

Dear Colleagues,

We begin this issue with *Oftalmolog's* Outstanding Nordic PhD Awards. These awards highlight the great work performed by emerging scientists in ophthalmology. As last year, we determined the winners based on the total CiteScore of the papers published in their theses, as described further on page 4.

We congratulate Nora Botten Owe from Norway on winning gold, Marianne Ala-Kauhaluoma from Finland with the silver medal, and Kathrine Blom from Norway on receiving the bronze. We would like to get in touch with anyone who defended their thesis in 2024 before October 1, 2025. This enables us to publish summaries of their theses in the upcoming 2025 issues and, importantly, for them to be in the running for the next PhD awards. In this issue, we are delighted to present the highlights of seven notable recent theses, covering topics from the anterior to the posterior parts of the eye.

In this issue, we get further insight into the evolution of ophthalmology from the Schiøtz tonometer to artificial intelligence (AI). The Norwegian ophthalmologist Hjalmar August Schiøtz invented the tonometer in 1905, as further described on page 39. We are pleased to present Professor Morten C. Moe as *Oftalmolog's* Portrait of Excellence in 2024. He is the head of the Department of Ophthalmology at Oslo University Hospital, where Hjalmar August Schiøtz used to work. For readers of *Oftalmolog*, Morten C. Moe reveals his vision for the department regarding eye care, research, and innovation. We encourage our readers to nominate outstanding clinicians and scientists for *Oftalmolog's* Portrait of Excellence, as these portraits will be published on a yearly basis.

You can get a crash course in AI and find examples of its useful applications in ophthalmology in our perspectives article on page 12. This collaborative project highlights the intersection of ophthalmology and AI and ends with predictions for the future from AI and ophthalmology experts.

Finally, we present great memories from the very well-organized 2024 Nordic Congress of Ophthalmology in Kuopio, Finland, and highlight the upcoming Congress of Ophthalmology, 14–17 October 2026, in Gothenburg, Sweden. We are excited to also present a new overview of several important upcoming conferences in ophthalmology in 2025. On page 20, you will find an interactive map (QR-code) to ease further reading and planning.

This December, *Oftalmolog* is excited to present an additional special issue on oculoplastics, entitled “An eye on oculoplastics.” We are truly fortunate to have two world-class oculoplastic surgeons as guest Editors-in-Chief. This, along with a peer review process, ensures both high-quality and up-to-date information for our readers. This special issue includes an introduction to the topic for those less familiar with the field as well as more in-depth features on surgical techniques.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you would like to write an article for *Oftalmolog*. We are happy to receive steadily more submissions of manuscripts by renowned clinicians and scientists, from both within and outside of the Nordics. This will hopefully ensure interesting papers for our readers in the years to come. All articles published throughout 2025 are eligible for *Oftalmolog's* 2025 Best Paper Awards. The winners of the 2024 Best Paper Awards will be announced in the upcoming issue.

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



Tor Paaske Utheim
Editor-in-Chief



Tor P. Utheim



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MANUSCRIPTS:

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

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COVER:

For this cover, we were inspired by a conversation with the subject of this issue's Portrait of Excellence, Professor Morten C. Moe, head of the Department of Ophthalmology at Oslo University Hospital. As Sir Isaac Newton famously said, “If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” Moe looks up to giants like Hjalmar August Schiøtz, the first professor of ophthalmology in Norway, and is excited about the potential of new technologies and advancements in the field.

You can read more about the Schiøtz tonometer and how Professor Moe is inspired by the past when planning for the future on page 36. You can also learn more about the future of AI in ophthalmology on page 12.

