

Denmark January 2019

Information from the Danish Ostomy Association, COPA

Our association has during these many last years had a constant number of members at approx. 3700. We could of course wish, that many others became members of COPA. After all it will be a challenge to arouse the interest of the young for a membership in a patient association. They have their job, family and leisure time activities. Many also want to make a career at work, and do not wish to be a part of a patient association. Today there are also many home pages for the patient associations. Here they seek most of the answers to questions about anything between heaven and earth. In our world it will be questions about how to live on with an ostomy. It is therefore very important to have a good home page, which can be of help to persons about a future life after an ostomy operation.

On October 6th it is again International Ostomy day, which will take place in Odense on the island of Funen, which has a central location in Denmark. That day COPA has a huge nationwide event, which is free of charge for everybody with an interest for ostomy and for our association. All the manufacturers and suppliers of ostomy aids will be present with a manned sales pitch. Furthermore there will be some sales pitches with healthy food products. Arla (a manufacturer of dairy produce) has protein beverages and Møllerup Gods (Møllerup Estate) offers samples of healthy cereal products rich of fibers and protein. In the theatre many different topics will take place. A former minister and a present member of the parliament will tell about their lives as relations to persons, who have got an ostomy due to cancer. Other topics are about alternative treatment with cannabis, a project about hernia and information about the importance of correct consumption of liquid with correct balance of minerals and salt for persons with high output. New video scenes from "the youth project" Stomiguident will be shown. See www.stomiguident.dk

The COPA homepage is updated and maintained by a professional company. Our COPA-membership face book group has now 1700 members. The face book has an administrator to secure a good and sober-minded tone.

This year we have made an update of some of our old brochures. They have got a modern lay-out.

COPA work together with the association for bowel cancer, which also is a part of the patient associations connected to the Danish Cancer Union called KB.

COPA collect ostomy supplies for our equivalent friends in Odessa, Ukraine. On a yearly basis it runs up to 7 – 8 EUR pallets which are equivalent to 120 150 big packing-boxes with ostomy aids. Unfortunately it only reaches to help about 400 ostomates, who are attached to a certain hospital in Odessa. The ostomy association in Iceland also helps this group.

On country wide basis there are always a 6 days summer stay and a week-end stay for members and their partner. At each event the limit is 55 participants.

The parents group for children with ostomy or defecation problems has 3 events on a yearly basis. One week-end with social gathering. Whitsun junior excursion and a big family event with programme and activities for all: children, brothers and sisters and parents. Furthermore there are smaller country wide

events for the young, persons with uro-ostomy and for persons diagnosed with FAP = Familial Adenoma Polyposis.

Luckily our association has a real good economy, as we have received a very large amount and several quite good amounts from probate cases. This gives of course a certain freedom for events for our members. Our branches and interest groups receive likewise a yearly economical subsidy from the national association. Even though there is a good economy, we have to be careful by using the money in the best possible way to benefit for the greatest possible number of our members. It also makes room in the budget to help others with a less good economy (Odessa), and to try to aim for new initiatives.

We must not stop and rest on our laurels.

Greetings from COPA Denmark

Henning Granslev.

Chairman COPA