

Highlights

from



NOK2024

NORDIC CONGRESS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

5–8 August 2024 • Kuopio, Finland

By the numbers:

- 400 participants from 22 countries
 - 197 from Finland
 - 43 from Denmark
 - 41 from Sweden
 - 32 from Norway
 - 8 from the USA
 - 7 from Estonia, the Netherlands, and Great Britain
 - 5 from Germany and Switzerland
- 2 keynote speeches
- 40 high-level scientific sessions
- Sold-out exhibition space of industry partners
- Relaxed congress spirit in beautiful nature



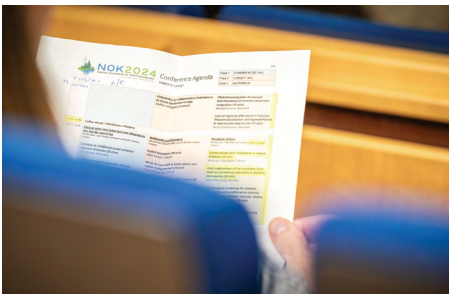
Dear colleagues, collaborators, and friends,

The VL Nordic Congress of Ophthalmology (NOK) was held on August 5–8, 2024, in Kuopio, Finland (www.nok2024.fi). Once again, NOK members and industry partners showed their power to develop Nordic ophthalmology with their excellent talks, exhibitions, discussions, social programs, and friendship. Kuopio, the capital of Lakeland, provided the best possible weather—sunny and over 25 degrees—for participants to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere. Notably, the industry exhibition area was sold out, and all the activities were eye-catching and helped create a fantastic NOK spirit.



The scientific program of NOK 2024 consisted of 40 sessions, including two keynotes, 25 symposia, one course, six industry-organized lunch symposia (Avanzanite, Bausch & Lomb, Bayer, Roche, Santen, and Thea), the Acta Ophthalmologica Gold and Silver Medal donation ceremony, and a poster session. Two symposia were organized with Baltic colleagues, and one symposium was in collaboration with the European Association for Vision and Eye Research. The European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE) arranged two symposia and one course for young ophthalmologists.

The NOK program provided important updates on the newest knowledge of traffic medicine, registry data, ocular oncology, glaucoma, myopia, genetic diseases, degenerative and metabolic eye problems, auto-immune eye diseases, surgery, neuro-ophthalmology, imaging technology, artificial intelligence, economical aspects, and current and future therapies. Keynote speeches were given by Professors Jennifer Thorne from the Wilmer Eye Institute on “Systemic immunosuppression: How and why we do what we do” and Professor Rikhard Spaide from Vitreous, Retina, Macula Consultants of New York on “Venous overload choroidopathy.”



Prof. Thorne has over 300 publications on uveitis and other related immune-mediated disorders. Her honors include Best Doctors in Baltimore, 2007; American Academy of Ophthalmology Achievement Award, 2009; American Academy of Ophthalmology Best Paper Award, 2010; Top Doctors in Ophthalmology, 2010; America’s Top Ophthalmologists, 2011; Global Who’s Who, 2013; and Vitals Patients’ Choice Award, 2014. Prof. Thorne directs the Mucous Membrane Pemphigoid clinic, a multi-disciplinary, specialty clinic designed to evaluate and treat patients with conjunctival diseases. Her research interests include white dot

syndromes such as birdshot chorioretinitis, multifocal choroiditis, and punctate inner choroiditis. She also studies juvenile idiopathic arthritis-related uveitis and treatment outcomes of immunosuppressive drug therapy, which were deeply discussed in her excellent NOK keynote speech.

Photos

You can find more photos from the event here:
Credit: Markus Aspergen Oy



Prof. Spaide has over 500 articles on vitreous, retina, and choroidal diseases. He has numerous awards including the Honor Award, American Academy of Ophthalmology, 1997; Richard and Linda Rosenthal Foundation Award in the Visual Sciences, 2001; Honor Award, American Society of Retinal Surgeons, 2003; Senior Achievement Award, American Academy of Ophthalmology, 2005; Senior Honor Award, American Society of Retinal Surgeons, 2006; Prix Soubrane de la Recherche en Ophthalmologie, 2008; Award of Merit from the Retina Society, 2012; Henkind Award, Macula Society, 2013; Coscas Award Lecture 2014; Nataraja Pillai Award, 2014; W. Richard Green MD Award, 2015; George Theodossiadis Award, 2015; Founders Award, American Society of Retinal Surgeons, 2015; Life Achievement Honor Award, American Academy of Ophthalmology, 2015; and Simon Gratz Award, Thomas Jefferson University, 2015. Prof Spaide argued that choroidal venous overload provides a unifying concept and theory for an improved understanding of the pathophysiology and classification of a group of diseases to a greater extent than previous proposals.



The *Acta Ophthalmologica* Award, KKK Lundsgaard Gold Medal, is a recognition of world-class excellence in ophthalmic research and is traditionally recognized by the Acta Honorary Lecture at NOK. The *Acta Ophthalmologica* Award 2024 was given to Professor Jesper Hjortdal (Denmark) for his achievements in cornea research. The KKK Lundsgaard Silver Medal is given for the best *Acta Ophthalmologica* publication during the two last years between NOK congresses. This time, the best publication prize during the 2022-2024 follow-up period went to the publication:



Sirks MJ, van Dijk EHC, Rosenberg N, Hollak CEM, Aslanis S, Cheung CMG, Chowers I, Eandi CM, Freund KB, Holz FG, Kaiser PK, Lotery AJ, Ohno-Matsui K, Querques G, Subhi Y, Tadayoni R, Wykoff CC, Zur D, Diederens RMH, Boon CJF, Schlingemann RO. Clinical impact of the worldwide shortage of verteporfin (Visudyne®) on ophthalmic care. *Acta Ophthalmol.* 2022 Nov;100(7):e1522-e1532. doi: 10.1111/aos.15148.

