

NSDS General Assembly 2025

13.11.2025, County Hall, London

1. NSDS president Jarkko Halme opens the General Assembly.

2. The minutes of NSDS GA 2024 Copenhagen were approved.

3. The presidential report:

- After the meeting in Copenhagen 2024, Jarkko and Ane visited the BSS annual meeting in Birmingham 21.-22.11.2024 and officially started the preparations for the combined BSS and NSDS meeting in London 2025 with Jonathan Lucas and Mosaic Events.

- A 50-years anniversary pin has been made, and all members are advised to reconfirm their email address and their membership status during the meeting in London.

4. Country representatives report:

Norway by Thomas Natvik: Business as usual, but an AIS registry is up and running for the surgically treated cases. AIS and NORSPINE registries will be presented at the NSDS meeting in Trondheim next year.

Denmark by Søren Ohrt Nissen: Recruitment stop at the University Hospitals and a shortage of Spine Surgeons, creates longer waiting lists. FOR AIS patients the wait for surgery is 4-5 months, while ASD patients wait in average 15 months.

Sweden by Paul Gerdhem: Many patients, few resources and growing waiting lists.

Finland by Jarkko Halme: A serious lack of finances in healthcare is an increasing challenge. The national spine fellow program is now available for board certified orthopaedic and neurosurgeons. However, not enough orthopaedic applicants.

The Netherlands by Marinus De Kleuver: Spine surgeon recruitment has improved, partly due to interest in research and active patient involvement.

Iceland by Freyr Gauti: Spine service in Iceland is mainly covered by 1 surgeon, and Freyr is visiting 4 weeks annually to perform adult spine deformity surgery. Around 30 AIS cases are treated annually and there would be room for more spine surgeons to maintain the care needed.

5. No Presidential election, since Jarkko was elected for two years last year.

Jarkko suggested that the Presidential Address should be a standard part of the NSDS meeting program, followed every second year by the hand-over of the Presidency (after the GA has approved the new President). Furthermore, the president should serve as Past President for additional 2 years.

The next President will come from the Netherlands, based on the country rotation. The members in the Netherlands should propose the next President, which will then be elected by the GA in Trondheim in 2026.

Ane Simony, Denmark continues to serve as Secretary until the meeting in Trondheim next year.

6. New members of the Society:

3 Norwegian members are added to the society, all endorsed by Thomas Kibsgaard and Thomas Natvik.
3 Dutch members are added to the society, all endorsed by Ane Simony and Rene Castelein
2 Finnish members are added to the society, endorsed by Jarkko Halme and Pietari Kinnunen.

7. Report from this year's meeting by Ane Simony:

Record high attendance to the Wednesday additional program, in total 273 participants at the 3 different sessions. The main meeting had 437 registered delegates, of which 120 from NSDS. 26 companies have sponsored the event this year.

8. Future meetings:

2026: Trondheim, Norway. Local host Sivert Hammer. Date 26-29 August 2026

2027: The Netherlands, location to be announced. Local host Moyo Kruyt. Date 25-27 August 2027

2028: Turku Finland. Local hosts Johanna Syvänen, Sini Karkkola and Katri Pernaa

2029: Sweden

2030: Denmark, perhaps a combined meeting with the BSS again?

9. Further discussed issues

It was proposed to have a combined meetings with the BSS every 5 years. This was also discussed between Jarkko and the incoming BSS president Lee Breakwell, who expressed his willingness to work together towards the next combined meeting in five years (2030 in Denmark). However, no official decision was made.

Ireland has expressed interest in active participation in the meetings. The GA discussed Ireland's hypothetical membership in the NSDS without being conclusive.

The GA discussed the dates and the length of the meetings in the future. The majority supported a program start on Wednesday after lunch, allowing the meeting to end on Friday afternoon to reduce the cost.

The GA discussed about formalizing the NSDS, which would mean registering the society in at least one country, having a more formal board structure, membership fees and a bank account. There are several reasons supporting this (e.g. independency, business status, long history, prestige). On the other hand, the current status has obvious advantages.

It was agreed that Jarkko will create a simple member survey before the next annual meeting.

Closing of the General Assembly