

EPIDEMIOLOGY

THE DANISH DERMATOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY DURING 35 YEARS

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Objectives: The objective of the society is to improve dermatology patient care in Denmark, by promoting the highest standard of dermatological nursing care, support high quality research and education, to increase awareness and interact with policy makers. Furthermore, it is to create a supportive atmosphere allowing dermatological nurses to discuss best practice.

Observations: The society has 200 members and the board of the society represents both clinical nurses and researchers. Annually the society organize a conference, where about half of the members attend. The first conferences were dominated by biomedical presentations by doctors, but during the past 10 years the conferences have changed to embrace nursing practice presented by nurses themselves. This has been a slow development from presentations of personal experience to evidence-based nursing.

The society works closely with the Danish Health Authorities and Patient associations, for example with the development of national clinical guidelines for skin diseases. This work has contributed to a uniform healthcare service across Denmark.

The Society cooperates with other Nordic nurse dermatology societies. The Danish society established a Facebook group in 2015 to make information more accessible to nurses. It has been a success with 163 members.

In 2017, the board of the society formulated new visions, including a national journal club that consist of nurses with master's and PhD degrees across the country. The vision is to promote a more academic approach in all dermatological clinical practice.

Key message: The Danish Dermatology Nursing Society promotes skin health in Denmark and supports research and education. During the past 35 years the society has developed into an independent collaborative partner with political stakeholders, patient associations and clinical dermatological leaders.