Danish Surgical Society
History and Future

Lars Bo Svendsen
Chair elect 2006-2008
Chair 2008-2010
Chair ex officio 2011
Danish Surgical Society
Established 1908

1900 Professor competition
1900 Professor Operative Surgery Frederiks Hospital
1904 Professor Clinical Surgery – exchanged position with Oscar Bloch
   Chief of Surgery; Royal Frederiks Hospital. University of Copenhagen
1910 Chief dept C, Rigshospitalet

1886 Docent competition
1892 Chair Copenhagen Medical Society
1892 Established Nordic Surgical Society
1896 Chair Danish Medical Society
1899 Chief 1. dept. Cph. Community Hospital
1900 Professor, Cph. Community Hospital
1915 Chief Danish Ambulance in Paris

Professor Rovsing
Royal Frederiks Hospital

Professor Tsherning
Copenhagen Community Hospital

1877-1878
Military surgeon Russian – Turkish war
Established 1908

Invitation in "Ugeskrift for Læger"

Purpose:
Promote Danish Surgery by scientific cooperation between Danish surgeons

Professor
Royal Frederiks Hospital

Professor
Copenhagen Community Hospital
Established 1908

Was this really the main purpose?

Invitation in “Ugeskrift for Læger”

Professor
Royal Frederiks Hospital

Professor
Copenhagen Community Hospital
Reasons for establishment!

Establishing scientific societies very popular at that time

- German Surgical Society 1872
- Scandinavian Surgical Society 1893
- French Surgical Society 1898
- Danish Society for gynaecology and obstetric 1898
- Danish Society for neurology 1900 (incorporating eventually neurosurgery)
- Swedish Surgical Society 1905
- Danish Surgical Society 1908
- Norwegian Surgical Society 1912
A year ago a surgical society was planned, but the establishment had to be abandoned. Now these hindrance reasons have disappeared and ---
Surgical educational history in Denmark

• 1700-1720 Large Nordic war

• 1736 Surgical Theater (Surgical Education School) (Simor Crüger, barber surgon)
  (Surgeons were trained at this institution)

• 1757 Royal Frederiks Hospital Copenhagen (first hospital in Denmark)

• 1787 Academia Chirurgorum Regia (William Hennings) with examinations
  (Surgeons were trained and examined at this institution)

• 1837 Examinations in surgery stopped at the Academy and education was transferred to the Medical Faculty, University of Copenhagen.

  Surgeons from then on a part of the medical faculty establishment
Danish Surgical Society’s political history

- 1803 Royal Collegium Medicum (RCM) - counselling and supervising qualifications in all medical aspects, also examinations. (”National Board of health” at that time).

Problem: When applying for a position (chief of surgery, professor aso) your competence was evaluated by: Publical held competition or the opinion of the RCM

from 1837 - Everybody from the medical faculty could be a surgeon by passing such a competition test or applying for it

No formal education and
No formal expert evaluation of competence
Political reasons for establishment of DKS

Time was ripe for changes

- A national legislation of the health system was underway.
- The National Board of Health was under establishment

Then 2 major events happened:

1906 A Surgical professor contest was announced
   Two of the contesters were not surgeons
   People felt it was rigged (matchfixing in modern terms).

Professor Tsherning left the evaluation committee because of the rules of this competition.
Danish Surgical Society’s political history

Second thing:

1907  The very prestigious RCM stopped working on its accord as consequence of debar with ministerium of Justice (Alberti).

Reason: The board was not heard in important medical affairs.

Consequence: - a furious debar exploded since a previous unknown dr. Muus was appointed leader of an office ”State office for health service” under the ministerium of Justice (he had a private practice and was underaccouchør)

Minister of Justice Alberti was prisoner 1½ years after and sentenced 8 years due to fraud 1908
Danish Surgical Society’s political history

The debate concerning dr.Muus and the health authority office continued in 1908, but professor Rovsing – among very few – choose to defend him to such a degree that dr.Muus was re-habilitated.

1909 Dr. Muus was appointed leader of the National Board of Health

1916 Specialist committee lead by professor Rovsing - reported on specialist education:

   A surgical specialist – education and authorisation was established

1934 Health authorities formed the Specialist board, based upon the principles from the Specialist committee.

   Thus establishing Danish rules for education and evaluation of specialists.

From this day on the Danish Surgical Society has been public hearing partner in all relevant National Health Care cases and in educational matters. All specialist applications and evaluations for positions as Chief of Surgery was evaluated by a board from the Danish Surgical Society up to 2007 (§ 14)
Established 1908

Reason for establishing the Society was probably mostly politically
Established 1908

Purpose:
Promote Danish Surgery by scientific cooperation between danish Surgeons

Our large hospitals needs to be more together---
Scientific development in Danish Surgical Society

From 1908 6 yearly meetings were held:
Discussing at first as ex.
Ether vs Chloroform
Appendectomy vs. Opium treatment
Møllgaards anaesthesia device for hyperbar insufflation aso
Aso
Allways debating Faculty vs. Copenhagen Community

No of members 52
Professors at the chairs in front at the floor Copenhagen doctors sitting in front
Danish Surgical Society political history, Denmark

Rovsing: Medicine and surgery should be the mother organisations of all specialities

- 1929 Gynaecology / obstetric
- 1934 Neuro surgery
- 1950 Thoracic Surgery (still had to be a surgical specialist)
  - 1970 + Surgical gastroenterology
Changing surgical landscape, Denmark

• Karl Henrik Køster; Chief of Surgery, Bispebjerg Community Hospital
  Founder of the Surgical gastroenterology in Denmark. First gastroenterology lab. in 1959 and first fiber endoscopy in Denmark 1964. Department exclusively abdominal surgery.
• Mogens Andreassen; Chief of Surgery, Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen. Department exclusively abdominal surgery. First practising surgical gastroenterologist.

In 1960 formed another community-faculty axis and established
Danish Society of Gastroenterology

Important society with strong political connections
Public hearing partner besides DKS in the years 1971-2006

1970 Surgical gastroenterology a speciality
Surgical political history, Denmark

Rovsing: Medicine and surgery should be the mother organisations of all specialities

1929 Gynaecology / obstetric

1934 Neuro surgery

1950 Thoracic Surgery (still had to be a surgical specialist)

Plastic and reconstruction, Urology, Surgery

1970 + Surgical gastroenterology

1977 Surgery + subspecialities: Thoracic Surgery, Ortopedic surgery
Plastic and reconstruction, Urology, Surgical gastroenterology

1979 Ortopedic Surgery (hand surgery, fracture traumas aso)

2000 Surgical gastroenterology = Surgery

2000 Thoracic Surgery, Urology, Vascular surgery,
Plastic and reconstruction, surgery
Endocrine surgery disappeared as sub- / speciality
In Denmark we believe in centralisation and specialization:

National Board of Health for the last 20 years has produced the SPECIALEPLAN

Stating where and by whom all diseases should be treated;

Ex. Oesophageal, gastric cancer 3 places in cooperation with thoracic surgeons
  Pediatric surgery (under 2 years of age) 3 places
  Rectal cancer 15 places aso

This calls for highly specialized centers with Specialized surgeons
Surgical future history, Denmark

2000 Surgical gastroenterology = Surgery

- Colorectal Surgery
- Breast surgery
- Pediatric Surgery
- Hepato pancreatico biliary Surgery
- Esophago, cadia-stomach Surgery
- Emergency Surgery

Divisions with own board,
Responsible recommendations in contact with authorities
Fellowships of two years lengths in highly specialized departments
UEMS division examinations