

Dear Colleagues,

We start off this issue with the *Oftalmolog* Outstanding Nordic PhD Awards. These awards highlight the challenging and important research performed by emerging scientists in ophthalmology. We determined the winners based on the total CiteScore of the papers published as part of their theses. You can find more information about this metric and our evaluation criteria on page 4. Dr. Sashia Bennett and Dr. Behzod Tashbayev, both of whom obtained a total CiteScore of 19.2, share first place. Second place goes to Dr. Sanna Leinonen (18.6) and third place to Dr. Anne Willerslev (18.4). We congratulate our four awardees on their great achievements. We welcome anyone who defended their thesis in 2021 to reach out to us by August 1, 2022, to be considered for next year's awards.



Tor P. Utheim

Oftalmolog presents the highlights of 14 recent theses, focusing on topics that range from virtual reality in surgical education to molecular markers of conjunctival melanoma. This issue also includes two more extensive articles, covering surgical approaches to thyroid eye disease as well as vision and reality. Finally, we include the latest news from the Nordic Congress of Ophthalmology 2022 in Reykjavik. Registration is now open.

We will consider all manuscripts submitted to *Oftalmolog* by February 15, 2022, for publication in our next issue. All articles published throughout 2022 are eligible for *Oftalmolog*'s 2022 Best Paper Awards.

The Editorial Board wishes all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tor Paaske Utheim
Editor-in-Chief



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COVER:

The inspiration for the cover was to highlight the main focus of this issue, the work of emerging Nordic PhDs. Snowdrops, one of the first flowers to emerge from the frost, represent these budding young researchers, growing out of their pots.

"I love a good visual metaphor," says Agnes Guttormsgaard, the illustrator behind *Oftalmolog*'s December cover. "I added the potted plants to play on the idea that the researchers are cultivated at the university, instead of growing wild. There is something

elegant with simple metaphors."

Guttormsgaard has a Bachelors in Visual Communication from the University of Bergen. She currently works as a freelance illustrator and as a graphic designer at a tech company, Airthings, and is always up for a challenge. You can check out more of her work on Instagram at [@Vettelyset](https://www.instagram.com/Vettelyset) or view her online portfolio at <https://agnesguttormsgaard.wixsite.com/vettelyset>.

► 3 Outstanding Nordic PhD Awards

► **9 Dissertations from the Nordic Region:** Optical coherence tomography of retinal vessels, blood flow, and blood composition

► **10 Dissertations from the Nordic Region:** How to get straight about torsion

► **12 Dissertations from the Nordic Region:** Getting ahead of the curve: Epidemiology and biomarkers of keratoconus

► **15 Dissertations from the Nordic Region:** TNF inhibitors: A magic bullet for juvenile idiopathic arthritis-uveitis treatment?

► **17 Thyroid Eye Disease:** A challenging field in oculoplastic surgery

► **25 Dissertations from the Nordic Region:** Molecular mysteries of melanoma: Markers of conjunctival melanoma

► **26 Dissertations from the Nordic Region:** The quest for better diagnostics & treatments of dry eye disease

► **28 Dissertations from the Nordic Region:** A drop too much? Anti-inflammatory prophylaxis in cataract surgery

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► **48 Dissertations from the Nordic Region:** Regenerative retinal cells: The optimal environment to improve graft quality

► **49 Dissertations from the Nordic Region:** Never too late? Reflections on outcomes of intraocular lens dislocation surgery

► **50 Dissertations from the Nordic Region:** Childhood cataract: Effects on health and life

MANUSCRIPTS:

Manuscripts can be sent to info@oftalmolog.com. For guidelines about manuscripts, deadlines, and distribution visit www.oftalmolog.com

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