

Nordic Gerontological Federation

# GeroNord

News on research, developmental work and education within the ageing area in the Nordic Countries

Volume 22, no 1-2, 2013



**Editorial** 2

### A new NGF prize for promising researchers.

Research in Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine has for a long time been an important part of academic work in the Nordic countries. The Nordic Federation of Gerontology (NGF) has acknowledged that fact in its conferences (NKG) by handing out prizes for researchers. In early 1990's, a prize for senior researchers was established, initially funded by Rhóne-Poulenc Rorer but for many years, the Sohlberg foundation in Helsinki has generously supported the NGF by funding the prize. The prize has been very well received and when it is announced every second year, many nominations of excellent researchers have been sent in. The selection process has not always been easy!

In 2000, the Board of NGF decided to accept the idea of prof. Pia Fromholt, to introduce an honorary lecture, the Andrus Viidik lecture in Gerontology. This honorary lecture was given for the first time at the NKG conference in Aarhus in 2002 and since then, at every congress, the last one in Copenhagen in 2012. The prize has generally been given to a person that has done important research but is not in a senior position. No prize was attached to this lecture but the lecturer did not have any cost of attending the conference. An article based on the lecturers work has been published in the journal Aging Clinical and Experimental Research at every occasion. By this, the outstanding work of Prof. Andrus Viidik has been honored by the NGF for a decade. He had been the president of the NGF for twenty years and was internationally well known for his research in gerontology.

At its meeting in Gothenburg last February, the executive committee of the NGF decided to propose a change of this honorary lecture. The Board of the NGF has subsequently adopted this proposal. The proposal was to adopt a NGF prize for promising researchers in the Nordic countries with a prize that the NGF itself would be funding. During the years, the income of the organization has generally outweighed the costs and some assets have been built up. It is however not the intention of the NGF to collect financial assets and it was considered a good way to use the assets to hand out a prize to promising researchers. This new prize is now being announced on the website of the next conference as well as in this number of the Gero Nord. As there are numerous promising researchers in all of the Nordic countries, it was decided to narrow the number down by only allowing nominations from one country at a time. By this, the decision is intended to be active for a decade allowing for researchers in all of the countries to have a go at the prize once through nomination. Furthermore, it was decided to announce this prize towards researchers in the country hosting the next NKG after the one that is the venue for handing out the prize. The argumentation for this was to increase the interest of promising researchers to attend a NKG congress outside its own country.

This prize will be handed out for the first time at the 22 NKG in Gothenburg in May 2014 for a promising researcher from Finland as the 23NKG is planned in Tampere in 2016. We, in the Board of the NGF hope that this prize will be well received by members of the NGF.

Ion Snaedal, President of the NGF

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# Welcome to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Nordic Congress of Gerontology, May 25-28, 2014 in Gothenburg

At the congress we continue the tradition of emphasizing multidisciplinary aspects of aging within a life course perspective. The main track of the congress includes sessions on multiple aspects of aging, from cell to society. In addition, there will be a one-day sub-track for applied research and development ("FoU-dagen"). Visit our website: <a href="www.22nkg.com">www.22nkg.com</a> to keep you continuously updated.

# **Program content**

The congress is based on <u>plenary lectures</u> and <u>state-of the-art sessions</u> covering main fields of gerontology in addition to:

- Invited symposia congress committee invited symposia to secure multidisciplinary content and thematic orientation in line with congress theme, i.e. Age Well\*
- <u>Submitted symposia</u> convener organize a thematic session with presenters from various research groups/countries \*
- Oral-poster presentation submitted abstract are presented both as poster and orally (5 minutes with a 1 slide PowerPoint) in a thematic session with abstract in similar field (*Note: if possible to identify by the organizers*) NEW!
- Oral presentation submitted abstract will be organized into thematic sessions if feasible, otherwise recommended for poster or oral-poster presentation.
- Only poster presentation submitted abstracts are displayed and presented during poster sessions
  - \* Note! Invited and submitted symposia should be submitted no later than October 1, 2013. For submission, use template on homepage (<a href="www.22nkg.com">www.22nkg.com</a>). Acceptance or reject is announced October 15.

