Danish Geriatrics Society

The Danish Geriatrics Society (DSG) has more than 400 members, approximately half of whom are specialists in geriatric medicine. The Society is governed by a nine-member board. Its current chair is Kasper Bertelsen, a specialist in geriatric medicine at Vejle Hospital.

Aims

The Danish Geriatrics Society aims to

- Bring together doctors in Denmark with a particular interest in and experience of geriatric medicine.
- Share knowledge and promote interest in the specialty.
- Advance geriatric medicine, with particular emphasis on education and research.
- Organise scientific meetings for its members.
- Represent geriatric medicine in relevant national forums.
- Build and strengthen international links to support the development of the specialty in Denmark and abroad.

A brief history

The Danish Geriatrics Society was founded in 1972, the same year that geriatric medicine was recognised as a medical specialty in Denmark. It was originally called the Danish Society for Longterm Medicine, and its first president was Jørgen Worm from Odense. The Society adopted its current name in 1990.

In the early years, geriatric wards often had many beds, and hospital stays could last several weeks. Geriatricians cared for older patients with complex, long-standing illnesses, often accompanied by functional decline and social difficulties. For many years, visits to older people in their own homes and in nursing homes were a central part of their work.

The specialty has since evolved considerably. Age-related changes, multimorbidity, polypharmacy and functional decline remain central to geriatric practice. Geriatricians now work in most emergency departments and in subacute teams, both in hospitals and in the community. Areas of subspecialisation such as orthogeriatrics and oncogeriatrics are becoming increasingly common.

Geriatric medicine continues to expand in Denmark. The Danish Health Authority's 2021–2045 workforce forecast projected a 187% increase in the number of specialists in geriatric medicine over that period. Among medical specialties, only emergency medicine had a higher projected percentage increase.[1]

[1] Danish Health Authority. *Lægeprognose 2021–2045. Udbuddet af læger og speciallæger.*