

## **Friends and colleagues in the Scandinavian Association for Thoracic Surgery**

First of all, I would like to thank you for choosing me as your new Secretary General. I am honoured and proud!

It was a privilege to arrange the meeting in Stockholm 2009, the 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Scandinavian Conference in Cardiothoracic Surgery. It was truly a nice and interesting experience. SATS and SCANSECT have a long common history and more recently SATNU, organizing nurses working in the field of cardiothoracic surgery, joined the family.

I have been working with cardiothoracic surgery in Stockholm since 1979 with a main interest in valve surgery and surgery for heart failure. Since a few years I have been working also in Africa, mainly Sudan but also in Uganda, Rwanda and more recently in Cameroon. From this fall I will be working full time at Salam Centre for Cardiac Surgery in Khartoum, Sudan, a hospital managed by "Emergency", an Italian humanitarian organization. Today my main interest is to participate in cardiac projects in low-economy countries.

I have been a member of the board of SATS since a few years and have learned more and more to appreciate the work by our organization. Scandinavian cooperation is essential also in our field and it is important not to leave everything to European or global organizations. Also, I find Timo's initiative to invite our colleagues in the Baltic countries interesting. We look forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, in August 16-18, 2012. Mark your calendars already now!

To be a successful organization we need active members and I will work for this. We should support our young colleagues to participate in the meetings and to present their research. Also, I would emphasize that according to our bylaws the Association is open not only for surgeons but also for anesthesiologists working in cardiothoracic units and I hope that we will see an increased participation from them during years to come.

Finally, I would like to thank Timo for his years as Secretary General, and it will be a challenge to succeed him.



*Dan Lindblom*  
Secretary General  
SATS