# Plenary sessions and state-of the art lectures

All three days of the congress there will be plenary sessions and parallel state-of the art lectures to that will attract interest across the entire range of disciplines and research areas in gerontology. Among plenary speakers we are happy to announce prof. emeritus and Nobel laureate Arvid Carlsson who will share his experiences from his long career in research and prof. James Vaupel, director of the Max-Planck Institute for Demographic Research I Tyskland. Prof. Vaupel is worldwide known for his forecasts of future population longevity. Other plenary speakers include professor Ingmar Skoog, who will talk about birth cohort comparisons indicating the need to

continuously update our portrayal of older individuals, Director Anders Ekholm, Section of Analysis, Ministry of Social Affairs who will talk about technology and empathy in the life of older adults.

Among state-of-the-art-lectures we are happy to announce presentations by professors Thomas Nyström (check him out YouTube), Diana Kuh, known for her life course epidemiology research, and Ken Laidlaw, who can show successful treatment outcomes from psychotherapy. We can also offer a presentation on "food for a good life" by the well-known Guide Michelin Swedish cook Ulf Wagner, who besides his engagement in restaurants and various media also holds a position at the University of Gothenburg.

Last but not least, there will be plenary presentations by the winner of the prestigious Sohlberg Nordic Prize in Gerontology (10.000 euro) and the winner of the new NGF prize for a promising researcher in gerontology. Details about nominations for these prizes can be found on the website.

# Present your organization

At the Congress you are offered a unique opportunity to present your own organization, institution and research center. The offer includes an exhibition area of 1,5 Square meter with a table and possibilities for a roll-up in the back. Contact <a href="mailto:Boo.Johansson@psy.gu.se">Boo.Johansson@psy.gu.se</a> for more details. Note: this offer is only given to non-profit organizations.

#### Plan in advance

Make a reservation in your calendar, plan your presentation, submit abstracts for symposia, poster or oral poster in due time. Check out deadlines on the homepage; important dates.

The Nordic Congress of Gerontology is a major event, every 2<sup>nd</sup> year in which you can present your research. The congress is therefore a natural Nordic setting for meeting colleagues, making new contacts, and strengthens scientific collaborations. The social program and the city of Gothenburg will also offer rich opportunities for pure enjoyment.

Keep yourself updated and please share information about 22 NKG with friends, colleagues, students and others interested.

We are looking forward to meeting you all in May 2014.

Boo Johansson, President of 22 NKG

Sten Landahl, Secretary General of 22 NKG

# **Sohlberg Nordic Prize in Gerontology**

NGF invites for nominations of candidates for the most prestigious Nordic Prize in Gerontology, the Sohlberg prize.

#### General terms

The Sohlberg prize of € 10.000 is sponsored by the Päivikki and Sakari Sohlberg Foundation and will be awarded at the Opening Ceremony of the 22- Congress. The prize is relevant for all aging sciences and is awarded to a scientist active in a Nordic country who is a leader in gerontology with a major influence on the development of her/his field in aging research. To be considered the candidate should have built a strong research group or initiated research of major importance for developments in gerontology.

The nomination must include reasons for the nomination (described on a half to a full A4 page), in addition to a curriculum vitas and a publication list of the candidate. Applications are not accepted.

The prize will be awarded by a jury including the president and the two vice presidents of NGF and the two most recent prize-winners. The nomination should be sent electronically to the NGF president Dr. Jon Snædal by e-mail: <u>jsnaedal@landspitali.is</u> no later than December 1th, 2013.

# NGF's prize for promising researchers - in Finland

At the congress in Gothenburg the NGF prize for promising researcher in gerontology will be handed out for the first time. The prize is intended for researchers from one Nordic country. At the 22<sup>-</sup> Congress the prize is offered to a candidate from the country that will host the next Nordic congress, namely Finland since the 23<sup>-</sup> Nordic Congress of Gerontology will be hold in Tampere, 2016.

#### General terms

- The proposed candidate shall not hold a senior position but should preferably have concluded a PhD.
- A member association of NGF shall nominate the candidate to the prize. Argumentation and a CV must follow. No direct applications will be accepted.
- The nomination with all relevant information shall be sent to the president of the NGF.
- The jury consist of the three presidents of the NGF and the chairs of the scientific committees in the current and the next congress.
- The prize-winner will receive an amount of 20.000 SEK and give a lecture at a ceremony during the congress
- The prize-winner will not pay a registration fee at the 22 congress. Expenses for travel (in economy if by flight) and accommodation during the congress will be paid by NGF.

Nominations of Finnish candidates should be sent electronically to the NGF president Dr. Jon Snædal by e-mail: jsnaedal@landspitali.is no later than November 1th, 2013.

