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Dansk Selskab for Palliativ Medicin,
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Iceland

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Norway

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Course Secretary

The Nordic Specialist Course in
Palliative Medicine

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Nordic Specialist Course in Palliative Medicine 2009-2011

General information
Course content
Application procedure

www.nscpm.org



Norwegian Association
for Palliative Medicine



Danish Association for
Palliative Medicine



Swedish Association for
Palliative Medicine



Finnish Association for
Palliative Medicine

Icelandic Association for
Palliative Care

**Background:**

During the last decades, an increasing awareness of the need for a defined area of medicine to take care of patients with advanced life-threatening disease has emerged in all the Nordic countries. Official reports have been published, giving recommendations for the establishment of specialist palliative care services nation-wide, and an increasing number of palliative health care programs are being set up. So far, however, palliative medicine is not recognized as a medical specialty in any Nordic country, and up to now a very limited number of doctors in the Nordic countries have education and experience in the field. We are facing the situation that new palliative care units and programs might be established without the appropriate medical staffing. This situation presents an urgent need to educate doctors in the Nordic countries in palliative medicine at a specialist level.

A joint venture between the Associations for Palliative Medicine in the Nordic countries has resulted in this theoretical specialist training course in 6 modules over 2 years. The first course started in 2003, the second in 2005, the third in 2007, ending May 2009. The 4th course will start september 2009. Each module lasts 5 days from Monday to Friday.

Throughout the modules all major topics in palliative medicine will be covered. A limited research project is included in the course. This may be quantitative or qualitative, in the form of a survey, an audit, development of clinical guidelines, or conducting a systematic review. The students should work on their own projects throughout the course period. The projects will be presented in Module 6. Students already having an ongoing project may use this, provided it is their own work.

A written assignment must be handed in, at the latest, 4 weeks after each module. The assignments will be marked Pass/Not pass. The students and the Steering Committee are consecutively evaluating each module and the course as a whole. Overall, the students have been rating the course very high.

Language throughout the course will be English to suit applicants from all the Nordic countries.

Further details:

Detailed course program and application form are available from your national Association for Palliative Medicine (see last page).

Entry requirements and selection of participants:

The course is planned for 36 students.

Sweden will be assigned 10 places, Denmark 8, Norway 8, Finland 8, and Iceland 2.

Applicants should have completed specialist training in a recognized medical specialty and possess knowledge and skills corresponding to level B of the palliative medicine curriculum (1,2,3). The national associations will consider and nominate students among the applicants from their respective countries. The Steering Committee makes the final selection. If one country does not fill all the assigned places, these may be offered to others.

Price:

The fee for each of the six course modules will be Euro 670 (total course fee: Euro 4020). Travel and accommodation costs must be added.

The six modules are placed as follows: Two in Norway and one in each of the other four countries.

Every student is responsible for paying his/her own expenses.

Application form and detailed course program are available from your national Association for Palliative Medicine.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION: 31 March 2009

1. Palliative Medicine Curriculum for Medical Students, General Professional training and Higher Specialist training. Association for Palliative Medicine of Great Britain and Ireland, 1991.
2. Report and Recommendations of a Workshop on Palliative Medicine Education and Training for Doctors in Europe. European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC), 1993.
3. Svensk läroplan i palliativ medicin. Svensk Förening för Palliativ Medicin, 2001.