



Dear colleagues,

The editorial board hopes you all are doing well in these challenging times. In this issue we start off *In the middle of (K)nowhere, where Medicine, Science, and Discovery come Together*. Kuopio, in the East of Finland and the home of Kaarniranta lab, is far from the largest city in the Nordic region, but it has made a substantial impact on European ophthalmology. *Professor Kai Kaarniranta* has received several prestigious scientific awards and authored more than 300 peer reviewed papers. With such a large number of articles and no further information about the professor, an age close to 100 years would be expected. Yet Kaarniranta is far from becoming a centenarian. In the next article, Professor Kai Kaarniranta, we get a notion of the middle-aged man behind these extraordinary achievements. Ophthalmology congratulates him on both becoming President of the European Association for Vision and Eye Research (2019 - 2020) and being appointed Editor-in-Chief of *ACTA Ophthalmologica*.

Professor Neil Lagali has published extensively on *in vivo* confocal microscopy over the past years. In this issue, he shares some of his knowledge and clinical pearls in the article *Acanthamoeba keratitis – use of in vivo confocal microscopy in clinical examination and diagnosis*. Lagali tells us how to recognize *Acanthamoeba*, but how do we recognize Mona Lisa? Atle Østern gives us the answer in his article, with solely self-made illustrations.

We are especially grateful to receive manuscripts with co-authors from several Nordic countries. In *Scandinavian perspectives on ensuring medical retina care in the time of COVID-19* some of the brightest retinal specialists in the region share their best advice.

This year, the Swedish Association of the Visually Impaired bestowed the Eye Care Award for significant contributions to Associate Professor Inger Berndtsson and Professor Neil Lagali. In Norway, Olav Kristianslund received the Early Career Award for excellent research. Congratulations to all! Finally, Ophthalmology would like to congratulate Iben Bach Damgaard, Stage Vergmann, Ragnhild Wivestad Jansson and Nils Eide for their excellent dissertations.

Leif Hynnekleiv has established the Association of Young Ophthalmologists of Norway. In the final paper you will receive the latest news from these young ophthalmologists.

In 2021, there will be three Ophthalmology Best Nordic Paper Awards (in total, NOK 125,000). Do not miss out on these opportunities to pay off debt, buy a motor bike, or do something else. A single page may be sufficient to get an award if the text, images, and illustrations are brilliant. In Ophthalmology, it is the quality, not the length of the article, that matters.

On behalf of the editors, I wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tor Paaske Utheim  
Editor-in-Chief

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### Manuscripts

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For guidelines about manuscripts, deadlines and distribution:  
[www.oftalmolog.com](http://www.oftalmolog.com)

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