Nordic PhD course in Geriatrics/Gerontology

Bekkjarvik, Norway 27th - 29th May 2013



Early summer night in Bekkjarvik, outside Bergen

The initiative to organize courses for PhD students comes from the Nordic professors in geriatrics. In the previous years, the courses have been arranged in Finland (2011) and Denmark (2012).

This year's course took place in Bekkjarvik outside Bergen, Norway. It was organized by Kavli Research Centre for Ageing and Dementia in collaboration with University of Bergen. The teachers were 8 professors in geriatrics, old age psychiatry, nursing science and psychology. They were all teaching out of pleasure and only got their accommodation and travel covered.

35 Phd candidates from all the Nordic countries were participating; 1 from Iceland, 1 from Denmark, 2 from Sweden, 13 from Finland and 18 from Norway. The course was multidisciplinary with physicians, nurses, psychologists, nutritionists and physiotherapists represented. The presentations by the participants and the teachers were of high quality and the discussions lively and advanced. The coast of Norway was at its most beautiful; blooming and shiny, and the accommodation and food excellent!

The course was sponsored by the Kavli trust who covered the two dinners. The next course will be in Iceland!



Professor Olav Sletvold with PhD students from Norway and Finland

# Activities in Dansk Gerontologisk Selskab (Danish Gerontological Society)

'Dansk Gerontologisk Selskab' was established in 1947. The board is presently made up of 9 members who represent different scientific fields, such as social science, humanity, health and medicine. The executive committee is made up by the president Tine Rostgaard (professor, Aalborg University, tr@dps.aau.dk), vice-president Jette Thuesen (assistant professor, Roskilde University/UC Lillebælt, jettet@ruc.dk) and secretary Charlotte Juul Nilsson (assistant professor, Copenhagen University, cjni@sund.ku.dk). Furthermore the board counts Christine Swane, Eva Algreen-Petersen, Anders Møller Jensen, Birgitte Højlund, Anne Marie Beck, Tine Fristrup and Anne Liveng. The administrative office is placed in Copenhagen.

# Annual meeting

Once a year, the society arranges a meeting for all members. This year the meeting took place over two days and included key note lectures on new research and development projects, focusing on as varied topics as welfare technology, creativity, housing and rehabilitation/reablement. As always, there was also the opportunity to present on-going research and development projects in the various workshops.

# Thematic meetings

A couple of times every year, the board or individual members take initiative to arrange a thematic meeting, focusing on a topical theme. The latest meetings focussed on *rehabilitation* in a nutrition- and exercise-perspective and active ageing.

#### Journal

Since 1985, the society has published its own journal, first under the name *Gerontologi* og *Samfund* (*Gerontology* and *Society*), and now as *Gerontologi*, with the sub-title *udvikling* og *forskning* – *aldring* og ældre (development and research – ageing and older people). Editor is Anne Leonora Blaakilde. We have recently changed the number of annual publications from four to two. At the same time, the journal has increased in volume and now focus more on dissemination of research, with more peer-reviewed articles, recognized in the Danish bibliometric research indicator (BFI). The journal primarily accepts articles based on Danish research and development projects, but authors from other Nordic countries are most welcome to submit an article. The last issue for instance included a Swedish authored article.

#### Newsletter

As a supplement to the journal, we have in the Spring 2013 started issuing a digital newsletter. The intention of the newsletter is to seek and strengthen the dialogue within the environment of gerontological research and development in Denmark.

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# Maria Cullander: Do the Elderly Move at the Right Time

Maria Kulander, forskare och doktorand vid institutionen för fastigheter och byggande vid KTH, har precis lagt fram sin licentiatuppsats "Do the Elderly Move at the Right Time" vid KTH. Hon har studerat hur åldersgruppen 65-85 år boende i ordinarie bostadssektor upplever sitt boende. Hon har genomfört sin studie i Gävle, där bostadsmarknaden är i jämvikt och priserna är ungefär genomsnittliga för Sverige.

