

Dear members of the SSI,

It has been my pleasure to serve first as secretary and then as president for the SSI for the last six years. These years have been truly rewarding and interesting for me and have opened up a large international network of immunologists that I will still keep close to my heart as I now hand over to the next president professor of Neurobiology Trevor Owens from the Institute of Molecular Medicine at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense, Denmark.

My first years as secretary were guided by the current president and Norwegian Professor Roland Jonsson, the editor of Scandinavian Journal of Immunology, who has since been a fantastic mentor and introduced me to the world of the immunological societies and how these are organized internationally. With his confidence in my abilities he gave me interesting international assignments like being board member of the steering committees of the European Congress of Immunology (ECI), both the one in Glasgow 2012 and the one in Vienna 2015.

The presidency was taken over by Professor Marie Wahren-Herlenius in 2012 and, since I had the pleasure of working in the same house as her at Center for Molecular Medicine at the Karolinska Institutet, we had great opportunities to meet often and to really take a new grip of the future of SSI. In 2013 we invited current and past SSI active immunologists for a retreat at Krusenberg in Stockholm to discuss the visions and purposes of SSI. These were summarized in 12 points that is published on our website

(<http://www.scandinavianimmunology.nu/Who-are-we.html>). We decided to work with these actively and allowing an extensive budget for three years followed by an evaluation at the meeting in Vienna. The activities that have been most successful during this trial period, and that we decided to go on with, were to have the scientific writer Frida Henningson Johnson, the continuously updated website by our webmaster Mikael Mikko, and to give as many students as possible the opportunity to go to immunology conferences by handing out travel grants.

I deeply want to thank all the dedicated organizers of the past years SSI meetings, which have all been interesting and enjoyable, and which for my part have included the Tallinn meeting, the Geilo meeting in Norway, the meeting in Copenhagen, and the one in Iceland. I hope that I will be seeing you all again when it is Sweden's turn to organize the SSI meeting in 2017.

Finally I would like to thank all the past and currently active members of the SSI board who are the drivers of these activities and who have been a great pleasure to work with. I wish you all a continuously active and rewarding time in serving the SSI board and I am confident that Trevor Owens will do an excellent job to guide you as the new president.

Sincerely,

Anna Fogdell-Hahn