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Tor Paaske Utheim

Professor Kai Kaarniranta

Appointed New Chief Editor of Acta Ophthalmologica

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Shortly after being elected President of the European Association for Vision and Eye Research (EVER) 2019-2020, Kaarniranta was appointed editor-in-chief of Acta Ophthalmologica. Kaarniranta is professor of ophthalmology and chief physician at the University of Eastern Finland (UEF) and Kuopio University Hospital. Recently, he was nominated to become a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters. He also serves as the Vice Head of the Institute of Clinical Medicine at UEF.

Oftalmolog talked with Kaarniranta about his academic year and personal life.

In 2020 you became the editor-in-chief of Acta Ophthalmologica. What were some of the most memorable milestones leading up to being offered this post?

Being selected to the Acta Ophthalmologica Board of Directors many years ago was one of my first milestones. Of course, long-term work over 15 years at EVER; presenting posters, giving talks, organizing special interest symposiums and being section chair of the Anatomy Cell Biology section from 2014 to 2019 and after that EVER president are among those milestones. My period as co-editor in Acta Ophthalmologica was also very important before taking on the chief editor post. I feel that the collaboration of Acta Ophthalmologica and EVER is very important to develop European and world-wide ophthalmology. The long-standing Acta Ophthalmologica editor-in-chief Einar Stefansson and previous EVER board members have done splendid work for that.

What are the biggest opportunities for EVER over the next year leaving COVID-19 behind?

After the first wave of COVID-19, we had to establish a new strategy. We did a lot of work to reorganize EVER 2020 and postpone a face-to-face congress. We are keen to see the activity of young ophthalmologists and their development at EVER, which provides unique translational aspects in ophthalmology. To this end, industry partners also play a key role. I feel that people are looking forward to attending the next EVER meeting.

**Everything
Nordic: Acta
Ophthalmologica
and the first ever
Finnish Chief Editor**





Forever EVER

What do you believe will be some of the biggest challenges?

The increasing pace of work in eye clinics presents challenges to allocate time for science. Finding ways to engage the young and talented members in all the aspects of EVER society and encouraging them to make EVER their professional home is of paramount importance. Therefore, I am committed to continuing to speak for EVER and the importance of science to develop ophthalmology in all fields. It is a tremendous responsibility.

Your wife and children play important roles in your life. What would you say are their best pieces of advice?

My wife Sari's best advice has not necessarily been in words, but she has showed me how to live, be humble, to take care of the family, and to treat everyone with respect, regardless of their position. The children's smiles and willingness to spend family life together are the best ways to forget daily work. It is thanks to them that I can continue with my work after 25 years of hard scientific labor. Having their continuous support keeps me going.

You are a sports fan, hitting the 1000 km milestone in cross-country skiing every year. Do you have any sports analogy advice for new EVER members and authors sending their valuable work to Acta Ophthalmologica?

Well, Acta Ophthalmologica is a top journal. Well-planned and long-lasting continuous work will one day give you a prize. Collaboration and open minds are key factors in our development and for the development of ophthalmology. Stay active. ■

Kuopio, in the middle of nowhere.

