

N F Y O G

*Nordic Federation of Young Obstetricians and Gynaecologists*

THIRD WORLD CHALLENGES  
IN  
OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY



ISSUES, FACTS AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Copenhagen, Denmark

12th - 13th June 2009

Sponsored by Novo Nordisk

# The Seminar

A two day course focusing on the challenges facing obstetricians and gynaecologists in developing countries with emphasis on how we as trainees and consultants from developed countries can contribute.

## Background

During the last centuries the health of women in developed countries, like the Nordic countries, has experienced a dramatic improvement. The same can not be said concerning women in the third world. In many developing countries the maternal mortality rate and morbidity rate is still embarrassingly high secondary to pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum complication. Complications like septic abortions, severe eclampsia, post partum haemorrhage and fistulas are rarities in developed countries but commonplace in many developing countries, the same can be said in regards to diseases like advanced cervical cancer and AIDS.



## Seminar objectives

To focus on women health in the third world, the challenges facing the gynaecologists and obstetricians who care for them, especially in regards to gynaecological problems considered rarities in developed countries and last but not least on the subject of how we can contribute or maybe even partake in the care of these women ourselves.

## Speakers

We have been fortunate in securing these invigorating speakers for our seminar:

Dr. Martin Rudnicki, Denmark.

Dr. Vibeke Rasch, Denmark.

Dr. Jan Wall, Sweden.

Dr. Jerker Liljestrang MD PhD

Dr. Lian Ulrich, Department of Gynaecology, Rigshospitalet U.H., Copenhagen, Denmark.

## Location

Novo Nordisks Facilities Copenhagen, Denmark. Overnight accommodation for course participants Friday-Saturday at Zleep Hotel Airport.

**Program** (*The program is subject to change. Course participants will be notified if any are made.*)

### **Friday 12th of June**

10.00-10.30	Registration and introduction of course participants
10.30-12.00	Jerker Liljestrand. "Sexual and reproductive health and rights in low and middle income countries - what are the issues? what can we do?"
12.00-13.00	Lunch
13.15-14.45	Dr. Martin Rudnicki. "Vesico-vaginal fistulas. Profylaxis and treatment."
14.45-15.15	Refreshment break
15.15-16.45	Dr. Vibeke Rasch. "Unsafe termination of pregnancies in third world countries; the facts."
16.45-17.00	Refreshment break
17.00-17.45	Sponsored lecture: Dr. Lian Ulrich. "Endometrial cancer."
17.50	Return to the seminar Hotel (walking distance).
20.00	Sponsored dinner at a restaurant in Copenhagen

### **Saturday 13th of June**

08.00-08.45	Breakfast
08.45	Brisk walk to conference facilities
09.00-10.30	Dr. Jan Wall. "Where I was the only doctor what did I learn as a newly graduated specialist?"
10.30-10.45	Refreshment Break
10.45-11.30	Plenum discussion
11.30-11.45	Course evaluation
12.00	Course finished

### **Booking**

The seminar is open to both trainees and specialists in Obs & Gyn and is limited to 50 participants. Applications for booking may be made by sending a request to your national representatives by email.

Norway: [stighill@gmail.com](mailto:stighill@gmail.com)

Denmark: [FUGLSANG@ki.au.dk](mailto:FUGLSANG@ki.au.dk)

Iceland: [doggh@simnet.is](mailto:doggh@simnet.is)

Sweden: [henninglars@hotmail.com](mailto:henninglars@hotmail.com)

Finland: [anniina.farkkila@hus.fi](mailto:anniina.farkkila@hus.fi)

Applicants must submit their name, nationality, grade, and whether they are members of their national gynaecological society (ie EGO, FUGO, FYGO or OGU. Notification will be given if there are vacancies available, with instructions on how to pay the course fee.

### **Course fee:**

€ 120. (1090 NOK, 1400 SEK, 900 DK or 17300 ISK) This covers all expenses, including overnight accommodation in Copenhagen from Friday-Saturday, but not travel to and from Copenhagen, which must be covered by participants themselves.

*The course has been made possible by funding from Nordic Federation of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and Novo Nordisk. The course fee is payable upon notification that the applicant has been allocated a place. No refunds will be given if cancellations are made less than four weeks before the seminar.*

**Summary of Martin Rudnicki's lecture:**

**Title:**

**"Vesico-vaginal fistulas. Profylaxis and treatment".**

Summary: Vesico-vaginal fistulas continues to be a predominant problem for women in the third world. In Africa, the high prevalence is caused by insufficient or even doubtful obstetric care, by an infrastructure that delays proper treatment, and by a strong belief in guidance from local non-health care professionals.

