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**Denmark**  
**Dansk Selskab for Palliativ  
Medicin, DSPaM**

[www.palliativmedicin.dk](http://www.palliativmedicin.dk)

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**Sweden**  
**Svensk Förening för Palliativ Medicin,  
SFPM;**

[www.slf.se/sfpm](http://www.slf.se/sfpm)

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**Finland**  
**Suomen palliativisen lääketieteen  
yhdistys, SPLY**

[www.palliativisenlaaketieteenyhdistys.fi](http://www.palliativisenlaaketieteenyhdistys.fi)

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**Iceland**  
**Icelandic Association for Palliative  
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**Norway**  
**Norsk forening for palliativ  
medisin, NFPM**

[www.palliativmed.org](http://www.palliativmed.org)

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**Course Secretary**

**The Nordic Specialist Course in  
Palliative Medicine**

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## Nordic Specialist Course in Palliative Medicine 2015-2017

General information  
Course content  
Application procedure

[www.nscpm.org](http://www.nscpm.org)



Norwegian Association  
for Pall



Finnish Association for  
Palliative Medicine



Danish Association for  
Palliative Medicine



Swedish Association for  
Palliative Medicine



Icelandic Association for  
Palliative Care

## Background

During the last decades, an increasing awareness of the need for a defined area of medicine to take care of patients with advanced, life-threatening disease has emerged in all the Nordic countries. Official reports have been published, giving recommendations for the establishment of specialist palliative care services nation-wide, and an increasing number of palliative health care programs are being set up. Although palliative medicine has been approved as a formal competence field in Finland, Norway and Denmark, and will be launched as an add-on medical specialty in Sweden from 2015, up to now a limited number of physicians in the Nordic countries have education and experience in the field. We are facing the situation that new palliative care units and programs might be established without the appropriate medical staffing. This situation presents a need to educate doctors in the Nordic countries in palliative medicine at a specialist level.

A joint venture between the Associations for Palliative Medicine in the Nordic countries has resulted in this theoretical specialist training course in 6 modules over 2 years. Each module lasts 5 days, Monday-Friday. The first course started in 2003 and the 6th course ends in April 2015. The 7th course will start in September 2015.

## The course

Throughout the modules all major topics in palliative medicine will be covered. A limited research project is included in the course. This may be quantitative or qualitative, in the form of a survey, an audit, development of a clinical guideline, or conducting a systematic review. The students should work on their projects throughout the course period. The projects will be presented on Module 6. Students already having an ongoing project may use this, provided it is their own work.

A written assignment must be handed in 4 weeks after each module.

The assignments will be marked Pass/Not pass.

The students and the Steering Committee continuously evaluate each module and the course as a whole. Overall, the students have given the course very high ratings.

## Course language

Language throughout the course will be English to suit applicants from all the Nordic countries.



## Entry requirements and selection of participants

The course is planned for 36 students.

Applicants should have completed specialist training in a recognized medical specialty and possess knowledge and skills corresponding to level B of the palliative medicine curriculum (1-2). The national associations will consider and nominate students among the applicants from their respective countries. The Steering Committee makes the final selection.

## Course fee

The fee for each of the six course modules will be Euro 800 (total course fee: Euro 4800). Travel and accommodation costs must be added.

The six modules are placed as follows: Two in Norway, two in Sweden, one in Finland, and one in Denmark.

Every student is responsible for paying his/her own expenses.

**Application form and detailed course program are available from your national Association for Palliative Medicine.**

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION: March 15, 2015**

## References

1. Palliative Medicine Curriculum for Medical Students, General Professional training and Higher Specialist training. Association for Palliative Medicine of Great Britain and Ireland, 1991.
2. Svensk läroplan i palliativ medicin. Svensk Förening för Palliativ Medicin, 2001.
3. Specialty Training Curriculum for Palliative Medicine. London: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board, 2010, amended 2014.