- 80-85-åringar är mindre nöjda med sitt boende än vad 65-75-åringarna är. Man bor kanske ensam i en villa eller lägenhet som blivit för stor, lever ett mindre aktivt liv än tidigare och har försämrad hälsa. Trots att man skulle vilja flytta kan det brista i initiativförmåga och man saknar information. I England, där man gjort liknande studier, utbildas äldre så att de lättare kan fatta rationella beslut om sitt boende, säger Maria Kulander. Hon talar om välfärdsförluster som uppstår när människor bor där de inte borde bo. Nu för tiden flyttar man in på äldreboende ganska sent, och det verkar finnas glapp mellan olika boendeformer. Man är för pigg och frisk för äldreboende, men är inte nöjd i det egna hemmet.
- De som planerar och bygger för de här grupperna borde ta bättre reda på vilka typer av boenden som efterfrågas. Seniorboende och trygghetsboende är olika alternativ som ännu inte har några riktigt fasta definitioner, vilket nog också bidrar till otydlighet. Man borde satsa på boenden anpassade för 75+ snarare än för 55+, säger Maria Kulander.

Många oroar sig för sina månatliga kostnader, och även om flytten går till ett mindre boende kan det bli dyrare om det är nytt. Helst vill man bo kvar i samma område, fast lite mer centralt, och kunna behålla sitt sociala nätverk. Att boendet matchar livssituationen är naturligtvis positivt ur ett individuellt perspektiv, men även samhällsekonomiskt finns vinster att göra om man hjälper människor att flytta i rätt tid.

- Man vill flytta men tycker inte att man kan, och det är inte optimalt vare sig för den äldre personen, eller för den barnfamilj som skulle behöva det större boendet bättre. När en familj lämnar sin lägenhet skapas utrymme för nästa steg, då andra kan flytta in i deras gamla mindre, billigare lägenhet, säger Maria Kulander. Hon lägger till att äldrepolitiken går ut på att folk ska bo kvar i sitt boende så länge som möjligt. För gruppen 65-75 år är den politiken bra, men generellt sett inte för de som är 10-20 år äldre.
- Här behövs riktade åtgärder för att underlätta flytt. Personlig service i form av information och rådgivning samt ekonomisk subvention kan få positiva effekter på flera plan. Den subvention som kan ge mest effekt är en subvention av flyttkostnader med mera för äldre pensionärer med stora bostäder, säger Maria Kulander. Hon tillägger att det finns anledning att tro att situationen ser liknande ut på orter i Sverige med samma förutsättningar som Gävle.

För mer information, kontakta Maria Kulander på 070 - 349 21 42 eller maria.kulander@abe.kth.se.



New PhDs

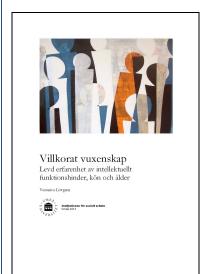
# Veronica Lövgren: Villkorat vuxenskap. Levd erfarenhet av intellektuellt funktionshinder, kön och ålder

I avhandlingen Villkorat vuxenskap beskrivs och analyseras levd erfarenhet av intellektuellt funktionshinder, kön och ålder. Veronica Lövgren, socialt arbete Umeå universitet, har inom ramen för sitt avhandlingsarbete besökt flera verksamheter inom handikappomsorgen och intervjuat 16 personer som har stöd enligt LSS. I avhandlingen framkommer hur de medelålders intervjupersonernas livssituation formas av strukturer inom människovårdande organisationer, föreställningar om gruppen personer med intellektuellt funktionshinder, men också om kön och ålder. De intervjuade har relativt små sociala nätverk, och har begränsad tillgång till de arenor – arbete, familjeliv och marknad – där vuxenskap förväntas realiseras. Intervjupersonerna förhåller sig till samhällsnormer om vad man förväntas leva upp till för att betraktas som vuxen, samtidigt som deras möjligheter att uppfylla dessa begränsade, inte i första hand på grund av funktionsnedsättningen i sig utan på grund av de kulturella och sociala föreställningarna om funktionshindret.

Det visade sig att de medelålders intervjupersonerna har en ofördelaktig ställning avseende tillgång till ekonomiska, sociala och kulturella resurser, men också avseende tillgång till redskap för att tolka och göra sin situation giltig för andra. Detta innebär en situation med begränsat utrymme för självbestämmande och framtidsplanering, och med det inskränkta möjligheter att tillvarata sina rättigheter.

Intervjupersonerna i studien bestod av två grupper, en huvudgrupp bestående av 13 medelålders (38-60 år) kvinnor och män, och en referensgrupp bestående av tre yngre personer (25-29 år).