About the speaker: Martin Rudnicki, Consultant, DMSc. Has been visiting hospitals in Ethiopia, including the fistula center in Addis Abeba and taken care of treatment of fistulas in a minor hospital in Western Ethiopia. In Tanzania, Rudnicki has been carrying out education at the university hospital in Mwanza and also in Moshi, near Kilimanjaro.

Work adress: Ob/Gyn Dept., Roskilde Hospital, DK - 4000 Roskilde, Denmark.

## Summary of Vibeke Rasch's lecture:

### Title:

**"Unsafe termination of pregnancies in third world countries; the facts."**

About the speaker: Summary: Unsafe abortion constitutes a major public health problem throughout the world, leading to high levels of maternal morbidity and mortality. In this context the presentation will focus on the magnitude of the problem of unsafe abortion, describe the population at risk and how post abortion care may be considered a means to reduce the mortality associated with unsafe abortion.



About the speaker: Vibeke Rasch has been involved in research on sexual and reproductive health in low income countries since 1996, more specifically in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan and Vietnam. Her research has mainly focused on safe and unsafe abortion, post abortion care, sexually transmitted infections (including HIV and HPV) and maternity care. In 2000 she defended a PhD thesis focusing on unwanted pregnancies in Denmark and Tanzania (Odense, 2000). During 2000-2003 she was affiliated Karolinska Institutet as a doctoral fellow and wrote a PhD thesis focusing on unsafe abortion and the need of scaling up post abortion care (Stockholm 2003). In 2003 she was appointed an associate professor at Department of International Health and Immunology and Microbiology, University of Copenhagen a position she

held until December 2008. She has since been working clinically at the department of obstetric and gynaecology, Svendborg Hospital and as part time lecture at University of Copenhagen.

Vibeke Rasch MD, PhD

University of Copenhagen

Faculty of Health Sciences

Department of International Health, Immunology and Microbiology

Copenhagen

## Summary of Jerker Liljestrand's lecture:

### Title:

**"Sexual and reproductive health and rights in low and middle income countries - what are the issues? what can we do?"**

My talk will give a global overview of key issues in sexual and reproductive health and rights, notably in low and



middle income countries: maternal-newborn health, family planning, HIV/AIDS, sexual violence, adolescent health, cervical cancer. I hope for much discussion, especially on our potential role as ob-gyn specialists in high income countries.

About the speaker: Jerker Liljestrand is an ob-gyn who halfway through his specialty training went with his family to Mozambique to work for 2 years (1978-80). Later, having written his PhD thesis on Maternal Morbidity in Mozambique (Uppsala 1985) he has been taking care of reproductive health in a province in Sweden for 10 years (mödrahälsovårdsöverläkare, Blekinge, 1983-93).

International involvement continued in teaching (Vietnam, Baltic republics), research (India, Nicaragua), and projects

(HIV/AIDS, Mozambique); and in 1997 he was appointed Chief, Maternal-newborn Health/Safe Motherhood at WHO, Geneva. From there he was transferred to the World Bank (2000-2002) to help increase support to national programs within Reproductive Health. During 2003-2007 he worked at Lund university - where he is an associate professor of public health. He now works part time in Sweden, running Sida-supported Advanced International Training Programs in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, for obstetricians and midwives from low income countries. The rest of the time is spent in Cambodia where he works as a consultant in reproductive health.

**Jerker Jerker Liljestrand MD PhD**

**P.O.Box 905**

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

**Phone +855 (0)85 242135**

**Summary of Jan Wall's lecture:**

**Title: "Where I was the only doctor – what did I learn as a newly graduated specialist?"**

Summary: When planning to work in Africa as a gynaecologist and obstetrician, you can prepare for many things but you may not foresee everything and you must therefore plan for the unexpected.



This you can do by reading about the country and its culture, take safety precautions for you and your family but most importantly bring your open mind, leave presumptions behind and humbly enough, in the spirit of your doctor's oath, do some good and no harm. In the end you and your future career may benefit more in a short period than many years of work in Sweden would match. Socially such a venture may be memorable for your family while also making you painfully aware of the unfair living conditions of people.

About the speaker: Jan Wall, MD, Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology since 2005. Employed at the Ob/Gyn department at Norrland's University Hospital since 2000. Volunteer with the Scandinavian "Läkarbanken" in Pemba, Tanzania 2005 accompanied by wife Maria and children Axel and Agnes. Has also visited different hospitals in Ethiopia including the Fistula Centre in Addis Ababa.

**Novo Nordisk sponsored lecture:**

**Title:**

**"Endometrial cancer"**

The speaker:

Dr. Lian Ulrich, Department of Gynaecology, Rigshospitalet University Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark