Godballe from Denmark presented “Multidisciplinary meetings and fast-track pathways in Denmark”, Leif Back from Finland “Morbidity and mortality meetings” and Taru Ilmarinen from Finland, was representing the SSHNO board as the moderator of the symposium and by presenting a survey on quality of head and neck cancer care in Scandinavia.

The Nordic survey has after the IFNHO meeting been written together in a paper by Taru Ilmarinen and the SSHNO board – “Current aspects of the quality of head and neck cancer care – Survey of the Scandinavian Society for Head and Neck Oncology” - soon ready to be published.

The board members continued their good work in 2023 - Björn Palmgren (Treasurer, SE), Maria Gebre-Medhin (Secretary, SE), Hanna Maënpää (FI), Taru Ilmarinen (FI), Kristine Bjørndal (DK), Jesper Grau Eriksen (DK), John Sigurd Lybeck (NO), Hanne Tøndel (NO), Arnar Gudjonsson (IS) and Vaka Saevarsdottir (IS).

We had a board meeting on Castrup Airport in October 2023, where we planned the upcoming 31st annual SSHNO meeting in Lund, Sweden in April 2024. The focus in the coming years will be to recruit new and young members to the Scandinavian society of head and neck oncology. We aim that the Nordic countries will be an important voice and contributor to both the European and the international head and neck cancer society.

The SSHNO has a good economy and the board want to support scientific collaboration and interactions by travel and accommodation grants for colleagues in training.

We will also reward presenters and posters at the SSHNO meeting in Lund.
In 2024 we look forward to a new annual meeting in the southern part of Sweden, Lund. The program is multidisciplinary and interesting, with both Scandinavian and international speakers. We hope to see many of our old and many new members in Sweden in April 2024!

Oslo, March 11th, 2024

Ase Bratland, President, SSHNO