Läs hela eller delar av avhandlingen på <a href="http://umu.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2:619615">http://umu.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2:619615</a>



För mer information kontakta gärna:

Veronica Lövgren, institutionen för socialt arbete, Umeå universitet

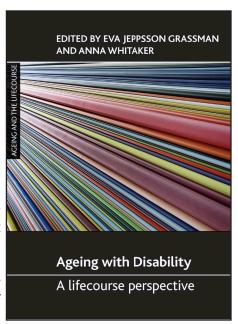
Telefon: 090-786 76 52

E-post: veronica.lovgren@socw.umu.se

Eva Jeppson Grassman and Anna Whitaker, National Institute for the Study of Ageing and Later Life, Linköping university, Sweden have edited a new book published by Policy Press.

This is the first book to address the issue of ageing after a long life with disability. It breaks new ground through its particular life course perspective, examining what it means to age with a physical or mental disability and what the implications are of 'becoming old' for people who have had extensive disabilities for many years. These people may have had to leave the labour market early, and the book looks at available care resources, both formal and informal.

Ageing with disability challenges set ideas about successful ageing, as well as some of those about disabilities. The life course approach that is used unfolds important insights about the impact of multiple disabilities over time and on the phases of life. The book highlights the meaning of care in unexplored contexts, such as where ageing parents are caregivers or regarding mutual care in disabled couples. These are areas of knowledge which have, to date, been totally neglected.



# **Upcoming conferences**

Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC)

13-18 July 2013, Boston, USA http://www.alz.org/aaic/

#### **EUGMS 2013**

2-4 October 2013, Venice, Italy http://www.eugms.org/index.php/meetingscourses/futureeugmscongress/11-eugms2013

**International Istanbul Initiative on Ageing**, International Federation on Ageing 4-6 October 2013, Istanbul, Turkey http://www.ifa-fiv.org/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=1297

**International Psychogeriatric Association,** Better Mental Health for Older People 1-4 October, 2013, Seoul, Korea http://www.ipa-online.org/

**2013 Aging and Society: An Interdisciplinary Conference** 8-9 November, 2013, Chicago, USA

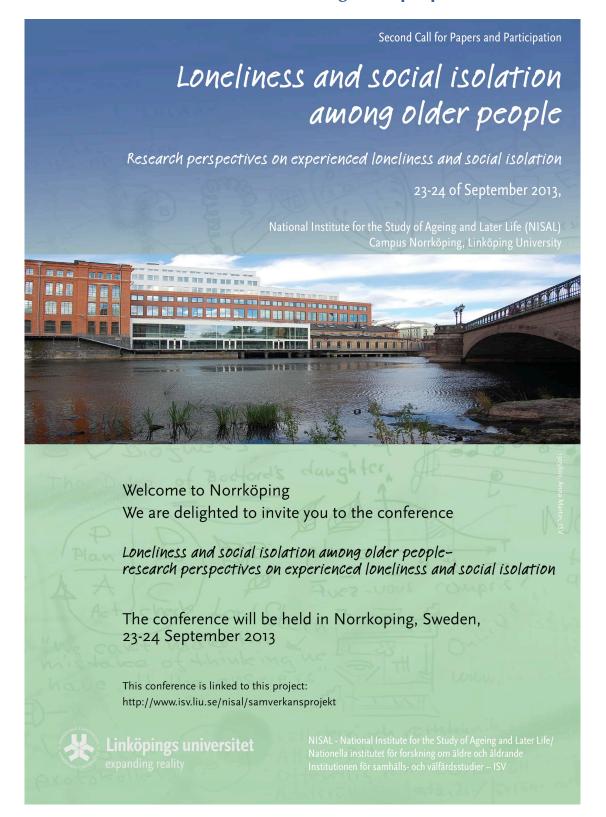
http://agingandsociety.com/the-conference

66th Annual Scientific Meeting of Gerontological Society of America

20-24 November, New Orleans, USA http://www.geron.org/annual-meeting

# 8th International Conference on Cultural Gerontology

10-12 April 2014, Galway, Ireland http://www.conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=213



#### Welcome

We are delighted to invite you to *Loneliness and Social Isolation among Older People - Research perspectives on Ioneliness and social isolation*. The conference will be held in Norrköping, Sweden, 23-24 September 2013.

# Purpose of the conference

Demand is increasing for more research on loneliness experienced in later life. Existing studies emanate from a variety of disciplines, with different research traditions. Hence, the purpose of this conference is to provide an inter-disciplinary platform to enable discussions and reflections on various theoretical and empirical perspectives on its main theme: Loneliness and Social Isolation in Later Life. The lectures and presentations of papers will allow the sharing of knowledge and offer different perspectives on loneliness in later life, using information from regional, national and international coalition projects, policymaking, stakeholders and research projects.

