



Editorial comment

Scandinavian Association for the Study of Pain 2013—Annual scientific meeting abstracts of pain research presentations and greetings from incoming President

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The Scandinavian Association for the Study of Pain (SASP) recently held its annual meeting in Helsinki, Finland. It is a great pleasure and honor for me to greet all readers of *Scandinavian Journal of Pain* as the new SASP president. One of the missions of SASP is to offer a forum for collaboration in pain research, and the SASP meeting 2013 was a great success. I would like to warmly thank Antti Pertovaara, Vesa Kontinen, and the whole organizing committee for the huge task of compiling the program and for making this a memorable event. Also a warm thanks to the excellent speakers and sponsors for their contribution to the meeting, and – not least – SASP would like to thank each of you who participated in the meeting for your continued interest, insightful discussions, and relaxed networking. The meeting provided a great opportunity to get updated on recent pain research, and to network and enjoy good company. Plenary and workshop topics included visceral pain, migraine, back pain, opioids, human brain imaging, and fibromyalgia. Poster presentations covered a diverse array of disciplines and topics and received fruitful feedback. Studies from Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Ghana, Italy, and Croatia were presented and the science was of highest quality. New and interesting clinical results were presented on predictors of multidisciplinary pain management outcome, the effect of the acetylcholinesterase inhibitor donepezil, and differential effects of lidocaine. In addition, health care utilization in chronic pain, a training program for psychology specialist training in pain psychology, pain assessment in a hospital setting and pediatric patients were discussed as well as the role of traditional practitioners in the treatment of chronic pain in Ghana. A study on proteomic analysis of cerebrospinal fluid gave new insights into the mechanisms of spinal cord stimulation and a genetic study demonstrated

an HLA-dependent risk of developing pain after surgery and lumbar disc herniation. In experimental studies, enhanced morphine antinociception by the mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist spironolactone was shown as well as interesting new knowledge on the locus coeruleus in neuropathic hypersensitivity. Also expression of calcium/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II in dorsal root ganglia in diabetic rats and pronociceptive effects of a TRPA1 channel1 agonist were described. Finally, there was a characterization of inducible pluripotent stem cell-derived sensory neurons, which may be a valuable tool in sensory neuropathy studies.

New developments in SASP were discussed at the meeting. One of these ideas was to arrange research schools, which fulfills another goal of SASP, namely to promote education and training in pain research in the Nordic countries. In the coming years, SASP will continue to serve its goals, i.e. to connect Scandinavian pain researchers, encourage, and support collaboration across countries and disciplines and inform about advances in pain research through the *Scandinavian Journal of Pain* and will increase its focus on promoting education and training in pain research. Past president Torsten Gordh has with great enthusiasm and warm care managed to transfer the “old” SASP to the “new” SASP while preserving the old spirit of SASP. The annual SASP meeting is one of the most important activities of SASP, and SASP and the organizing committee for the next SASP meeting look forward to welcoming you in Oslo next year. The dates for this meeting will be announced shortly at www.SASP.org as well as in the *Scandinavian Journal of Pain*.

The Abstracts of all accepted poster-presentation at the SASP-annual scientific meeting in Helsinki June 13–15, 2013 are published online in this issue of the *Scandinavian Journal of Pain* at: www.scandinavianjournalpain.com.