

In Sweden the interest of shoulder and elbow surgery has grown enormously during the two last decades.

The Swedish Shoulder and Elbow Society (SSAS) was founded in 1994 as a section of the Swedish Orthopaedic Association. Since then annual meetings have been arranged, in 2001, 2003 and 2006 together with the Danish Shoulder and Elbow Society.

Currently we have around 80 members in the society.

In the last year (2008) we have had our own meeting in Linköping (shoulder trauma) with more than 100 participants and we also arranged a speciality day (cuff repair) at the annual meeting of the Swedish Orthopaedic Association.

Beside these meetings SSAS organize visits to experienced colleges for younger doctors interested in shoulder surgery. During 2009 several national courses are organized in cooperation between SSAS, local organization committees and the industry.

SSAS provides two annual scholarships. One research and one travelling scholarship.

National guidelines for shoulder surgery have been worked out during the last years which have been published in the Swedish Medical Journal.

Since 1999 SSAS has run two national arthroplasty registers. The Swedish shoulder arthroplasty register and the Swedish elbow arthroplasty register. These registers are own by SSAS. 95% of all arthroplasties performed in Sweden are reported to these registers. During next year the first 10 year results will be analysed.

One multicentre study, regarding whether to repair or not repair isolated supraspinatus tears, were initiated 2008 and are organised by SSAS

SSAS has its own homepage (www.ssas.se) with links to the arthroplasty registers