Professor Elisabet Cedersund Professor Lars Andersson Researcher Axel Ågren <a href="mailto:align: elisabet.cedersund@liu.se">axel.agren@liu.se</a> <a href="mailto:axel-agren@liu.se">axel.agren@liu.se</a>

# Registration

Participants must register for the conference. Deadline for registration is 28 August 2013. All participants are welcome, regardless of whether or not they have a submitted paper. Use this link to register for the conference: www.isv.liu.se/nisal/samverkansprojekt/registration E-mail elisabet.cedersund@liu.se if you have any questions concerning registration.

# Conference fee

400 SEK, 45 Euro

The conference fee will include the following; admission to the conference, conference documentation, coffee both days, conference dinner on day one and lunch both days.

# Call for papers

We invite you to submit an abstract for the paper presentation sessions. The abstract should include background and aim of the study or similar), a brief description of methods, results and a conclusion.

The abstract should essentially answer four questions:

- 1. What was the problem and the aim of the project?
- 2. Which methods did the author(s) use to find a solution to the problem?
- 3. What was discovered as a result of the research or practice?
- 4. What can be generalised or learned from these results?

The abstract should consist of a maximum of 2500 characters including spaces but excluding title and author details.

Deadline for abstracts is 28 June, 2013

Send your abstract in Word format to Anna Martin: anna.martin@liu.se Questions regarding abstracts Elisabet Cedersund: elisabet.cedersund@liu.se

# **Organisers**

The theme of this conference are based on the work in a collaboration project between New Tools for Health and NISAL at Link.ping University, Campus Norrk.ping. The aim of this project is to lay the foundation for a future knowledge centre focusing on loneliness and social isolation among older people. The conference is coordinated by NISAL (National Institute for the Study of Ageing and Later Life), Campus Norrk.ping, Link.ping University, Sweden. More information about NISAL, the collaboration project, and New Tools for Health: <a href="https://www.isv.liu.se/nisal">www.isv.liu.se/nisal</a> The project "Establishing of a Knowledge Centre on Loneliness and Social Isolation among Older People": <a href="https://www.isv.liu.se/nisal/forskningsnatverk-och-samarbeten/samverkansprojekt">www.isv.liu.se/nisal/forskningsnatverk-och-samarbeten/samverkansprojekt</a> New Tools for Health: <a href="https://www.newtoolsforhealth.com/">www.newtoolsforhealth.com/</a>

# The board of NGF and editorial staff of GeroNord

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# The board of Nordic Gerontological Federation:

Chair: Jon Snaedal

vice chair: Finn Rønholt
vice chair: Boo Johansson

Secretary and treasurer: Anna Siverskog

Representatives from the member organisations:

#### **Denmark:**

Danish Gerontological Society (Dansk Gerontologisk Selskab): Tine Rostgaard Danish Society for Geriatrics (Dansk Selskab for Geriatri): Finn Rønholt

#### Finland:

Finnish Gerontological Society (Societas Gerontologica Fennica r.f.): Otto Lindberg

Finnish Geriatrics (Suomen Geriatrit-Finlands Geriatrer): Matti Viitanen

Finnish Society for Growth and Ageing Research (Föreningen för forskning i uppväxt och

åldrande): Ilkka Pietilä

#### Iceland:

the Icelandic Gerontological Society (Societas Gerontologica Islandica): Liney Ulfarsdottir Icelandic Geriatric Society (Icelandic Geriatrics Society): Helga Hansdottir

#### Norway:

Norwegian Society for Aging research (Norsk selskap for aldersforskning): Arnhild Valen Senstad

Norwegian Geriatric Association (Norsk geriatrisk forening): Nils Holland

#### **Sweden:**

Swedish Gerontological Society (Sveriges Gerontologska Sällskap): Torbjörn Svensson Swedish Geriatric Society (Svensk Geriatrisk Förening): Åke Rundgren

# **Editorial staff of GeroNord**

Jon Snaedal (jsnaedal@landspitali.is) Anna Siverskog (anna.siverskog@liu.se)

NGF

c/o NISAL, Linköpings universitet/ISV SE-601 74 Norrköping Sweden

NGF's website is: http://www.ngf-geronord.se/

The editorial staff of GeroNord wishes you a nice summer!